



CENTER FOR  
FOOD SAFETY

*celebrating* **25** *years*

## **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY VICTORY REPORT 2024**

**EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND  
DEFENDING THE EARTH.**

As a leader in the food movement for over 25 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.



AT CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY  
we are the lawyers, scientists and  
policy experts for the food movement.



FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS, Center for Food Safety (CFS) has spearheaded the creation of a new food future, building an increasingly powerful food movement that's fighting the harmful industrial agriculture system and championing organic, ecological, and regenerative alternatives.

Over the course of our history, we have won an impressive 75%+ of our cases, taking on the hardest challenges while representing our human and non-human clients free of charge. We are incredibly proud of our victories and accomplishments restoring environmental justice, protecting public health, native salmon and oceans, animal welfare, endangered species and the environment, and pollinators like Monarch butterflies. And, it has been our honor to represent farmers and farmworker communities, tribal and native groups, and other marginalized members of rural society in our fight for a better food future. To continue this momentum—and secure the future we urgently need for our food, water and climate, it will be up to us—**CFS and you**—to make it happen.

During these challenging times, our work has increased, and we continue to fight everyday to promote justice, and protect people and the planet. Together, we share a vision for a food system that prioritizes equity, health, and the environment. We are proud to share these updates with you. **Thank you for your donations and actions to support this critical work!**



## STOPPING GMOs: PROTECTING FOOD, FARMS & THE ENVIRONMENT

Our legal, science, and policy teams combat the approval of pesticide-promoting, genetically engineered (GE/GMO) crops and animals until they have been thoroughly tested and found safe for human and environmental health. We also staunchly protect your “Right to Know,” fighting for clear labeling and oversight of GMO foods.

## OVERTURNED THE APPROVAL OF MONSANTO'S TOXIC PESTICIDE DICAMBA

Sprayed on GE crops, dicamba was touted as the “future” for the ag biotech industry. Yet we have now succeeded in having courts strike down its approvals not once but twice! The victorious series of decisions protects farmers, the environment, and endangered species from pesticide drift, but also breathes life into pesticide law, forcing EPA to consider those impacts for future pesticides.

## FIRST GE ANIMAL APPROVAL HELD UNLAWFUL

After a four-year lawsuit, a federal court declared the approval of the first-ever GE animal, a GMO salmon, illegal! This is a huge victory for wild salmon, the environment, tribes, and our fishing communities.

## SECURING GMO LABELING

The court agreed with us that “QR code” labeling alone was unlawful, securing the requirement of on-package labeling of GMO foods. But we aren’t stopping there, and currently are challenging the loophole excluding “highly refined” GMO products from any mandatory disclosure.

## STOPPING NEW GMO FOODS AND EXPERIMENTS

CFS is litigating another case challenging the attempt to remove most GMO crops from regulation, and instead allow Monsanto and other GMO crop producers to “self-determine” whether or not they should be commercialized. And, last year we halted what would have been the first release of experimental GMO mosquitoes in California.



“Salmon are at the center of our cultural and spiritual identity, diet, and way of life. It’s unconscionable and arrogant to think we can improve upon Nature’s perfection as a justification for corporate ambition and greed. Our responsibility as stewards of our sacred salmon demands we aggressively protect their natural habitat and genetics. We applaud this court decision on GMO salmon; our prayers were answered and justice prevailed.”

—Fawn Sharp, Quinault Indian Nation  
Vice President and President of the  
National Congress of American Indians,  
CFS client.



## PROTECTING POLLINATORS AND ELIMINATING TOXIC PESTICIDES

Through legal, science, policy, and grassroots initiatives, CFS works to protect pollinators, farmworkers, and the public by ending the use of toxic pesticides through targeting government agencies and chemical corporations.

## SAVING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES, BEES, AND OTHER POLLINATORS

Because of CFS's legal and scientific efforts, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that Monarch butterflies will be protected under the Endangered Species Act, and in 2024, placed on the path back to recovery. This is a major and much needed victory for the survival of these iconic butterflies!

