



KAIWAKA ORGANICS eNews

JANUARY 2012

THE NZ FOOD BILL SPECIAL

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

I have only been back in the shop for a few days but already I can sense a major shift in our awareness of the impending NZ Food Bill. More people know about it now and more people are really angry about it. Emails are coming in thick and fast, asking where the bill is up to and what we can do.

So I have decided to devote a whole newsletter to this issue, because it really is important that we stand together and strong and do everything that we can to stop it going through!

LIMITED MEDIA COVERAGE

There seemed to be some kind of media black-out about the bill. John Campbell covered the story before Christmas and there was an interview with Sue Kedgely, but no reference was made to the relationship between the bill and Codex Alimentarius. On January 3rd the Herald ran a story about the Bill, but again there was very little depth or analysis.

In the January 5th Herald, in the same section (A4) is a report headed 'LABOUR RETHINKING ITS BACKING FOR FOOD BILL' because they have misgivings over how small-scale traders will be effected. So this is a really good time to lobby not only National MPs, specifically **Kate Wilkinson**, but Labour MPs—Damien O'Connor (Primary Industries) and Labour leader David Shearer. If there's one way that they could turn the tide on their popularity this would be it!

After the first Herald article I wrote a letter to the editor, which has so far not been printed. Maybe it was too radical for them. This is a good way to lobby though—email: letters@nzherald.co.nz Keep letters to under 200 words and be sure to give your name, full address and a contact phone number. **See my letter here >**

WHAT THE GREENS ARE DOING

Steffan Browning and Mojo Mathers are the Green Party MPs who have taken over this portfolio from Sue Kedgely. Steffan Browning has been pushing for an extension of the period in which the NZ public can make official submissions on the Food Bill.

Contact Steffan Browning: greeny25@xtra.co.nz

ONLINE PETITION

<http://www.petitiononline.co.nz/petition/oppose-the-new-Zealand-government-food-bill-160-2/1301>

ROMI'S LETTER TO THE NZ HERALD

While it is good to see that finally the Herald has given some coverage to the impending Food Bill, this is too little too late. There has been so little media coverage of this bill and very little opportunity for the general public to get enough of the full picture to be able to adequately comment and object.

The Food Bill is part of the Codex Alimentarius and its implementation into NZ (and as many other countries in the world that the US can bully into it) has nothing to do with our health and 'food safety'. How is growing, saving and swapping seed a food safety issue?

How is trading food and accommodation with a wwoofers for his or her labour a food safety issue? We have always safely grown vegetables in our back gardens and shared or swapped our produce with friends and neighbours without worrying about food safety. Come on!

The Food Bill is about making the world a safe and compliant place for BioTech/AgriBusiness (companies like Monsanto that pull the US government strings) to give them complete control over what we grow and eat, even to the point of defining what food is.

That's why 'Food Safety Officers' will be immune from civil and criminal prosecution. They will be above our law and able to walk into your business and take and damage whatever they want and even arrest you. You will have no recourse.

Google this YouTube: 'Armed Police Raid Private Organic Co-Op Rawesome Foods Security Camera Footage.' This could happen here if the bill is passed without modification.

And why is the government planning a study into how much money NZ is losing from NOT growing genetically modified crops? This is obviously the thin end of the wedge and we can all see what's coming. Otherwise the study would be into how much we could profit from remaining GE free. It's bad enough that we can freely sell imported products with GE ingredients, unlabelled.

Wake up New Zealand. This Food Bill is the price for a Free Trade agreement with America. It's far too much to pay!

2395 SH1, 4km north of Kaiwaka • Postal: RD2, Maungaturoto, 0587 • phone 09 4312732
www.kaiwakaorganics.co.nz • e: shop@kaiwakaorganics.co.nz

MORE DETAILS FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO DIG DEEPER

This 'Food Bill' has gone through the 'First Reading' and the 'submission' process.

The Primary Production Select Committee has reported back.

The next stage is the 'Second Reading' - when that is we don't know yet.

Our recommendation is for those who are active on this Food Bill, or want to know more about it:

1) **READ the Select Committee Report.**

http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/Documents/Reports/e/5/3/49DBSCH_SCR4962_1-Food-Bill-160-2.htm

WHAT ARE THE SELECT COMMITTEE NOW RECOMMENDING?

