



THE RAM'S HORN

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FOOD SYSTEM ANALYSIS

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Climate Leadership?

A lot has changed since November, 1980, when we published the first Ram's Horn. We lived and farmed within a local economy, in what we assumed to be a stable environmental context. Energy was cheap, its future availability unquestioned, and the seasons were – by and large – predictable.

By 1980 we were farming largely organically, though the internal and external parasites that are very fond of sheep and lambs demanded harsher treatment than we were happy administering. We had many foreign visitors and a map of the world on our kitchen wall. Our children grew up discussing the events of the larger world and the issues of social justice. These were largely issues of structural injustice and exploitation such as the brutality of Latin American dictatorships and corporate opportunists who operated under their protection.

Energy consumption and climate change did not enter our discussions in those days, although I was then, and remain, a critic of economic development and the inequities and environmental degradation resulting from it. Our own farming practices were low-input because we were trying to minimize the amount of money we needed to earn, and to be independent of the purveyors of fertilizers etc., not because we were trying to lower our carbon footprint, though we were seeking a more holistic approach to farming. We never thought much about the Tar Sands or even, to be honest, about Alberta from our location in rural Nova Scotia. After all, commercial production of heavy oil from the bitumen only commenced in 1967 and was not economical, without subsidy, until the much more recent drastic rise in the price of oil. (Huge tax benefits remain – but they are not called subsidies.)

Now, however, it is hard not to be aware of unpredictable weather, unusually heavy rains and unheard-of drought. These days it takes great efforts of mind to deny the effects of burning fossil fuels and sucking oil and water out of the ground to maintain and 'grow' our consuming lifestyle.



COSMETICALLY CHALLENGED

Meanwhile, public consciousness of food – from how and where it is produced, its quality (as opposed to cosmetics) who makes the money along the way and who loses out, and increasingly the hidden (externalized) costs of the dominant industrial food production system – has grown by leaps and bounds. The 'buy local' drive has begun to add in the energy costs of long distance travel to the dinner plate and its environmental consequences along with the energy costs and consequences of synthetic fertilizers, agro-toxins and diesel fuel, even if some of it comes from canola. Then there are the hyper-processing and packaging costs that have to be added to the energy bill of industrial food.

But hunger rolls on, just like global warming, and deprivation, cancer-like, expands in lock-step with obscene executive salaries and bonuses, the financial markets, and the GDP. US chief executives were paid 344 times the average worker's wage in 2007, against 42 times in 1980. Having accepted \$10 billion in bailout funds from the US treasury in 2008, Goldman Sachs is now taking in \$35 million a day in profits. The company's senior employee remuneration fund is set for a year-end payout of \$527,000 each, while its bankers can look forward to a year-end payout of more than \$700,000 each, the highest in the firms 140-year history.

– GW, 23/1/0/09

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, along with his accomplices such as Environment Minister Jim Prentice,

... continued next page

insists that the fetish of economic growth is beyond questioning – not to be jeopardized under any circumstances. His regime seems to consider the consequences of energy production and consumption and climate change as long term costs that can, in typical capitalist fashion, be externalized, that is, dumped elsewhere, sent ‘away’ – just like our heavy metal garbage, mine tailings, and sewage – unaccounted for. For Harper, it's all about control and staying ‘in power’ so that he can continue to deregulate, privatize, and militarize.

The current economic downturn has had its benefits. Emissions of carbon dioxide are expected to be 3% lower this year than last due to the economic slowdown, according to the International Energy Agency.

The Tory propaganda machine relentlessly tells Canadians to be afraid. Afraid of young men in hoodies, H1N1, terrorist plots, and economic breakdown if we make any meaningful attempt to address the very real problems of climate change and economic inequity and injustice. In a stunning reversal of cause and effect, more prisons will be built to replace social programs, public housing, and prison farms. Instilling fear is a very traditional tactic of control.



