



This is a condensed print version of our weekly newsletter. For links to action alerts as well as in-depth information about each story, please visit the online version: organicconsumers.org/bytes/ob314.htm

10 Ways Monsanto and Big Ag are Trying to Kill You—and the Planet

Energy-intensive industrial farming practices that rely on toxic chemicals and genetically engineered (GE) crops are not just undermining public health, they're destroying the planet. Here's how:

- 1 Generating massive greenhouse gas pollution (CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide) and global warming, while promoting false solutions such as industrial biofuels, so-called drought-resistant crops, and GE trees.
- 2 Polluting the environment and the soil-food web with pesticides, chemical fertilizers, and persistent toxins, including dioxin.
- 3 Draining and polluting wetlands and aquifers, turning farmland into desert.
- 4 Poisoning wells and municipal drinking water, lakes, and rivers.
- 5 Chopping down the rainforests for monoculture GMO crops, biofuels and cattle grazing.
- 6 Increasing the cost of food, while reducing nutrition and biodiversity.
- 7 Spawning pesticide-resistant superbugs and weeds, and antibiotic-resistant bacteria
- 8 Generating new and more virulent plant, animal and human diseases.
- 9 Utilizing wasteful fossil fuel-intensive practices and encouraging the expansion of natural gas fracking and tar sands extraction (which destroy forests, aquifers, and farmland).
- 10 Stealing money from the 99% to give huge subsidies to the 1% wealthiest, most chemical and energy-intensive farms and food producers.

It's not enough to stop eating GE food. If we want a liveable planet we've got to boycott all factory farmed food and make the Great Transition from energy and chemical-intensive agriculture to a relocalized and organic system of food and farming. The World According to Monsanto is a recipe for disaster. Monsanto and Big Ag contaminate every link in the food chain, threatening the foundation of life: living nutrient-rich soil, clean water, resilient crops, healthy animals, stable climates, and diverse food sources. The good news is that agro-ecological and organic methods can reverse this threat and sustain food production for future generations, but we don't have much time to turn things around. **Take Action:** bit.ly/xo32mm

Fair World Project Alert: Fair Trade Progress

After over 2000 letters from concerned consumers, Fair Trade USA (FTUSA; formerly TransFair USA) has released its revised draft Multiple Ingredients Product Policy. OCA's Fair World Project (FWP) is pleased that FTUSA has incorporated feedback from various stakeholder groups on important issues, especially with respect minimum ingredient requirements for fair trade products and strengthening the commercial availability requirement to source fair trade ingredients. The commercial availability requirement is a particularly crucial market driver to expand markets for fair trade farmers. However, there are a number of critical areas for improvement, which are outlined in the FWP's recent statement regarding FTUSA's new revisions.

Take action: Urge Fair Trade USA to uphold the integrity of the fair trade movement and to revise its draft policy for multiple ingredients products to incorporate FWP's concerns over labeling, product transition timelines, and transparency regarding commercial availability and ingredient exemptions: bit.ly/xPOnfQ



Urgent Action Needed to Label GMOs in Your State

Sixteen states are considering legislation to label GMOs. Please contact your state legislators to encourage them to support or introduce GMO labeling bills. **Take Action by Choosing Your State:** bit.ly/gyZzZI
All eyes are on Washington state this week, as we try to get two GMO labeling bills passed out of the Senate and House agriculture committees. Public support is strong and last week's hearings were packed, but Monsanto lobbyists are trying hard to kill the bills. **Take Action in Washington State:** bit.ly/AnNEUs

The California legislative effort to label GE fish suffered a setback when a bill to label GE salmon failed 9-7 in committee earlier this month. The sad truth is that California politicians appear to care more about what Monsanto and corporate agribusiness want than the 90% of their constituents who have expressed their view over and over again that they want labels on GE food.

This is why OCA, Food Democracy Now, Mercola.com, the Sierra Club, Center for Food Safety, Pesticide Action Network, and LabelGMOs.org, along with our allies in the organic business community have united to put a citizen Initiative on the ballot in November, 2012 that will require labels on all GE foods and food ingredients, and outlaw the common practice of labeling or advertising hundreds of GMO-tainted processed foods as "natural" or "all-natural."

Learn More and Take Action in California: bit.ly/x7D9BS