



CENTER FOR
FOOD SAFETY

Empowering People &
Defending the Earth

2020-2021





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 promoting organic, ecological, and regenerative alternatives.

And the past year has been a historic one for CFS! We are incredibly proud of our victories and accomplishments protecting public health, native salmon and oceans, animal welfare, endangered species and the environment, and pollinators like Monarch butterflies. 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 every day to protect people and the planet. Together, we share a vision for a food system that prioritizes health and the environment and we're proud to share these victories with you. **Thank you for your donations and actions which 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 is touted as the “future” for the ag biotech industry. This victorious court ruling overturned the approval of dicamba and also forced EPA to consider impacts of pesticide drift on farmers and the environment when approving 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

CFS recently filed a groundbreaking lawsuit against USDA challenging new GMO labeling regulations and to force labeling of GMOs on the package. New regulations could mean the vast majority of genetically engineered foods would have NO label and instead allow for digital “QR” codes that must be scanned with a smartphone.

STOPPING NEW GMO FOODS

CFS filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration’s effort to remove most of USDA’s regulation of GMO crops and allow Monsanto and other GMO crop producers to “self-determine” whether or not they should be commercialized. GMOs could flood the market if we don’t stop this dangerous rule to deregulate genetically engineered foods.



“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



PROTECTING POLLINATORS AND ELIMINATING TOXIC PESTICIDES

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

SAVING MONARCH BUTTERFLIES!

As a result of CFS's legal and scientific actions and a court settlement, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that Monarch butterflies deserve protection under the Endangered Species Act. This means Monarchs will soon be protected from further risk of extinction and put on the path back to recovery. This is a major and much needed victory for the survival of these iconic butterflies!

BANNED CHLORPYRIFOS!

CFS wrote, lobbied, and passed a first-of-its-kind bill that banned the pesticide chlorpyrifos in Hawai'i, 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.

STOPPING TOXIC PESTICIDES

This year we also filed a lawsuit representing front-line farmworkers to stop the cancer-causing pesticide glyphosate (the main chemical used in Roundup), and another lawsuit to stop the endocrine-disrupting atrazine—the top two most used pesticides in the U.S.

We also have active litigation to stop the bee-killing pesticide sulfoxaflor, as EPA failed to consider the pesticide's harms to endangered species and bees.



“Farmworkers cannot wait any longer for EPA to ban glyphosate—a pesticide that risks their health and the health of their children. The public now knows that farmworkers are ‘essential workers,’ but they have always been essential. Their work feeds the people of this country and they deserve to be protected from a pesticide known to cause chronic diseases.”

—Jeannie Economos of the
Farmworker Association of Florida



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.

STRUCK DOWN CONTROVERSIAL “AG-GAG” LAWS

CFS helped stop Kansas and Iowa from criminalizing the sharing of information critical of animal agriculture. This is a huge victory for animals and free speech!

SECURING HUMANE LIVESTOCK STANDARDS

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, increase food safety in organic meat and egg products, and to ensure that strong standards are implemented without delay, will continue as the new standards are finalized.





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 a court striking down illegal regulations that would have established for the first time permanent commercial aquaculture operations in U.S. federal waters. While the case centered on the Gulf of Mexico, the scheme was a model for all U.S. federal waters.



STOPPED POLLUTING SHELLFISH FARMING

CFS won a first-ever lawsuit stopping polluting commercial shellfish aquaculture operations in Washington State coastal waters, a huge win for vital species like salmon and orcas. This 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





CHALLENGING USDA'S ALLOWANCE OF SOIL-LESS HYDROPONIC OPERATIONS

CFS filed a lawsuit against USDA for the approval of the use of hydroponics in organic farming. The organic law clearly states that organic food must rebuild soils—hydroponic systems which are grown in liquids do not meet this requirement.

CHALLENGING USDA ATTEMPTS TO WEAKEN ORGANIC STANDARDS

CFS regularly challenges USDA's attempts to weaken the organic standards. Our successes include overturning the use of pesticide-contaminated compost in organic production and suing USDA to quickly reinstate animal welfare protections for all organic livestock that the Trump administration had eliminated.

"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 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,” a video series showcasing 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 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 it's time to end the special environmental exemptions provided to industrialized dairies."



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



SECURING REGULATIONS FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES



CFS is a leader in the movement to promote safety and accountability of the use of nano-technology 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 petition calling on FDA to remove unapproved nanomaterials from infant formula.

KEEPING NANO OUT OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

CFS helped secure a guidance by the National Organic Standards Board recommending that new kinds of genetic engineering be excluded from allowable materials in organic products.

ADVANCING SOUND SCIENCE THROUGH GROUNDBREAKING REPORTS

POLLINATORS & PESTICIDES

- ✦ “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”
- ✦ “Net Loss—Economic Efficacy and Costs of Neonicotinoid Insecticides Used as Seed Coatings”

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”

WEBSITES

- ✦ Global Seed Network (seed sharing platform), www.globalseednetwork.org
- ✦ Opt Out of Industrial Meat, www.endindustrialmeat.org
- ✦ Soil Solutions to Climate Change, www.soilsolutions.org





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WHO WE REPRESENT

Center for Food Safety is proud to represent a diverse coalition of national, state, and local organizations, as well as farms, workers and individuals in our groundbreaking lawsuits. Some of our current plaintiffs include:

Beyond Pesticides, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Environmental Health, Cornucopia Institute, Dogwood Alliance, Farmworker Association of Florida, Food and Water Watch, Friends of the Earth, Golden Gate Salmon Association, Humane Society of the United States, Institute for Fisheries Resources, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, National Family Farm Coalition, National Organic Coalition, Organización en California de Líderes Campesinas, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Pesticide Action Network, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Rural Coalition, Sierra Club

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

