



#AmplifyTHIS

For the second year in a row, OCA teamed up with the Greenhorns to participate in the National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Convention and EXPO in Louisville. This year's conference theme was #AmplifyFFA. Amidst the sea of flashy corporate displays complete with gimmicks, games and giveaways to attract young FFA students, it was clear what was really being amplified: the message that if you're a young farmer, or thinking about becoming a young farmer, you should get on board with conventional ag with its GMO seeds, crop protection (pesticides), and other technological solutions. We brought a different message to the largely corporate-sponsored gathering: If you want to help nourish (not just feed) the world, and help rescue us from a global warming disaster, and profit in a growing market, organic regenerative agriculture is the way to go. orgcns.org/i1Z5aJO



Aced It!

In the ongoing campaign to get retail chains to stop selling bee-killing poisons, and plants pre-treated with bee-killing poisons, OCA's Mike Durschmid, along with representatives from Friends of the Earth and other groups, staged a bee die-in at the Chicago headquarters of Ace and True Value Hardware chains. OCA and other groups gathered, and delivered, more than 400,000 signatures on petitions asking Ace and True Value to stop selling neonicotinoids, the class of pesticides implicated in the collapse of honeybee populations.

While Mike was busy harassing Big Hardware in Chicago, OCA's Brian Jordan spoke at a press conference held at a Maine hardware store that has it right. Eldredge Lumber & Hardware, which operates three stores in southern Maine, no longer sells any pesticides or weed-killer products containing synthetic chemicals. The store's owner says its conversion to organic hasn't hurt business at all. On the contrary, consumers concerned about the environment, and the health of their communities' kids and pets, are keeping the organic alternatives flying off the shelves. youtu.be/kX2FKmaGGRM

Take Action: orgcns.org/i1MrPOTz

Evil Twins

GMOs and glyphosate. It's tough to talk about one without mentioning the other. The majority of GMO crops are engineered to resist Roundup, whose primary ingredient is glyphosate.

Once every 15 years, the EPA is required to review and decide whether or not to re-register each pesticide. This year, glyphosate is up for review. Rumor has it the EPA will announce its decision sometime this week. In light of the recent determination by the World Health Organization, and mountains of new evidence linking glyphosate to human health risks, will the EPA sign off on glyphosate again?

While the EPA weighs the wisdom of allowing a cancer-causing toxin on your food, the Obama administration is pondering how to continue pandering to the biotech industry, while pretending to care about consumer concerns relating to labeling, safety testing and other regulations. Amidst all the talk about regulating and testing and labeling, we have to ask: If a GMO crop is engineered to withstand spraying with glyphosate, and glyphosate causes cancer, why are we regulating, testing and labeling? Shouldn't we be talking outright bans on any crop grown with glyphosate?

Take Action: orgcns.org/i1NmZK3I

Still in the DARK

A few weeks ago, Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) proclaimed that "something" had to be done, before the end of this year, to prevent a "patchwork of state GMO labeling laws." Since then, she's been mum on what exactly that "something" is.

We'd long been urging Stabenow and other Democratic Senators to refuse to co-sponsor a Senate version of the House's DARK Act, which would preempt states and the federal government from requiring labels on foods containing GMOs. But last month, after a one-sided Senate hearing on GMOs and the wisdom of labeling them, Stabenow stepped up to say she was working on a Senate bill with Senate Republicans, including Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND). What she didn't say, was what that bill would look like. Mandatory? Voluntary? QR codes instead of on-package labels? Speculation abounds. We need to be clear: Consumers don't want a compromise bill. We want mandatory labeling of all foods that contain GMO ingredients. Nothing less. Take Action: orgcns.org/i1H6Uekz

Post on Sen. Stabenow's Facebook page: fb.com/stabenow

OCA and Citizens for GMO Labeling will host a briefing on the DARK Act on Tuesday, November 17. Please call your Senators and ask for the agriculture or health staffer, or whoever covers the issue of labeling genetically engineered food, and invite the staffer to attend a lunchtime briefing on states' rights to label GMOs. The organic, non-GMO lunch and briefing will be held at noon in room 562 of the Dirksen building. Speakers will include state legislators who have passed GMO labeling laws.

Look up your Senators' phone numbers and call today: orgcns.org/i1MycR0z

Lost in the Mist

Glyphosate is the most widely used pesticide in the world. We're all exposed to it, at some level. According to a new study, if you live in a poor rural community in California, you're being exposed to more glyphosate than the average person. "Lost in the Mist," a report just out from the Center for Biological Diversity, the Center for Environmental Health, El Quinto Sol de America, Californians for Pesticide Reform, the Center for Food Safety and the Pesticide Action Network found that 54% of glyphosate spraying in California happens in eight counties whose populations are predominantly Hispanic or Latino.

In other words, glyphosate use in California is distributed unequally along both socioeconomic and racial lines. According to its authors, this new report aligns with another recent study by California EPA that found Hispanics and people in poverty disproportionately live in areas of high pesticide use, and a 2014 California Department of Public Health study showing that Hispanic children are 46% more likely than white children to attend schools near hazardous pesticide use. All of these findings bring awareness to the factors that perpetuate environmental injustice in our low-income and minority communities.

"We've uncovered a disturbing trend where poor and minority communities disproportionately live in regions where glyphosate is sprayed. In high doses glyphosate is dangerous to people, and California can't, in good conscience, keep allowing these communities to pay the price for our over-reliance on pesticides." -Nathan Donley, ph.d., a staff scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity. orgcns.org/i1O8P63x