



THE RAM'S HORN

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Inequity and Progress

There are two major areas of confusion that we must address if we are going to achieve an economy that actually serves the needs of everyone with justice and ecological responsibility. The first is the systematic production of inequity. In our last issue we drew your attention to the fact that the financial sector (banks, stock markets, insurance companies, credit cards, etc.) do not constitute an economy. On the contrary, what are often referred to as “financial services” should be referred to as blood suckers, however much business they may facilitate. While this may appear to be a crude comparison, it accurately reflects the fact that what they really facilitate is the production of inequity – the transfer of wealth from the many to the few.

The other confusion we need to address lies in the terms “development” and “progress”. We are supposed to assume that these are bona fide ‘goods’. But if we dwell on these words for a moment, their true significance will become apparent. In the context of western culture, they signify linear movement in a singular direction, hence the common phrase in business and government, ‘moving forward’. The assumption is that there is only one desirable direction in which to move. The only alternative is to go down, backward. To move horizontally, or sideways, is not even considered as a possibility; standing still is deemed to be moving backward.



HUNDERTWASSER: WAITING HOUSES, 1966

“A [financial] transaction tax [the Tobin tax, now being referred to as a Robin Hood tax] is designed to tackle high-frequency activity for which it is hard to find any societal benefit,” says Joseph Stiglitz.

Development Is Progress. There is – and can be – no doubt about it. So we in what we are pleased to call the Developed Countries all believe in development and progress – don’t we? And we really believe that everyone should become like us – or at least be incorporated into our market society as customers.

Unfortunately, it is not for everyone to enjoy Development and Progress. The linear production of inequity requires the extraction of wealth – in the form of what we like to call ‘natural resources’ and the labour to extract it and to produce the sweatshop goods that fill our wal-marts and canadian tires.

... continued next page

The Paradise Destroyed by the Straight Line

... In 1953 I realized that the straight line leads to the downfall of mankind.

... The straight line is something cowardly drawn with a rule, without thought or feeling; it is a line which does not exist in nature.

... The straight line is the curse of our civilization. Any design undertaken with the straight line will be stillborn.

Today we are witnessing the triumph of rationalist know-how and yet, at the same time, we find ourselves confronted with emptiness. An aesthetic void, desert of uniformity, criminal sterility, loss of creative power.

Even creativity is prefabricated.

We have become impotent.

We are no longer able to create.

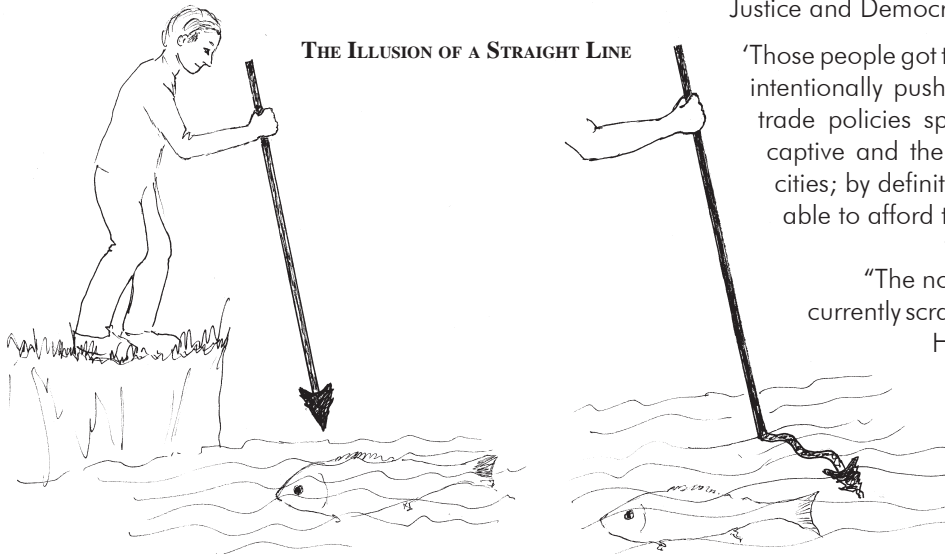
That is our real illiteracy.

– artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser

Another aspect of linearity is the Darwinian dogma that there is just a single straight line. Scientists at the University of Illinois, however, believe that Darwin's explanation of evolution, even in its sophisticated modern form, applies only to a recent phase of life on Earth. At the root of their idea is overwhelming recent evidence for horizontal gene transfer – in which organisms acquire genetic material 'horizontally' from other organisms around them, rather than simply vertically from their parents or ancestors. The donor organisms may not even be the same species.

– *New Scientist*, 26/1/10

If there is any truth at all in this, then another of the founding claims of genetic engineering is just as much myth as some of us have argued for years. Fluidity is the rule of biology, not linearity. A circle might be a far better image than the arrow of development and progress.



Haiti

Haiti is an extreme example of the Development and Progress process at work, going back more than two centuries to 1804 and the first and last successful slave revolution in history, the first black republic in the world, the first independent nation of Latin America and the Caribbean.

“The real impact of this earthquake will be the result of a long-term history of deliberate impoverishment and disempowerment. Haiti is routinely described as the ‘poorest country in the western hemisphere’. This poverty is the direct legacy of perhaps the most brutal system of colonial exploitation in world history, compounded by decades of systematic post-colonial oppression.

“Decades of neoliberal ‘adjustment’ and neo-imperial

intervention have robbed its government of any significant capacity to invest in its people or to regulate its economy. Punitive international trade and financial arrangements ensure that such destitution and impotence will remain a structural fact of Haitian life for the foreseeable future.

“It is this poverty and powerlessness that account for the full scale of the horror in Port-au-Prince today. Since the late 1970s, relentless neoliberal assault on Haiti’s agrarian economy has forced tens of thousands of small farmers into overcrowded urban slums. Although there are no reliable statistics, hundreds of thousands of Port-au-Prince residents now live in desperately sub-standard informal housing, often perched precariously on the side of deforested ravines. The selection of the people living in such places and conditions is itself no more ‘natural’ or accidental than the extent of the injuries they have suffered.

“As Brian Concannon, the director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, points out:

“Those people got there because they or their parents were intentionally pushed out of the countryside by aid and trade policies specifically designed to create a large captive and therefore exploitable labour force in the cities; by definition they are people who would not be able to afford to build earthquake resistant houses’.”

“The noble ‘international community’ which is currently scrambling to send its ‘humanitarian aid’ to Haiti is largely responsible for the extent of the suffering it now aims to reduce. Ever since the US invaded and occupied the country in 1915, every serious political attempt to allow Haiti’s people to move (in former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide’s phrase) ‘from absolute misery to a dignified poverty’ has been violently and deliberately blocked by the US government and some of its allies.”

– *Peter Hallward, guardian.co.uk, 13/1/10. Peter Hallward is the author of Damming the Flood – Haiti, Aristide, and the Politics of Containment, Verso, 2007*

Of course the capitalists have their solutions to offer Haiti: two US consultants state that “The key to the recovery is not charity, but capital for the country’s grass-roots entrepreneurs. This could be accomplished through, for example, small loans to farmers: A 10% increase in man-hour labour of farms would create 40,000 jobs.”

This sounds good – if you do not ask who controls the land, the water, the seeds and the markets, if any. They then refer to “other strategies to stimulate capitalism from the bottom up” such as “investment in factories and assembly plants.”

The investments referred to would obviously have to be foreign, and plants would be providing cheaper labour than the maquiladoras of Mexico – all so that Haitians could afford to buy imported food while its farmers produce for Dole, Starbucks and Loblaws.

– source: GM, 17/2/10

“What would it take to transform Haiti’s economy such that its role in the global economy is no longer that of providing cheap labor for sweatshops? What would it take for hunger to no longer be the norm, for the country no longer to depend on imports and hand-outs, and for Port-au-Prince’s slums no longer to contain 85% of the city’s residents? What would it take for the hundreds of thousands left homeless by the earthquake to have a secure life, with income?”

