



PORK, PESTICIDES, AND THE CCP

How China buys influence over U.S. farm policy

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Pork, Pesticides, and the CCP analyzes public documents to connect the dots between the money, the noncompliant lobbying, and the officials behind the federal policy pushes benefitting two Chinese-owned agribusiness conglomerates: Smithfield Foods and Syngenta.

The Center for Responsible Food Business is a Pennsylvania 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
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Executive Summary

\$24M+

in federal lobbying by Smithfield and Syngenta since their Chinese takeovers

\$2.5M

in political money to federal, state and local candidates and committees, plus the inaugural committee

139

current members of Congress took money from the two PACs and kept it

39

took money from both PACs, including both Agriculture Committee chairmen

Two of the most powerful agribusiness companies operating in America answer to Chinese owners and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). Both China-owned companies are spending tens of millions to influence the Trump Administration, Congress, and the rules that govern their controversial products and U.S. operations and are not properly disclosing their Chinese ties.

China-owned Smithfield Foods, the U.S.'s largest pork producer, has been controlled by the CCP-tied WH Group (万洲国际) since its 2013 takeover. Smithfield currently operates 1,755 sites across 27 states and owns 87,000 acres of U.S. land.¹

Syngenta, one of the world's largest pesticide, seed and agricultural-technology companies, is wholly owned by Sinochem Holdings, a Chinese state-owned enterprise run by a Communist Party secretary. Syngenta's owner is listed as a Chinese military company by the Pentagon.^{2, 3} Syngenta makes harmful pesticides, including atrazine, and made paraquat until mid-2026.^{4, 5}

For more than a decade, and still today in the Farm Bill fight, Republicans and Democrats have raised food security and national security concerns about China-controlled Smithfield's and Syngenta's control of key U.S. agricultural interests.^{6, 7, 8, 9, 10}

To combat criticism, both companies have spent big in Washington to keep that influence and have found allies in both parties with power over their priorities.

CRFB's analysis found that they have spent at least \$24 million combined on federal lobbying since the Chinese takeovers: roughly \$15.2 million for Smithfield and \$9 million for Syngenta.^{11, 12, 13}

Alarming, CRFB's analysis found that while lobbying on the Farm Bill and other policies, both companies have repeatedly left out foreign-ownership disclosures that federal lobbying law requires.^{12, 14} China-owned Smithfield Foods' lobbyists left WH Group's name off their foreign-interest disclosures on 29 straight quarterly reports, dating to 2019. CCP-controlled Syngenta's own reports have also left that same line blank since at least 2017. Two outside lobbying firms Syngenta hired in 2025 also listed no foreign owner at all.^{11, 14}

In addition to lobbying the government, since their Chinese takeovers Smithfield and Syngenta have also put nearly \$2.5 million into American political campaigns. Their PACs gave \$1.7 million to federal candidates, PACs and party committees and \$530,000 to state candidates. Syngenta also gave \$250,000 to President Donald Trump's inaugural committee.^{15, 16, 17, 18}

139 current members of Congress have taken money from Smithfield's and Syngenta's PACs and kept it. At least 39 of them took campaign contributions from both.^{15, 16, 18}

Thirteen lawmakers took money from both China-owned Smithfield's PAC and CCP-controlled Syngenta's PAC while writing the Farm Bill, backing the Save Our Bacon Act or its Senate counterpart, or fighting tighter atrazine limits. They include the chairmen of both Agriculture Committees, Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) and Sen. John Boozman (R-AR). They also include the Save Our Bacon Act's sponsor, Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA), and Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA), who led the Senate's version.^{15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21}

The Trump administration has also repeatedly acted in Syngenta's favor since the company gave \$250,000 to President Trump's inaugural committee. The final MAHA strategy dropped atrazine by name. The Environmental Protection Agency approved two new Syngenta pesticides that critics classify as "forever chemicals."^{22, 23, 24}

Pork, Pesticides, and the CCP analyzes public documents to connect the dots between the money, the noncompliant lobbying, and the officials behind the federal policy pushes benefitting both Chinese-owned agribusiness conglomerates.

CRFB'S ACCOUNTABILITY DEMANDS

1. CRFB calls on currently serving federal lawmakers to return Smithfield or Syngenta PAC contributions received after the companies' Chinese acquisitions or donate an equivalent amount to charity.
2. CRFB calls on the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House to refer Smithfield and Syngenta lobbyists and their noncompliant filings that fail to disclose their Chinese owners' interest in the issues lobbied to the U.S. Justice Department.

1 China Controls Key U.S. Agricultural Interests

Smithfield: China's Pork Division

Shuanghui International (since renamed WH Group (万洲国际)) acquired Smithfield Foods in 2013. At the time, the transaction was the largest purchase of a U.S. company by a Chinese company and immediately prompted scrutiny from both parties over food security, market concentration, trade reciprocity and national security.^{6, 25, 26}

Smithfield's April 2026 proxy statement reports that WH Group owns 87 percent of Smithfield's common stock, as of April 8, 2026. A January 2025 shareholders agreement lets WH Group designate a majority of Smithfield's board. Five of Smithfield's directors, including Chairman Wan Long, are WH Group executives or longtime company officials.^{4, 27}

WH Group's leadership is tied to the Party and the state. Chairman Wan Long, who chairs both WH Group and Smithfield, is a Chinese Communist Party member. He joined the People's Liberation Army at 20 and served as a deputy to China's National People's Congress from 1998 to 2018. Citing a 2022 Shenzhen Stock Exchange filing, the Daily Caller identified WH Group executive director Ma Xiangjie and three WH Group senior managers as Party members. All four hold senior posts at WH Group's Chinese flagship.^{4, 28, 29}



FIGURE 1 Smithfield's brand displayed beside its Chinese parent, WH Group (万洲国际), and Shuanghui.

