



GE Free New Zealand In Food and Environment Newsletter - August 2015

* Please note that some articles have been abbreviated in order to meet size constraints *

Small is beautiful-big is subsidised

Globalisation and the support of big business by our government and its regulatory agencies is a future of control and deregulation. As regulation continues apace to create a stranglehold on the small producer, deregulation serves the big boys (TNCs) in the form of subsidies, lax laws resulting in an increase of toxic food on our supermarket shelves and environmental degradation. When are the public of New Zealand going to see that the wool has been pulled over their eyes!

Our government is working away quietly at the behest of big business whilst eroding public choice to decisions around our flag. It's time to put a stop to their aims. A few examples of their proposals and what we can do follow:

1) The proposed National Environment Standard (NES) on plantation forestry states:

Genetically modified tree stock. Afforestation using genetically modified tree stock is permitted where the tree stock has gained the appropriate approval for deployment from the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), and is subject to conditions imposed by the EPA. This condition recognises that the EPA is best placed to evaluate the risks of genetically modified organisms and that approval and conditions imposed under the EPA regime will be sufficient to ensure any risks associated with the deployment of the tree stock are managed.'

Sustainable forestry is predicated on an absence of GMO trees in our forests but our government has

quietly written an acceptance of MO tree production into our proposed NES on plantation forestry. The risk to our incredible native varieties of trees is enormous. Our islands are home to some of the most unusual flora (and fauna dependent on them) in the world, not found elsewhere, which has developed over millennia. The risk of genetically engineered bacterial and viral elements being transferred via mycorrhiza between trees cannot be ruled out.

Previous Ministry of Primary Industry MPI consultation hui with community and forestry workers failed to mention GE despite risks of potential harm to health. A threat to health of the use of GE trees is the increased use of toxic chemicals such as glyphosate, dicamba, paraquat and 2-4D. MPI hui are being held around the country until 27th July followed by a submission process.

Please make a submission. These must be received by MPI before 5 pm, Tues 11 August 2015. see www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/proposed-national-environmental-standard-for-plantation-forestry.

This standard will override Council precautionary GE provisions so recently placed in their plans.

For more information and to sign the Stop GE trees petition, please go to GE Free NZ website.

MPI receives 16,000 submissions on NES-PF.

GE FREE NZ press release
13/08/2015

The Ministry of Primary Industries has received over 16,550 submissions and

petitions on the National Environment

Standards for Plantation Forestry (NES-PF). All 16,000 submissions recommended the deletion of the clauses, inserted at the eleventh hour, on genetically engineered trees being the sole responsibility of the Environmental Protection Agency.

“This is amazing, it must be the largest opposition ever recorded on an issue open for submissions. The Ministry must now take these submissions seriously,” said Claire Bleakley, president of GE Free NZ. “They are not holding a hearing and we hope that these views are not ignored.”

The controversial clauses in the NES-PF override local bodies processes that protect the environment and their communities by making GE a permitted activity, if approved by the EPA. This is regardless of the sensitive economic and environmental protections that are the responsibility of Councils.

It will also mean that councils who have precautionary principles around GE in their plans already will have to remove them.

“We thank all those who expressed their concerns” said Mrs. Bleakley “The Government must ensure that primary producers are able to farm in a GE Free vibrant, green economy and produce valuable GE free timber

GE Free NZ AGM Our AGM will be held at the Arts Centre, Abel Smith Street, Wellington on October 4 at time 10 am.
All members are welcome.

2) **Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)** - described as the worst of global trade treaties worldwide - even worse than the European TTIP, (see article) this trade treaty is designed for global business.

Using deregulation in favour of Transnational corporations and overriding democratic process it intends independent state dispute settlements ISDS to take governments to court if laws around environmental protection, labour laws, etc affect a corporations profits.

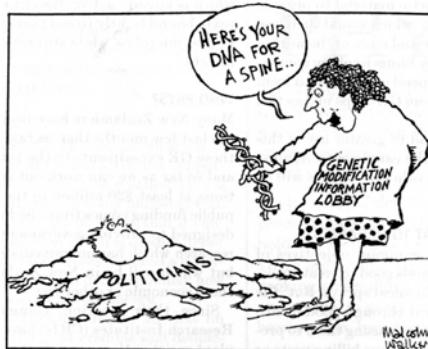
The EU has been negotiating to rule ISDS out of any agreement. In NZ councils including Nelson, Tasman, Auckland agreed to resolutions aiming to protect their communities. Ask your council if they will do the same.