“According to Haitian peasant organizations, at the core of the solutions is a commitment on the part of the government to support family agriculture, with policies to make the commitment a reality.

“Haiti is the only country in the hemisphere which is still majority rural. Estimates of the percentage of Haiti’s citizens who remain farmers span from 60.5% (UN, 2006) to 80% (the figure used by peasant groups).

“Despite that, food imports currently constitute 57% of what Haitians consume (World Bank, 2008). It didn’t used to be that way; policy choices made it so. In the 1980s, the U.S. and international financial institutions pressured Haiti to lower tariffs on food imports, leading to a flood of cheap food with which Haitian farmers could not compete. At the same time, USAID and others pressured Haiti to orient its production toward export, leaving farmers vulnerable to shifting costs of sugar and coffee on the world market.”

–Beverly Bell, *CommonDreams.org*, 2/3/10. Beverly Bell has worked with Haitian social movements for over 30 years.

Fortunately there are a few organizations that have people and experience on the ground in Haiti and the region and recognize the need to support Haitian peasants as they organize to build food self-sufficiency and a new life.

Helping Haitians Help Themselves

Early last month leaders of the national alliance FONDAMA (Hand in Hand Haiti Foundation, representing 11 organizations, including 4 national farmer networks, with a presence in 80% of the municipalities of Haiti, and approximately 400,000 members) met in Papay, Haiti, to plan a national program capable of responding to the enormous challenges faced by the Haitian people. With the massive destruction of basic infrastructure in the capital city, an estimated 500,000 people have already fled the city to provinces and rural

areas in every region of Haiti.

The short and medium term priorities of the FONDAMA plan include the massive procurement and purchase of seeds (270 tons of grains, especially corn, 180 tons of beans or peas) for planting in the rainy season that begins in March and April, and for additional hand tools (machetes and hoes) for 30,000 farmers. This is critical as rural host families are quickly depleting their seed saved for the next planting in order to feed the displaced victims of the earthquake. At the same time there will be a ramping up of the number of tree nurseries for a reforestation effort with a goal of planting 3,700,000 tree seedlings, 30% of which will be fruit trees.

Workshops will be established to manufacture 300 community grain storage silos, to accommodate cooperative seed storage for future planting seasons. 1,000 water cisterns will be built in 1,000 family farms for production of vegetables for the nutritional needs of the rural communities. In addition, 50 wells will be drilled, 10 dams built, 10 irrigation systems installed and 50 springs will be caught and channeled per year for irrigation purposes and for pure drinking water.

The FONDAMA plan calls for 200,000 person-days of paid labor at \$5 per day, and 100,000 person-days of labor on a voluntary basis, in order to implement the water management and reforestation projects listed above. Agro-ecological training will be expanded, including through the deployment of national and international training brigades across the productive regions of the country. A cultural life and integration program will accompany these extensive efforts, in order to provide the kind of community life that will make displaced urban persons understand that the rural areas have a potentially vibrant quality of life.

The success of FONDAMA and their staff depends on wide and deep solidarity from abroad.

The bottom line shared by the member organizations of FONDAMA: environmentally sustainable local economic development undertaken by peoples’ organizations holds the key not only to prevent the extent of tragedy in future storms, hurricanes, floods or earthquakes, but also to overcome the vulnerability that has been caused by unjust economic, agricultural and trade policies and foreign interventions both politically and economically motivated.

Haiti has historically been an agricultural country, and in order for Haiti to recover from this catastrophe, it must return to being a country that feeds and shelters itself, and reclaims its rightful sovereignty as a people.

– report from Stephen Bartlett,
Agricultural Missions, USA

'Progress' in Brazil

At the end of December 2009, Brazil's National Biosafety Technical Commission (CTNBio) authorized the commercial planting of genetically modified soya produced through a partnership between BASF and Embrapa (the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation). Brazil is the first country to authorize GM soya tolerant to herbicides from the imidazolinone group (such as *imazapyr* and *imazapic*, manufactured by BASF). The company has also already filed a request for authorization from the EU for importation and use of this soya in human and animal food products.