Syngenta: CCP-owned and Controlled

Chinese state-owned ChemChina completed its roughly \$43 billion acquisition of Syngenta in 2017. Following restructuring, Syngenta's parent organization is Sinochem Holdings Corporation Ltd, a central state-owned enterprise.⁵

As the bipartisan U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission reported, that makes Syngenta CCP-owned.³⁰

In August 2022, the Communist Party's Central Committee installed Li Fanrong as Sinochem's chairman and Party secretary. Weeks later, he also became chairman of Syngenta Group.^{31, 32}

The Pentagon lists Syngenta's acquirer as a Chinese military company. ChemChina, the state-owned company that bought Syngenta in 2017 and has since been folded into Sinochem, was added in October 2022 to the Defense Department's list of Chinese military companies operating in the United States. It remains on the list the Pentagon published in June 2026. The listing names ChemChina, not Syngenta itself.^{2, 3}

Syngenta named Hengde Qin as its CEO effective Aug. 1, 2026. Qin spent 16 years at Sinochem, Syngenta's state-owned parent, rising to CEO of Sinochem International and president of its agriculture business. He later ran Syngenta Group China and served as Syngenta Group's chief financial officer.^{33, 34}

2 Both Parties Have Warned About This for Years

In 2013, then-Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) and Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-MS) warned that Smithfield's sale to China raised serious food security questions.^{6, 25}

In 2016, Sen. Stabenow (D-MI) and bipartisan colleagues pressed the U.S. Treasury to scrutinize ChemChina's purchase of Syngenta, citing concerns about the Smithfield review.⁷ In announcing the letter, cosigner Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) (whose campaign has taken money from Syngenta's and Smithfield's PACs) wrote, "It's clear that China is looking at these recent purchases of companies with food production expertise as part of a long-term strategic plan and a component of their national security."

In 2024, then-chairman of the House Select Committee on Competition with the Chinese Communist Party Rep. Mike Gallagher (R-WI) said in written testimony for a House Agriculture Committee hearing, "From PRC firms acquiring Smithfield Foods in 2013 and the agricultural land the company owned (then the world's largest pork producer)...the CCP is attempting increase [sic] its influence in our food supply and agriculture industry to support its goals of food security, all while increase [sic] PRC leverage over the U.S. agriculture industry."³⁵

"When a company controlled by a Chinese parent corporation is buying up beloved American brands while families struggle to afford groceries, something is fundamentally wrong."

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), 2026

In early 2026, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) wrote in a letter to the Trump Administration, "Smithfield Foods, which is owned by China's WH Group, holds a dominant position in U.S. pork processing...When a company controlled by a Chinese parent corporation is buying up beloved American brands while families struggle to afford groceries, something is fundamentally wrong." He continued, "Syngenta Group, a major supplier of agricultural chemicals, seeds, and biotechnology, is owned by ChemChina, a Chinese state-owned enterprise. A company that ultimately answers to the Chinese Communist Party sits at the center of supply chains that American farmers depend on, which is a strategic vulnerability."⁹

The same month, the House's Republican-led China Select Committee posted on social media, "when ag and seed companies like @Syngenta are bought by CCP-linked entities, it's no longer just business, it's leverage."³⁶

3 \$24 Million to Lobby Washington

Since their Chinese takeovers, with growing criticism and scrutiny from both parties, Smithfield and Syngenta have reported spending more than \$24 million to lobby Congress and federal government agencies on the Farm Bill, foreign ownership of U.S. farmland, and more.

Smithfield files no lobbying reports of its own. It has relied on outside firms: McGuireWoods, Williams and Jensen, Holland & Knight and Greenberg Traurig. These outside firms reported \$15.2 million in lobbying fees from Smithfield from the fourth quarter of 2013 through June 2026.

Syngenta lobbies mostly in-house and its own lobbying reports total \$9.0 million from the third quarter of 2017 through June 2026. ^{11, 12, 13}

Syngenta has also hired Akin Gump, Squire Patton Boggs, Gilliland & McKinney, Forward Global, Checkmate Government Relations and DC Legislative and Regulatory Services. Those outside firms reported another \$1.9 million in Syngenta fees (CRFB leaves them out of the total because Syngenta's own reports may already include them). ^{11, 13}

TABLE 1 Reported federal lobbying by Smithfield and Syngenta since their Chinese takeovers

YEAR	SMITHFIELD (OUTSIDE FIRMS)	SYNGENTA (IN-HOUSE REPORTS)	COMBINED
2013 (Q4)	\$350,000	None	\$350,000
2014	\$1,400,000	None	\$1,400,000
2015	\$1,400,000	None	\$1,400,000
2016	\$1,400,000	None	\$1,400,000
2017	\$1,400,000	\$790,000 (Q3–Q4)	\$2,190,000
2018	\$1,400,000	\$1,596,000	\$2,996,000
2019	\$1,460,000	\$1,245,000	\$2,705,000
2020	\$1,040,000	\$820,000	\$1,860,000
2021	\$920,000	\$600,000	\$1,520,000
2022	\$920,000	\$300,000	\$1,220,000
2023	\$920,000	\$990,000	\$1,910,000
2024	\$1,040,000	\$1,030,000	\$2,070,000
2025	\$1,080,000	\$1,050,000	\$2,130,000
2026 (Q1–Q2)	\$480,000	\$590,000	\$1,070,000

Total	\$15,210,000	\$9,011,000	\$24,221,000
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Source: CRFB analysis of Senate LDA filings, using the latest amendment for each quarterly report. Figures cover federal lobbying only. ^{11, 12, 13}

4 Hiding the CCP's Foreign Hand

Smithfield: Seven Years of Blank Lines

It would be difficult for the public or officials to determine that China had a major stake in Smithfield and Syngenta's lobbying because both companies and their lobbyists have systematically failed to properly disclose it.

