

Federal Agencies Regulating Food

**Anthropology of Food
University of Minnesota Duluth**

Tim Roufs ©2014

a primer on . . .





The 1992 **USDA** food pyramid

**the United States
Department of Agriculture
is known widely
for its “food guide pyramid” . . .
one of the
most recognized logos in the world**

The 1992 **USDA** food pyramid

Fats, Oils & Sweets
USE SPARINGLY

KEY

■ Fat (naturally occurring and added)

▼ Sugars (added)

These symbols show fats and added sugars in foods.

Milk, Yogurt &
Cheese Group
2-3 SERVINGS

Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans,
Eggs & Nuts Group
2-3 SERVINGS

this is the old (1992) version

Bread, Cereal,
Rice & Pasta
Group
**6-11
SERVINGS**

the 1992 “Food Guide Pyramid”

the 1992 Food Guide Pyramid

was replaced by

MyPyramid

on 19 April 2005

MyPyramid

STEPS TO A HEALTHIER YOU

MyPyramid.gov



GRAINS

VEGETABLES

FRUITS

MILK

MEAT & BEANS

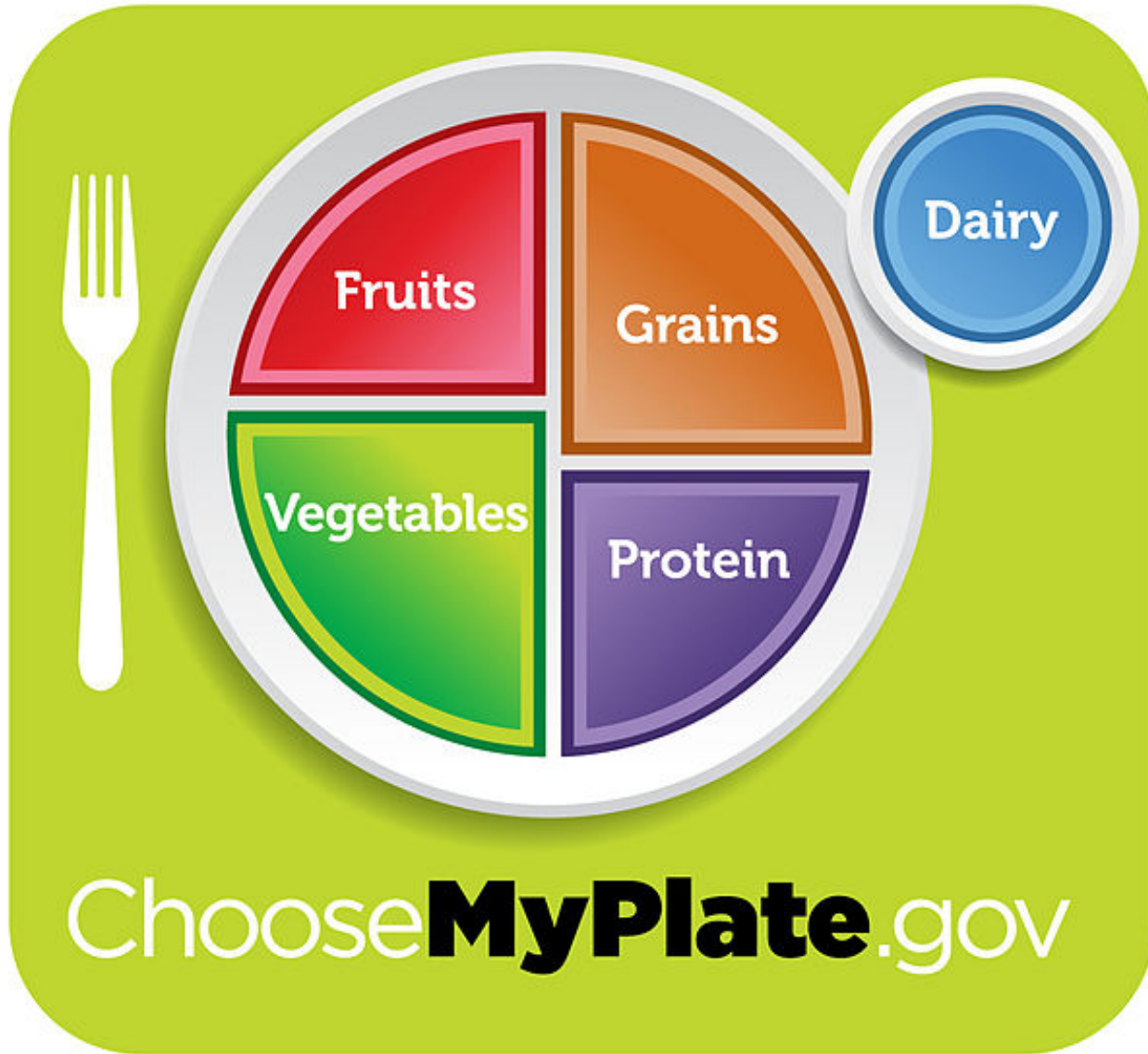
The 2005 USDA food guide pyramid

the 2005 MyPyramid

was replaced by

MyPlate

on 2 June 2011



MyPyramid was replaced by MyPlate on 2 June 2011

Inflatable **USDA** **Food Pyramid**

[://www.ethnicfoodsco.com/Japan/JapaneseFoodPyramid.htm](http://www.ethnicfoodsco.com/Japan/JapaneseFoodPyramid.htm)

United States
Department of
Agriculture

USDA

Inflatable

Food Pyramid

by law, the primary mission of the USDA is
