



## Partners in Crime

There's plenty of press coverage and consumer awareness when it comes to genetically engineered food and crops, and the environmental hazards of pesticides and animal drugs. But the fertilizer industry? Not so much—even though it's the largest segment of corporate agribusiness, and a major destructive force in polluting the environment, disrupting the climate and damaging public health.



For instance, in 2010, Koch Industries was named “the world's third-largest maker and marketer of nitrogen fertilizer,” according to the *Wichita Eagle*. Koch, infamous for its support of extreme right-wing politicians and climate deniers, is part of a large system “of buying, leasing, upgrading and expanding fertilizer manufacturing, trading and distribution facilities worldwide.” Koch even has a separate fertilizer unit, called Koch Agronomics.

Two-thirds of the U.S. drinking water supply is contaminated at high levels with carcinogenic nitrates or nitrites, almost all from excessive use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer. Some public wells have nitrogen at such a high level that it's dangerous and even deadly for children to drink the tap water.

According to ETC Group, synthetic fertilizers are a major contributor to climate-destroying greenhouse gases, and the estimated cost of environmental damage from reactive nitrogen emissions is between \$70 billion and \$320 billion in the EU alone?

Even though the EPA acknowledges the severe harm nitrogen fertilizer does to waterways, including to marine life and humans, the agency mostly turns its back. Instead of being forced to comply with permit regulations, private farming operations are allowed to “self-monitor.” We all know how well that works. [orgcns.org/1RZQ8kq](http://orgcns.org/1RZQ8kq)

## Open for Business

Congress opened for business again this week, following a two-week Easter break. So far, there's nothing new to report yet about Sen. Pat Roberts and his Monsanto-funded DARK Act. But when Congress is open for business, it usually means just that. And in the case of the DARK Act, that means they're furiously working behind the scenes for Monsanto and the Junk Food Giants, plotting the next devious strategy for preempting Vermont's GMO labeling law.

The latest rumor floating around? That Roberts and his merry band of labeling law preemptors may try to slip their DARK Act into the Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act, a bill (also sponsored by Roberts) fraught with its own controversy. After all, what better excuse for lawmakers than “hey, what did you want us to do? Let kids starve? We had no choice.”

We will remain skeptical, vigilant and active. Until we can state, with absolute certainty, that it's over. In the meantime, there's one thing we know for certain: We still reject any federal GMO labeling bill unless it meets or exceeds the standards set by Vermont, and does not preempt, or delay implementation of Vermont's bill. Take Action: Dial 888-897-0174 to tell your Senators to vote against any compromise that would block or delay Vermont's bill from taking effect.

[orgcns.org/1mXQ00E](http://orgcns.org/1mXQ00E)

## Want to Do Something?

On April 22, the world will “celebrate” Earth Day again. Do you have plans for the day? Can we help? Whether you're headed to a local Earth Day celebration, community event or demonstration, or whether you'll be stopping by your farmers' market or local co-op, you can use the occasion to help spread the word about the plight of the honeybee, Monsanto's GMOs, organic alternatives, or how to fight for truth and transparency in food labeling.

To make it easier for you, OCA has some Earth Day packets with posters, leaflets, petitions, and stickers. If it's Monsanto you'd like to draw attention to, you can choose our Millions Against Monsanto packet which contains our Millions Against Monsanto and Monsanto Makes Us Sick materials (1 poster, 15 bumper stickers and 50 leaflets each) and our Truth-in-Labeling petition. Want to focus more on the relationship between food, agriculture and climate? We have a Cook Organic Not the Planet packet with our Cook Organic Not the Planet (2 posters, 15 bumper stickers, 50 leaflets) and Save the Bees (15 bumper stickers, 50 leaflets) materials and a sign-up for this email newsletter. If you order now, you'll have them in time for Earth Day. Order your Earth Day packet: [orgcns.org/1XkciiN](http://orgcns.org/1XkciiN)

## Hey Kids!

Know any kids who share a passion for both film making and healthy, non-GMO food? Our anti-GMO campaigning friends in the UK, Beyond GM, launched a cool project this week: *Our Food Our Future*. The project is about starting an international conversation between kids, by asking them to make their own videos.

From the website: “We want to get kids talking about food, about what they like, what they don't like, what goes into the food they eat, how their families feel about things like GMOs, and how food can be a force for good and a healthy future or it can be something that fails to help us thrive.”

Beyond GM especially wants to get kids in the U.S., who've grown up in a GMO-contaminated environment, eating GMO-contaminated foods, talking to kids in the UK, where politicians (aided and abetted by Monsanto and U.S. politicians) are pushing to allow GMO crops to be grown for the first time. The project is an extension of Beyond GM's “Living with GMOs: A Letter from America” project. Beyond GM is inviting kids in America to make their own videos and upload them. [beyond-gm.org/our-food-our-future/](http://beyond-gm.org/our-food-our-future/)

## Please Be Wrong

Collapsing ice sheets. Violent mega-storms. Giant waves hurling huge boulders. This is what our kids and grandchildren have to look forward to, if leading climate scientists are right. In a 52-page study, published in *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*, James Hansen (the world's top climate scientist) and 18 co-authors paint a bleak future for Planet Earth. Even the generally accepted 2 degrees Celsius of global warming above pre-industrial levels would be far too much for the planet to bear, according to the scientists. The study is chock full of numbers and charts and graphs and footnotes, representing years of investigation into old and new climate science evidence. It's concluding statement is very simple—and very clear: “We conclude that the message our climate science delivers to society, policymakers, and the public alike is this: we have a global emergency. Fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should be reduced as rapidly as practical. Will our policymakers and public heed Hansen's warnings? Or will we, in Hansen's words, “hand young people and future generations a climate system that is practically out of their control?”

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