For seven years straight, China-owned Smithfield's federal lobbying reports have left WH Group off the line meant to show a foreign owner's interest in the issues lobbied, including on the Farm Bill and on bills restricting foreign ownership of U.S. farmland.

One lobbyist has worked Smithfield's account for seven years. Christopher DeLacy appears on every Holland & Knight lobbying report for Smithfield from the third quarter of 2019 through the firm's termination in May 2026. That is 28 quarterly reports and \$6.62 million in reported fees. Instead of disclosing WH Group's stake in the lobbying, as required by lobbying disclosure law, every report marked "None" on the line asking filers to name any foreign entity's interest in the specific issues lobbied. ¹²

In August 2026, CRFB filed a federal complaint against Smithfield's new lobbying firm, Greenberg Traurig, for failing to disclose WH Group's interest in its lobbying.

Two weeks later, on Aug. 18, 2026, the firm amended the report to name WH Group. ^{12, 37}

The disclosure only lasted 16 days. After the complaint drew public attention, Greenberg Traurig quietly filed a second amendment that deleted WH Group's name from the lobbying report. Senator Rick Scott (R-FL) responded on social media: "This is strange. My office is looking into this." ^{12, 38, 39}

"This is strange. My office is looking into this."

Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL), after Smithfield's lobbying firm deleted WH Group from its amended report, September 2026

CCP-Controlled Syngenta: The Same Gap, and a Bigger One

Smithfield is not the only offender. Syngenta's own lobbying reports have left the foreign-interest line blank on every quarterly report since at least 2017. Two outside firms Syngenta hired in 2025 listed no foreign owner at all. Federal law requires a registration to list any foreign entity owning at least 20 percent of the client. Sinochem owns all of Syngenta. ^{11, 14}

One outside firm, Checkmate Government Relations, registered for Syngenta Corporation on Sept. 11, 2025. It reported lobbying the White House, HHS and USDA in late 2025, at \$115,000 to \$140,000 a quarter. That was the height of the MAHA pesticide fight. In violation of federal law, it also didn't disclose Syngenta's CCP owner's interest.¹⁴

When a company under substantial or complete foreign control lobbies on farmland, food security, pesticides, Farm Bill provisions or other issues affecting its parent's economic interests, the foreign interest should be unmistakable to lawmakers and the public.

5 Follow the Money: Who Took It and What They Did

In addition to lobbying, Smithfield and Syngenta have spent millions on political donations to federal and state candidates in both major parties.

Nearly \$2.5 Million in Political Money

Since the Chinese takeovers, Smithfield and Syngenta have put nearly \$2.5 million into American politics. Syngenta's figures run from May 18, 2017, and Smithfield's from Sept. 26, 2013, through Aug. 31, 2026.^{15, 16, 17, 18}

TABLE 2 Political money from Smithfield and Syngenta since the Chinese takeovers

CATEGORY	SYNGENTA	SMITHFIELD	COMBINED
PAC money to federal candidates, PACs and party committees (net of refunds)	\$1,161,650	\$527,569	\$1,689,219
PAC money to state and local candidates and caucuses	\$239,000	\$290,800	\$529,800
Corporate gift to the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee	\$250,000	None found	\$250,000
Total	\$1,650,650	\$818,369	\$2,469,019

The federal total includes \$72,500 to party committees. Syngenta's PAC gave the Republican National Committee \$15,000 and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC) \$7,500. Smithfield's HAMPAC gave the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) \$25,000, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) \$20,000 and the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC) \$5,000. The two PACs funded 246 federal candidates and more than 200 state and local candidates, mostly in North Carolina and Iowa. Neither PAC gave to a Trump campaign committee.^{15, 16, 18}

Smithfield's HAMPAC

Smithfield Foods Inc. Political Action Committee (HAMPAC), FEC ID C00359075, remains active. Through Aug. 31, 2026, it reported \$26,145.89 in receipts, \$9,500 in federal disbursements and \$30,637.20 cash on hand this cycle. Its checks reach the lawmakers who matter most to its Farm Bill agenda.

This cycle it gave \$2,500 to House Agriculture Chairman Glenn Thompson (R-PA) and \$1,000 each to Reps. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL) and Andy Harris (R-MD). In 2023–24 it gave \$1,250 to Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA), the Save Our Bacon Act's sponsor. It also gave \$1,250 each to Reps. Zach Nunn (R-IA) and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and \$3,000 to Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC).

Since the 2013 takeover, Smithfield's HAMPAC has given \$250,600 to current members of Congress. The top recipients are Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC, \$21,200), Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC, \$17,000), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA, \$14,150) and Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA, \$13,000).^{16, 18}

It is worth noting that the PAC of Smithfield's trade association, the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), where China-owned Smithfield is the only company ever to hold two board seats at once^{40, 42}, has also given about \$3.3 million to federal candidates and political committees since Smithfield was purchased by China in 2013⁴¹. NPPC's PorkPAC gave about \$2 million to 170 sitting members, including 110 Republicans and 60 Democrats.⁴¹ NPPC has "intensively lobbied" to pass the Save Our Bacon Act.⁴² NPPC's PAC has given \$30,000 to Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA), \$10,000 of which came this Congress while she was sponsoring the Save Our Bacon Act.⁴¹ Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) is leading the Senate version of the Save Our Bacon Act and NPPC's PAC has given her \$31,000, including \$10,000 this Congress, counting her leadership PAC.^{20, 41}