to promote U.S. agriculture



the USDA should not to be confused with

United States

**Food and Drug
Administration**



the
United States
Food and Drug Administration

is responsible for regulating and
supervising the safety of foods,
dietary supplements, etc.



promotes
U.S.A.

agriculture



regulates
U.S.A.

food safety



Inflatable USDA Food Pyramid

www.ethnicfoodsco.com/Japan/JapaneseFoodPyramid.htm

promotes
U.S.A.

agriculture

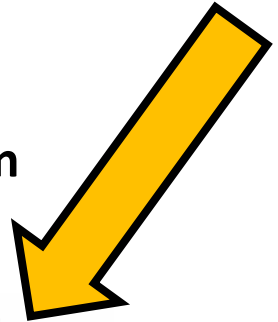


regulates
U.S.A.

food safety



and in addition
there is the



promotes
U.S.A.

agriculture



regulates
U.S.A.

food safety



which is charged to
protect U.S.A.

**human health
and the
environment**





**is charged to
protect U.S.A.
human health
and the
environment**

but.
EPA

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epa>



**is charged to
protect U.S.A.
human health
and the
environment**

but . . .

a big question for them is . . .

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epa>

Special feature

Olympics

Categories

U.S. news

The Elkhart Project

Environment

Crime & courts

Life

Security

Race & ethnicity

Charity news

Weird news

World news

Business

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Sports

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How to value life? EPA devalues its estimate