“Today, the various individuals and institutions that make up the fear market forcefully demonise flu. For example, a promo ad for a course on ‘Pandemics and Bioterrorism’ at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology claims that ‘swine flu is only the most recent of the challenges posed by threats of bioterrorism and global pandemics’. The casual manner in which the threat of bioterrorism is introduced into the discussion of swine flu, in a circular linked to one of the most prestigious scientific institutions in the world, provides disturbing evidence that fearmongering has become a respectable pursuit today. . .” – Frank Furedi, www.spiked-online.com/index.php/site/article/7170/

At the end of October, a report was released by the Suzuki Foundation and the Pembina Institute that threw cold water over the Harper regime’s invisible proposals to address climate change and maintain economic growth. Echoing the prestigious IAASTD’s (International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development) comment that “Business as usual is not an option,” the report states simply: “It

is important to reiterate that business as usual is very far from cost-free.” The report recommends drastic action on the part of government, yet maintains that modest economic growth can still be maintained as we switch to a labour-intensive, energy-frugal economy. The alternative will be a melting polar ice cap, rising oceans and higher temperatures – an environmental catastrophe that will hit the poorest first.

The government’s response, in the words of Environment Minister Prentice, is that the long-term consequences of climate change will be avoided by working with the Americans on a continental climate-change plan. In the meantime, he might as well have said, our action plan is to do nothing.

The Pembina-Suzuki report is a major step forward in the formation of concrete policy to address climate change, but it still assumes that growth of the economy is essential, and such growth requires energy. Yes, we can all work on reducing our personal energy requirements – the good food movement is a major aspect of this – but clearly it is going to take concerted political and social policy changes to address climate change. All of us are going to have to make it clear that we will be voting in the next civic, provincial and federal elections for the people and parties that make a clear commitment to putting a strict limit on environmental pollution, be it from trucks, automobiles or ships, electricity generating plants or oil production (particularly the Tar Sands, one of the world’s worst polluters).

What if . . . we overcame our reputed Canadian reticence and political inhibitions and used farmers markets, community gardens, supermarkets and pot lucks as political organizing opportunities?

What if we see the film Food Inc and come away frustrated because the film’s conclusions are focused entirely on individual action while ignoring structural issues and the need for collective action, when we know that just changing our light bulbs and buying recycled toilet paper is not enough?

Food activism has gradually moved up from the family to community to village to city to province and now national levels of activity. The People’s Food Policy Project, which is collecting proposals from groups across the country to craft a Food Sovereignty Policy for Canada (see www.peoplesfoodpolicy.ca to find out how to participate) is evidence that the food movement has

come of age and is gearing up to take political action for a sustainable food system. A critically important part of this process must be saying “enough” to economic growth and proclaiming that there is already enough for all.

Superstores might be converted to solar-heated greenhouses, parking lots to water catchment areas for irrigation, highways to bike paths and streetcar lines and their boulevards to community gardens. What we could not even have dreamed of twenty years ago is now becoming reality as people change their foodways.

The Pembina-Suzuki report is entitled “Climate Leadership, Economic Prosperity”. What we now need, urgently, is a radical change in how we ‘measure’ prosperity. The Gross Domestic Product measures the growth of the economy in terms which tell us absolutely nothing about human well-being and environmental health. It is better for the GDP for a mother to buy infant formula than to breastfeed her baby. It is better for the GDP for us all to buy new gadgets rather than repairing the old ones. It is better for the GDP, for heavens’ sake, to have an oil spill which requires huge expenditures to more-or-less clean up! Instead of measuring the growth of the economy in terms of Gross Domestic Product, we should use measurements (like the GPI: Genuine Progress Index) that show how well we are doing at reducing social and economic inequity and environmental damage.

From the report, “Climate Leadership, Economic Prosperity”:

“There is now a broad scientific consensus that more than 2°C of average global warming above the pre-industrial level would constitute a dangerous level of climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the world’s leading climate science body, has shown that to have a chance of not exceeding the 2°C limit, industrialized countries need to reduce their combined emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) to 25–40% below the 1990 level by 2020, if they are to make a fair contribution to the necessary cuts in global emissions. The Government of Canada’s current GHG target of 20% below the 2006 level by 2020 is a much more modest reduction of just 3% relative to the 1990 level...