A recent analysis found that NPPC has received \$66 million in farmers' mandatory "checkoff" fees—essentially an indirect tax on consumers—from the National Pork Board and that some of that funding was used for lobbying by NPPC, in potential violation of law.⁴²



FIGURE 3 Sen. Joni Ernst accepts the National Pork Producers Council's inaugural "Bringing Home the Bacon" award in September 2026. NPPC specifically praised Ernst's SOB Act work and announced the award the same day her amendment to add the SOB Act to the Senate Farm Bill failed in committee.^{49, 82}

CCP-Controlled Syngenta's PAC

Syngenta Corporation Employee Political Action Committee, FEC ID C00363945, is classified as a Lobbyist/Registrant PAC. FEC records show \$323,415.17 in receipts for 2025–26 through Aug. 31, 2026.¹⁵

The PAC reported \$262,500 in contributions to federal candidates and committees in 2021–22, \$524,650 in 2023–24 and \$173,000 so far in 2025–26. Candidates separately refunded \$22,000, \$23,700 and \$10,000.

Recent recipients include the Republican National Committee (\$15,000, January 2026) and the DCCC (\$7,500, March 2026). Since ChemChina took control in May 2017, the PAC has given \$954,000 to current members of Congress and their leadership PACs, net of refunds and voided checks.

Syngenta Corporation also reported a \$250,000 contribution to the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, dated Dec. 30, 2024. That corporate gift is separate from the PAC totals above.¹⁷

At Least 39 Current Members of Congress Took Money From Both

At least 39 current members of Congress have taken and kept money from both China-owned Smithfield's PAC and CCP-controlled Syngenta's PAC. Appendix A4 lists them.^{15, 16, 18}

- Agriculture committee leaders feature prominently: Senate Agriculture Chairman John Boozman (R-AR), House Agriculture Chairman Glenn Thompson (R-PA), former House Agriculture Chairmen Frank Lucas (R-OK) and David Scott (D-GA), senior House Agriculture Democrat Jim Costa (D-CA) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), the top Senate Agriculture Democrat.
- Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) and House Majority Whip Tom Emmer (R-MN) are also on the list.
- Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC), a Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor, has taken \$40,700 from the two PACs, more than any other current member. No current member has taken more from Smithfield's PAC.
- Iowa's entire congressional delegation is on the list: Sens. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Joni Ernst (R-IA), and Reps. Randy Feenstra (R-IA), Ashley Hinson (R-IA), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and Zach Nunn (R-IA).
- Former Sen. David Perdue (R-GA) took money from both PACs while in office. He is now U.S. ambassador to China.

Who Took the Money, and What Did They Do

The checks matter most when they land in the campaign accounts of lawmakers with power over the donor's agenda. Thirteen lawmakers took money from both PACs while writing the Farm Bill, backing the Save Our Bacon Act or its Senate counterpart, or fighting tighter atrazine limits. Figures run from each takeover through Aug. 2026, including leadership PACs and net of refunds. ^{15, 16, 18, 19, 20,}

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FIGURE 2 Eight of the thirteen lawmakers who took money from both PACs while writing the Farm Bill or backing the Save Our Bacon Act

			
Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) House Agriculture Chairman	Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) Senate Agriculture Chairman	Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA) Introduced the Save Our Bacon Act	Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) Led the Senate's SOB companion
\$28,500 Syngenta PAC \$3,500 Smithfield HAMPAC	\$25,000 Syngenta PAC \$7,000 Smithfield HAMPAC	\$2,500 Syngenta PAC \$1,250 Smithfield HAMPAC	\$9,500 Syngenta PAC \$13,000 Smithfield HAMPAC
			
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) Co-led the Senate's SOB companion	Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC) Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor	Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA) Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor	Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA) Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor
\$20,000 Syngenta PAC \$3,500 Smithfield HAMPAC	\$19,500 Syngenta PAC \$21,200 Smithfield HAMPAC	\$18,000 Syngenta PAC \$3,500 Smithfield HAMPAC	\$17,500 Syngenta PAC \$1,250 Smithfield HAMPAC

PAC totals since each company's Chinese takeover through Aug. 2026, including leadership PACs and net of refunds, as reported in Table 3. Official congressional portraits.

TABLE 3 Thirteen lawmakers who took money from both PACs while holding power over the donors' priorities

LAWMAKER	SYNGENTA PAC	SMITHFIELD'S HAMPAC	ACTION
Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA)	\$28,500	\$3,500	House Agriculture chairman; led the 2026 House Farm Bill, which included the Save Our Bacon Act
John Boozman (R-AR)	\$25,000	\$7,000	Senate Agriculture chairman; his committee reported the Senate Farm Bill in September 2026
Ashley Hinson (R-IA)	\$2,500	\$1,250	Introduced the Save Our Bacon Act; signed the 2023 atrazine letter
Joni Ernst (R-IA)	\$9,500	\$13,000	Led the Senate’s SOB companion; sought to add Save Our Bacon to the Senate Farm Bill
Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	\$20,000	\$3,500	Co-led the Senate’s SOB companion
David Rouzer (R-NC)	\$19,500	\$21,200	Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor
Randy Feenstra (R-IA)	\$18,000	\$3,500	Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor; signed the 2023 atrazine letter
Sam Graves (R-MO)	\$21,000	\$1,000	Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor; signed the 2023 atrazine letter
Adrian Smith (R-NE)	\$19,500	\$3,000	Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor; signed the 2023 atrazine letter
Zach Nunn (R-IA)	\$17,500	\$1,250	Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor; signed the 2023 atrazine letter
Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)	\$15,000	\$3,750	Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor; signed the 2023 atrazine letter
Dusty Johnson (R-SD)	\$6,000	\$3,000	Save Our Bacon Act cosponsor; signed the 2023 atrazine letter
Frank Lucas (R-OK)	\$20,000	\$5,500	Former House Agriculture chairman; signed the 2023 atrazine letter

The pattern is simple. A company lobbies for a policy. A lawmaker takes its PAC money and sponsors, backs or controls that policy. Readers can judge the relationship.