As a result of a 2023 CFS legal petition and lawsuit, four imperiled species of California-native bumble bees will be protected under CA's Endangered Species Act, creating greater protection of pollinators and other sensitive insects in our nation's largest agricultural state.

Another of our recent pollinator-protection wins held unlawful the approval of the bee-killing pesticide sulfoxaflor for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s failure to analyze risks to bees and endangered species. And we are currently suing EPA for failing to close a loophole allowing insecticide-coated seeds—used across 150 million acres and known to cause harm to bees and other pollinators—to avoid regulation.

## PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, PROTECTING FARMWORKERS & CHILDREN

A 2022 CFS court decision for the first time ever struck down EPA's determination that glyphosate, the main chemical used in Roundup, does not cause cancer risks. Now, in a follow-up action, we are demanding EPA cancel all glyphosate registrations. In another 2023 case, CFS has filed suit against the EPA for failing to test and regulate dangerous endocrine-disrupting pesticides, which can cause cancer, birth defects, and reproductive defects.

CFS wrote, lobbied, and passed a first-of-its-kind bill that banned the pesticide chlorpyrifos in Hawaii, and helped secure similar bans in California, New York, and now at the federal level after studies found that the chlorpyrifos harms children's brain development.



**“Farmworker women and their families have experienced the damaging health effects of pesticides for far too long. EPA must protect the nation's farmworkers and our environment by immediately suspending and cancelling all glyphosate registrations.”**

**—Mily Treviño-Sauceda,  
of Alianza Nacional de  
Campesinas, CFS client.**



## DISMANTLING FACTORY FARMS AND PROTECTING ANIMALS

By employing regulatory action, citizen engagement, litigation and legislation, CFS promotes transparency and accountability in the factory farm industry. By revealing the alarming risks factory farms pose, we support your right to know how the industrial meat system impacts our health, animals, and the environment.



## SHUTTING DOWN MEGA-DAIRIES

CFS has shut down polluting factory farms in Hawai'i, Oregon, and Washington—and through current lawsuits, we're pushing to shut down even more.

## REVOKING CONTROVERSIAL "AG-GAG" LAWS

CFS helped stop Kansas, Idaho, Iowa, and North Carolina from criminalizing the sharing of photos and videos critical of animal agriculture, a successful campaign for animals and for free speech.

## SECURING HUMANE FARMING STANDARDS

Multi-year CFS litigation forced USDA to reinstate animal welfare protections for all organic livestock that the Trump administration had eliminated. Our lawsuit to reduce confinement, improve living conditions, and increase food safety in organic meat and egg products, continued until the Biden administration codified those standards in law this past year.





# PROTECTING OUR OCEANS FROM POLLUTING AQUACULTURE FACILITIES

CFS works to protect public health and our oceans through stopping polluting aquaculture facilities—“factory farms of the sea.” Our lawsuits aim to secure and improve oversight of these operations, while our work with chefs, grocers, fish retailers, and legislators aims to change market demand in the industry.



## STOPPED POLLUTING FLOATING FACTORY FARMS

A CFS lawsuit resulted in the courts revoking what would have been the first-ever commercial industrial aquaculture in federal waters, in the Gulf of Mexico, a scheme that was to be the model for all U.S. waters. A current case is challenging a Trump-era unlawful attempt to get around that decision, and nonetheless establish aquaculture, this time in Pacific ocean waters.



## STOPPED POLLUTING SHELLFISH FARMING

CFS won the first-ever lawsuit stopping polluting commercial shellfish aquaculture operations, in Washington state coastal waters. A huge win for vital species like salmon and orcas, the decision recognized for the first time the harmful impacts that shellfish aquaculture has on coastal ecosystems.