“... with strong federal and provincial government policies, Canada can meet the 2°C emissions target in 2020 and still have a strong growing economy, a quality of life higher than Canadians enjoy today, and continued steady job creation across the country. The analysis also shows that the federal government needs to implement far stronger policies



than it has proposed to date to meet its current GHG target. Meeting either target requires governments to put a significant price on GHG emissions (a “carbon price”) broadly across the economy, and to back it up with strong complementary regulations and public investments. . .

“It is important to note that business as usual involves extraordinary costs. . . Scientists are now projecting sea levels to rise by as much as a metre or more this century alone if there is no action to cut GHG emission – enough to make tens of millions of people homeless. Impacts like these would clearly be extraordinarily costly to people, the environment and the economy . . .”

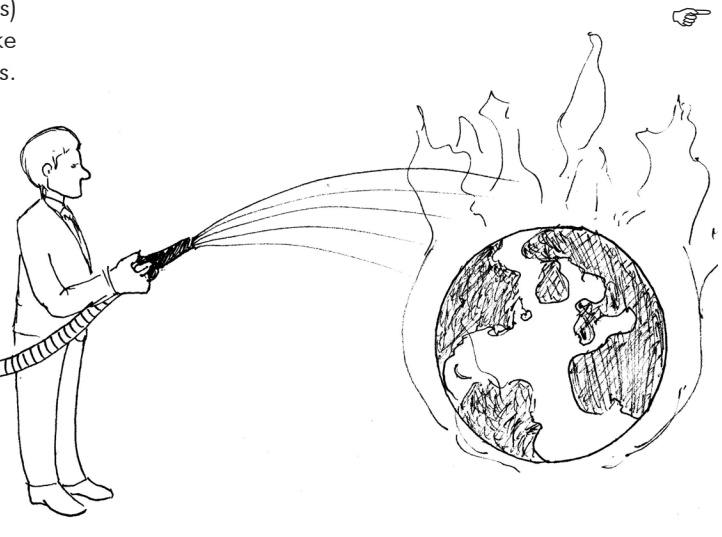
– Pembina Institute and the David Suzuki Foundation (with funding from the TD Bank), available at <http://pubs.pembina.org/reports/climate-leadership-report-en.pdf>

More pork, more contradictions

follow-up to RH #266

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz has announced an \$800 million long-term loan program for the pork sector, plus \$75 million to hog farmers in mid-August. Farmers who want to carry on losing money will be able to access long-term government-backed loans from the banks if their business plan meets the bankers’ approval. The loans would be to cover the costs of ‘restructuring’ – but not on the model of ‘restructuring’ of corporations with buy-outs and bail-outs, but rather converting short term debts into long-term debts, and providing working capital – so they can sink further into debt.

Farmers opting out, for a minimum of three years, anyway, will be eligible for ‘transition’ money. To get this, farmers will have to tender bids for the costs of shutting down their factories (barns). This is a horribly ironic mirror-image of the way farmers are encouraged



to compete against one another in a race to the bottom: the farmers who place the lowest bids (i.e. who will be losing the most) are the “winners”. This looks like a painfully dragged out process with no assurance of a happy outcome.

\$17 million of the allocated funds is to be spent on market research and promotion. It seems that the long term ‘solution’ offered to counter the current low prices and over-production (what ever happened to supply and demand?) is to convince Canadians to eat more pork, demand Canadian-raised pork and shun foreign pork, open new markets overseas and reduce production, says Canadian Pork Council president Jurgen Preugschas. He also said that the pork industry that survives won’t be a supply management system, but the industry does want to evolve into a “managed supply” situation.

It is not rather inconsistent when pork producers want Canadians to eat more Canadian pork while shunning foreign pork, while one of their biggest complaints is the US country-of-origin labelling program that has reduced demand for Canadian pigs, including the hundreds of thousands of piglets that formerly went south from southern Manitoba.

A significant cause of the hog industry’s troubles lie in the federal support of biofuels, since ethanol production eats the same feed corn as hogs. In Ontario, ethanol production uses so much corn that it has to be imported from the US, pushing up corn prices and making livestock production ‘uncompetitive’.

Meanwhile, back at the feeding trough, the pigs are demanding their subsidies—for ethanol and biodiesel – in order to be competitive. Apparently capitalism is not competitive without subsidies!