BASF provided the patented gene and Embrapa the method for inserting the gene into soya. Indirectly, BASF acquired the rights over the soya germplasm that Embrapa had spent decades developing and selecting for adaptation to Brazilian conditions.

The new soya is being heralded as an alternative to Monsanto's Roundup Ready variety. Its approval by CTNBio coincided with the announcement of the imminent market launch of an alternative herbicide for weeds no longer controlled by Roundup due to their developed resistance to glyphosate. In other words, they have made a herbicide-tolerant GM soya to solve the problems left behind by another herbicide-tolerant GM soya.

Since 1993 there have been records of plants spontaneously resistant to herbicides from the imidazolinone group in Brazil. Four species are found in soya cultivation areas, four in rice, two in maize and one in wheat. In many of these cases, the data show cross-resistance to two chemical groups of herbicides. There are even cases in which as many as ten products lost the capacity to control one particular weed.

When CTNBio issued a technical report approving Monsanto's soya in 1998, it summarized the weed resistance problem as follows: "The introduction of glyphosate-resistant crops will not increase selection pressure on weeds in terms of glyphosate concentration (product/area)." What we see today is precisely the opposite.

– *GM-Free Brazil Campaign, 2/3/10*

And yet there are still people who want us to believe that GM crops are a technological revolution.

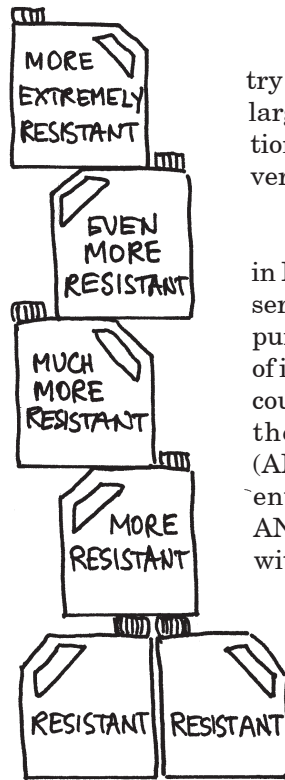
A consequence: More GE crops, more agrottoxins

In 2008, when Brazil planted the biggest surface area with GM seeds in its history, the country overtook the United States to become the largest consumer of agrottoxins in the world. Consumption in Brazil rose to 733.9 million tons while USA recorded a consumption of 646 million tons, equivalent to US\$6 billion.

Data from the National Agrochemical Industry Syndicate show that the crop representing the largest market [for agrottoxins] is soya. The national market in agrochemicals registers a turnover of \$7.1 billion per year in Brazil.

Not content with the success of its business in Brazil, the agrottoxin industry has committed a series of breaches to maximize its profits and pursued legal actions to prevent the re-evaluation of its products by the Ministry of Health. In 2008, court decisions in favour of the industry blocked the National Health Surveillance Agency (ANVISA) from re-evaluating 14 active ingredients used in more than 200 agrochemicals. ANVISA managed to reverse the court decisions with the help of a variety of government and NGO agencies and is now proceeding with the studies to re-evaluate the active substances. ANVISA has also carried out inspections in the chemical plants, discovering various breaches in the plants and products of Bayer, Syngenta and BASF.

– *GM-FREE Brazil, 12/09*



"Geosphere People"

"Rich countries are like biopirates, looting far-away lands for food, raw materials and cheap labour. They're plundering other richer ecosystems because they've largely destroyed their own. And they're blocking global efforts to create an independent scientific assessment panel that is likely point the finger at the real reason species are going extinct at 1,000 times their natural pace, experts say. . . . Most of Europe's natural systems that provide essential services like food, clean air and water, climate regulation and so on have been in decline for years. But no one in Europe really notices.

"That's because the rich are 'geosphere people' who help themselves to nature's ecological services anywhere in the world, said Ashok Khosla, an eminent Indian environmentalist. The poor, on the other hand, are 'ecosystem people' who depend directly on local resources for their livelihoods. The ecosystem people cannot afford to get their food or water elsewhere, so if they degrade their own ecosystems, they suffer the direct consequences."