10 July 2008

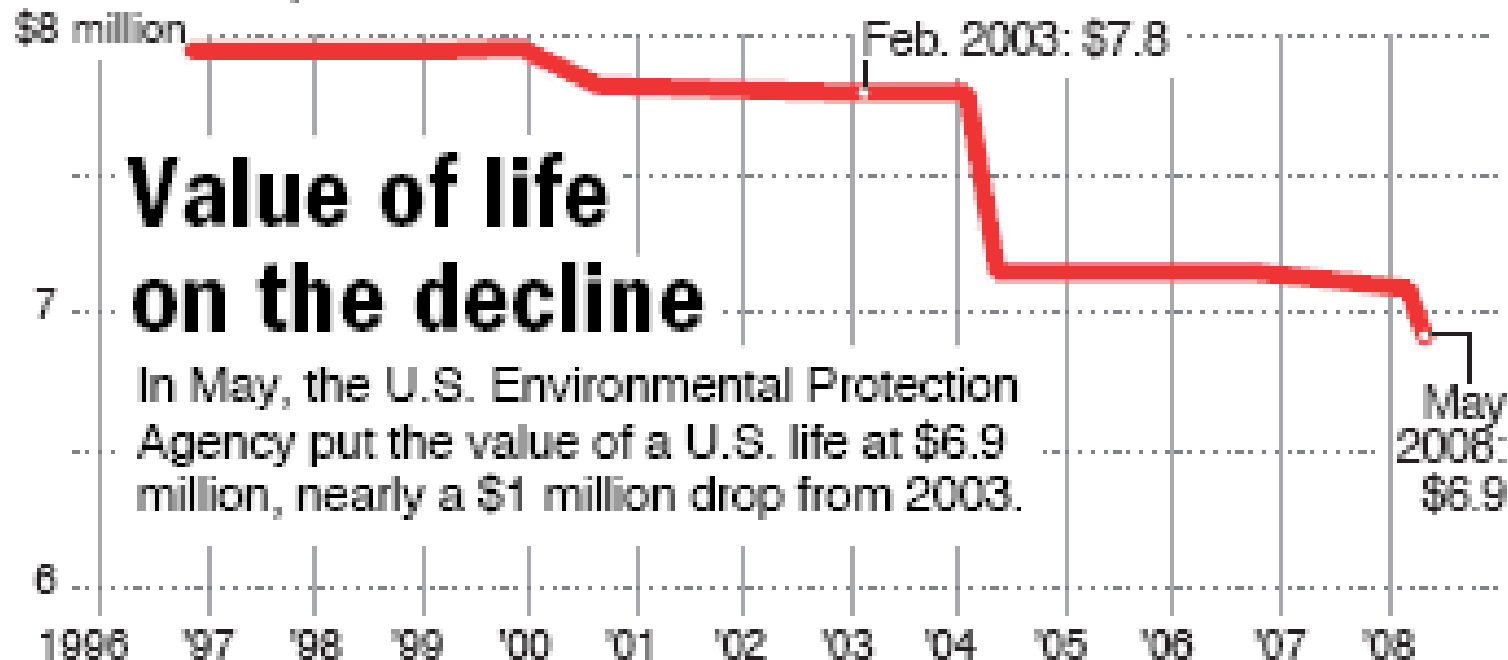
\$900,000 taken off in what critics say is way to weaken pollution rules



Stan Honda / AFP/Getty Ir

Each American is now valued at \$6.9 million by the EPA in figuring out the costs/benefits of rulemaking — that's nearly \$1 million less than five years ago.

Value of life, EPA's air division*



*The EPA's water division uses different and larger values of life.

SOURCE: Environmental Protection Agency

AP

Value of life, EPA's air division*

\$8 million

Feb. 2003: \$7.8

Value of life on the decline

In May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency put the value of a human life at \$6.9 million, nearly a \$1 million drop from 2003.

human life
was officially devalued
\$900,000
by the G. W. Bush
Administration

7

1996

'97

'98

'99

'00

'01

'02

'03

'04

'05

'06

'07

'08

*The EPA's water division uses different and larger values.