Canadian Treasury Board chairman Vic Toews said the federal government promises to spend \$1.5 billion over the next nine years to increase the supply of biofuel in Canada. “Our government will invest up to \$72.8 million over 7 years in this Husky Oil ethanol plant [in Minnedosa, Manitoba]. This is part of our Ecoenergy for Biofuels investment to increase our capacity to produce cleaner fuels, reduce emissions and build a strong, competitive biofuels industry.

To explain why Husky Oil Ltd. needs the cash injection, a senior Husky executive commented that “Anytime you’re in a new business, the market has to adjust. And until that market adjusts, you have to keep the incentive going to do it.” He also said the subsidy program allows Canadian ethanol plants to stay competitive with American plants.

– *Western Producer*, 20, 27 / 8 / 09

Three Sisters and Friends

A conversation with Henry Lickers, Akwasasne

The Haudenosaunee were always agriculturalists. Their traditional agriculture was based on the Three Sisters: Corn, Beans, Squash. Corn is the elder Sister, the tall one who supports the others. Beans, the middle Sister, twines around the corn and provides nitrogen and nutrients to the soil. Squash, the younger sister, wanders all over the place and makes hundreds of different varieties, and her broad leaves prevent weeds from growing. Men are expected to tend and break the ground and women to plant and care for the seeds. Children help keep the pests and birds away, although the outer rows of crops are there for our brother and sister animals.

This is a complex system, very different from the monoculture imposed by corporations which is dependent on fertilizers and machinery. The main selling point of the corporate system is that you need only two people to plant, cultivate and harvest your crops. The real work is done by machines. As a result, a huge number of people no longer appreciate or live on the land. Our connection to community, family and friends is lost. The traditional ways and family farms are what give the society its real food security.

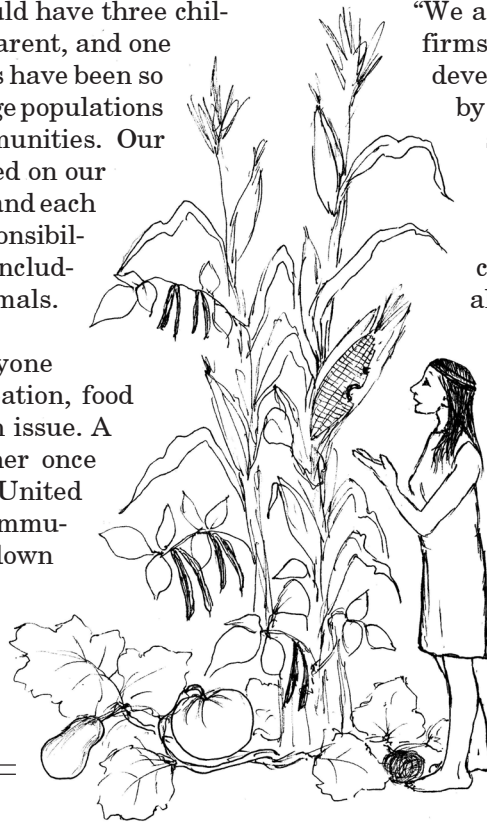
They talk about the 100-Mile Diet. We need to be thinking of the 100-Year Diet. The Haudenosaunee talk about thinking seven generations ahead about anything we do today. If we want real food security, we have to understand the seed crops, heritage seeds and animals and come to appreciate wild seeds and wild meats. All of these things will make us understand the importance of place to food security. A 100-Mile and 100 Year Diet must be geared for place.

To help us, the Three Sisters have changed the way they grow. For example, for the Haudenosaunee they have become high in protein; for the Navajo, high in carbohydrate, and for the Pueblo people, both protein and carbohydrate. This is the result of a relationship between the people and the plants, a continuing conversation. With industrial agriculture production, there is no relationship and no conversation. With such an abundance of food, the human population expands as if there was no consequence, but part of our relationship with the Sisters is that we don’t produce so many people that we outstrip what the Sisters can do for us.

