

Green Mission News

February 2014 Green Mission News

What's in the News...

Carlo Petrini: 10 years ago this would not have been possible

"Our message today is clear, if Europe loses its small farmers and its family farms, then it loses its history, it loses its culture, it loses its identity; it would not exist anymore..."

Germany - 18 Jan 14

"Small scale farming is not anti-progress, poor or underdeveloped. It is a sustainable agricultural model that uses natural and human resources respectfully and therefore guarantees social and food security."

(see full article: SlowFood.com)



External Article Links:

- Pesticide 'contaminating' Prairie wetlands: Scientist Researcher suggests pesticide may be linked to insect, bird declines

www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/pesticide-contaminating-prairie-wetlands-scientist-1.2482082

- Making the Circular-Economy Model a Reality

www.packagingeurope.com/Packaging-Europe-News/56656/Making-the-CircularEconomy-Model-a-Reality.html

- Circular economy is turning the old waste sector into a resource industry

From using non-recyclable materials as fuel to closing the loop in soft drinks packaging
- the waste sector is seeing the value in reclaimed materials

www.theguardian.com/sustainable-business/circular-economy-old-waste-sector-resource-management

- This inspiring family generates only 1 quart of waste annually
Can you imagine raising a family while generating only one quart of waste per year?
That is precisely what Bea Johnson does, author of Zero Waste ...

<http://www.treehugger.com/green-home/inspiring-family-generates-only-1-quart-waste-annually.html>

- (The story of) Denmark's transition from incineration to Zero Waste

www.zerowasteurope.eu/2014/01/the-story-of-denmarks-transition-from-incineration-to-zero-waste/

- "Small scale farming is not anti-progress, poor or underdeveloped.

It is a sustainable agricultural model that uses natural and human resources respectfully."

<http://www.slowfood.com/international/food-for-thought/focus/207974>

- Loss of large carnivores poses global conservation problem

oregonstate.edu/ua/ncs/archives/2014/jan/loss-large-carnivores-poses-global-conservation-problem

- The spreading plague of antibacterial products

jimhightower.com/node/8221#.UtGSL67-zi4

- BPA exposure linked to prostate cancer

Exposure to low levels of bisphenol A during development may make men more susceptible to prostate cancer later in life, according to a new study. The study, which uses a new model of implanting human stem cells into mice, is the first to link early-life BPA exposure to human prostate cancer. It adds to a growing body of research that suggests exposure to low doses of the chemical alters cells and can lead to diseases later in life.

www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2014/jan/bpa-prostate-cancer

- Overview of 2013 Honey Bee Mortalities

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pubs/pest/fact-fiche/bee_mortality-mortalite_abeille-eng.php

- Interior Secretary Jewell Targets Nature Deficit Disorder

thewesterner.blogspot.com/2014/01/secretary-jewell-targets-nature-deficit.html

- Carbon footprinting guide

www.carbontrust.com/resources/guides/carbon-footprinting-and-reporting/carbon-footprinting

- Green House Gas Protocols, calculation tools

www.ghgprotocol.org/calculation-tools/faq

- A Shared Inheritance: The Commons as a Model for Ecological Governance
Billions of people around the world depend on natural commonses for their daily needs
– governing and stewarding them successfully.

www.csrwire.com/blog/posts/1164-the-commons-as-a-model-for-ecological-governance

- 70+ USS Ronald Reagan Crew Members, Half Suffering From Cancer,
to Sue TEPCO For Fukushima Radiation Poisoning

ecowatch.com/2013/12/27/ronald-reagan-cancer-sue-tepco-fukushima-radiation/

- US EPA: Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions Data

www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/global.html

- Time for bee-friending

www.heraldscotland.com/comment/herald-view/time-for-bee-friending.23134275

- The Food Industry's Allergic Reaction to Labeling GMOs

blogs.prevention.com/inspired-bites/2014/01/29/food-industry-allergic-reaction/

- *Genetic Weapon Against Insects Raises Hope and Fear in Farming*

www.nytimes.com/2014/01/28/business/energy-environment/genetic-weapon-against-insects-raises-hope-and-fear-in-farming.html?hp&_r=1

- "We are reaching a tipping point in consumer habits and behaviors as it pertains to
GMOs "