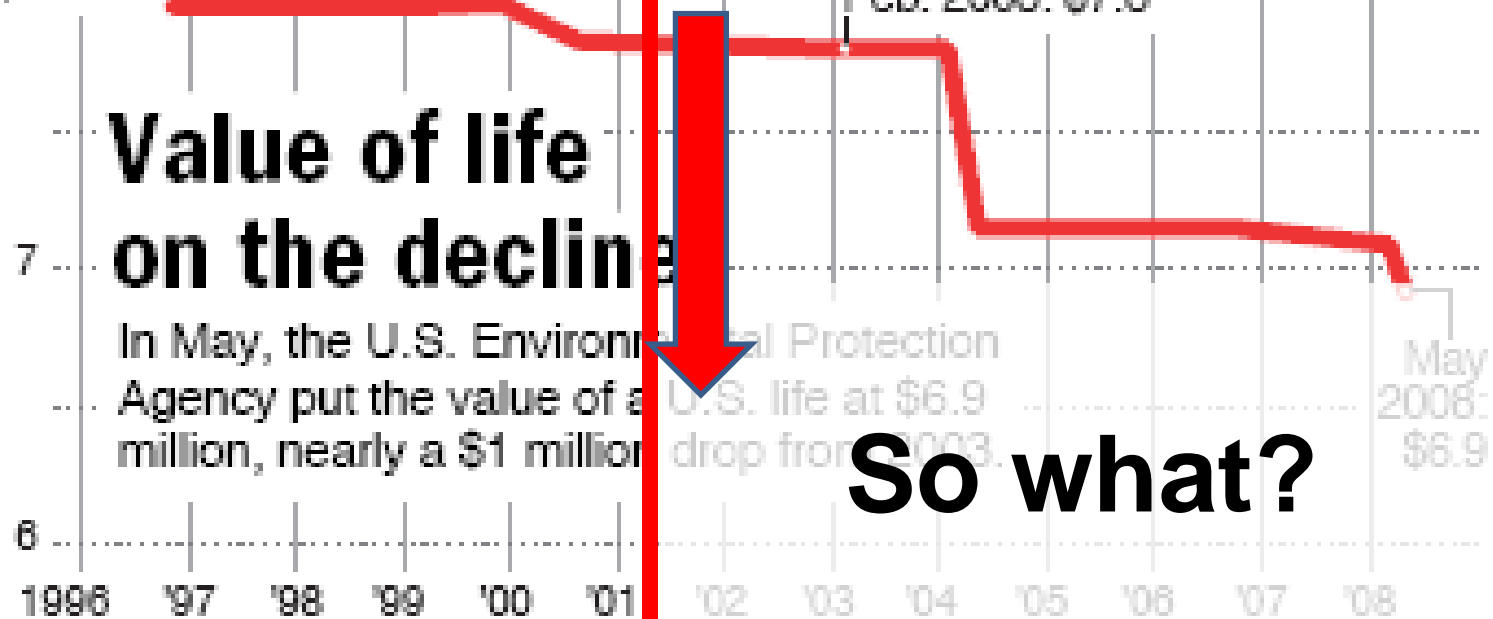
May
2008:
\$6.9

SOURCE: Environmental Protection Agency

AP

Value of life, EPA's air division*

\$8 million



So what?

*The EPA's water division uses different and larger values of life.

SOURCE: Environmental Protection Agency

AP

Special feature

How to value life? EPA devalues its

“The the EPA figure is not based on people's earning capacity, or their potential contributions to society, or how much they are loved and needed by their friends and family — some of the factors used in insurance claims and wrongful-death lawsuits. Instead, economists calculate the value based on what people are willing to pay to avoid certain risks, and on how much extra employers pay their workers to take on additional risks.”

Each American is now valued at \$6.9 million by the EPA in figuring out the costs/benefits of rulemaking — that's nearly \$1 million less than five years ago.

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How to value life? EPA devalues its estimate

\$900,000 taken off in what critics say is way to weaken pollution rules



Stan Honda / AFP-Getty Ir

“Though it may seem like a harmless bureaucratic recalculation, the devaluation has real consequences.”

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Stan Honda / AFP-Getty Ir

“Dan Esty, a senior EPA policy official in the first Bush administration and now director of the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, said that ‘it’s hard to imagine that it has other than a political motivation.’”

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“When drawing up regulations, government agencies put a value on human life and then weigh the costs versus the lifesaving benefits of a proposed rule. The less a life is worth to the government, the less the need for a regulation, such as tighter restrictions on pollution.”

Stan Honda / AFP/Getty Ir

Each American is now valued at \$6.9 million by the EPA in figuring out the costs/benefits of rulemaking — that's nearly \$1 million less than five years ago.



**e.g., Factory Farming
(CAFOs)
has environmental impacts
and health risks . . .**

EPA

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAFO>

- Special feature
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- Categories
- U.S. news

How to value life? EPA devalues its estimate

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“Consider, for example, a hypothetical regulation that costs \$18 billion to enforce but will prevent 2,500 deaths. At \$7.8 million per person (the old figure), the lifesaving benefits outweigh the costs. But at \$6.9 million per person, the rule costs more than the lives it saves, so it may not be adopted.”

Stan Honda / AFP-Getty Ir

Each American is now valued at \$6.9 million by the EPA in figuring out the costs/benefits of rulemaking — that's nearly \$1 million less than five years ago.



**e.g., Factory Farming
(CAFOs) and decisions affect
animal welfare,
food ethics . . .**

EPA

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CAFO>

**and to the list
federal regulators
you must also add**



promotes
U.S.A.
agriculture



CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

regulates
U.S.A.
food safety



is charged to
protect U.S.A.
**human health
and the
environment**



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
“works to protect **public health and safety** by
providing information to enhance health decisions”

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Coordinates:  33.798817°N 84.325598°W﻿ / ﻿33.798817°N 84.325598°W﻿ / 33.798817; -84.325598﻿ / 33.798817; -84.325598



This article **may need to be rewritten entirely to comply with Wikipedia's quality standards**. You can help. The discussion page may contain suggestions. *(May 2009)*