Among the Haudenosaunee, this relationship is governed by the reproductive responsibility which is given to women. They are responsible to care for the seeds and to distribute them to people who will grow them. They are also responsible for human reproduc-

tion. Traditionally, they would have three children – one to replace each parent, and one for the cold winter. Our ways have been so successful that even with large populations we could sustain our communities. Our form of governance was based on our responsibilities to the world and each person practicing their responsibility to the whole of Creation including the land, plants and animals.

When we teach everyone their responsibilities to Creation, food security will no longer be an issue. A Haudenosaunee Grandmother once said to the President of the United States on his visit to her community: “When you have cut down the last tree, eaten the last fish and poisoned the last river, then and only then will you realize that you can’t eat your money.”



A CONVERSATION

Half-Baked Potato Turned Back

In a damning and ground-breaking ruling, South Africa’s Executive Council on Genetically-Modified Organisms (EC) has rejected attempts by the Agriculture Research Council (ARC) to bring GM potatoes to the South African market. The EC cited no less than 11 biosafety and socio-economic and agronomic concerns for rejecting ARC’s commercial release application, and raised concerns about the ARC’s toxicity tests on animals, and the lack of data on the alteration of the potato’s allergen content by the insertion of the Bt gene. The council was particularly concerned about the potential effect of the potatoes on the formal trade, as South Africa has no segregation facilities.

The ARC has touted the GM potato, engineered to resist tuber moths, as a new agricultural technology that will benefit smallholder and commercial farmers. Its five year field trial programme has chewed up considerable public funds as well as having been bankrolled by USAID and Michigan state university.

The African Centre for Biosafety (ACB) noted that the EC “was unconvinced that the GM potato would benefit small holder farmers, who are faced with more fundamental production problems such as access to water and seed, and found that the Potato Tuber Moth is a low priority for most farmers.”

“We are elated with this decision because it confirms our contention that the GM potato was not developed in answer to pressing problems faced by South African farmers, but rather as a solution developed in search of a problem” said Mariam Mayet, Director of the ACB.

Potatoes South Africa, representing commercial and small holder potato farmers, also opposed ARC’s application. McDonald’s, which obtained its potatoes from McCain’s, has said it would not use genetically modified potatoes in any of its products.

– ACB, Johannesburg, 15/10/09

The Meaning of Monoculture

McDonald’s buys more than three billion pounds of potatoes annually that are used to make fries at its restaurants around the world.

The Potato Variety Management Institute (PVMI), established by potato commissions from Idaho, Washington and Oregon in 2005, has an unwritten mandate to help farmers, university researchers and food companies come up with new kinds of potatoes that will be acceptable to McDonald’s. “They’re searching for this elusive potato. All these other potatoes might be good, but they might not have the exact same taste and quality”, said Jeanne Debons, director of PVMI.

Currently, McDonald’s allows just four varieties to be used to make its fries. The Russet Burbank, a 130-year-old variety is the workhorse among them. The Burbank is slow to mature, uses plenty of water and is susceptible to rot, which means farmers must use chemicals to try and keep crops disease free.

While there are dozens of other varieties that can be used to make French fries and many strains that use less water and are more resistant to disease, taste and consistency remain the dominant decision factors for McDonald’s.

McDonald’s three main potato suppliers, J.R. Simplot of Idaho, Nebraska-based ConAgra Foods Inc. and New Brunswick’s McCain Foods, the world’s largest frozen French fry producer, are funding and testing the development of new potato strains in hopes of finding a spud that meets McDonald’s lofty standards.

– G&M, 25/10/09

Dealing with distancing and energy

CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture projects) have long been seen as a good way to increase local food consumption and thus lower carbon emissions. One shortcoming has been that they are generally limited to fruit and vegetables (though some also do meat and eggs) while for most of us, grains form a large part of our diet. So when a group in the Kootenays started Canada's first grain CSA it garnered considerable attention – and even more when the group decided to really challenge oil dependency by shipping the grain, literally: by sailboat.

At the beginning of the season, residents in the Kootenay region of the province invested \$125 in a share worth 100 lbs of five grains. Additional shares were offered for other grains including legumes such as green lentils. In their first year they issued 200 shares, and in year two they now have 450 shares issued to individuals and 150 shares to eight businesses.