International investment treaties and free-trade deals grant foreign investors the right to activate this system, known as investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS), if they want to challenge government decisions affecting their investments.

Since 2000, hundreds of foreign investors have sued more than half of the world's countries, claiming damages for a wide range of government actions that they say have threatened their profits.



Monsanto - too cosy with the Food & Drugs Administration



Can a foreign investor force a government to change its laws to please the investor?

While a tribunal cannot force a country to change its laws, or give a company a permit, the risk of massive damages may in some cases be enough to persuade a government to reconsider its actions. Read the full article at:

www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jun/10/obscure-legal-system-lets-corporations-sue-states-ttip-icsid

TPPA threat to labelling

The TPPA threatens to remove our limited GE labelling, so it is even more important to retain and improve GE labelling to ensure choice. NZ supermarkets sell sprayed, imported, unlabelled, imported GE foods, from corn, canola, sugarbeet, cotton and soy used in processed food. These are in the form of oils, high fructose syrups, sugars, starches, soya lecithin, cotton linters, processing aids & additives. Roundup residues may also be found in grain, dairy products and potatoes.

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Court battle to keep Northland GE-free .24 April 2015

GE Free Northland is appealing for help for Environment Court costs (incl. our legal counsel) to protect Northland's new Regional Policy Statement precautionary GE provisions. We need to raise \$20,000- so any donations, large or small, are greatly appreciated.

Background:Northland Regional Council has (as a result of hundreds of submissions from Northland District Councils, Iwi authorities and other ratepayers) reinstated the precautionary GE policy in the new Northland Regional Policy Statement, and identified GE as an issue of significance for Northland Iwi authorities and an issue of concern for Northland communities.

However, Federated Farmers of NZ has lodged an appeal with the Environment Court, opposing all these things.

Federated Farmers is trying to undermine key environmental protections in our new Northland Regional Policy Statement, the overarching document for the next 10 years. President of Federated farmers is Dr William Rolleston, former Chairman of pro GE Life Sciences Network.

GE Free Northland together with other other section 274 parties is opposing Federated Farmers appeal, we need to make a compelling case to the Environment Court to reject Federated Farmers vexatious appeal, and support our local councils and Northland mana whenua.

All financial support will help protect the precautionary GE provisions in the new Northland Regional Policy Statement.

Our bank account details are as follows: GE Free (Northland) Inc account - ANZ Kerikeri 01 0382 0009202 00

Cheques can be posted to: GE Free Northland PO Box 1439 Whangarei 0140

3) Resource Management Act (RMA) changes.

Both via the NES and TPPA our government intends to remove any policy on GMO prohibition by councils. This despite recommendations by the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification 2001. The RCI on GM stated that regions should be allowed to make their own policy if GM could be deleterious to their economy, society, environment etc. After many years of work by GE Free supporters this was finally ruled by the Environment Court in 2013 when a precedent was set and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council placed precaution in their policy.

A more recent ruling by the Environment Court to allow stronger precautionary policy for the entire Northland region is at present being challenged by Federated Farmers and will end up at the High Court. (Please support their case see GE Free Northlands site for donations) After the RCI recommendations supporting GE proponents were implemented but few of the lesser number supporting public areas of concern ever have. Ask your council to follow the BoP lead by putting precautionary statements about GE as an emerging technology in their policy and ask your MP why public interest in preserving a GE Free status is not supported.

4) Changes to Hazardous substances and new organisms (HSNO) Act

National Government and Treasury are coming under pressure from Federated Farmers, to relax precaution in legislation around genetically engineered organisms - the HSNO Act. Under the guidance of ex Life Sciences Network pro GE William Rolleston Federated Farmers has set up small science and innovation teams to "Reclaim choice" these will lobby on issues that include adoption of GE. As elsewhere in the world aims to get GE crops in the backdoor or by default contamination are the only tools open to GE proponents struggling in the face of failed promises of the past 20 years.

Submissions are now closed on these changes.