<http://online.wsj.com/article/PR-CO-20140113-907308.html>

- Monsanto critics denied U.S. Supreme Court hearing on seed patents

www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/13/us-usa-court-monsanto-idUSBREA0C10H20140113

- The Risky Business of Being a Monsanto Shareholder

www.foodandwaterwatch.org/blogs/the-risky-business-of-being-a-monsanto-shareholder/

- Protecting Organic Seed Integrity: The Organic Farmer's Handbook to GE Avoidance
and Testing

<http://www.osgata.org/organic-seed-integrity/>

- What Will the Next GMO-Free Cereal Be?

www.dailyfinance.com/2014/01/12/what-will-the-next-gmo-free-cereal-be/

- US 'superweeds' epidemic shines spotlight on GMOs

<http://phys.org/news/2014-01-superweeds-epidemic-spotlight-gmos.html>

- Stonyfield chairman advocates in Keene for GMO labeling

www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/stonyfield-chairman-advocates-in-keene-for-gmo-labeling/article_a72bbc11-edad-5fd1-84f1-836acd953a82.html

- Transparency: How Whole Foods Is Doing It Right (And You Can, Too)

www.entrepreneur.com/article/230775#

- Climate Study Projects Major Changes in Vegetation Distribution by 2100

As surface warms, distribution of plant species could be affected

www.newswise.com/articles/climate-study-projects-major-changes-in-vegetation-distribution-by-2100

- Spread in model climate sensitivity traced to atmospheric convective mixing

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v505/n7481/full/nature12829.html>

- Planet likely to warm by 4C by 2100, scientists warn

New climate model taking greater account of cloud changes indicates heating will be at higher end of expectations

www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/dec/31/planet-will-warm-4c-2100-climate

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Full Length Article Below:

Watchdog warns merger would harm consumers, restaurants and food manufacturers; demands aggressive antitrust enforcement

[Food & Water Watch](#) [Anna Ghosh](#)

WASHINGTON - January 9 - In response to the latest news of giant food corporations seeking to further consolidate, Food & Water Watch demanded that the U.S. Federal Trade Commission undertake a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the proposed

merger between the two biggest U.S. foodservice distribution firms: Sysco Corp. and US Foods Holding Corp. These companies deliver food to restaurants, schools, hotels and other cafeteria and hospitality establishments.

In a letter sent yesterday to FTC Bureau of Competition Director Deborah Feinstein, Food & Water Watch outlines several antitrust concerns with the proposed corporate union that deserve close scrutiny, requests the agency to oppose the early termination of the antitrust review and urges federal regulators to extend the merger waiting period to thoroughly review the implications of the proposed merger.

“By joining the top two foodservice delivery firms, the post-merger Sysco would have a stranglehold on food distribution in most parts of the country,” said Food & Water Watch Executive Director Wenonah Hauter. “Independent, family-owned restaurants would be vulnerable to Sysco price hikes because there would be few competitors and none would have the reach and capacity of the new mega-Sysco.”

Both Sysco and US Foods have aggressively pursued a string of mergers in recent years, but the proposed merger would be a significantly larger amalgamation of market power than either company’s prior acquisitions, the letter explains. The proposed merger between Sysco and US Foods, announced on Dec. 9, 2013, would significantly erode competition in most states and regions of the country. In many local areas, Sysco would be the overwhelming powerhouse of foodservice delivery.

The letter explains how the post-merger Sysco could have detrimental impacts on foodservice establishments, food manufacturing and consumer welfare. The merger eliminates Sysco’s main rival, which had given many restaurants the ability to shop around for supplies at the best prices and terms. By eliminating this rivalry, many restaurants and cafeterias would be forced to accept whatever prices Sysco offered. Ultimately, this could lead to higher prices for consumers when they go out to eat.

“From beer to beef, frozen food to flour, peanut butter to bacon, the past 12 months have brought a deluge of big food mega-mergers that’s threatening to strip away the few remaining shreds of fair competition that our food and beverage marketplace has left,” Hauter observed. “It’s time that the FTC and DOJ wake up and do their job protecting consumers and fair, healthy markets and stop rubber-stamping these mega-mergers.”

A copy of the letter can be found here: <http://fwwat.ch/1cBAXsV>

Food & Water Watch is a nonprofit consumer organization that works to ensure clean water and safe food. We challenge the corporate control and abuse of our food and water resources by empowering people to take action and by transforming the public consciousness about what we eat and drink.