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA), who controls the House floor, took \$16,000 from Syngenta’s PAC, counting his leadership PAC. The list is not limited to Republicans. Democrats who took money from both PACs include Reps. Jim Costa (D-CA) and David Scott (D-GA) and Sens. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN). ^{15, 16, 18}

State Money Follows Pesticide Regulators and Hog Country

CCP-controlled Syngenta's state PAC money follows its regulators. About a quarter of its \$239,000 in state giving, roughly \$62,500, went to state agriculture commissioners in eight states. Those officials register and police pesticides in their states. The biggest recipients were North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring (R) and Iowa Agriculture Secretary Mike Naig (R), at \$17,500 each. Syngenta's largest state, North Carolina, is home to its U.S. headquarters.^{15, 18}

China-owned Smithfield's PAC has given more than \$200,000 to North Carolina state candidates since the takeover. Its giving peaked in 2018, as the legislature rewrote state nuisance law over the governor's veto. Smithfield's hog subsidiary, Murphy-Brown, was then facing trial in neighbors' nuisance suits. The PAC had funded lead sponsors of both the 2017 and 2018 laws, including Rep. Jimmy Dixon (R) and Sen. Brent Jackson (R). Jackson is its largest state recipient, at \$31,800.^{16, 18, 43, 44, 45}

6 The PRC Pork Lobby's Prize: The Save Our Bacon Act

The Save Our Bacon Act (H.R. 4673/S. 1326) would overturn state farm animal welfare and food safety laws and bar state and local governments from regulating the production of livestock in other states. That would gut California's Proposition 12 law for out-of-state pork. Despite significant opposition from Republicans and Democrats, the House folded it into the Farm Bill it narrowly passed April 30, 2026.



FIGURE 4 Sows in gestation crates. The Save Our Bacon Act would overturn state farm animal welfare laws, including California's Proposition 12.

Photo: We Animals Media

On Sept. 16, the Senate Agriculture Committee approved its own Farm Bill 12-11 without the SOB Act included. Chairman John Boozman (R-AR) blocked Sen. Joni Ernst's bid to add it in committee. The fight now moves to the Senate floor and a House-Senate conference. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) vehemently opposes the SOB Act⁴⁶ and one of the bill's original sponsors, Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS), has removed his name from the controversial bill.⁴⁷

China-owned Smithfield Foods' lobbyists reported work on Farm Bill reauthorization and "promoting science-based animal welfare standards" and POLITICO has reported that Smithfield "is part of the coalition of pork companies pushing for the policy change."^{12, 48, 49, 50, 51}

The SOB Act has drawn intense criticism from farmers and consumers because its federal preemption would override state ballot measures and legislatures, and could erase animal-welfare, consumer and public-health standards enacted through hundreds of state laws across the U.S.

A July 2026 Mason-Dixon poll of 625 registered Iowa voters, released by the Farm Action Fund, found 52% opposed it once they heard more about it, while 30% supported it. Seventy-four percent said states should set their own food and farm standards.⁵² Iowa Farmers Union President Aaron Lehman and Hardin County farmer John Gilbert have argued the bill would hurt small producers.⁵³ Delaware County hog farmer Anna Pesek called the push for it "deeply disappointing."⁵²

SOB Act Champions Who Took Chinese-Controlled PAC Money

The overlap is visible in lawmakers' own public statements. The examples below pair Smithfield PAC money since the 2013 takeover with official statements backing the Save Our Bacon Act or other federal action to limit Proposition 12's reach.^{15, 16, 18}

TABLE 4 Save Our Bacon Act champions and their Smithfield PAC money since 2013

LAWMAKER	SMITHFIELD PAC SINCE 2013	PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR SAVE OUR BACON ACT / PROP. 12 FIX	SOURCE
Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA)	\$1,250	Introduced the Save Our Bacon Act and called Prop. 12 and Massachusetts' Question 3 "a major threat to family farms and food security."	54
Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)	\$13,000	Led the Senate's Food Security and Farm Protection Act to override Prop. 12, calling it "dangerous and arbitrary overregulation." Sought to add the Save Our Bacon Act to the Senate Farm Bill.	20, 49
Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA)	\$3,500	At a House Agriculture hearing, said "we must provide a fix for Proposition 12."	55
Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA)	\$1,250	Promoted the Save Our Bacon Act in an official House post, saying California was trying to dictate how the country farms and that Congress should stop Prop. 12-style mandates.	56
Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)	\$3,500	Says he introduced the Save Our Bacon Act "alongside Congresswoman Ashley Hinson" to end Prop. 12's "unfair mandate" on Iowa pork producers.	57

Smithfield's HAMPAC also gave to the bill's leading champions. Smithfield's HAMPAC gave Chairman Thompson \$2,500 on Oct. 14, 2025, less than three months after the bill's introduction. It gave Hinson \$1,250 in August 2023.¹⁶



FIGURE 5 A banner flown over the Iowa State Fair.