CFS works to create, defend, and strengthen organic standards to ensure the health and well-being of farmers, consumers, and the environment. We fight to uphold and defend the national organic standards by leveraging our legal, policy, scientific, and organizing expertise to grow and fortify the movement.

## FIGHTING FOR STRONG AND MEANINGFUL ORGANIC STANDARDS





## DEFENDING ORGANIC INTEGRITY

Through our policy expertise, regulatory work, and groundbreaking lawsuits, we watchdog and protect organic integrity. One of our cases challenges the certification of hydroponic facilities as organic farming, since the law plainly requires that organic systems rebuild soils and hydroponic systems, which are grown in liquids, fail to do so. Another of our cases prohibited the use of pesticide-contaminated compost in organic farming. Another restored the requirement to treat livestock humanely and ensure they have access to the outdoors and to undertake their natural behaviors. Another filing protected the ability of small farmers of coffee, cocoa, and other products from low and middle income countries around the world to qualify for organic certification equitably, which would otherwise be cost prohibitive.

"Soil fertility has always been the fundamental building block of any organic farming system. While hydroponic systems may have their own benefits, the connection between soil health, human health, and planetary stewardship is missing in these soil-less systems. They simply should not be called 'Organic.'"



—Paul Muller, co-owner of Full Belly Farm in Guinda, CA, a producer of Certified Organic crops since 1984, CFS client.

CFS works to limit agricultural practices that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and advance regenerative farming practices that enhance climate resilience, sequester atmospheric carbon, and support healthy communities.

## PROMOTING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE TO SOLVE THE CLIMATE CRISIS



**Created “Soil Solutions” website and video campaign,** highlighting the under-recognized opportunity to mitigate climate change through soil carbon. Recent highlights include a “Dig Deeper” video series including “Chefs for Soil” and “Regenerating Paradise,” which showcased innovative farming initiatives in Hawai‘i, showing how circular, regenerative, and local food systems can simultaneously support economies and improve community health.

**Advocated for and helped secure \$1.3 billion in funding for equitable and resilient food and farming practices that reduce carbon emissions in California,** including \$75 million for the Healthy Soils program.

**Created and served as a member of the Hawai‘i state Carbon Farming Task Force and the Greenhouse Gas Sequestration Task Force.**





## ADVANCING REGIONAL IMPACT

To complement our national campaigns, CFS works in key regions across the U.S. to secure laws to protect human health and the environment from the harmful impacts of industrial agriculture in those regions, set standards above and beyond the federal level, and promote vibrant regional food systems by supporting sustainable farming, soil restoration, and seed saving projects.



**CALIFORNIA** Our California office advocates for healthy, humane, and sustainable livestock production and consumption as well as the creation of agricultural systems that help reduce climate change. We helped pass a law to eliminate routine use of antibiotics in livestock in the State and reduced funding for polluting methane digesters on factory farms. We also helped to secure \$1.3 billion in funding for alternative farming practices that promote regenerative agriculture, support farmers, and reduce climate change. By establishing legislative and legal precedents in California, we are setting the standard for healthy and sustainable food systems nationwide.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST** As a regional resource for Oregon's food movement, our Pacific Northwest office offers legal, scientific, campaign, legislative, and policy expertise for local organizations, farmers, and fishers. Our current work focuses on stopping some of the largest factory farms in the country, including in Yakima Valley, WA, and challenging polluting aquaculture facilities on the PNW coast. Recently, our work resulted in the passage of the first-ever Oregon state law regulating factory farms, the overturning of waste discharge permits for polluting factory farms, and putting an end to a large shellfish aquaculture operation, both huge wins for water quality, marine health, and biodiversity.

**HAWAI'I** We continue to promote sustainable food systems in Hawai'i. Hawai'i was one of the original testing grounds for pesticide companies such as Monsanto/Bayer to employ their new GMO crops and pesticides. CFS's victories include pushing for the first state law banning the toxic pesticide chlorpyrifos, reducing GMO and pesticide use, and launching a video series highlighting regenerative farming in Hawai'i called "Regenerating Paradise."

