

# FATAL HARVEST

THE TRAGEDY OF INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE

Edited by Andrew Kimbrell

We find ourselves in the midst of an historic battle over two very different visions of the future of food in the 21st century. The decades-long hegemony of the industrial food production model is now being challenged by a strong grassroots movement for organic, ecological, and humane food. *Fatal Harvest: The Tragedy of Industrial Agriculture* is designed to be an invaluable aid to the activists, farmers, policymakers, and consumers fighting to turn industrial agriculture into a more sustainable food system.

The book's many photographs and essays show the tragic consequences of how our food is produced – a system of industrial food production that yields a "fatal harvest." Fatal to consumers, as the massive amounts of chemicals used in growing crops dramatically increase the incidence of cancer and other diseases, and as new bacteria, viruses, and other disease agents poison our food. Fatal to our rivers, lakes, and oceans that are polluted by pesticides, chemicals, and waste from factory farms. Fatal to our vital topsoil, which is exhausted and eroded by large-scale mono-cropping and overloaded with fertilizers. Fatal to our forests as more and more land is cleared from industrial-scale agriculture. Fatal to the genetic diversity of plants as corporate agriculture destroys countless species with its universal, high-yield crops and plantings of new genetically engineered varieties. Fatal to our farm communities, which are wiped out by huge, corporate farms. Fatal to seed saving and our collective ownership of seeds as a few transnational companies patent the seeds of the earth. Fatal to our food security as our patented crops become even more susceptible to disease and insect infestation. Fatal to

wildlife as pesticides and habitat destruction force many species into extinction. Fatal, potentially to the entire biosphere as modern agriculture contributes heavily to global environmental threats such as ozone depletion, the greenhouse effect, and mass species extinction.

As it poses the ecological and social impacts of industrial agriculture's fatal harvest, this book also details a new ecological and humane vision for agriculture. It shows how millions are now engaged in the new politics of food as they fight against the chemical and biotechnological inputs of industrial food. The book further details how organic food became the fastest growing sector in American agriculture and how many are now going "beyond organic" to save small-scale farming, the wilderness, and wildlife.

**Andrew Kimbrell** is a public interest attorney, activist, and author. He is the Director of the Center for Food Safety (CFS) in Washington, D.C. Kimbrell was the General Editor of *The Green Lifestyle Handbook*, and authored *101 Ways to Help Heal the Earth: A Citizens Guide*, *The Human Body Shop: The Cloning, Engineering, and Making of Life* and *The Masculine Mystique: The Politics of Masculinity*.

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