– *Stephen Leahy IPS, 1/2/10*

Celebrating Zapotec Maize vs the Geopirates

The 4th annual Zapotec Feria of the Cornfield was held in Santa Gertrudis, Sierra Juarez, Mexico, in February, organized by the Union of Social Organizations of the Sierra Juarez of Oaxaca (UNOSJO). The theme was the dangers of contamination from GE maize, with a showcase of indigenous corn-based culture and food sovereignty.

“We plant corn for the well-being of the communities,” said community leader Rodrigo Santiago Hernandez during the opening plenary. “If we don’t cultivate corn, we have no life. It is central to our existence. We are the people of corn.”

Community President Baltazar Felix elaborated, “Corn is the basis for our expression of autonomy and central to our *usos y costumbres* (practices and customs), which represent our Zapotec culture and indigenous way of life.”

Dona Maria from Lachixilas outlined the philosophy of the *usos y costumbres*: “A people who have to buy their seeds – in place of having a local bank of seeds held over from all the years – and who have to go out and buy their own food, these are people who cannot govern themselves.”

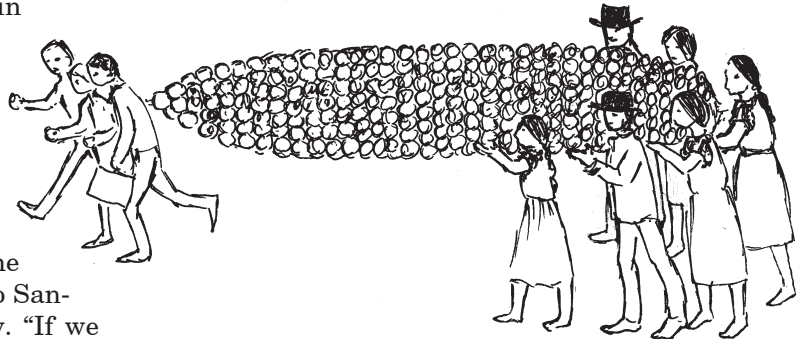
“The government would prefer that we all emigrated or worked in maquiladoras,” said Don Carlos, proudly showing the visitors his family corn patch, straddling the side of a steep mountain side, every inch of which he had patiently and painfully worked with machete and hoe. “They don’t want us to remain as campesinos. They say we are unproductive and useless. But we are going to stay here, in our cornfields, in our communities because this is what we want; this is what the people want.”

Defense of their cultural heritage goes beyond the contamination of native corn. Last year, Zapotec communities led by UNOSJO, using “people power”, expelled US geographers mapping the region with GPS and data processing technology for failing to reveal their connections with the US military or their use of Pentagon contractor Radiance Technologies. They charged the Kansas University geographers with geopyracy – stealing the traditional knowledge of the indigenous communities. The military-funded geo-pirates left in disgrace and were not heard from again.

Autonomy is the cornerstone of the culture and political struggle of the Zapotec indigenous. With legal

recognition of their traditional *usos y costumbres*, they are afforded a sense of identity and continuation with the past. The absence of state presence, or federal police and the army, in the communities is noticeable.

– source: Ramor Ryan, *Upside Down World*, 15/2/10



Less energy, more food

One of the major objections to land-based biomass production for ethanol is the tremendous effects it can have on agriculture, particularly given the huge federal subsidies required to keep the ethanol ‘industry’ alive. Think of what the money pumped into ethanol could do if invested in low-energy food production, from public plant research and breeding to energy-conserving production systems to local marketing.

It is not profitable to produce biodiesel without the tax credit, so the only companies operating are those with long-term supply contracts. The chief of the US National Biodiesel Board told the Canadian Renewable Fuels meeting that the industry would shut down if it didn’t get an extension of its \$1 a gallon blenders’ tax credit.

