

READING COMPREHENSION

1. Banned: GE Rice Imports

Just weeks after we uncovered US rice on supermarket shelves in Europe contained illegal genetically engineered (GE) rice, the scandal keeps growing with more illegal GE rice being discovered. In the latest blow for the GE industry, the world's largest rice processing company has stopped importing US rice into Europe due to the threat of contamination.

Ebro Puleva, which controls 30 percent of the European rice market, has stopped importing US rice due to the presence of an illegal GE rice strain. The rice strain causing the contamination is called LL601 and has not been approved for human consumption anywhere in the world. The company responsible for the contamination is Germany's Bayer who ended field trials of LL601 in the US five years ago. However, the LL601 rice escaped the field trials and has now contaminated an unknown number of conventional rice fields across the US.

Greenpeace investigations recently found another illegal GE rice contamination outbreak. This time it is from China and is a variety of rice called Bt63. Like the US however, Bt63 rice also escaped field trials and has now been found in processed rice imports into Europe. The extent of both GE contaminations is still unknown with new discoveries of contaminated rice occurring almost daily across Europe.

The move by Ebro Puleva to stop importing US rice follows a summer of scandals, with illegal GE contamination found in rice products all over Europe as well as in Japan. As a result of Bayer's recklessness, the global food industry is facing massive costs associated with this contamination, including testing costs, product recalls, brand damage, import bans and cancelled imports and contracts.

At least three multi-million dollar class action lawsuits have been filed by US rice farmers against Bayer CropScience already, as farmers struggle to protect their livelihoods from GE contamination. To compound Bayer's legal problems, they may soon be in the legal sights of Ebro Puleva too. The world's largest rice company has indicated that they expect to bring legal actions against Bayer as well.

"By imposing a blanket ban on rice imports from the US, Ebro Puleva has acknowledged how real and costly the risk of GE contamination is," said Jeremy Tager, GE campaigner from Greenpeace International. "With GE now as uneconomic as it is unacceptable, governments in countries that grow or import GE must stop placing farmers, consumers, the environment and industry at such high risk."

The illegal GE rice scandal continues to rage just as the WTO has finally published a ruling on a case brought against the EU by the US, Canada and Argentina over Europe imposing restrictions on the importing of GE food. At its heart, the dispute is about whether trade laws trump environmental laws- and surprise, surprise, to the WTO it is trade law rules.

"The WTO is clearly unqualified to deal with complex scientific and environmental issues, and yet, when there is a conflict between trade and environmental considerations, it is the WTO that gets to decide which rules rule; it's like putting the fox in charge of the chickens," said Daniel Mittler, Trade Policy Advisor at Greenpeace International

The latest GE contamination scandal shows that once GE organisms are released into the environment, the consequences for consumers, farmers and traders are enormous. The WTO has no place determining what people should eat and illegal GE rice has no place on the dinner tables of consumers anywhere in the world, especially if the product was not labelled clearly to indicate the GE ingredients.

Task 1

Read the text and provide short answers to the questions according to the example (0) in no more than 7 words.

	NOTES	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
The reason for the scandal	0. <i>illegal GE rice was discovered in Europe</i>	✓	✓
Ebro Puleva's reaction to the scandal	1.		
Legal actions that Bayer might face	2.		
	3.		
The reason of the involved parties for starting legal action against Bayer	4.		
The way rice was contaminated in both described cases	5.		
Major drawbacks of GE according to Greenpeace	6.		
	7.		
Conflicting legal areas for the WTO in connection with GE food	8.		
	9.		
SCORE			

Task 2

Read the text again and use it to decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the table below according to the example (0). Please note that if all your answers are marked as true or as false, your answers will be disqualified.

STATEMENTS	TRUE OR FALSE	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
0. <i>GE rice was found in European shops.</i>	T	✓	✓
10. LL601 is illegal in Europe because it lacks certain licences.			
11. Greenpeace has managed to identify the rate of contamination.			
12. Greenpeace is planning to take Bayer to court as well.			
13. US rice is still imported into Europe.			
14. In its decisions, the WTO has given priority to environmental issues.			
15. Some non-European countries attacked the EU's GE food restrictions at the WTO.			
SCORE			

2. Airline Pollution: The Sky Has Its Limits

0.*The Federal Aviation Agency has defined noise pollution.*

It is loud enough to disturb a family's television watching. But the problem, as defined, contains its own remedy. Aeroplanes too loud above your house? Well, then: TURN UP THE VOLUME ON THE TELEVISION SET.

There are less bizarre ways to solve the problem of aeroplane noise, an annoyance rapidly evolving into a menace. But do not look to the FAA or the aviation industry to help. Quality of life is not their department. Not for people in the air, and certainly not for those on the ground.

1.

Crowded airports, crowded and overbooked planes, delayed flights, lousy service and awful food. Terrible. But most articles are talking about people in the air or in the airports, and not about the vastly greater numbers on the ground who are brutalised as the planes pass overhead. The solution to squalid air travel that experts propose is analogous to the fix (turn up the volume) when loud planes interrupt your television watching. All will be well if you build more runways, more airports, if you schedule more flights, and fling more profit-making, noise-making metal into the air.

2.

We are the people who fly, who use Federal Express and all the other businesses that need planes and airports in order to do their work. Millions of jobs depend on aviation. The general public requires the convenience of air travel (though it is often inconvenient), and we are still, for the most part, passive and stoical about the price paid by everyone in noise and other forms of pollution. Most people regard noise - plane noise, truck noise, city noise, siren noise, car alarm noise, and so on - as a fact of life, at least until it becomes continuous and intolerable, which, for many people, it already has. Or until it dawns on people, those living around airports, that they are paying an unacceptable price in stress, lost sleep, impaired hearing, inability to concentrate, in their children's ability to learn and in the generally degraded quality of life that results when the mind is tormented by these intrusions.