7 CCP-Owned Syngenta: The Chemicals Already Under Fire from MAHA

Atrazine

Syngenta's atrazine is one of the most widely used herbicides in American agriculture and one of the company's most controversial products. The EPA has identified potential risks for children playing on treated lawns and for workers who mix, load or apply atrazine.⁵⁸

Atrazine has become a major target of the MAHA movement. Before joining the administration as Health Secretary, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. attacked the chemical by name. In a June 2023 interview with Jordan Peterson, he claimed atrazine will “chemically castrate and forcibly feminize” male frogs, and suggested similar effects in people.⁵⁹

In 2025, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified atrazine as probably carcinogenic to humans.⁶⁰

In September 2026, the Center for Biological Diversity released an analysis of EPA data. It found atrazine at levels the group says harm aquatic wildlife in nearly 25 percent of continental U.S. river miles, about 860,000 miles. Those waterways feed more than 20 percent of U.S. surface drinking-water intakes. More than 675,000 drinking-water wells sit in heavily affected areas.^{61, 62}

Atrazine is reportedly now banned in 60 countries.⁶³

But, despite the mounting evidence of its dangers to human and environmental health, lawmakers, including those who have received campaign contributions from Syngenta's PAC, have fought back against tighter restrictions on its use.

Syngenta PAC funding recipients U.S. Reps. Mark Alford (R-MO) and Tracey Mann (R-KS) led more than three dozen House Republican colleagues on a letter opposing limits on atrazine's use. Other signers who also took Syngenta PAC money after the Chinese takeover include Zach Nunn (R-IA, \$17,500), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA, \$15,000) and Ashley Hinson (R-IA, \$2,500).^{18, 19}

Lawmakers Who Defended Atrazine After Receiving Syngenta PAC Support

CCP-controlled Syngenta's PAC money also flows to the lawmakers who fought tighter EPA limits on atrazine.^{19, 64}

TABLE 5 Lawmakers who defended atrazine after receiving Syngenta PAC support

LAWMAKER	SYNGENTA PAC SINCE MAY 2017	ATRAZINE POSITION/ACTION
Jason Smith (R-MO)	\$13,500	At a 2020 EPA event, called atrazine a “trusted and effective tool for producers” and praised the Trump administration for ensuring “continued access to a critical herbicide.”
Tracey Mann (R-KS)	\$17,000	Co-led a 2023 House letter challenging EPA’s atrazine review process and seeking broader consideration of studies and agricultural expertise.
Brad Finstad (R-MN)	\$25,000	Signed the 2023 congressional letter pushing EPA to broaden its atrazine Scientific Advisory Panel review.
Sam Graves (R-MO)	\$21,000	Signed the 2023 atrazine letter to EPA.
Adrian Smith (R-NE)	\$19,500	Signed the 2023 atrazine letter to EPA.
Randy Feenstra (R-IA)	\$18,000	Signed the 2023 atrazine letter to EPA.
Frank Lucas (R-OK)	\$20,000	Signed the 2023 atrazine letter to EPA.
Dusty Johnson (R-SD)	\$6,000	Signed the 2023 atrazine letter to EPA.

Trump Administration: A Separate Financial and Regulatory Overlap

Administration-level money is separate from candidate PAC giving. Syngenta Corporation reported a \$250,000 contribution to the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee, dated Dec. 30, 2024. In January 2026, Syngenta’s PAC also gave \$15,000 to the Republican National Committee.^{15, 17}

Since CCP-controlled Syngenta gave \$250,000 to President Trump’s inaugural committee in December 2024, federal agencies under Trump have repeatedly acted in its favor.

In May 2025, Health Secretary Kennedy’s MAHA Commission named atrazine, an endocrine disruptor linked to cancer in farmers and one of Syngenta’s best-known weed-killers, among harmful children’s chemical exposures. Over the next quarter, Syngenta more than doubled its in-house lobbying, to \$420,000, and hired a new firm to lobby the White House, Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The final MAHA strategy, released that September, dropped atrazine by name.^{11, 14, 22, 65}

When the WHO’s cancer agency issued a new cancer classification for atrazine last year, Trump’s EPA attacked the finding in terms that echoed Syngenta’s own statement.⁶⁶

In May 2026, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concluded atrazine poses no extinction risk to endangered species.⁶⁷ Trump’s Justice Department also backed the pesticide industry’s liability shield. It urged the Supreme Court to bar failure-to-warn claims, like lawsuits alleging Syngenta hid paraquat’s link to Parkinson’s.^{68, 69}

In November 2025, EPA approved two new Syngenta pesticides, cyclobutrifluram and isocycloseram, that critics classify as “forever chemicals.”^{23, 24, 70}

The administration has also moved against Syngenta, but apparently only on paper. On July 8, 2025, Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins unveiled the National Farm Security Action Plan and named Smithfield and Syngenta. She said the administration would use “multiple different authorities within the federal government to begin to claw that back,” referring to U.S. farmland the companies hold.⁷¹

But, CRFB found no federal action since then forcing either company to sell U.S. farmland.

One state has acted, however. In October 2023, Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin (R) fined Syngenta Seeds \$280,000 for failing to report its Chinese ownership of 160 acres in Craighead County. He ordered the land sold under Arkansas’s ban on farmland ownership by Chinese state-owned companies, calling the case “a warning to all other Chinese state-owned companies operating in Arkansas.” Syngenta sold the land in 2025. It is the only government action CRFB found that has forced Syngenta off U.S. farmland.^{72, 73}

Pesticide Liability: MAHA Republicans Join Progressive Democrats

MAHA-aligned Republicans and progressive Democrats are challenging legal protections favored by pesticide manufacturers like Syngenta and allied agriculture groups.