The CEO of Royal Dutch Shell, Peter Voser, has said that he did not expect advanced biofuels to be in widespread use for another decade. Shell’s production manager for its participation in Iogen Corporation’s cellulosic ethanol project in Ottawa says it is critical that the federal government continue to recognize the benefits of cellulosic ethanol. “If the funding doesn’t come through, we will have to reassess the proposed project in Saskatchewan.” As the article points out, “ethanol makers still face tremendous hurdles in scaling up from small demonstration plants because their enzymes simply don’t break down the cellulose into ethanol efficiently enough.”

– sources: WP, 28/1/10, GM, 2/3/10

Calgary-based Husky Energy has reported gross margins (income over expenses) of \$62 million for 2009. This \$62 million includes \$53 million related to “govern-



ment assistance grants . . . based on ethanol production and sales”.
 – WP, 18/2/10

Who is Husky that it merits such a huge subsidy from us – the people of Canada? A quick look at Husky’s history reveals a lot of corporate maneuvering and/or manipulation.

Husky Energy was originally founded in 1938 in Wyoming as the Husky Refining Company. Today it is a publicly traded Canadian-based energy company. “Husky Energy Inc. is one of Canada’s largest integrated energy and energy-related companies, with upstream, midstream and downstream segments operating from Western Canada, to offshore Canada’s East Coast, the United States, China, Indonesia and Greenland.”

Husky’s Canadian operations go back to 1953 when they were incorporated under the name Husky Oil Ltd. NOVA Corporation (formerly known as Alberta Gas Trunk Line) gained control of Husky in 1978. When oil dropped below \$10 a barrel in 1986, Husky curtailed operations and sold assets. It then pursued private ownership with Hong Kong investor Li Ka-shing and in 1991 Hutchison Whampoa and Li Ka-shing became Husky’s majority shareholders. A rapid expansion of global activities, particularly in China, followed. Husky then acquired Mohawk Canada and its ethanol plant at Minnedosa, Manitoba, Renaissance Energy, and Marathon Canada Limited. – source: www.huskyenergy.ca/

Where does the grain go?

The International Grains Council (IGC) reported on Feb. 1 that

- Food use of global grains in 2009-10 is projected at 609.7 million tonnes, representing 35% of the global total.
- Feed use of global grain is forecast at 752.2 million tonnes, 43% of aggregate disappearance.
- Industrial use (excluding food, feed and seed) of grains in the 2009-10 season is forecast at a record 257 million tonnes, 15% of expected global grain disappearance of 1.7 billion tonnes. Grains used for biofuels in 2009-10 were forecast to total 135.7 million tonnes of the total industrial uses. In 2008-09, ethanol accounted for 124.9 million tonnes. The USA will be making a record 108.5 million tonnes of grain into ethanol this year, 87% of global use for ethanol. In Canada, grain use in making ethanol will total 2.6 million tonnes.

China’s use of grains to make ethanol has held steady for several years at near 4.9 million tonnes.