The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** (or **CDC**) is a **United States federal agency** under the **Department of Health and Human Services** based in **Atlanta, Georgia**. It works to protect **public health** and **safety** by providing information to enhance health decisions, and it promotes health through partnerships with state health departments and other organizations. The CDC focuses national attention on developing and applying disease prevention and control (especially **infectious diseases**), **environmental health**, **occupational safety and health**, **health promotion**, **prevention** and **education** activities designed to improve the **health** of the people of the United States.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Agency overview

Formed	October 27, 1992
Preceding agencies	Office of National Defense Malaria Control Activities (1942) Office of Malaria Control in War Areas (1942–1946) Communicable Disease

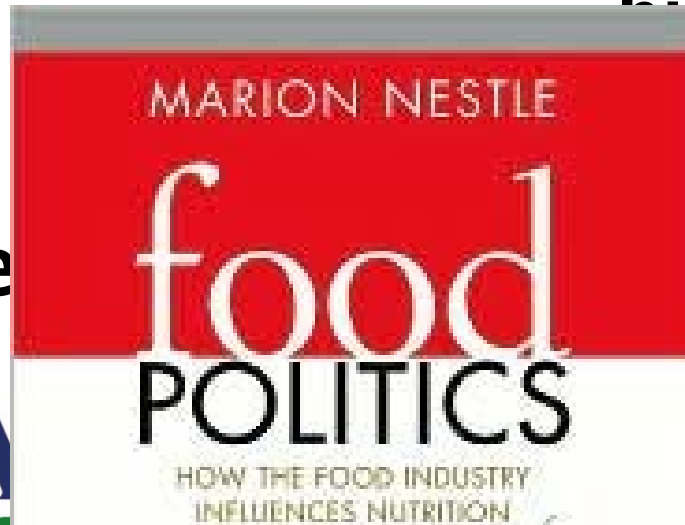
is charged to
protect U.S.A.

human health
and the
environment

promotes
U.S.A.

agriculture

USDA



an excellent work that sorts all of this out
is Marion Nestle's
Food Politics



health and safety by
influence health decisions”

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and the

promotes
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regulates
U.S.A.

and, of course,

agriculture

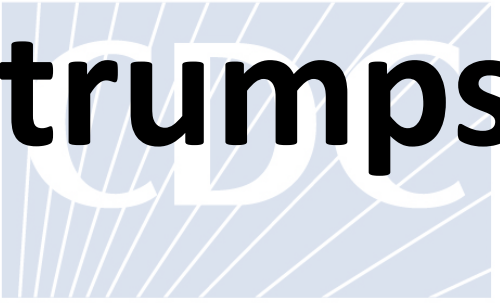
food safety

environment

The United States

Supreme Court

trumps everybody . . .



CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
“works to protect **public health and safety** by
providing information to enhance health decisions”

for e.g.,

The New York Times U.S. Search All NYTimes.com

WORLD U.S. N.Y. / REGION BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SCIENCE HEALTH SPORTS OPINION ARTS STYLE TRAVEL JOBS REAL ESTATE AUTOS

POLITICS EDUCATION

 **Toxic Waters**
A series about the worsening pollution in American waters and regulators' response

TOXIC WATERS

Rulings Restrict Clean Water Act, Foiling E.P.A.



David Walter Banks for The New York Times

The mouth of Avondale Creek in Alabama, into which a pipe maker dumped oil, lead and zinc. A court ruling made the waterway exempt from the Clean Water Act.

By CHARLES DUHIGG and JANET ROBERTS
Published: February 28, 2010

Thousands of the nation's largest water polluters are outside the Clean Water Act's reach because the [Supreme Court](#) has left

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/01/us/01water.html?th&emc=th>

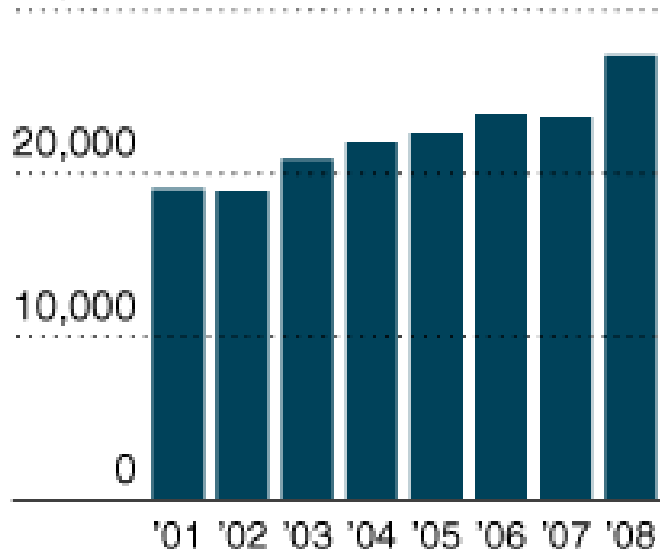
and results . . .

