



Impossibly Fake

Industrialized farming is responsible for a large share of today's air pollution, water pollution, deforestation, rising carbon emissions and the depletion, erosion and poisoning of soils. Does that mean we should give up farming? And start making our food in chemical labs?

Biotech start-up companies like Impossible Foods would have us believe that their fake meat is the answer to all our prayers. But is it? The jury is out on the long-term health consequences of consuming lab-grown meat, the meat substitute created by Impossible Foods, and derived in part from genetically engineered yeast. But this we do know: Real—and regenerative—farming, not lab-grown fake food, has the power to clean up the environment, revitalize rural communities and economies and provide enough nutritious, real food to feed the world. orgcns.org/2v3ZaYw

Or Maybe Not...

You would think that meat labeled “Product of USA” would come from cattle actually raised in the U.S. Surprisingly (or maybe not), the USDA doesn't see it that way. Under current federal government labeling policy, imported beef can be labeled “Product of USA” as long as it passes through a U.S.-based meat inspection plant, or is blended with beef from cattle raised in the U.S. That goes for 100% grassfed beef, too. And the policy is killing U.S. grassfed beef producers. The American Grassfed Association and the Organization for Competitive Markets have submitted a petition to the USDA asking its Food Safety and Inspection Services Agency change its labeling policy—to protect U.S. ranchers and consumers. Take Action by midnight August 17: orgcns.org/2LEjBwK

Beg to Differ

The biotech industry has long insisted that genetic engineering is no different than, or at the very least a continuum, of traditional plant breeding techniques—a myth perpetuated by the industry to shield it from public criticism, as well as from regulatory oversight. But a new study from the biotech industry itself admits that there are in fact significant differences between new methods of genetic engineering, including the gene-editing technique CRISPR, and conventional plant breeding, further dispelling the claim that the two methods are one in the same.

The study lends support to the July 25, 2018, ruling by the European Court of Justice that food and crops produced using new gene-editing technologies must be regulated in the same way as GMOs—which in the EU means they must be labeled as GMOS.

U.S. consumers should be so lucky. Unfortunately, in the U.S., where there is yet no meaningful law requiring the labeling of GMO foods, the USDA has said it won't even regulate gene-editing techniques, much less require labels on foods produced by those technologies. The USDA supports its no-regulation position by claiming that gene-editing technologies “are increasingly being used by plant breeders to produce new plant varieties that are indistinguishable from those developed through traditional breeding methods.”

That claim isn't shared by EU regulators. And it isn't supported by scientists at DowDuPont, the world's largest chemical company. orgcns.org/2mIZwjx

'Overwhelmed'

On Monday, July 23, DeWayne “Lee” Johnson” took the stand before a courtroom crowded with journalists and members of the public following the Johnson vs. Monsanto trial. Johnson recalled life before his cancer diagnosis. He described the rigorous work ethic that he learned at his first job as a kitchen



staffer at Applebee's and how he carried those lessons to his job as school groundskeeper. Without ever sounding boastful, he described the series of promotions that rewarded his reliability, competence and hard work. Following their marriage, Johnson's life orbited around Araceli and their two sons. He attended every practice and worked Ali's football games as a linesman moving the first down chains. But then, the hardworking school groundskeeper was diagnosed with cancer, which he says was caused by Monsanto's Roundup weedkiller.

Following his diagnosis, Lee tried to hide his pain from his family, but the tragedy, the loneliness, fear and his agony at all those losses sometimes overwhelmed him. He told the jury: “I'm trying to show my kids an example of how to deal with things and crying is not going to help you, some things are uncontrollable. But I'm raising two little boys, so I'm teaching them to deal with pain and learn to deal with it and to deal with a situation if it comes to you. And sitting around sorrowful and crying is not going to help.” orgcns.org/2uWHL4R

Something in the Air

There are so many reasons to boycott chicken and turkey from factory farm operations, such as those run by Cargill, Pilgrim's Pride, Sanderson Farms, Tyson and others. Factory farm poultry operations pollute waterways. They cause unconscionable suffering for the birds. They're big contributors to the public health crisis around antibiotic resistance. And they produce unhealthy food.

But we often forget that the people who work for these companies, in industrial poultry processing plants, are also victims of the factory farm poultry industry. Jessica Robertson and Tina McClellan are two of those workers. They dared to speak out against working conditions that literally made them sick. Specifically, they complained about the use of a chemical called peracetic acid (PAA). PAA is used to remove bacteria from the carcasses of chickens and turkeys—even though it's known to put workers at risk.

In this article in *The Intercept*, Robertson and McClellan tell the story of how working at an industrial poultry processing plant ruined their health—and incurred the wrath of their employers. orgcns.org/2LEEWpN

Think Exponentially!

In our day-to-day work, we do set clear goals. But if we truly want the world we envision, we can't think small. We can't be satisfied with incremental change. We believe that we can, must and will achieve “transformative scale” when it comes to our national and global food and farming system. And when we do, when we return control of our food system to farmers and other locally owned food-related businesses, we will address the issues of health, sustainability (or regeneration), peace and democracy. To get there, we'll all need an “exponential mindset.”

Make a tax-deductible donation to the OCA: orgcns.org/2NKPGtc

Make a tax-deductible donation to OCA's Millions Against Monsanto campaign: orgcns.org/2uXsQro

Support Citizens Regeneration Lobby (CRL), OCA's sister lobbying organization: orgcns.org/2uSuqyO (Donations to CRL are not tax-deductible.)

Click here to learn about other ways to support our work: orgcns.org/2LJU5vz