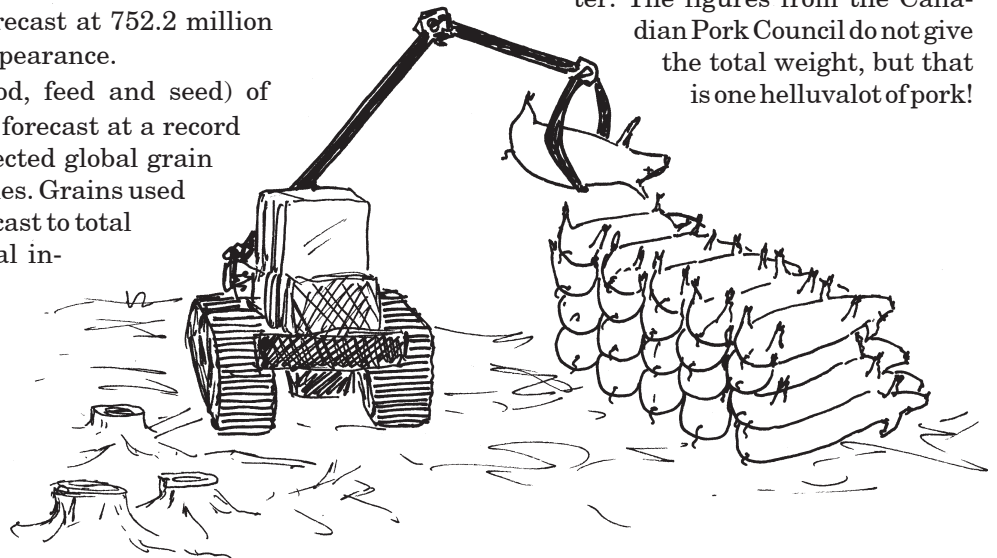
– World-Grain.com, 2/2/10

Culling Hogs

We’ve reported on this earlier, before there were any real numbers. The whole rotten business is testimony to market failure and the myopic vision of industrial agriculture.

Culling is the removal of unproductive animals, or animals which do not fit the desired profile, from a flock or herd. In forestry, it refers to the selective removal of trees from a woodlot or forest, whether for fuel wood, timber, or because they were diseased or dying. At least this is how we managed our woodlot in Nova Scotia. It was what would today be called sustainable harvesting. It was definitely not clear-cutting, nor was it high-grading, which is just the opposite – taking out the best and leaving the worst, a process of systematic degrading of the forest.

Now there seems to be a new definition: non-selective removal, or, in the case of Canadian hogs, just plain killing. “More hogs to be culled” is the title of a nifty little report on the program to reduce Canadian hog “inventory” at a cost to the public of \$75 million. There have been three culls so far, with one more round to come. Hog farmers enter the process by “bidding”. The range of bids – that is, the lowest price the hog producer will accept for the elimination of his hogs – started at \$300 in the first round, with the highest bid accepted by the federal program being \$997. By the recently completed third round, the lowest was \$594 and the highest \$1000, with a total of 670,000 sows, weanlings and feeders going to slaughter. The figures from the Canadian Pork Council do not give the total weight, but that is one helluvalot of pork!

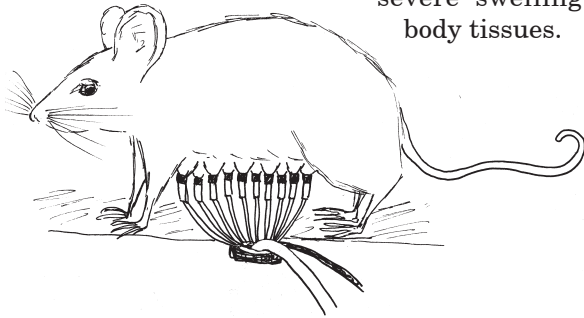


Pharming, it's called

An experimental farm in Russia could soon be producing human breast milk substitutes following successful milking trials on mice, scientists report. Thanks to human genes spliced into their genome, the mice are the first genetically modified animals to produce lactoferrin, the human breast milk protein protects babies from viruses and bacteria while the infants' immune systems are still developing. The ultimate aim of the Russian team, and of similar research projects in other countries, is to extract lactoferrin from the milk and use the protein to create healthier baby formula.

Rabbits bred with human genes are already being milked commercially by Netherlands-based biotech company Pharming. The rabbit milk contains a human protein used in a new drug treatment for hereditary angioedema, a rare blood disorder that can lead to

severe swelling of body tissues.



“When you make a medicine, the volumes [of protein] you need are relatively limited,” noted Pharming CEO Sijmen de Vries, “whereas if you’re going to make human lactoferrin, which eventually you want to use, say, in infant formula, then you need very significant volumes.” De Vries predicts that human lactoferrin from cow milk will be available for commercial use in two to three years. The Russian team, however, favors transgenic goats, according to the Institute of Gene Biology’s Sadchikova. “The most attractive advantage of a goat is that its pregnancy period is half as long as that of a cow, and a goat reaches breeding age three times faster than a cow ... has good resistance to illnesses, and does not share any diseases with a human being.”