Write letters to the paper to demand public choice of GE Free farming be honoured as opposed to the wishes of wealthy landowners who see GE as a quick fix using ever more toxic weedkillers. We need laws strengthened and with more breadth to accommodate new GE technologies. Where is the liability here who will pay for pollution of waterways, soils and the health of our nation?

New Zealand news

Soil and Health Assoc. 17.6.15
Pressure from the biotech industry for the government to relax laws on genetic engineering will result in a new wave of GE-free activism, the Soil & Health Association predicts. This follows comments from some GE companies, and from the Treasury Secretary Gabriel Makhlouf in a speech at Fieldays that New Zealand is missing out on opportunities.

"Kiwis have fought hard to keep our environment GE-free, but if that is threatened, we will see massive protests," says Marion Thomson, co-chair of Soil & Health. "GE farming and/or forestry will jeopardise our clean, green brand."

Relaxing the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act would be absolutely detrimental to our environment, our economy and to our

communities. Experiences overseas have shown that GE crops have led to the rise of herbicide-tolerant 'superweeds', and the use of more and stronger pesticides. GE yields are no greater. In the USA and Europe, pig farmers using GE stock feed are seeing health problems and deformities in piglets.

Swedes - is this a new genetic technology causing death? 39 of the 41 farms initially investigated used HT swedes and only two used a different variety strongly suggesting a link. VetSouth analysis of data showed a significantly higher risk of mortality amongst cattle in Southland grazing on HT swedes during the winter of 2014 than on any other feed type.

The NZVA is intending to capture animal health issues and mortality data across all species this winter, to develop a greater understanding of the problem facing farmers. Swedes are a brassica crop commonly fed to many stock on the lower South Island over winter and have been used as a feeding crop for over 50 years by dairy farmers in the region without any problems.

www.scoop.co.nz/stories/SC1506/SO0108/analysis-of-2014-swede-related-deaths-in-southland-and-otago.htm



GMO Free Europe conference Berlin May 2105

At the recent GMO Free conference in Berlin, European scientists, NGOs and members of civil society from around the world held similar concerns to ours. But with the EU being a block of countries there may be disagreement from some countries on ways forward as regards the new opt out clause so recently introduced into EU policy.

Spain is growing GE corn and with common borders there are potentially huge contamination issues brought on by 'free choice' of countries that are determined to remain GM Free. Monsanto 810 is banned due to toxins and potential harm. A GM potato is also authorised but performing poorly.

The EU "opt out" proposal is intended to speed up GM crop approvals whilst allowing the countries opposed to growing them to opt out by imposing bans on the cultivation of specific crops in specific regions.

Calls were for strict liability and a GM register with no cultivation allowed in EU member states. Concerns about the "opt out" proposal include that previous commitments to improve environmental risk assessment have yet to be implemented.

Documents released to GeneWatch UK as the result of Freedom of Information requests have highlighted how closely the UK Government is working with the GM industry and the extent to which commercial lobbying has influenced EU proposals.

www.genewatch.org/article.shtml?als%5Bitemid%5D=574596&als%5Bcid%5D=574133

The opt out is promoted by biotech proponents and their lackeys in government in the same way as in New Zealand as a freedom of choice. But is it? One only needs to look at the evidence of contamination in

Canada where farmers have been contaminated on organic and conventional farms and are unable to get redress through the courts often agreeing to out of court settlements and closer to home in the Steve Marsh case in Australia.

The GMO Free movement by citizens is still very strong. German company Edeka has a GE Free policy, it is working for them!! They are the biggest supermarket chain with 94% of the market 280,000m Euro. Continuing demand for GM free food especially dairy and meat means all is produced without GM feed.

The EU is increasing soy production particularly in the Danube region and a return to traditional crop rotations with soy (or beans) as a nitrogen fixer.

This in turn is lowering the demands for fertiliser and of course imported GE feed for animals. In Europe now only pigs are fed GE soy as a normal part of their diet and that will change as soya production increases.

EU policy is now demanding that soil is not left exposed in fields, subsidies now dependent on cover crops being utilised between main cropping regimes. Although laudable this is now resulting in twice as much Roundup use as previously to ensure volunteer plants are destroyed before sowing.