In October 2008, a small fleet of four sailboats transported 5,000 lbs of grain along Kootenay Lake, one of the province's largest inland bodies of water. The three-day journey was a huge success. The journey ended with over 50 people of all ages filling Nelson's municipal docks to help unload the grain from the boats.

This year, between October 15-18, a fleet of 11 sailboats made their way from the city of Nelson to the Creston Valley of British Columbia to once again trans-



LOADING GRAIN AT KUSKANOOK HARBOUR IN 2008 - FARMER DREW GAILIUS PASSING TO NELSON SAILOR DAVID OOSTHUIZEN

port a cargo of locally grown grains back to Nelson.

The volunteer involvement of the Kootenay Lake Sailing Association (KLSA) to transport some of the grain is a testament to the community development that the CSA has helped foster. "I was inspired by the local grain project the moment I heard about it," says Jay Blackmore of KLSA. "We're trying to demonstrate a fossil-fuel free form of transportation that can help us kick our oil addiction."

In other shipping news ...

Some 200,000 tonnes of US soybeans have been blocked at EU ports this year because they contained trace amounts of two varieties of GM maize that have not yet been approved by member states. Farmers' groups have warned they face a "serious shortage" of livestock feed in a matter of weeks because of the EU's zero tolerance of unapproved GMOs in imported feed and foodstuffs.

European Union buyers have voluntarily moved to stop imports of US soy after soybean meal shipments to Spain and Germany were found with traces of GMO corn. The shipments have been rejected at the EU borders and have been consigned and recalled when already on the market within the EU, unless they have already been consumed. They were found to contain the corn varieties MON-88017 and MIR-604.

Spain's feed industry consumes some 5 million tonnes of protein-rich soybean meal a year, all of it imported, and mostly from the United States, Brazil or Argentina. A port source said that Spain could not rely on supplies of soy from Argentina and Brazil alone. "Argentina will no longer have soya as of October, Brazil is in a similar situation, and with China buying 2 million tonnes, soya will become a luxury good," he said.

– Reuters, 6/8/09

Maui bans GE Taro

The Hawaiian county council of Maui recently unanimously voted in favour of a bill prohibiting genetically modified taro in Maui County, saying they believed taro's cultural and spiritual significance to Native Hawaiians was more important than any other factor. The bill prohibits anyone from testing, propagating, growing or introducing genetically engineered or modified taro, or kalo, within Maui County. Mayor Charmaine Tavares said after the vote, "I support the intent of the bill and the protection of Hawaiian kalo, which deserves our respect and acknowledgment for its ancestral ties to Native Hawaiians, our host culture."

– The Maui News, Hawaii, 3/10/09

Big Meat

Brazilian beef producer JBS SA is set to become the world's largest meat maker. JBS said it will buy a majority stake in Pilgrim's Pride for \$800-million (U.S.).

Pilgrim's Pride was the largest chicken producer in the United States with about 23 per cent of the U.S. market before it filed for bankruptcy protection late last year. The company was hobbled by debt from its buyout of a competitor and by high feed costs that left much of the industry in a slump. Pilgrim's Pride said the deal is subject to antitrust clearance. U.S. regulators earlier this year sued to block JBS' acquisition of a major beef producer, citing pricing concerns for consumers and producers. The \$560-million deal with National Beef Packing Co. was later dropped.

JBS is also merging with Bertin SA, one of Latin America's largest producers and exporters of milk products, beef and leather. JBS said the newly formed JBS-Bertin will be the world's largest meat producer with an

annual income of \$28.7-billion, just edging out Springdale, Arkansas-based Tyson Foods Inc. It will have operations in North and South America, Africa, Europe, Russia, China and Australia. JBS acquired Smithfield Food's beef arm in 2008.