On July 21, 2026, Reps. Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) introduced the Americans vs. Poisonous Pesticides Act (H.R. 9807) with Reps. Thomas Massie (R-KY) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME). The bill would preserve specified state failure-to-warn claims and keep EPA label approval from serving as an automatic complete defense. It responds to the Supreme Court’s June 2026 decision in *Monsanto v. Durnell*.⁷⁴

Pingree and Massie separately introduced the People Over Poison Act and moved to strip pesticide-immunity language from the House Farm Bill.^{75, 76} Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC) introduced the Pesticide Harm Accountability Act (H.R. 10144) to reverse Durnell, arguing that injured consumers should keep access to court.⁷⁷

MAHA Action called Syngenta “the principal beneficiary” of pesticide liability-shield actions.⁷⁸

CCP-controlled Syngenta’s federal lobbying reports identify the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, pesticide registration, the Farm Bill and EPA pesticide processes among its priorities.

Syngenta is paying to shape the rules that govern its own products.

8 CRFB's Accountability Demand

CRFB's position is straightforward: members of Congress should not keep direct PAC money from China-owned Smithfield Foods or CCP-owned and CCP-controlled Syngenta while those companies lobby Washington on U.S. agriculture, food, farmland and pesticide policy.

Accordingly, CRFB calls on every currently serving federal lawmaker who received Smithfield's HAMPAC contributions after the 2013 acquisition or CCP-controlled Syngenta's PAC contributions after the 2017 acquisition, including gifts to their leadership PACs, to either:

1. Return the contribution to the PAC; or
2. Donate an equivalent amount to a bona fide charitable organization and publicly disclose the donation.

Returning the money is not a radical ask. Two Republicans have already done it. In 2022, Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) returned \$16,500 to Syngenta's PAC and \$1,000 to Smithfield's HAMPAC. His campaign said he acted "upon learning Syngenta and Smithfield are wholly owned or controlled by the Chinese government." Newhouse later said it "just seemed to be the appropriate thing to do since I was working on legislation that probably was not in their interest."^{79, 80}

In March 2024, Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI) refunded Syngenta's \$5,000. "I don't think members of Congress should be accepting money from the Chinese Communist Party," he said.⁸⁰

"I don't think members of Congress should be accepting money from the Chinese Communist Party."

Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI), on refunding Syngenta's PAC, March 2024

Others have refused. Asked in 2024, House Agriculture Chairman Glenn Thompson (R-PA) called a refund "not necessary or needed." Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) declined to return Syngenta's money. Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) said he had not considered it, and Sen. John Thune (R-SD) said he was unaware of the donations. Since then, Syngenta's PAC has given Thompson another \$8,500, counting his leadership PAC.^{15, 18, 80}

Appendix A lists the members reviewed and the amounts each received.

CRFB also calls on the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House to refer Smithfield and Syngenta lobbyists and their noncompliant filings that fail to disclose their Chinese owners' interest in the issues lobbied to the U.S. Justice Department.

Conclusion: Foreign Control, Domestic Influence

China-owned Smithfield Foods and CCP-controlled Syngenta both answer to owners in China. Both lobby Washington on rules that shape their bottom lines and can have negative consequences for Americans. Both have kept their foreign owners' interest off the lobbying-disclosure line meant to show it. Their PACs fund the lawmakers who write those rules. CRFB's position is simple: lawmakers should give the money back, and both companies should come clean about who they answer to.

Appendix A: Publication Data Tables

A1. Syngenta PAC: Recent Cycle Summary

CYCLE	CONTRIBUTIONS TO FEDERAL CANDIDATES AND COMMITTEES (FEC LINE 23)
2021–22	\$262,500
2023–24	\$524,650
2025–26 (through Aug. 31, 2026)	\$173,000

Source: FEC committee summaries for C00363945. Line 23 includes party committees and leadership PACs as well as candidates, net of voided checks.¹⁵

A2. Smithfield's HAMPAC

FEC ID C00359075. Current-cycle totals through Aug. 31, 2026: \$26,145.89 receipts; \$9,500 federal disbursements; \$30,637.20 cash on hand.¹⁶

RECIPIENT	CYCLE	SMITHFIELD'S HAMPAC CONTRIBUTION
Glenn Thompson (R-PA)	2025–26	\$2,500
Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)	2025–26	\$1,000
Andy Harris (R-MD)	2025–26	\$1,000
Meat Institute PAC	2025–26	\$5,000
Mark Warner (D-VA)	2023–24	\$5,000
David Rouzer (R-NC)	2023–24	\$3,000
Tim Kaine (D-VA)	2023–24	\$2,500
Heartland Values PAC (Sen. John Thune)	2023–24	\$2,500
Andy Harris (R-MD)	2023–24	\$2,000
Don Davis (D-NC)	2023–24	\$2,000
Ashley Hinson (R-IA)	2023–24	\$1,250
Zach Nunn (R-IA)	2023–24	\$1,250
Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)	2023–24	\$1,250
Jim Costa (D-CA)	2023–24	\$1,000
John Barrasso (R-WY)	2023–24	\$1,000
Pete Ricketts (R-NE)	2023–24	\$1,000

Terri Sewell (D-AL)	2023–24	\$1,000
Celeste Maloy (R-UT)	2023–24	\$1,000
Scott for Congress (VA)	2023–24	\$1,000
NRSC	2023–24	\$10,000
DSCC	2023–24	\$10,000