– *National Geographic*, 2/6/09

Dutch biotechnology firm Pharming said it was on track to secure European approval for its key drug product Rhucin, even as it continued to operate at a loss (net loss 32.1 million euros for 2009). Pharming has no products on the market yet. It has benefited from government funding and capital from investment funds. Nevertheless, Chief Executive Sijmen de Vries said in a statement that “2010 is set to be a transformational year for Pharming as we remain confident in securing European approval for Rhucin.”

– *Reuters*, 18/2/10

More – or less – GE

More non-GE soybeans, more emphasis on overall performance in specific locations.

A 15% increase in non-ge soybeans entered in the University of Missouri Variety Testing Program in the past year has reversed a decade-long decline of non-GE soybeans entered in the trials: from 34% of the varieties in 2000 to 1% 2006. In the past year almost 15% of the soy varieties entered in the trials were non-ge: 61 non-glyphosate varieties and 353 Roundup-ready varieties were entered last year by the seed companies. The shift in entries reflects growing weed resistance to glyphosate and high technology fees associated with Roundup-ready seed.

“There’s been a little antagonism toward Monsanto, so some companies have tried to push the non-glyphosate varieties and some elevators have started paying a premium of a couple dollars a bushel for them,” according to one of the program staff. “Along with seed prices being way less for non-glyphosate varieties, and despite herbicide costs being more expensive, some farmers have begun to rethink what they plant.”

The testing program, funded by a \$100 fee for each entry, strives to provide unbiased information for farmers to compare varieties. Test results for 2009 are available online. Downloadable reports show yield data from sites across Missouri. A head-to-head comparison tool also allows farmers to compare the yields of any two varieties. Farmers can use results to decide on the right variety for their particular climate, soil type and disease problems.

– *Seed Quest*, 19/2/10

US ‘Exploits’ African Seed

According to the Johannesburg-based African Centre for Biosafety, a Tanzanian sorghum seed, held in trust under the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in India, is being patented by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and the Texas A&M University. The treaty, however, prohibits patent claims on varieties and genes of plants that are held in trust.

A briefing paper by Edward Hammond published by the centre says that the gene which enables tolerance to aluminium toxicity in acid soils, which is a problem affecting parts of north America and Europe and as



much as 30% of arable land in Latin America, East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, has strong commercial potential.

The gene (SbMATE) is not only useful in sorghum, but also may be used in other crops including genetically engineered (GE) maize, wheat, and rice as well a GE eucalyptus tree plantations.

“The SbMATE gene does not rightfully belong to the USDA, Embrapa, or Texas A&M, and those institutions must abandon their unjust claims to the Tanzanian gene,” Hammond said. “The institutions that are charged with protecting this resource must act to protect trust plants and genes from such claims.”

“The genius of African farmers that is locked up in international seed banks cannot be allowed to be used to undermine diverse farming systems and earn profit for multinational corporations. These seed collections should rather serve the interests of African farmers, sustainable food production systems and the preservation and development of *in situ* genetic diversity.”

– *www.Fin24.com, South Africa, 12/1/10*

Crunching the numbers

Walmart has stated its intention to “create” 6500 jobs in the new superstores Walmart plans to build in suburban locations, as it increases the number of its stores from 280 in Canada to 325. Walmart already employs 70,000 people

in Canada. But don't overlook the fact that Walmart laid off 1200 people last fall when it closed its Sam's Club stores in Canada, and the number of smaller grocery stores and other businesses that will be forced out of business by Walmart's expansion. In the end the 6500 jobs may look considerably less promising.
– GM, 24/2/10

Editors' Notes

Correction: In our last issue we had BJP where BHP should have been in the name of BHP Billiton. BHP stands for Broken Hill Property. BJP is the right wing (some would say fascist) Hindu party in India. Must have been some deep connection in my mind! – BK

Subscriptions can now be paid via credit card. Just go to our website – and you can buy a book while you are at it. On the other hand, if you are a traditionalist like us and would rather pay by cheque, you can still do that as well.

While you are on the Internet, take a look at www.foodsecurecanada.org for information and news about the food movement in Canada, and peoplesfoodpolicy.ca to get involved in this important and exciting project!

THE RAM'S HORN

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