"Clean water for everyone is not merely aspirational. We believe it is a fundamental right. No other industry has a green light to pollute groundwater, and its time to end the special exemption provided to industrial agriculture."



—Jean Mendoza, Executive Director  
at Friends of Toppenish Creek in  
Yakima County, CFS client.



## SECURING REGULATIONS FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



## FIGHTING FALSE SOLUTIONS

CFS is a leader in the movement to promote safety and accountability on the use of nanotechnology and synthetic biology in food production. We use legal, policy, and grassroots actions at the federal and international level to advocate for regulation and accountability of the use of novel, emerging technologies in food. This includes filing new lawsuits and pressuring federal agencies to create greater oversight of nanomaterials; conducting public education and corporate campaigns; and uniting coalitions across the U.S. and internationally.

## STOPPING NANO INGREDIENTS IN INFANT FORMULA

CFS recently filed a legal action to keep nanomaterials out of infant formula.

## KEEPING NANO OUT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

CFS helped secure a rule that keeps nanotechnology and new forms of genetic engineering excluded from organic products.

# ADVANCING SOUND SCIENCE THROUGH GROUNDBREAKING REPORTS

## POLLINATORS & PESTICIDES

- “Alternatives to Neonicotinoid Insecticide-Coated Corn Seed: Agroecological Methods are Better for Farmers and the Environment”
- “Water Hazard 2.0: Continued Aquatic Contamination by Neonicotinoid Insecticides in the U.S.”
- “Net Loss—Economic Efficacy and Costs of Neonicotinoid Insecticides Used as Seed Coatings”
- “Monarchs in Peril: Herbicide-Resistant Crops and the Decline of Monarch Butterflies in North America”
- “Heavy Costs: Weighing the Value of the Neonicotinoid Insecticides in Agriculture”

## ANIMAL FACTORIES

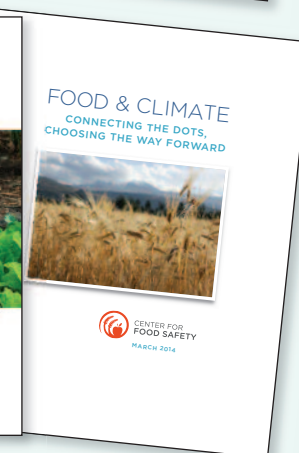
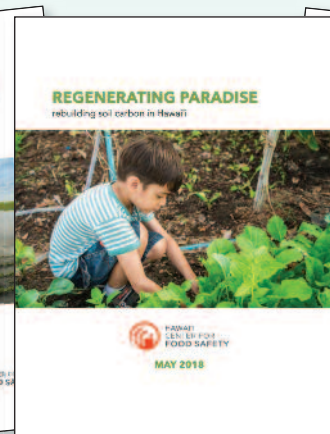
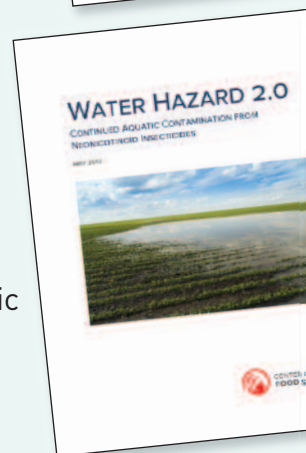
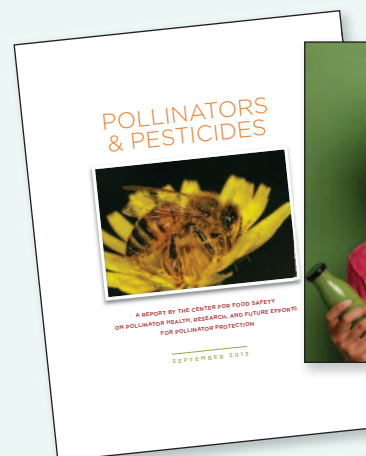
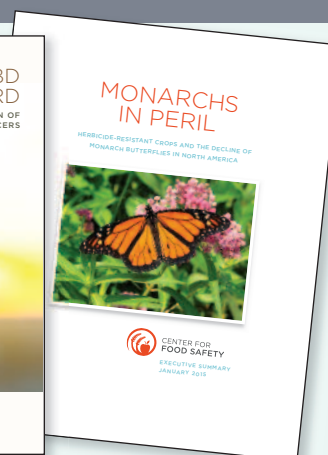
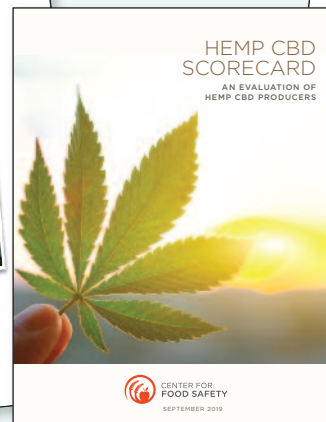
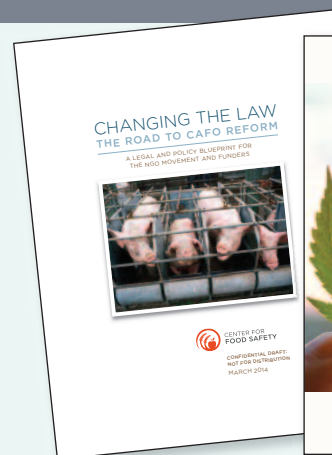
- “Chain Reaction” (stopping antibiotics in food)
- “Beyond Antibiotics Burger Chain Report”