Further increases also come from the increasingly common practice of using Roundup as a desiccant to dry grain crops prior to harvest - more than 78% of UK canola being sprayed. With GM crops and new technologies bringing resistance by new GE techniques the increase in Roundup use will rocket.

We know the answers aren't simple, but the need to ensure safe food, protected waterways and conserve soil, its fertility and the microorganisms that enable release of plant foods is paramount.

One area where New Zealand was identified as a leader is in the identification of new technologies of

genetic modification. The court case brought by the Sustainability Council has set a precedent.

This determined that one of these new processes zinc finger nuclease is a form of genetic engineering that must be assessed for its safety by the EPA under the HSNO Act.

Here New Zealand has set a precedent as most countries around the world are keeping very quiet about these new technologies (also nanotechnology) hoping that the lack of press coverage will ensure the public are none the wiser.

These new technologies are now using RNA, rather than DNA as the means of modification.

Improvements to current risk assessment have been suggested by scientists including Professor Jack Heinemann from NZ Institute of Gene Ecology and Canterbury University



“New Zealand should stay GE Free and be the seed basket of the world.” Dr. Arpad Puztai
Green Party witness during New Zealand's Royal Commission into Genetic Engineering 2000

**GMO Free Europe conference
Berlin Declaration May 2015
64 GM Free regions of Europe, the
GMO-NGO Network and Danube
Soya Association emphasised 4
guiding principles and objectives:-**
Subsidiarity Principle, Precautionary
Principle, Polluter pays principle and
Freedom of choice for everybody.
(text abbreviated see www.gmo-free-europe.org for full text)
The following points were made:-

Opt out

Opt out compromise is accepted, allowing Member states to restrict or prohibit cultivation of GMOs on their territory. Member states are urged to make effective use of Directive with regional legislation and ensuring legal certainty of territorial bans on cultivation.

Adoption of the Directive (EU)2015/412 does not diminish the necessity to resolve shortcomings of authorisation and risk assessment procedure at EU level.

European Protein Strategy
EU soy imports are 97% of the demand, equivalent to 12m hectares, jeopardising EU food supply and causing destructive practices in exporting countries. The absence of legumes from crop rotations has negative consequences for climate, soil fertility, nitrogen balance and biodiversity. We demand the EU

develop a coherent Protein strategy to address these issues, promoting sustainable production and use as food and feed of GNO free legumes, protein crops and oilseeds. This requires research and development and provisions under EU policy.

TTIP

Demands that EU standards on health, the environment, legal certainty and democracy not be lowered by TTIP or any other free trade agreement. The precautionary principle, a fundamental principle of EU policy must not be undermined. We point out that neither existing nor future safety and labelling rules of the EU and Member States may be restricted or prohibited by the TTIP or other agreements.

Low level presence.

GMO Free products must remain GMO Free. We demand that no thresholds are established for the contamination of food and feed with GMOs not authorised within the EU. For seeds not labelled as GMO, the current zero tolerance principle for GMO contamination must be maintained.

Non GMO labelling

Consumers have the right to full transparency and choice on the use of GMOs in the food they buy. This must also include the use of GMO feed in animal products. We are calling for a European harmonised approach to non GMO labelling on animal products.

In the absence of such a system we ask national governments to implement national labelling systems for animals products fed without GMOs, which exists in Germany, France, Austria and Luxembourg.

Member states should support and participate in drafting an international GMO free labelling standard.

New technologies

The precautionary principle should apply to new technologies of genetic modification. New technologies, not yet known when defining GMOs 25 years ago, have to be assessed in a coherent and transparent EU process and must not be abused to undermine the present EU legislation, safety and international standards.

More from Europe and world

IARC WHO cancer agency says 2,4-D possible human carcinogen Group 3.

2,4-D is widely used in NZ by councils and others in preparations to control weeds in agriculture, forestry, and urban and residential settings.

Occupational exposures to 2,4-D can occur during manufacturing and application, and the general population can be exposed through food (applications for GM corn and soy resistant to 2,4-D have been approved), water, dust, or residential application, and during spraying.

In the same study Lindane was classified as carcinogenic Group 1 and DDT as probably carcinogenic Group2.

