



NAFTA MAKES US SICK!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009

International Trade Justice Action Day

OINK-IN TO PROTEST NAFTA, SWINE FLU, AND FACTORY FARMING!

Come join us for a street theater event as we dress as sick pigs and expose how NAFTA and factory farming were responsible for swine flu!

We'll have signs, flyers, and costumes.

WHEN/WHERE: 10:30AM-11:30AM at Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's office at 780 3rd Ave. between 48th and 49th Streets.

SUBWAY DIRECTIONS: 6 to 51st Street / Lexington Avenue. Or E or V to Lexington Ave / 53rd Street

BACKGROUND: Trade Justice Action Day is an international mobilization demanding the repeal and replacement of NAFTA, the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement, and the Peru Free Trade Agreement. The swine flu epidemic is believed to have started at the Smithfield-owned Carroll Ranches hog farm in Veracruz, Mexico. NAFTA came into effect on January 1, 1994, and began a major shift towards factory farm agriculture in Mexico. That year, US pork giant Smithfield Foods opened the "Carroll Ranches" factory hog farm in Veracruz, Mexico. Carroll Ranches processes 800,000 pigs into bacon and other products per year, but does not have a sewage treatment plant. Factory farms benefit from low-cost animal feed thanks to US grain subsidies. Before NAFTA, Mexico tariffed US grain exports. NAFTA eliminated tariffs on the importation of US-produced animal feed into Mexico. This allowed agribusiness corporations like Smithfield to outsource production to Mexico and still enjoy the same cheap grain prices available in the US. And because NAFTA also eliminated tariffs on pork exports from Mexico, they could then export meat back to the US without incurring additional costs. With their financial incentive to remain in the US eliminated, companies like Smithfield shifted production to Mexico to minimize costs by taking advantage of the nation's lower wages and labor standards and more lax environmental and safety regulations.

Additional Info: (718) 880-7979 or email info@freetradekillsanimals.org

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