## SOIL

- “Soil & Carbon: Soil Solutions to Climate Problems”
- “Regenerating Paradise: Rebuilding Soil Carbon in Hawai’i”
- “Food & Climate: Connecting the Dots, Choosing a Way Forward”

## FOOD & PRODUCT SAFETY

- “Capped with Toxics: Toxic Chemicals Found in the Plastic Liners of Bottle Caps from Glass-Bottled Beverages”
- “Hemp CBD Scorecard: An Evaluation of Hemp CBD Producers”





CENTER FOR  
FOOD SAFETY

## WHO WE REPRESENT

CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY is proud to represent a diverse coalition of national, state, and local organizations, as well as farms, farmworkers, and individuals in our groundbreaking lawsuits. In fact in our 25 year history we have represented over 290 clients, all free of charge. Some of our plaintiffs include:

Alianza Nacional de Campesinas	Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
American Bird Conservancy	National Family Farm Coalition
Beyond Pesticides	National Organic Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity	Organic Seed Alliance
Center for Environmental Health	Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas
Defenders of Wildlife	Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations
Dogwood Alliance	Pesticide Action Network
Don't Cage Our Oceans	Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
Farmworker Association of Florida	Rural Coalition
Food and Water Watch	Sierra Club
Friends of the Earth	Surfrider Foundation
Golden Gate Salmon Association	Wild Fish Conservancy
Greenpeace	
Humane Society of the United States	
Ka Makani ho'opono	

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With over 1 million mailing members, 142K Facebook followers, 47.3K Twitter followers, 40K Instagram followers, and 9,700 TikTok followers, with viral posts reaching nearly half a million people. CFS empowers the public by providing scientifically and legally vetted information on their food choices. Our Hero's Journey<sup>™</sup> Podcast allows us to share the inspiring stories of activists and changemakers across the nation.

[www.centerforfoodsafety.org](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org)

Washington D.C. | San Francisco CA | Portland OR | Honolulu HI



“CFS works to protect farmers like me from the devastating impacts of toxic herbicide drift. If you grow produce without using harmful herbicides, be thankful for CFS!”

—Margot McMillen,  
Missouri farmer