Monsanto to invest US \$1 billion in dicamba production.

www.reuters.com – 25.6.15
Monsanto “Confident” Dicamba-Tolerant Soybeans Will Be Introduced in 2016 following regulatory delays over several years.

Monsanto Canada representatives say they will finally be able to introduce soybeans with tolerance to both glyphosate and dicamba herbicides to the North American market. All biotech and herbicide approvals for the Roundup Ready 2 Xtend system are in place in Canada, with the Pest Management Regulatory Agency giving the green light to the Xtendimax dicamba herbicide earlier this month.

They are still waiting on approval from one major export market — China. In anticipation of increased demand for dicamba herbicide, the company has plans to invest up to \$1 billion over five years in dicamba production at its Louisiana plant.

Sweden may vote no to GMO from now on 26.6.15

“We do not want to encourage the use of chemicals” – said the Swedish Minister for Rural Affairs after sufficient support at the environmental and agricultural committee for the government to adopt a new GMO position.

The Swedish government may reach a different conclusion from expert authorities in EU concerning a GM crop being approved for cultivation. If the GM crop is linked to the use of the

herbicide glufosinate ammonium, Sweden will vote no. The government may also choose to vote no on the cultivation of GM crops, which leads to the use of extraordinarily high levels of pesticides, even if the expert authorities do not foresee any

environmental or health risks with the GMO.

According to the Swedish Chemicals Agency, it is illegal to sell or use glufosinate ammonium herbicide in Sweden.

Are we crossing the tipping point with GMOs? US food brands rush to go Non-GMO

16.6.15 GM Watch
The US packaged food company Diamond Foods Inc is moving its US sales to Non-GMO Project Verified in response to consumer demand. ETB North America, LLC, one of the fastest growing sports US nutrition companies and makers of Eat The Bear protein, has announced that it has reformulated its flagship whey protein isolate using non-GMO isolate.

Hellmann's Mayonnaise Dressing with Olive Oil is now made with Non-GMO ingredients. American mothers want Quaker to follow suit. A recent survey for the Just Label It campaign found that nearly 93% of moms who buy Quaker products want the company to label foods that contain GMOs.

The survey also found that of 800 mothers surveyed online, 80% want the company to stop financing anti-GMO labelling efforts.

German DIY shops stop selling weedkiller Roundup

15.6.15

(German Economic News)

According to Swiss supermarkets, German companies have announced halting sales of Monsanto's glyphosate herbicide. In 1971, Monsanto patented glyphosate. The registration of glyphosate is currently being re-examined by the EU, because the current authorization of the active ingredient ends in December 2015.

Top Supermarkets in Switzerland Remove Glyphosate From Shelves

Major Blow to Monsanto's Glyphosate as Swiss Retailers Begin Removing Herbicides From Store Shelves 3.6.15

Coop supermarkets and Coop Building & Hobby hardware stores in Switzerland are effectively immediately removing all

glyphosate-containing herbicides including Round Up from its shelves.

Following in their footsteps Migros another major retailer has also stated they will be doing the same. No word yet if retailers Landi, Hornback and Jumbo would also remove all glyphosate from their stores. There is a push for a permanent ban.

Why are the Swiss willing to protect their people over the risk of profits and from cancer but not NZ retailers?

TTIP could open EU to 'new biotech' GMO seeds and foods

Corporate Europe Observatory & Inf 'OGM 7.7.15

The EU Parliament voting on the controversial Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) being negotiated between the USA and the EU. But do MEPs realise that the agreement could force European markets open to 'new biotech' foods and crops using advanced GM technologies that do not meet current definitions of 'GMO' within the EU? The most contentious issue is whether TTIP will weaken Europe's rules Both the ESA and the ASTA emphasized that new breeding techniques would have the potential to disrupt trade if there was a patchwork of different regulatory approaches and therefore the best approach was not to regulate them."

The ASTA-ESA paper itself was also disclosed to CEO. [19] It explains: *"The future use of New Plant Breeding Techniques ... and the introduction of the resulting new plant varieties in commercial farming will strongly depend on an enabling regulatory environment and a supportive public policy. Differences in definitions and regulatory frameworks would create major barriers for trade and deployment of these techniques. Generally, for New Plant Breeding Techniques, ESA and ASTA see no specific need for regulation."*

Meanwhile, the biotech industry is pushing for the products of the 'next generation' biotech crops to escape the EU's legislation on GMOs and therefore to go unregulated. Is there a link between this new push, and TTIP? Responding to public concerns, the European Commission has fervently

denied any claims that EU food safety standards, or other standards for that matter, would be lowered as a result of TTIP.

