

## **Organic Solutions for Our Food Supply** **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act**

I am encouraged by the amount of public activism concerning our dangerously degraded food supply. However, despite the good intentions, unless the means of seeking change are modified, they have little chance of long-term success.

Right now in the Fair Food movement, change is sought in a reactionary, piecemeal manner. There is little cohesiveness. Some movements protest GMO's. Others protest seed patenting. Some focus on banning individual types of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Still other movements seek to counter animal cruelty. This scattered approach plays directly into the divide-and-conquer strategy of the Big Ag corporate conglomerates. By allowing their efforts to be watered down, the reform movement serves the very agribusiness interests they are protesting.

Even more importantly, Fair Food advocacy movements are mostly defensive in nature, which is a strategic blunder. I know that many people of higher consciousness shy away from military concepts, but strategy and tactics must be addressed in order to gain success. Simply put, if strategic thinking is applied with consciousness, it will serve consciousness.

Since the times of Lao Tzu and Clausewitz, the critical importance of taking strategic and tactical initiative has been understood. It is not possible to win by reacting to the moves of your opponent. You must force your opponent to react to you. Winning is not possible while on the defensive.

In 1973, Henry Kissinger infamously said, "*Who controls the food supply controls the people.*" Right now, Big Ag is on the strategic and tactical offensive. Their overall strategy is a comprehensive movement toward absolute control of, manipulation of, and profiteering from the food supply. Big Ag uses their profits (money derived from the people) to directly bolster their position through financing their legal departments, inducing lawmakers with massive campaign contributions, paying hundreds of millions to professional lobbyists, and funding PACs and Super PACs to influence elections.

Just as insidious, this unwarranted government influence also results in billions of dollars in agricultural subsidies. \$8 Billion are given annually in crop subsidy payments. The vast majority of this money goes to large agribusiness corporations. (Less than one percent of these subsidies go to fruits and vegetables.) In the form of taxpayer funded subsidies, your money is given indirectly to Big Ag, who uses it to control the food supply and, thus, the people.

Your energy is being used against you. This is a classic strategy and it is working: weaken your opponent while strengthening yourself. You are being made to fund your oppression.

Tactically, the agribusiness strategy is prosecuted through legal attacks in many different arenas. Bills are introduced to mandate GMO crops, to patent seed, to legalize dangerous chemicals, to illegalize harvesting and using one's own seed, and even to make organics illegal,

branding them as unsafe and dangerous. These are individual fronts on a larger battlefield. Attacks are being made from many directions to diffuse and weaken resistance.

Different activist groups focus on resisting different legal encroachments, dividing their efforts. Some succeed and some fail. Time is on the side of Big Ag. Using your money, even if they face individual setbacks, they can afford to continue the broader assault until it succeeds. Big Ag understands that the bills that pass into law will remain in force permanently, while those that fail can be presented again and again until they succeed. An agribusiness bill needs to succeed only one time to be in force permanently. Food activist efforts must be successful each time in order to maintain the status quo. Thus, the defensive posture of Fair Food activists is ultimately doomed to failure.

Success in such ventures depends upon making your opponent react to you. The initiative must be seized. There must be a strategy for ultimate success, one that, once implemented, ends the conflict once and for all. Tactics must be employed in support of that strategy, leading to ultimate success.

**Fortunately, the solution is extremely SIMPLE!!!** Complexity has been artificially created to confuse the situation. One simple bill, in three parts, when passed into law will end the conflict forever and secure an ample supply of clean, healthy, nutritious food for all people for all time.

### **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act**

1. All agriculture, whether plant or animal based, will be conducted organically and according to the commonly accepted standards of organic agriculture. Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will never be permitted.
2. All livestock raised for agricultural purposes, whether for meat, dairy, eggs, fiber or any other purpose, must be raised in a healthy, free range environment consistent with their natural requirements, and fed a diet consistent with their natural requirements.
3. All Federal agricultural subsidies must cease permanently upon the passage of this Act, except for fruits, vegetables, non-feed grains, and legumes, which may be subsidized for up to ten (10) years after passage of this Act. Congress has the right to choose when and if any of these stated crops should be subsidized for part or all of the ten (10) year period commencing with the passage of this Act. No later than ten (10) years from the passage of this act, all Federal agricultural subsidy exemptions, regardless of crop, must cease permanently. (At no time will subsidies ever be allowed for meat, dairy, feed grains (grains grown to feed livestock) or sweeteners.
  - a. For a period of up to three (3) years commencing with the passage of this Act, Congress may financially assist the transition from conventional to organic farming. To ensure fairness and equality, this may only be done on a 'pro rata per-acreage-under-use' basis. Only land that is under use for farming and/or animal husbandry at the time of passage of this Act is eligible to receive transition assistance.

That's it. It's that simple! In one stroke, the entire agenda of Big Ag is nullified. Food Fairness activists will assume the initiative and agribusiness must go on the strategic defensive, reacting to and defending against this Act.

