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bristol
LD 2013

Through No Fault of Their Own

It's my understanding 30 years ago the state granted 700 permits to dump municipal and industrial (!) sludge on agricultural fields throughout the state. These were corn and hay fields that fed dairy cows. I'm thinking there must be some mistake.

A mistake puts it mildly.

A couple years pass. A man buys a cornfield in Unity, builds a house, drills a well, creates a vegetable farm including greenhouses and surrounding fields and an irrigation system for it all. He has a successful business for 20 years but unfortunately is forced to sell because of a terminal cancer diagnosis.

A young couple buy and take over the farm where the original farmer had to leave off. Over the years they added a new greenhouse, additions to buildings, farm equipment, increased the irrigation system, and added a solar array. They became Mofga certified organic, supplied various co-ops, and distributed product throughout Maine. They also grew grains, bought their own mill and had a grain CSA with around 100 members. I was currently building a bakery for them when they got the news their well tested at 400 times the state limit for PFAS.

Numerous soil tests show that all of their soil is highly contaminated with PFAS. Breathing the dust raised using their tractors and farm equipment to work the land and harvest their grain raises the contamination in their bodies.

I can't go into the health risks they face in their future or the risk to their three year old son who has had his young life on this contaminated land. Their PFAS blood levels are incredibly high.

So what are they left with- debt, no business, no home and forever health risks. I fear that this is only one of many more family farms that are, or will soon be, dealing with this wretched situation.

Through no fault of their own.

As a father, grandfather and loving father-in-law to this family I implore you to support 2013.

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