3.

The expansionist logic of airlines and airports assumes that the air around and above us has an infinitely absorptive capacity and can tolerate any pollution. We used to think that about rivers. It isn't true, in either case. Industries that pollute rivers have been forced to change, to clean up. The people who worry about pollution from planes (noise pollution, trails of fuel waste raining down) are no longer Luddite crackpots.

4.

The lone eagle, soaring without boundaries in the purity of the upper air, symbolising absolute freedom.

The aviation industry, with a sort of corrupt nostalgia, still uses rhetoric about "the freedom to fly." But Lindbergh ultimately became profoundly disgusted with the industry that he had pioneered. He ended life regarding air travel as mere squalor and aviation in general as one of the world's serious environmental problems.

5.

Not long ago, a "noise consultant" named Mark Johnson, working for Landrum & Brown, addressed a planning meeting for the expansion of the Albany, N.Y., airport. He wagged his eyebrows and declared: "We're not saying that people who complain about noise are out of their minds. Let's just say it's a sociological problem." As more and more people are driven out of their minds by noise, Johnson will find that it has become a political problem as well,

and therefore an industry problem. Eventually, the FAA will be forced to abandon its disgracefully intimate collusion with the aviation industry.

Task 1

Read the article and match the sentences with the correct paragraphs. Write your answers in the table according to the example (0). There is one extra heading you don't need to use.

0	1	2	3	4	5
A					
MARKING BOX					
1.✓					
2.✓					
SCORE					

- A. *The Federal Aviation Agency has defined noise pollution*
- B. Aviation's pioneer, Lindbergh, embodied the romantic attraction of flight.
- C. Most forums see only one side of the problem.
- D. Only a great culture could present its people with a dilemma like that.
- E. The industry is there to cater to our needs.
- F. The problems posed by flying are still being overlooked, but will manifest themselves in following years.
- G. Environmentalists say the concept of how the atmosphere is viewed is wrong.

Task 2

Read the text again and complete the sentences based on the text using no more than 5 words, according to the example (0).

	NOTES	MARKING BOX	
		1.	2.
<i>Charles Lindbergh finally regarded aviation as ...</i>	0. <i>a serious environmental problem</i>	✓	✓
Air traffic has become inconvenient for	6.		
	7.		
	8.		
Some consider the atmosphere to be like water, because	9.		
	10.		
SCORE			

WRITING SKILLS

Task 1

Study the table, and describe it in 150-200 words, according to the example (0). The description should include tendencies and comparisons. The description should end with a conclusion or prediction.

Value of Agriculture Sales, 2007 and 2012

	2007	2012	%
	(\$ billions)		change
All products	297.2	394.6	32.8*
Crops	143.7	212.4	47.8*
Livestock	153.6	182.2	18.7*

**Statistically significant change.*

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

Agricultural Production Expenses, 2007 and 2012

	2007	2012	%
	(\$ billions)		change
Total	241.1	328.9	36.4*
Feed	49.1	75.7	54.2*
Livestock and poultry purchases	38.0	41.6	9.4
Fertilizer	18.1	28.5	57.6*
Hired labor	21.9	27.0	23.4*
Cash rent	13.3	21.0	58.2*
Seeds	11.7	19.5	66.0*
Supplies and repairs	15.9	18.9	18.7*
Gasoline, fuels, and oils	12.9	16.6	28.4*
Chemicals	10.1	16.5	63.4*
Other	50.1	63.7	27.1*

Source: USDA NASS, 2012 Census of Agriculture.

**Statistically significant change.*

0. This is a table displaying important agricultural data, namely sales and expenses, from the USA from 2007 and 2012.

Task 2

You work for the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, at the Department of Food Safety. The head of the department, Fülöp Benedek, Secretary of State, has asked you to write a report of the recent food scandals in English in 180-200 words, to include in a longer document for the European Union.

Your name in this role: Herczeg Viktor/Viktória.

In your report write about

- the problems encountered (selling food past their sell-by date, relabelling food, unhygienic storage, unlicensed premises, etc.)
- proposed organisational solutions (restructuring expert bodies, more frequent checks)
- proposed legal solutions (stricter sanctions)

LISTENING COMPREHENSION**Text 1**

Listen to two news items about environment protection. Based on the text, decide if the statements are true (T) or false (F). Write your answers in the table below, according to the example (0). *Please note that if all your answers are marked as true or as false, your test will be disqualified.*

STATEMENTS		TRUE OR FALSE	MARKING BOX	
			1.	2.
First news item				
0.	Example: conveyor belts carry the trash for sorting in Brooklyn’s recycling depot.	T	✓	✓
1.	Aluminium preserves its quality during recycling.			
2.	It is economically feasible to recycle metals.			
3.	Recycling plastics currently makes business sense because it is cheaper than producing new.			
4.	The EPA suggests that instead of recycling, the US should take more than 8 million cars off the road.			
Second news item				
5.	Last year, figures for both coal production and coal imports shrank.			
6.	Reduced demand for coal is due to faster economic growth.			
7.	China is the world’s second biggest polluter, after the US.			
8.	Both the US and China see a decline in coal consumption.			
SCORE				

MARKING BOX												
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.✓												
2.✓												
SCORE												