

A Tale of Two Chickens



In just four minutes, the Sustainable Food Trust has summed up the true cost of industrial agriculture and a path toward a better future. Their new video, "A Tale of Two Chickens," follows the path of two birds, one pasture-raised and one factory-farmed, while exploring the hidden costs of the pesticide-laden, heavily subsidized food system that makes cheap chicken possible. The video is the first in a series that aims to examine the true cost of common grocery items, from corn to pork.

Watch the video: <http://sustainablefoodtrust.org/articles/a-tale-of-two-chickens/>

New Overtime Rule Benefits 4+ Million Workers

The fight for fair wages continues to gain traction. This May, President Obama signed an update to the Department of Labor (DOL) rules, outlining eligibility for overtime pay. Low-wage workers with managerial tasks, as well as white-collar workers doing sales and administrative work, have long been classified as salaried or "exempt" from time-and-a-half pay. This rule states that any worker paid less than \$47,476/year for full-time work is now eligible for overtime, more than doubling the previous wage threshold of \$23,660/year. The new rule takes effect in December of 2016, and that threshold is set to automatically increase every three years thereafter. The DOL estimates that this change will impact approximately 4.5 million workers.

Questions Raised About New Fair Trade Apparel Standards



Controversy continues over the attempt to label apparel as "fair trade." The Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC), a leader in the movement to improve working conditions in the global garment industry, has

criticized the new Fairtrade Textile Standard issued by Fairtrade International (FLO), the standard-setting body for the majority of fair trade certifications. Concerns range from specific aspects of the standard, including the long implementation time before requirements such as a living wage must be met, to the overarching concern of whether even the best certification program can ever be the right approach for apparel's highly complex factory supply chains. Additionally, CCC explains, the standard places most of the burden of implementation on suppliers, and does not require brands to commit to real change in their purchasing and operating practices.

Activists have had similar criticisms of Fair Trade USA's apparel standards in the years since they were launched, and have pointed out that Fair Trade USA's apparel program does not require a living wage to be phased in, does not require a democratically organized workplace, and does not even cover the full supply chain for certified products.

For more: <http://www.cleanclothes.org/news/press-releases/2016/03/22/new-fairtrade-standard-will-not-benefit-garment-workers>

Small-Scale Farmers Really Can Feed the World!

How can we feed the world's people and halt the destructive progress of climate change? A new paper from the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) offers the case for not just tweaking our current food system, but initiating a complete paradigm shift: "It is not a lack of evidence holding back the agro-ecological alternative. It is the mismatch between its huge potential to improve outcomes across food systems, and its much smaller potential to generate profits for agribusiness firms."

Full report: http://www.ipes-food.org/images/Reports/UniformityToDiversity_FullReport.pdf

"We Just Have to Continue Working." A New Report on Farmworkers & Heat-Related Illness



Farmworkers die from heat-related illness at 20 times the rate of the rest of the U.S. workforce. That rate has increased over the past decade, and will likely continue to go up as global climate change makes California's Central

Valley even warmer. A new report from the California Institute for Rural Studies looks at why heat-related illnesses continue despite educational and regulatory efforts. Through focus group interviews with farmworkers, they reveal a complex yet commonsense set of causes. One of the biggest systemic issues is the piecework system of pay: When workers are paid based on pieces picked versus hours worked, stopping for shade or to drink water is less likely. Interviews also suggest that the content and presentation of trainings, as well as the quality and temperature of water available, makes a difference in workers' hydration patterns.

For the full text of the report: <http://cirsinc.org/phocadownload/userupload/jafscd-farmworker-self-care-march-2016%202.pdf>

Greening the Revolution



A new documentary on food justice features interviews with small-scale farmers, revolutionaries, political intellectuals such as Howard Zinn, Noam Chomsky, and Vandana Shiva, as well as government and corporate

officials, including the director of the FDA and a Monsanto executive (yes, an interview with Monsanto!). Focusing on issues such as globalization, GMOs, farmer suicides, diabetes, migrant farmworkers, and hunger, the film also looks at resistance to harmful economic policies, amazing sustainable alternatives, and organic agriculture practiced by brilliant small-scale farmers.

Watch it for free on YouTube, or at www.greeningtherevolution.org.

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