



CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

victory report

As a leader in the food movement for over 15 years, Center for Food Safety has used groundbreaking legal, policy, corporate, public education, and grassroots campaigns to protect our food, our farms, and our environment.



CELEBRATING 15 YEARS



CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

Protecting Our Food, Our Farms,
and Our Environment

AS WITH MANY OF YOU, I was brought up inundated with such corporate bromides as “better living through chemistry,” “progress is our middle name,” and even “DDT is good for me.” As for food, the future was clear. It was epitomized by the culinary habits of TV’s futuristic Jetsons family, who met their daily nutritional requirements by eating various tablets rather than food, though they did so with knife and fork. And emulating the astronauts, our future beverage of choice would be Tang, an artificial orange drink of unknown origin and content. Behind all the jingles, ads, and media mantras of that time was the unquestioned message that the more we industrialized our food production, the more “modern” and desirable the food would be. Agribusiness and the food industry tirelessly promoted industrial food and profited heavily on the massive chemical and biological inputs, mechanization, huge monocultures, and factory-like farms their model called for.

Over the decades the media strategies have become more clever and the technology has grown more sophisticated, but the “artificial is better,” anti-nature world view still dominates today’s agribusiness. Corporations continue to foist this industrial food model on us by strong-arming our elected officials and government agencies, buying out our educational institutions, suing recalcitrant farmers, and of course, flooding the media.

Remarkably, in recent years, something happened on the way to the corporate-planned industrialized food future—something that the agribusiness proponents did not see coming. We happened. Despite untold billions spent in advertising and disinformation campaigns, people started making the connections between industrial food production methods and the human health crisis and ecological destruction they were seeing around them and being effected by. A food revolution began. Perhaps this revolution ignited in earnest when Rachel Carson forcefully described how the death of the nation’s birds, a “silent spring,” was being caused by the use of DDT and other pesticides. It soon became evident that a number of our most urgent environmental problems—whether water and air pollution, topsoil loss, biodiversity loss or wilderness and habitat destruction—were direct results of our food production system. Some of those suffering from or treating cancer began to realize that one major cause of the epidemic was the chemicals in our food. Others witnessed the devastation of farmers and farm communities under the heel of corporate takeovers and said “enough.”

For the last fifteen years, the Center for Food Safety has been at the forefront of organizing an increasingly powerful food movement that is fighting the industrial model and promoting organic, regenerative, and sustainable alternatives. This Victory Report outlines many of our major legal, policy, and grassroots successes in halting the spread of genetic engineering of our foods, in stopping the use

and misuse of pesticides, in protecting our pollinators and seed diversity, in defending farmers and farm communities from corporate takeover and persecution, in halting the unspeakable cruelty of animal factories, and addressing industrial agriculture’s contribution to the climate crisis. The Report also outlines our extensive policy and public education efforts to protect the integrity of the Organic standards and our work in urging millions of Americans to vote day after day with their food dollars for a different vision of agriculture. As a result of our efforts and our allies, more of us are eating organic than ever before, and organic food production, though still small, is the fastest growing segment in U.S. agriculture today.

While we and our many organizational allies campaign to halt destructive, cruel and unsustainable industrial food practices, we also are devoted to evolving the organic ethic. The CFS vision does not see Organic as the “ceiling” for American food production but rather the “floor” that should be the basis for all food production. Our goal is to build on this organic base an “Organic and Beyond” food future that is local, in appropriate scale, humane, socially-just and biodiverse.

On behalf of everyone at CFS, we are so thankful for all the individuals, foundations, allied NGOs, and progressive companies that have supported our mission and work throughout these critical years. It is only with your support that we have been able to achieve all the victories featured in this report. Thank you for your support, vision and partnership—together, we are building that “organic and beyond” food future.



ANDREW KIMBRELL
Founder & Executive Director, Center for Food Safety

FOOD & TECHNOLOGY

GENETIC ENGINEERING of plants and animals is one of the greatest environmental challenges of the 21st century. CFS seeks to halt the commercialization of any new genetically engineered (GE) crops and animals until they have been thoroughly tested and found safe for human health and the environment. CFS also strongly advocates for the containment and reduction of existing GE crops and for clear labels on these existing GE foods.

