The free press faces bullying unseen in decades. FERN won't back down.
But we need you with us. Support our non-profit watchdog reporting.

Donate Now (https://thefern.org/donate/)

INDEPENDENT. INVESTIGATIVE. NON-PROFIT.

Code of Ethics

The Food & Environment Reporting Network, Inc., is an independent, non-profit news organization that produces investigative reporting in the areas of food, agriculture, and environmental health. Our aim is to unearth truth about the subjects we investigate, and in so doing, develop a relationship of trust with our readership. In our work, we will:

- Strive to produce accurate and thoroughly reported stories;
- Partner with media outlets to provide the highest-quality editorial content to the widest possible audience;
- Preserve total editorial independence from our funders, maintaining a strict firewall with our editorial operations; and
- Operate without hidden agendas or biases.

The public’s right to know is our primary responsibility. We take our role in revitalizing and amplifying reporting on food, agriculture, and environmental health very seriously, recognizing both a desire on the part of the public to understand a range of issues that have been under-reported for decades, as well as the impact such reporting could have on government, industry, and on the livelihoods of those who work
A firewall will be maintained between our editors, journalists, and funders. Funders will have no say in our editorial process, nor will we accept money from funders under the condition that we cover certain stories, or address subjects, with a predetermined slant.

We will support an open exchange of viewpoints. In doing so, we will work to assure that we report facts and present reasoned interpretations and analyses.

We do not pay for interviews or documents.

We do not show sources, third parties unaffiliated with the Food and Environment Reporting Network or our funders drafts of our work before it is published.

We do not grant interview subjects the right to review their quotes.

**Fairness**

We will make every attempt to make sure a story is complete, omitting no facts or areas of significance. Our reporters will diligently seek out the subjects of our stories to give them the opportunity to respond to allegations of wrongdoing on the record.

While we will avoid *ad hominem* attacks on individuals, institutions, and organizations, we may offer well-reasoned critiques of them. However, our reporters will provide subjects of our stories the opportunity to respond to criticism or allegations of wrongdoing.

We do not plagiarize, nor do we stage, fictionalize or fabricate any part of our stories.

We will not stereotype by race, gender, age, religion, ethnicity, geography, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance or social status.

---

**Support FERN**

Your donations help us with our investigations.

[Donate (/donate/)]

**Our Mission**

The Food & Environment Reporting Network is the first and only independent, non-profit news organization that produces in-depth and investigative journalism in the critically underreported areas of food, agriculture, and environmental health. Through partnerships with local and national mainstream media outlets, we seek to tell