Better Safe Than Sorry...

"Ommegang is proud of our accomplishment in building a thriving, sustainable and environmentally conscious business in upstate New York. We are a company that enjoys a national reputation for super-premium quality beers produced in upstate New York and we hope that the state and local regulators attach value to what we do for the region in terms of employment and our representation of upstate New York in restaurants and grocery stores across the nation. We are deeply concerned at the threat posed by development of drilling in the region and the risk to the purity of the water on which we depend, and which is a key reason we are located here."

-- Simon Thorpe, President/CEO of Brewery Ommegang, Cooperstown, New York

"I want to alert you to a less obvious effect that hydrofracking will have on us and on the NYS farms whose products we make a great effort to buy. We are very responsive to the needs of our shoppers. If hydrofracking is allowed to go forward our shoppers are certain to be asking us if the fruits, vegetables, dairy products, eggs and meats from New York State are produced in areas where hydrofracking is taking place. It will not take many inquiries for us to start researching alternatives to NYS products."

-- Joe Holtz, General Manager of Park Slope Food Coop Inc, Brooklyn, New York

"At the Co-op, we work hard to support our Western New York farms. Our business depends on their survival. But if our customers tell us to source clean natural foods from non-hydrofracking regions, we and other grocers will shift our purchasing dollars elsewhere. Hydrofracking may create a few jobs in the energy industry, but it will put at risk our Co-op and all of local partners we do business with."

-- Tim Bartlett, General Manager of Lexington Co-operative Market, Buffalo, New York

Concern for Our Foodshed

A foodshed outlines a particular area from which food is grown, processed, purchased and consumed. Researcher Christian Peters and others at Cornell University mapped potential foodsheds for the largest upstate cities. Map b shows where grass-based agricultural products (meat) might travel in a more localized foodshed for the cities of Buffalo (red), Rochester (green), Syracuse (gold), Albany (blue), and Poughkeepsie (yellow). Notice the area in purple which indicates an excess of meat production for the southern tier cities (Alfred, Elmira, Binghamton) sufficient to supply NY City, but which overlies the Marcellus shale.

You can help. Get involved. Find an organization near you at:
www.DamascusCitizens.org

Sources quoted can be found at:
https://acrobat.com/#d=nZsSXQ3jSFGOpOf41XycQ

Fracking the Farm

Local Food Production Incompatible with Gas Drilling and Production

A Shrinking Agricultural Base
Pennsylvania agricultural agencies report that 25% of farmers receiving royalty payments discontinued farming, while another 25% converted from dairy farms to grazing operations. Agencies question whether the remaining small dairy farms provide enough of a critical mass to remain viable.
Agriculture and High Volume Hydrofracking Are NOT Compatible

due to their aggressive nature.

When the gas locked up in the rock finally makes its way to the surface, it is released in large quantities. This is a significant concern, as it can lead to increased ground level ozone. Ozone is a highly reactive gas that can damage plant leaves and harm human health.

In addition to its direct effects on agricultural productivity, ozone can also contribute to the formation of other harmful air pollutants. This can lead to a decrease in crop yields and economic losses for farmers.

Toxic Compounds Throughout the Foodchain

Heavy Metals

Heavy metals like strontium, arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury may be present in fracking chemicals and can be absorbed by plants and livestock. Even when meat is tested, these metals may still be present in trace amounts.

Lead, cadmium, and arsenic can accumulate in the food chain, eventually making their way into human food. Exposure to these metals can lead to health problems such as kidney damage, nerve damage, and cancer.

Uranium, radium, and thorium are also present in fracking chemicals and can contaminate soil. These radioactive elements can leach into groundwater and contaminate drinking water sources. Drinking contaminated water can lead to health problems such as bone cancer, kidney disease, and reproductive disorders.

Soil Contamination

Explosions, spills, flares and leaky gas pipes are all common occurrences in high volume hydrofracking areas. These events can result in the release of toxic chemicals into the environment, which can contaminate soil and groundwater.

Heavy metals and radioactive elements can accumulate in the soil, making it unsuitable for agricultural use. In some cases, it may be necessary to remediate the soil to make it safe for use again.

Farming Infragressive Species

When farming in hydrofracked areas, farmers must be aware of the potential risks to their crops and livestock. Many of the chemicals used in high volume hydrofracking are toxic and can harm both plants and animals.

For example, endocrine disruptors are a class of chemicals that can interfere with the normal functioning of the endocrine system. These chemicals are found in many common household products, including cleaning supplies and personal care products.

Endocrine disruptors can affect the reproductive systems of both plants and animals. In livestock, they can cause changes in reproductive behavior and fertility. In humans, they can lead to a variety of health problems, including reproductive disorders and cancer.

In addition to endocrine disruptors, many chemicals used in high volume hydrofracking are toxic to plants and animals. These chemicals can disrupt the normal functioning of the body, leading to a variety of health problems.

For example, some chemicals can cause damage to the nervous system, affecting movement, coordination, and other vital functions. Others can cause damage to the immune system, making it more difficult for the body to fight off infections.

These risks can have serious consequences for farmers and livestock owners. In some cases, it may be necessary to move entire farms or production facilities to avoid these risks.

As a result, the agriculture industry in hydrofracked areas must be carefully managed to ensure the safety of both crops and livestock. This may require the use of alternative farming practices, as well as the development of new technologies to help farmers manage these risks.