Polluters Beyond the Law

Since recent Supreme Court decisions that have limited the reach of the federal Clean Water Act, the Environmental Protection Agency has logged more violations by major permit holders but has taken enforcement action against fewer of these polluters.

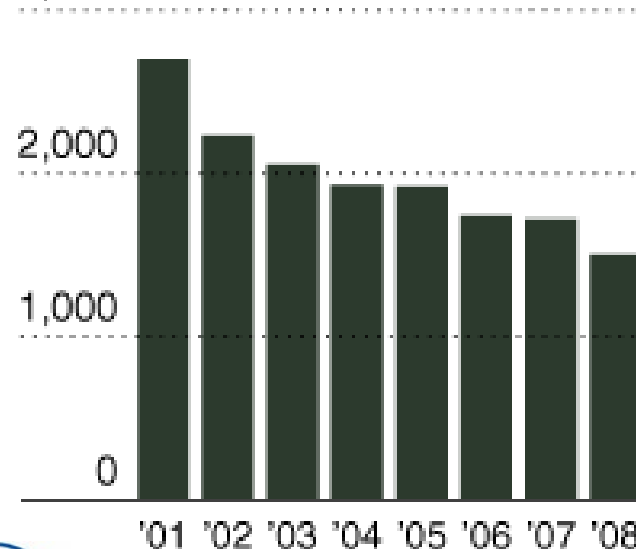
**CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS
ARE RISING ...**

30,000 violations



**... BUT E.P.A. ENFORCEMENT
IS DOWN**

3,000 facilities



Source: *New York Times* analysis of
Environmental Protection Agency data



THE NEW YORK TIMES

and results . . . more violations and fewer enforcement actions . . .

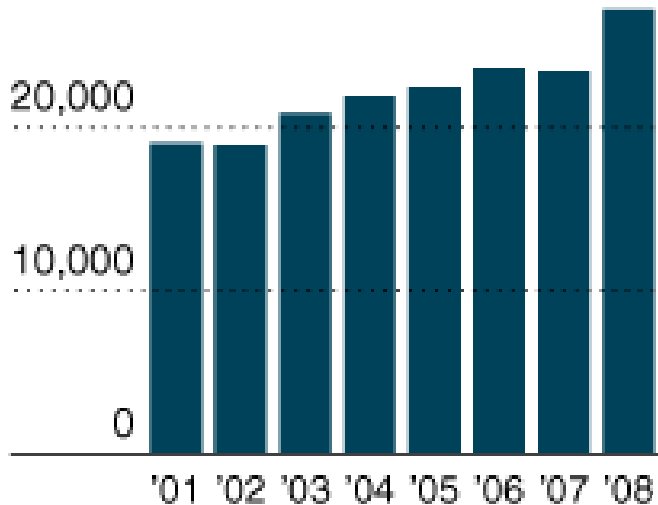
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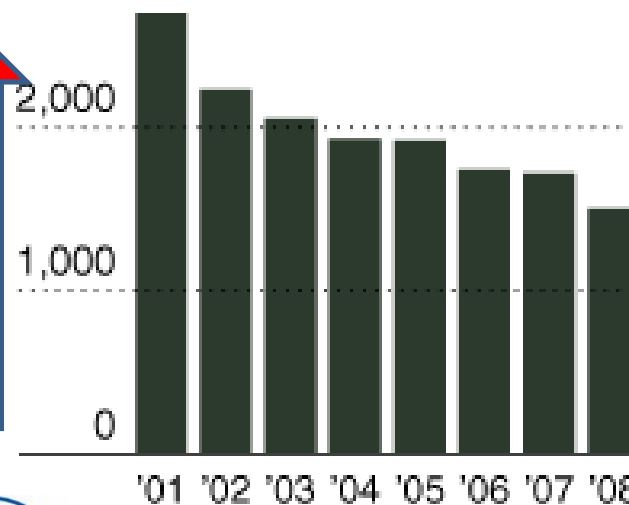
.....