STOPPING GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GE) CROPS

Through legal actions, policy initiatives, and grassroots campaigns through our True Food Network, CFS has:



- Stopped GE wheat, rice, potatoes, tomatoes, and bentgrass
- Fought Monsanto in the first-ever U.S. Supreme Court case on GE crops
- Stopped, via a series of lawsuits, the planting of GE crops on hundreds of wildlife refuges across the country
- Prevented the planting and approval of GE alfalfa from 2007 to 2011, which included battling Monsanto in the U.S. Supreme Court
- Halted, limited, and/or delayed GE biopharmaceuticals, trees, canola, alfalfa, and sugar beets
- Won legal cases preserving the public's right to challenge government decisions on GE crops in court and, as a result, the government must now analyze and disclose the adverse impacts of GE crops, and courts can stop the commercialization of GE crops

Our victories don't end there. CFS has also:

- Forced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), through legal pressure and grassroots organizing, to prepare environmental reviews on GE corn and soy resistant to the toxic herbicides 2,4-D and dicamba prior to any agency decision on approval
- Assisted in the drafting and passage of numerous local and county laws banning or limiting the planting of GE crops and pesticide use in counties including Mendocino, CA and Kauai, HI
- Stopped the planting of GE canola in Oregon's Willamette Valley, a critical organic seed-growing region
- Eliminated the "Monsanto Protection Act" from key U.S. legislation

HALTING THE PATENTING OF LIFE

- Initiated the legal challenge to DNA patenting that resulted in the 2013 U.S. Supreme Court victory holding that DNA is not patentable
- Drafted and helped pass the Patent Reform Act of 1999 which allowed Third Parties (including NGOs) to challenge patents for the first time

PREVENTING THE APPROVAL OF GE FISH

CFS has prevented the approval and introduction of GE salmon for over twelve years. Over that time, CFS has:



- Filed seven different legal petitions demanding the rejection of GE salmon
- Led a major grassroots campaign resulting in more than 1.8 million comments to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) opposing approval
- Worked with members in Congress to pass an amendment requiring the mandatory labeling of GE fish—the first time in history that the Senate voted on GE labeling
- Secured, along with our allies, commitments from hundreds of supermarkets and food companies—including Trader Joe's, Target, Aldi, and Giant Eagle—to refrain from selling GE fish should they be approved

ADVANCING TRUTHFUL FOOD LABELING

CFS has been a leader in the effort to secure labels for GE foods at both the state and national level. CFS has:



- Filed a legal petition with FDA that garnered more than 1.2 million comments in support of GE food labeling
- Protected rbGH-free labeling on dairy products via grassroots campaigns with our allies and a CFS legal action, which led to Monsanto dropping this flagship biotech product
- Assisted in the drafting and passage of the first-ever law to require labeling of GE fish and fish products in Alaska
- Wrote model labeling legislation that has been used in dozens of state legislative efforts, including the successful bills in Connecticut and Maine, California's Prop 37, and Washington State's I-522 ballot initiative, in addition to federal legislation
- Wrote the award-winning book *Your Right to Know: Genetic Engineering and the Secret Changes in Your Food*

ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR NANOTECHNOLOGY

CFS is a strong advocate for bringing greater transparency to the nanotechnology industry. CFS and its sister organization the International Center for Technology Assessment (ICTA):

- Filed the first-ever legal action on the dangers of nanotechnology, altering the nanotech policy landscape and spurring FDA regulation
- Filed legal action to force the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue regulations on nano-pesticides
- Established governing principles for the oversight of nanomaterials, endorsed by more than 100 organizations and labor unions



FOOD, FARMING & BIODIVERSITY

CFS IS COMMITTED to developing a new food future where organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture provide the baseline for how our food is produced. CFS supports food solutions that are biodiverse, socially-just, appropriately-scaled, local, and humane.

PROMOTING ORGANIC & BEYOND

CFS is one of the leading organizations working to defend organic standards and raise the bar of organic integrity. CFS is credited with countless victories for the organic community. CFS successfully:

- Halted, through a major collaborative grassroots campaign, the attempt by USDA to allow genetic engineering, sewage sludge, and irradiation as acceptable organic practices, eventually forcing the agency to prohibit them under the final organic rule
- Fighting to prevent the inclusion of harmful food production technologies and practices such as nanotechnology, animal cloning, and aquaculture as acceptable organic techniques and practices
- Reversed legislation that would have allowed for the feeding of non-organic feed to animals in certified organic production
- Helped organize a successful campaign to prohibit the use of added sulfites in certified organic wines
- Pressured the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to vote to stop the use of antibiotics in organic apple and pear production
- Convinced the NOSB to reject the use of GE sugar beet fiber in organic processed foods