Emails obtained via a freedom of information request show that during the March 2014 TTIP talks, "bilateral cooperation on seed trade issues" was brought up.

It is now up to the Commission to clarify what exactly was discussed during those talks on these issues, also the EU Delegation in the US then joined a meeting convened by the office of the US Trade Representative to get briefed on the transatlantic seed industry's demands for TTIP. Two of three priority issues are GM related.

www.theecologist.org/News/news_analysis/2936848/ttip_could_open_eu_to_new_biotech_gmo_seeds_and_foods.html

Soil Association urges farmers not to spray glyphosate pre-harvest

Glyphosate is one of the three pesticides regularly found in routine testing of British bread appearing in up to 30 percent of samples tested by the Expert Committee on Pesticide Residues in Food

Peter Melchett, policy director at the Soil Association, said that the farming industry cannot ignore the World Health Organisations findings that glyphosate is a probable cause of cancer. The risks are too great. Previous voluntary attempts to limit the occurrence of glyphosate in bread have failed, so the Soil Association is calling on farmers to avoid using this herbicide pre-harvest this year on wheat crops, in particular those that might go for milling.

The Soil Association points out that the levels of glyphosate found in bread are below the maximum residue level (MRL) set by the EU, adding that these standards were set well before this latest determination by the WHO

See more at:

globalmilling.com/soil-association-urges-farmers-not-to-spray-glyphosate-pre-harvest/#sthash.5YEpdDH.dpuf

Africa's farmers fight the corporate takeover of seeds, land and food. 9.6.15

Lured by promises of aid and investment, African governments are rewriting laws to create lucrative opportunities for corporate agribusiness, writes Chris Walker - while consigning their own farmers to servitude and landlessness.

But now farmers are rising up, as in Ghana where a new 'Monsanto law' threatens to end their right to grow, save and share their ancestral seeds.

Oxford Univ study shows GM cotton of no commercial benefit to Indian Farmers. 10.6.15

Experts from Oxford University in the UK have released a study in the Nature journal stating that there are no increased profits for Indian farmers who grow Bt cotton in non-irrigated areas.

They found that farmers in the Indian state of Maharashtra spent more money to produce Bt cotton

Pope slams GMOs and pesticides for environmental and social damage declaring “the spread of

these crops destroys the complex web of ecosystems, decreases diversity in production and affects the present and the future of regional economies. 26.6.15 ”Biotech companies claim their products are key to solving hunger, but the Pope knows this isn't true. No commercial GE crops are engineered for increased yield.

Five of every six acres of GE crops are engineered for herbicide-tolerance, i.e. to survive being drenched with what would normally be a toxic dose of herbicide, usually Round-up. The Pope's message couldn't come at a better time. Pesticide use is at an all-time high. ecowatch.com/2015/06/26/pope-francis-pesticides-gmos/

Lamb genetically modified with jellyfish protein may have deliberately been sent from Paris lab to abattoir after dispute between researchers – and ended up on someone's plate. Police have now

been called in and an inquiry launched into how the lamb could have been passed as fit for human consumption.

The INRA president stated “We are sure that individual acts that are unacceptable were committed ... followed by a chain of errors and responsibilities within the hierarchy.” Guardian 23.6.15

MRSA in British pigmeat 18.6.15
The scare over MRSA in pork shows responsible farming isn't a luxury – it's a necessity. Guardian

Intensive production is clean, efficient and modern, we're told, the only way to put meat on everyone's plates. Perhaps those who have systematically dismissed the grave problems incubating in industrial livestock units will now revisit their complacency.

Guardian investigation revealed the presence of a strain of the potentially fatal, antibiotic-resistant superbug MRSA in pork chops, bacon, and gammon sold in leading British supermarkets. Of 100 items tested nine were found to contain the bug.

Eight were imported from Denmark. Separate tests, carried out on behalf of a campaign group, the Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics, have also identified three strains of MRSA in British pork mince and sausages.