A \$1,250 check to Randy Feenstra never cleared.¹⁶

A3. Current Members Who Took \$10,000 or More Since the Chinese Takeovers

MEMBER	SYNGENTA PAC (SINCE MAY 2017)	SMITHFIELD'S HAMPAC (SINCE SEPT. 2013)	TOTAL
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)	\$45,000	\$2,000	\$47,000
Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC)	\$19,500	\$21,200	\$40,700
Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)	\$25,000	\$7,000	\$32,000
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA)	\$28,500	\$3,500	\$32,000
Sen. John Thune (R-SD)	\$20,000	\$9,500	\$29,500
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN)	\$26,500	\$0	\$26,500
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$26,000
Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK)	\$20,000	\$5,500	\$25,500
Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN)	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL)	\$22,500	\$2,000	\$24,500
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	\$20,000	\$3,500	\$23,500
Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)	\$20,500	\$3,000	\$23,500
Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)	\$19,500	\$3,000	\$22,500
Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)	\$9,500	\$13,000	\$22,500
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)	\$5,000	\$17,000	\$22,000
Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)	\$21,000	\$1,000	\$22,000
Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)	\$18,000	\$3,500	\$21,500
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)	\$14,000	\$6,000	\$20,000
Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)	\$15,000	\$3,750	\$18,750
Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA)	\$17,500	\$1,250	\$18,750

Rep. Michelle Fischbach (R-MN)	\$18,500	\$0	\$18,500
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL)	\$17,500	\$0	\$17,500
Rep. Tracey Mann (R-KS)	\$17,000	\$0	\$17,000
Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD)	\$14,000	\$3,000	\$17,000
Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL)	\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000
Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA)	\$16,000	\$0	\$16,000
Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)	\$0	\$14,150	\$14,150
Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)	\$14,000	\$0	\$14,000
Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID)	\$13,500	\$0	\$13,500
Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO)	\$13,500	\$0	\$13,500
Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY)	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500
Sen. Tim Scott (R-SC)	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500
Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA)	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Rep. Kat Cammack (R-FL)	\$12,000	\$0	\$12,000
Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT)	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000
Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN)	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$11,000
Rep. John Rose (R-TN)	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000
Rep. Mike Flood (R-NE)	\$10,500	\$0	\$10,500

All 139 current members who received money total \$1,204,600: \$954,000 from Syngenta’s PAC and \$250,600 from Smithfield’s HAMPAC. Figures include leadership PACs and joint fundraising committees tied to each member, net of refunds and voided checks. Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA) returned his Syngenta and Smithfield money in 2022 and is excluded; Rep. Derrick Van Orden (R-WI) refunded Syngenta’s \$5,000 in 2024. ^{15, 16, 18, 81}

A4. Current Members Who Took Money From Both PACs

MEMBER	SYNGENTA PAC (SINCE MAY 2017)	SMITHFIELD’S HAMPAC (SINCE SEPT. 2013)	TOTAL
Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC)	\$19,500	\$21,200	\$40,700
Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA)	\$23,500	\$3,500	\$27,000
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$26,000
Sen. John Boozman (R-AR)	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$26,000

Rep. Frank Lucas (R-OK)	\$20,000	\$5,500	\$25,500
Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL)	\$22,500	\$2,000	\$24,500
Rep. Adrian Smith (R-NE)	\$19,500	\$3,000	\$22,500
Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO)	\$21,000	\$1,000	\$22,000
Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA)	\$17,000	\$3,500	\$20,500
Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)	\$14,000	\$6,000	\$20,000
Rep. David Scott (D-GA)	\$15,000	\$5,000	\$20,000
Sen. John Thune (R-SD)	\$15,000	\$4,500	\$19,500
Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE)	\$15,500	\$3,000	\$18,500
Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA)	\$14,000	\$3,750	\$17,750
Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)	\$5,000	\$12,000	\$17,000
Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA)	\$15,000	\$1,250	\$16,250
Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	\$12,500	\$3,500	\$16,000
Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA)	\$8,500	\$7,000	\$15,500
Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$12,000
Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN)	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$11,000
Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$9,000
Rep. Dusty Johnson (R-SD)	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$9,000
Sen. Mike Rounds (R-SD)	\$6,500	\$2,000	\$8,500
Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA)	\$7,500	\$1,000	\$8,500
Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC)	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$7,500
Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	\$2,700	\$4,500	\$7,200
Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND)	\$2,500	\$4,500	\$7,000
Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC)	\$3,500	\$3,000	\$6,500
Rep. Don Davis (D-NC)	\$3,500	\$3,000	\$6,500
Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL)	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$6,000
Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE)	\$5,000	\$1,000	\$6,000
Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$5,500
Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX)	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$5,500
Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA)	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$3,750
Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR)	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$3,500
Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO)	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$3,500

Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA)	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$3,500
Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$3,000
Rep. Hal Rogers (R-KY)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000

Figures are direct contributions to each member’s campaign committee, net of refunds and voided checks. They exclude leadership PACs, so some totals differ from Appendix A3. The list includes 28 Republicans and 11 Democrats.^{15, 16, 18}

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Appendix C: Methodology

- Contribution figures come from FEC processed data and LDA LD-203 reports, net of voided checks and refunds, current as of Sept. 30, 2026.
- Since-takeover totals start May 18, 2017, when ChemChina took control of Syngenta, and Sept. 26, 2013, when Shuanghui's purchase of Smithfield closed. They run through Aug. 31, 2026, and count only members serving as of Sept. 30, 2026. Leadership PACs are matched to members using Syngenta's LD-203 reports.
- Lobbying totals come from Senate LDA filings, using the latest amendment for each report. Smithfield's total is fees reported by its outside firms. Syngenta's total is its own in-house reports, which may already include its outside firms' fees.
- Total political money adds each PAC's FEC Line 23 contributions, net of Line 16 refunds, and its Line 29 nonfederal contributions to state and local candidates. Candidate counts use FEC candidate IDs for federal candidates and committee names for state candidates.
- The 39-member list counts direct contributions to campaign committees only. The 139-member total also counts leadership PACs and joint fundraising committees.

PORK, PESTICIDES, AND THE CCP

Lawmakers should give the money back, and both companies should disclose who they answer to.



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