—Associated Press, 16/9/09

Meat Safety from Apples

Apple-based edible films containing plant antimicrobials could protect red meat and poultry against harmful bacteria including *E. coli* and *Listeria*, according to a study published in the *Journal of Food Science*. Tests showed that the two plant-derived antimicrobials inactivated pathogenic bacteria on contaminated chicken breast and cooked ham. They could also be used for other contaminated food products such as seafood, say the researchers. The latest findings complement and extend other studies which also identified the inactivation of foodborne pathogens by the same antimicrobials added to ground meats. —*Food Production Daily*, 25/9/09

India suspends approval of GE brinjal

Stiff opposition from activists has persuaded the Indian government to put off commercial release of the country's first genetically modified food crop, despite clearance from the nation's top biotechnology regulator. The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) had granted permission for Indian farmers to grow a transgenic version of brinjal (eggplant or aubergine) that is insect-resistant. But barely 24 hours later, Jairam Ramesh, India's minister of environment and forests, said that permission for its cultivation will be given only after consulting 'all stakeholders'. Ramesh says that the ministry will seek public comments until the end of the year and that he "will have a series of consultations with scientists, agriculture experts, farmers' organizations, consumer groups and NGOs" in January and February 2010 before deciding whether to go forward. The GM brinjal variety was developed by Mahyco Monsanto Biotech, a joint venture between Jalna-based Maharashtra Hybrid Seed Company and US seed giant Monsanto.

—*Nature*, 19/10/09

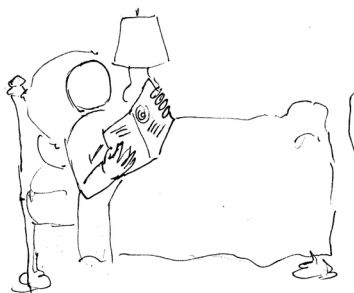
Electronic vs. paper

One of our faithful subscribers checked the little box for *Paper copy by mail* and wrote on her renewal slip: "I know it's wasteful, but I won't read it otherwise." No apologies required!

I know that if I start to reading something on screen and it is really interesting, I print it out, often on the backside of used paper, sometimes double sided on clean paper. I mean, how can one enter into a 'conversation' with a document on an electronic screen? I know, technically one can insert comments and highlight (as long as it is not in PDF), but that's really hard to do in the bathroom! It's also hard to glance at it and make further notes about it when its not among a bunch of other papers on the subject on your desk.

The electronic version, of course, has the advantage of saving paper and the ease with which it can be passed along and around the world. So we post it on-line and give you, the 'consumer', in good liberal fashion, the 'choice'.

—**B.K.**



Students Wanted

The University of Guelph is seeking students for its organic agriculture curriculum. The goals of the program are:

- 1 To stimulate broad understanding of the term organic, both as envisioned by the founders in the 1920s and as defined in organic standards today
- 2.To teach the principles of organic practice in food production systems, including soil, air, and water management, field and hort crop production, backyard as well as urban market gardening, and livestock management.
- 3.To emphasize the integration of crop and livestock enterprises to capture ecological and economic synergies supporting the whole farm while safeguarding the natural environment
- 4.To offer a vision of organic agriculture not simply as a business, but also as a tool for community development, for building social capital, and for enhancing public health and welfare.
5. To enable students and the broader community to learn year-around urban market gardening skills, within the context of resource conservation and biodiversity enhancement, through experiential opportunities at the Guelph Centre for Urban Organic Farming (GCUOF)

6.To enrich the practical experience of organic food, nutrition, and stewardship in children, both the preschoolers of the campus Child Care and Learning Centre (CCLC) and in the primary and secondary school systems.

7.To train commercial urban market gardeners in the full gamut of requisite skills, from market development and accounting to soil and greenhouse management, production, seedsaving, and recycling.

—organicag.uoguelph.ca

The Tyranny of Rights can now be downloaded in PDF format. Click on What's New at <www.forumonpublicdomain.ca>

Lobbying

“The Center for Responsive Politics has reported that in the second quarter of this year alone, the pharmaceuticals and health product industries spent \$67,959,095 on lobbying, and the insurance industry \$39,760,477. Another \$25,552,088 was spent by lobbyists for hospitals and nursing homes. That’s a total of \$133,271,660 in just three months, and that’s not even counting the lobbying money spent to fight health care reform by professional associations like the US Chamber of Commerce.”

—“*truthout*”, 1/8/09

THE RAM'S HORN

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