The evidence that the human health risk of factory-farmed pork can no longer be brushed off as theoretical or hysteric. It's on our plates, right here and now.

Organic farming in Ireland increases Irish Times 16.6.15

870 applications to farm organically were received this year the previous highest number being 310 in 2010.

Friends of the earth new report: Spinning Food

"Spinning food," investigates how Big Food and agrochemical corporations are deliberately misleading the public - and reporters -- on facts about industrial agriculture and organic and sustainable food production. Taking their cues from the tobacco industry,

these companies have spent hundreds of millions of dollars in the past few years on stealth PR tactics, deploying over a dozen front groups to push coordinated messages attacking organic food production, defending pesticides and the routine use of antibiotics and promoting GMOs -- messages that are making their way into the pages of our largest media outlets.

The report shows how these companies are trying to preserve their markets and advance policy agendas by:

- deploying front groups
- targeting moms
- attacking journalists and scientists
- grooming third-party allies that pose as independent sources
- producing advertising disguised as editorial content
- using other covert social media tactics to influence public opinion and sway policymakers

- without most people realizing the story is being shaped behind the scenes to promote corporate interests.

This report aims to shed light on how the industrial food and agriculture sector is trying to defuse concerns about the real risks of chemical-intensive industrial agriculture and undermine public confidence in the benefits of organic food and diversified, ecological production systems.

We hope this report helps reporters, policymakers, opinion leaders and the public bring increased scrutiny to the food industry's messages and messengers.

By revealing key groups and tactics used by industry, we also hope that it will help generate more balanced and accurate reporting on our food system. - See more at: www.foe.org/projects/food-and-technology/good-food-healthy-planet/spinning-food#sthash.RGTb9mJh.dpuf

Conference presentations audio with powerpoints are on line – see below

Professor Jack Heinemann -
Comparative sustainability of intensive GM & non-GM agroecosystems

www.foodconference.co.nz/medianews/videos/comparative-sustainability-of-intensive-gm-and-non-gm/

Dr. Anna Goodwin - **Overweight, undernourished, sterile, and dying of cancer**

www.foodconference.co.nz/medianews/videos/overweight-undernourished-sterile-and-dying-of-cancer/

Bob Mackley – Farmer
Soil Conservation

www.foodconference.co.nz/medianews/videos/soil-conservation/

Dr. Meriel Watts

Children & Pesticides - A Wake Up Call

www.foodconference.co.nz/medianews/videos/children-and-pesticides/

Professor Don Huber

Glyphosate & GMOs - Flawed Science

www.foodconference.co.nz/medianews/videos/new-you-tube-page/

3 DVDs with all the proceedings will be available in the near future. Email-info@food conference.co.nz
Copies of Seralini and Douzelet book Culinary Pleasures or Hidden Poisons are also available.

For help with presentations on glyphosate to council contact Claire or go to GE Free NZ website:-
www.gefree.org.nz



An amazing and inspirational look at the ecosystems of soil

Altered Genes, Twisted Truth

How the Venture to Genetically Engineer Our Food Has Subverted Science, Corrupted Government, and Systematically Deceived the Public.

Written by public interest attorney Steven Druker, who initiated a lawsuit that forced the FDA to divulge its internal files on GE foods, exposing how the agency had covered up extensive warnings from its own scientists about the risks, lied about the facts, and then ushered them onto the market in blatant violation of U.S. food safety law.

It reveals how the entire GE food venture has been dependent on fraud – how key misrepresentations have been dispensed by eminent scientists and scientific institutions eg U.S. National Academy of Sciences and U.K. Royal Society.

The book's importance is recognized by several scientists who have unstintingly praised it.

World famous primatologist Jane Goodall wrote the foreword, hailing it one of the most important books of the last 50 years and stating: "I shall urge everyone I know who cares about life on earth, and the future of their children, and children's children, to read it.

It will go a long way toward dispelling the confusion and delusion that has been created regarding the genetic engineering process and the foods it produces. . . . Steven Druker is a hero. He deserves at least a Nobel Prize."

Disclaimer-We are not liable for any error, omission, fact or misinterpretation in this publication, nor any action taken on the information given.

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