REFORMING ANIMAL FACTORIES

CFS is one of the leading organizations fighting for greater accountability and transparency in the animal farming industry. Most recently, CFS:



- Forced FDA to withdraw 98 of the 101 drug approvals for arsenic-based animal drugs—a major success for public health and animal welfare
- Coordinated a broad coalition of organizations working to challenge Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) and filed groundbreaking legal actions to protect public health, animals, and the environment from the impacts of CAFOs

- Created the nation's first comprehensive clearinghouse of key regulations, litigation, and scientific studies relating to CAFOs

PROTECTING POLLINATORS & PESTICIDES

CFS's Pollinators & Pesticides Campaign is fighting to save pollinator species and stop Colony Collapse Disorder by curbing the prolific use of harmful pesticides. In 2013, CFS:



- Filed a precedent-setting lawsuit against EPA for its failure to protect pollinators from two dangerous neonicotinoid pesticides—a case that will be pivotal in the fight to save honey bees
- Engaged with citizens, universities, and municipalities to create "neonic-free" zones as well as educated the public on the importance of pollinator-friendly gardens



SAVING OUR SEEDS

Since its inception, CFS has fought to protect seeds from corporate control via patents, contracts, and genetic engineering. CFS has:



- Helped rescind, through legal action and grassroots organizing, patents on Basmati rice, broccoli, and Hawaiian taro
- Assisted farmers in numerous patent infringement litigations brought by Monsanto, including at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013
- Helped craft and pass numerous state "Farmer Protection Acts" providing protection for farmers
- Published the groundbreaking reports "Monsanto vs. U.S. Farmers" and "Seed Giants vs. U.S. Farmers" which exposed Monsanto's persecution of farmers for seed saving



FOOD & HEALTH

CFS IS COMMITTED to protecting human health by holding government agencies accountable for ensuring the safety of our food. By advocating for a move away from the current industrialized system, CFS is creating a new food future that reduces foodborne diseases, illnesses, and obesity.

FURTHERING FOOD SAFETY



CFS has long been committed to both addressing the root causes of foodborne illness and to advancing government regulations and oversight that keep people safe. CFS has had many successes in protecting the safety of our food supply. CFS:

- Won a major court battle to ensure the safety of our food supply from food borne diseases, forcing FDA to implement key food safety regulations mandated by Congress' Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)—in another legal victory, the federal court ordered FDA to complete these vital food safety regulations by strict deadlines
- Successfully stopped an amendment to the Farm Bill that would have delayed implementation of critical food safety regulations
- Assisted in the passage of a Senate amendment exempting small farms and producers from FSMA regulations
- Published "Best Public Relations Money Can Buy: A Guide to Food Industry Front Groups," exposing the confusing world of food industry propaganda and revealing how corporations and lobbyists hide behind friendly and benign-sounding names





FOOD & CLIMATE

INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE is a leading contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. From field to fork, the global industrial food system is responsible for nearly one-third of the world's greenhouse gases. Yet, the role of agriculture in climate change—both as a problem and as a solution—is largely ignored.



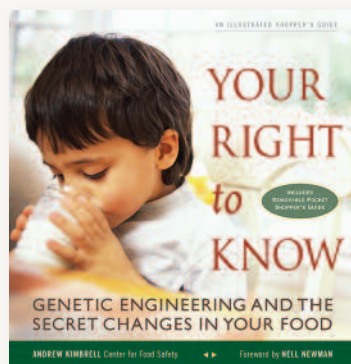
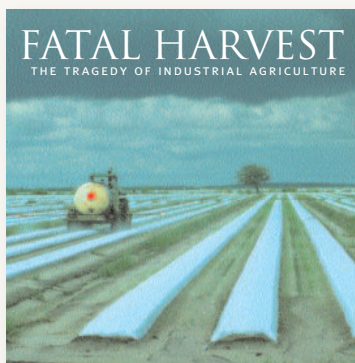
TAKING A BITE OUT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

CFS has been working on food and climate issues for over two decades. Over that time, CFS:

- Initiated the first-ever Supreme Court case (under CFS's sister organization ICTA) that successfully required the regulation of global warming pollution emissions—the ruling in *Massachusetts, et al. v. EPA* has been hailed as one of the most important environmental cases in decades
- Published "The Wheel of Life: Food, Climate, Human Rights, and the Economy," a groundbreaking report that clearly illustrates the critical link between climate change and industrial agriculture
- Empowered hundreds of thousands of consumers to make both healthy and climate-friendly food choices by selecting locally grown, organic, low-waste, and seasonal foods
- Released "Soil: Our Climate Ally Underfoot," a succinct and accessible video documenting the capacity and potential to store carbon in healthy, living soil
- Won the 2013 Judge's Choice Award in the "reducing consumption" category of MIT's Climate CoLab contest

PUBLICATIONS

CFS HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL in exposing the harmful impacts of the industrial agricultural system by writing and publishing groundbreaking books, factsheets, guides, and reports. CFS's publications cover issues such as genetic engineering, animal factories, nutrition, seeds, and more.



Some of CFS's publications include the following:

- ✿ *Fatal Harvest: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture* is widely praised as a seminal publication exposing the negative impacts of modern industrial agriculture
- ✿ *Your Right to Know: Genetic Engineering and the Secret Changes in Your Food* is an award-winning book examining the risks of GE foods and includes a comprehensive and accessible guide on how to avoid GE foods
- ✿ "Monsanto vs. U.S. Farmers" and "Seed Giants vs. U.S. Farmers" investigate how the seed patent system has led to a radical shift toward consolidation and control of the global seed supply and has allowed corporations, such as Monsanto, to sue U.S. farmers for alleged seed patent infringement
- ✿ "Pollinators & Pesticides" examines the role of pesticides in the alarming decline in honey bee populations around the world and addresses the lack of regulatory oversight that has allowed for the indiscriminate use of pesticides
- ✿ "Genetically Engineered Trees: The New Frontier of Biotechnology" explores potential ecological and socioeconomic hazards of GE trees and addresses the alarming lack of regulation and long-term testing of GE trees
- ✿ CFS's "True Food Shoppers Guide to Avoiding GMOs" was the first of its kind, listing brands that do and do not use GE ingredients in their products. The Shoppers Guide is published both as a printed pocket-sized guide and as a popular mobile application.

Other key CFS reports and publications include:

- ✿ Not Ready for Prime Time: FDA's Flawed Approach to Assessing the Safety of Food from Animal Clones
- ✿ The Catch with Seafood: Human Health Impacts of Drugs and Chemicals Used by the Aquaculture Industry
- ✿ National Organic Action Plan, From the Margins to the Mainstream: Advancing Organic Agriculture in the U.S. (co-authored with RAFI-USA and allies)
- ✿ Nano Exposed: A Citizen's Guide to Nanotechnology
- ✿ Community Organizing Guide for GE Activists
- ✿ The Wheel of Life: Food, Climate, Human Rights, and the Economy
- ✿ Going Backwards: Dow's 2,4-D-Resistant Crops and a More Toxic Future
- ✿ Genetically Engineered Salmon: The Next Generation of Industrial Aquaculture
- ✿ Genetically Engineered Food Labeling Laws Map
- ✿ Best Public Relations That Money Can Buy: A Guide to Food Industry Front Groups
- ✿ California Food and Agriculture Report Card

CFS IN THE NEWS

EVERY YEAR, CFS is featured in hundreds of media outlets including major print, radio, and television, as well as regional news outlets. CFS's reputation as a credible and widely knowledgeable organization has made it a valuable resource for reporters nationwide.

- CFS expert staff are regularly featured in major media including: *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Time Magazine*, *Politico*, *CBS Evening News*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Democracy Now!*, *Dan Rather Reports*, *CNN*, *Living on Earth*, *The Guardian*, and *The Washington Post*
- CFS letters to the editor on issues such as GE food labeling, GE salmon, and pollinator health have been published in newspapers such as *The New York Times*, the *Oregonian*, *The Wall Street Journal*, in addition to an opinion piece on seed patenting in the *Los Angeles Times*
- CFS Executive Director Andrew Kimbrell is a regular blogger on *The Huffington Post*, with more than 10 million unique viewers each month, and our diverse group of experts has contributed to high profile online sites such as *Grist*, *The Hill Congress Blog*, and *The Atlantic*





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Join CFS's True Food Network of more than 360,000 members making a difference!

www.centerforfoodsafety.org

CFS welcomes your questions and comments. Please contact us at office@centerforfoodsafety.org.