... BUT E.P.A. ENFORCEMENT IS DOWN

3,000 facilities

.....



Source: *New York Times* analysis of Environmental Protection Agency data



THE NEW YORK TIMES

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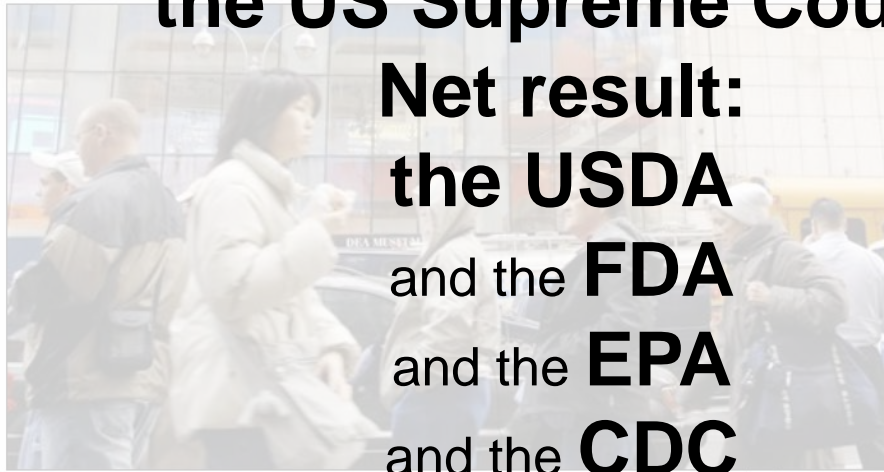
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Stan Honda / AFP/Getty Ir

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... and when tighter restrictions on pollution are attempted the affected parties [legally] fight the regulations to the US Supreme Court.

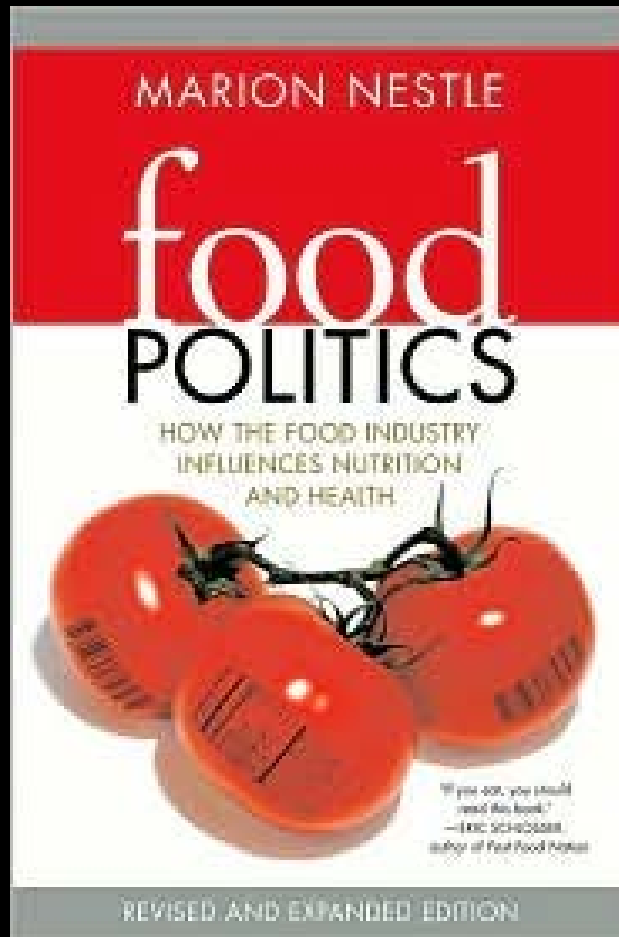


Stan Honda / AFP/Getty Ir

Net result:
the USDA
and the FDA
and the EPA
and the CDC

[fill in the blank]

again, an excellent treatment of all of this can be found in . . .



Marion Nestle

***Food Politics: How
the Food Industry
Influences
Nutrition and
Health***

**University of California Press
2007**