Tactically speaking, the way to take the initiative and be proactive is to combine our efforts. If all of the Fair Food activist groups join together as one, and also enlist the support of other general activist organizations, there will be a massive ground swell. Pro Fair-Food Congresspersons will introduce this Act to Congress. There, it will be debated publicly. Massive letter writing campaigns such as the ones used to protest individual invasive agricultural legislation can be focused toward this one goal. If enough pressure is applied, Congress will ignore the money of the Ag conglomerates and vote for the Act.

Mass education is the second tactic necessary to enact **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act**. Agribusiness will mobilize their sizable marketing and public relations assets in a huge disinformation campaign, making false claims about the effects of organics and the results of passing this Act. Fair Food advocates must unite to utilize their combined mass communications potential to educate the public and their Representatives of the FACTS of the situation. Arm yourselves with these truths:

1. **Organic farming production equals or exceeds that of conventional farming.** One of the biggest myths promoted by Big Ag is that organic farming can not produce enough food for the entire population. That is simply false. Many studies, including a 30 year side-by-side Farming Systems Trial (FST) by the Rodale Institute, show that organic farming practices match conventional production. In the cases of many organic techniques, production actually significantly exceeds conventional. This is true for GMO as well as non-GMO conventional crops.

It is true that there is a slight drop in production during the three to five year transition to organic farming, as the soil that was sterilized by chemical farming rebuilds living humus. After that transition, studies prove that production returns to or exceeds original levels. Thus, **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act** provides Congress with the option of financially assisting the transition to organic farming for up to three years.

2. **Organic farming profits exceed those of conventional farming.** Because organic farmers can store and use their own seed, rather than being forced to make annual purchases of 'terminator seeds,' and because there is no need to spend money for expensive chemicals, expenses are far lower with organic farming. Even without the premium paid for organic products, organic farming is more profitable than conventional.

3. **The overall economy will improve with universal organic farming.** **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act** will level the playing field and return farming to the Free/Fair Market. Right now, agriculture is not a free market industry. It is unfairly skewed to the large corporations, which receive the vast majority of government subsidy. By making organics universal and removing subsidies, family farms and smaller farming operations can

compete equally with large corporations. The number of small farms will grow, distributing agriculture profits more evenly throughout the population.

A United Nations report, quoted by the Rodale Institute, states that “Organic agriculture promotes job creation, providing for more than 30% more jobs per hectare than non-organic farms.” It also goes on to say that “More of the money invested in an organic farm operation goes to paying the people.” Also, according to the Organic Trade Association, organic farmers have an operating profit of \$45,697 compared to \$25,448 for conventional farmers. Thus, with organic farming, more money will be distributed to more people, stimulating spending and economic growth in local communities as well as nationally.

4. **Organic farming requires less water than conventional.** Living humus allows more water to percolate through the ground into subterranean aquifers. Sterile, conventional soil is more hydro-phobic, causing greater run-off and increased soil erosion. Living humus absorbs and stores more water than soil sterilized by chemical farming, helping organic crops to be more drought-resistant. For example, according to the FST, organic corn yields were 31% higher than conventional in drought years.

5. **Organic farming uses less energy.** Organic farming uses 45% less energy, while conventional farming produces 40% more greenhouse gases. When universal Free Energy is introduced, this point will be obsolete. Until that day comes, organic farming reduces energy consumption, saves money, and reduces environmental stress and atmospheric pollution.

6. **Organic farming is more environmentally friendly.** Most people don't think of the agriculture runoff from factory livestock operations. Millions of tons of cattle, pig and poultry manure run into our river system and water supply. An organic farming economy mitigates that huge pollutant. That manure will be collected, composted and used as fertilizer, having the dual effect of cleaning up pollution while creating healthier, more nutritious crops.

The dangers of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides are more commonly understood than the effects of manure runoff. Not only are these chemicals absorbed by the plants and animals that we ingest, they are in the air that we breathe and run off into the water that we drink. These hazardous chemicals are the cause of many of the physical maladies that are on the rise today. Since organic farming does not utilize these chemicals, by definition, their use and danger will be mitigated.

7. **Organic farming reduces health care costs.** By reducing the amount of environmental toxins in existence, not only will the food supply be safer, but the air and water will as well. Reduced toxins equal reduced disease, which equals reduced health care costs. Increased nutritional levels from healthier, more nutritious organic foods will increase levels of health and well-being. This will, in turn, further decrease health care costs.

8. **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act will restore fair market competition, resulting in a healthier diet for all.** Right now, it is cheaper to buy a fast food burger than to buy an equal portion of salad or fruit. This is wholly due to government

subsidies, which are weighted to the least healthy elements of our diet. Meat, dairy, feed grains (grains fed to livestock), sugar, and corn syrup lead the list of government food handouts.