2) **READ the ADVICE RECEIVED BY THE PRIMARY PRODUCTION SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FOOD BILL:**

http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/Documents/Advice/?Custom=00DBHOH_BILL9974_1

WHO is advising the Select Committee and WHAT advice are they giving?

3) **READ EVIDENCE AND SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED ON THE FOOD BILL:**

http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/Documents/Evidence/?Custom=00DBHOH_BILL9974_1

WHO is pushing this Food Bill and WHOSE interests are being served by this Food Bill?

(That's if you want to 'get your head around' the FACTS and EVIDENCE for yourself?)

JODY BRUNING from TAURANGA WRITES:

These rules are developed to say we need 'food safety', as if home grown vegetables are unsafe and tinned foods are safe. But what they really mean is to get rid of little producers, little growers and keep the growing of food in the hands of the big companies. Codex wasn't designed by governments and independent think tanks it was developed by mega corporations – pharmacy, agribusiness, chemical.

These laws were NOT initially drafted by the NZ government, but by lawyers employed by big international corporates.

Main problems with Food Bill 160-2 :

1. Home & small growers who grow small amounts of food and sell locally NEED to be exempt - they are not.
2. Seeds for cultivation and food seedlings NEED TO NOT BE within the definition 'food' under the Bill. (This is huge – imagine you not being able to produce seed and giveaway!!). This sounds crazy but seeds will be 'explicitly controlled substances' (like drugs) – seriously. Why? Not sci-fi – in time whoever controls the food chain protects their own interests. (This is so unbelievable that I believe this is why we are not acting.)
3. Under the Food Bill, Police acting as Food Safety Officers can raid premises without a warrant, using all equipment they deem necessary – including guns (Clause 265 –1) (What is the precedent for this? Why is this necessary?)
4. Members of the private sector can also be Food Safety Officers, as at Clause 243. Eg. Monsanto employees can raid premises – including marae – backed up by armed police. (This has never happened before or needed to happen).
5. AND Food Safety Officers have immunity from criminal and civil prosecution. What is the precedent for this? Some parts of this bill involve change that is good. But some parts are completely insane/horrendous and have the potential to compromise your health in the future, because they reduce the ability for small food producers produce and give away/sell seeds and food. And it would be policed by Food Officers, not needing a warrant, not government employees, & apparently having immunity from civil or criminal prosecution! This is in the legislation!

And what is different about this legislation as it comes under an international rule called 'Codex' or "Codex Alimentarius". If we go along with Codex NZ then CAN'T CHANGE the legislation in future.

This is what is really appalling about this. It is not Common Law, it is Napoleonic Code. It hasn't happened before with food and is a quiet part of Codex that most people don't realise.

We would actually have to get out of the W.H.O. to change this legislation if we didn't like it - which is just not a thing governments do. We would be stuck.

So we need to take time on this legislation, not fast track it through over the summer..

What's really shocking about this is that these rules are developed to say we need 'food safety'.

(Because we all know home grown veggies are worse from us than mass produced stuff!?)

But what they really mean is to get rid of little producers, little growers and keep the growing of food in the hands of the big companies.

Codex wasn't designed by governments and independent think tanks it was developed by mega corporations – pharmacy, agribusiness, chemical.

These laws were NOT initially drafted by the NZ government, but by lawyers employed by big international corporates.

We need to stop this legislation!

WHO TO LOBBY

Kate Wilkinson, National

Primary Production

Shane Ardern, National

Steffan Browning, Green

Hon Shane Jones, Labour

Colin King, National

Ian McKelvie, National

Hon Damien O'Connor, Labour

Eric Roy, National

ARE WE BEING ALARMIST?

There are some who say that we are being alarmist, that it's not that bad, that the Bill didn't mean to capture seeds or small growers. We are told that once the bill passes that people will be able to 'apply for exemptions'.

But when you know what is driving this legislation, and you see what is already happening overseas, I think that this is not a time to be complacent. Romi

See the trailer for the documentary movie

FARMAGEDDON

<http://vimeo.com/16513455>

Americans' rights to access fresh, healthy foods of their choice is under attack. Farmageddon tells the story of small family farms that were providing safe, healthy foods to their communities and were forced to stop, sometimes through violent action, by agents of misguided government bureaucracies, and seeks to figure out why.

farmageddonmovie.com

www.kaiwakaorganics.co.nz