If these subsidies are eliminated, the prices of meat, high fructose corn syrup, and sugar will rise. As the free market asserts itself, consumers will gravitate to the comparatively lower prices of fruits, vegetables, grains and legumes. Increased demand will result in short term higher prices for these products. As prices rise, farmers will shift production to meet this new demand. With increased production will come lower prices. Thus, a true free market will lead to a healthier, more affordable diet for all. With lower demand for meat, processed starch, sugar, and sweeteners, water and land consumption will decrease, overall public health and well-being will increase, and health care costs will fall.

In their mass-marketing public relations campaigns, Big Ag cries out for a Free Market, even while they pocket Billions in government handouts. These corporations are high-level Socialists operating under a Free Market disguise. By forcing them to operate under the very Free Market principles they espouse, opportunity will return to the small farmer and power will return to the people.

If the government is truly concerned about the affordability of food for people of lesser means, **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act** provides a means of permitting assistance in the sectors of agriculture that provide the most nutrition per dollar spent. The government can put their money where their mouth is by subsidizing the most important elements on the FDA's own food pyramid!

In less than 10 years, the prices of fruits, vegetables, grains and legumes will have stabilized as the most economical elements of the food supply. By that time, it is my intention to have eliminated poverty forever. If, for some reason, there is still a need for financial food assistance, it can be given directly to the families in question, rather than subsidizing an entire industry or industry subset.

By uniting our efforts supporting a common, comprehensive goal, we can make the changes we desire and need. To do so, the many disparate food advocacy groups will have to combine their efforts. I would love to see the creation of **Unified Fair Food Advocates** or some other umbrella organization which can channel the efforts of these individual organizations toward our common purpose.

By creating a common message and a singular focus, we can pass **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act**. By doing so, we will achieve the fair, healthy, nutritious, affordable, and environmentally sound food supply that we crave.

**Actions you can take right now:**

- Buy organic and free-range foods, preferably from local sources and farmers markets.
- Join Fair Food advocacy groups. Encourage inter-group cooperation between organizations.
- Support **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act**. Spread the word. Tweet it, like it, share it, email it, talk about it with your friends, present it to your organizations.
- Support politicians who advocate the **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act**.

For more information on creating a people-centric food supply that integrates into the greater picture of a prosperous, abundant, heart-centered world, I invite you to read *Blueprint for a Golden Society*. To join the discussion about **The Organics and Humane Husbandry Act**, please visit:

[www.1EarthPeople.org](http://www.1EarthPeople.org) and 1 Earth People on Facebook

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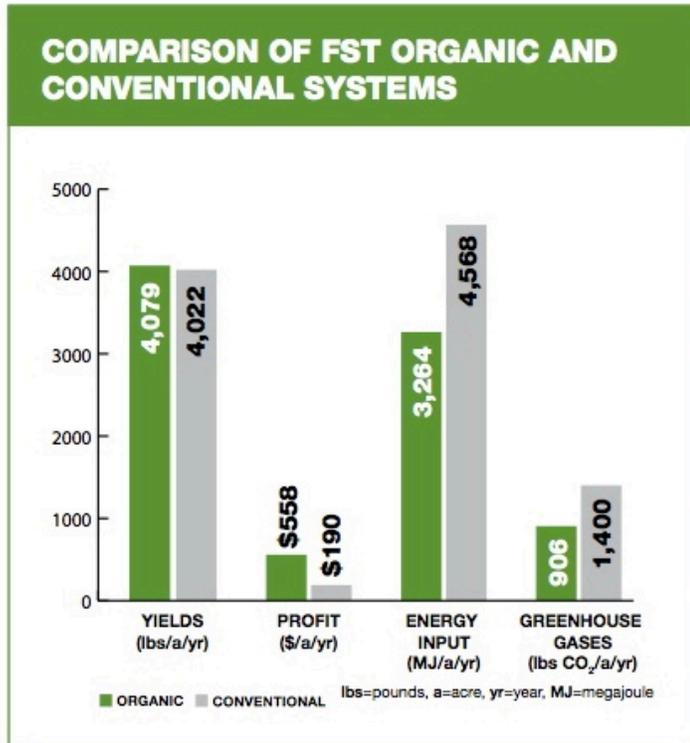
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# Summary of Facts from the Rodale Institute Farming Systems Trial

For the summary booklet, go to [www.rodaleinstitute.org/files/FSTbookletFINAL.pdf](http://www.rodaleinstitute.org/files/FSTbookletFINAL.pdf)

## FST FACTS

- Organic yields match conventional yields.
- Organic outperforms conventional in years of drought.
- Organic farming systems build rather than deplete soil organic matter, making it a more sustainable system.
- Organic farming uses 45% less energy and is more efficient.
- Conventional systems produce 40% more greenhouse gases.
- Organic farming systems are more profitable than conventional.



### SUSTAINABLE

As it pertains to farming, this term does not have a standard definition. For the purposes of this paper, we will define sustainable as a system that can maintain or enhance soil fertility indefinitely.

### ORGANIC

Most simply, this refers to a system of farming that does not use synthetic chemicals and, instead, mimics natural systems. This may encompass different farm sizes, practices and philosophies that, at their core, reject the use of toxic, synthetic chemicals.