

Food News



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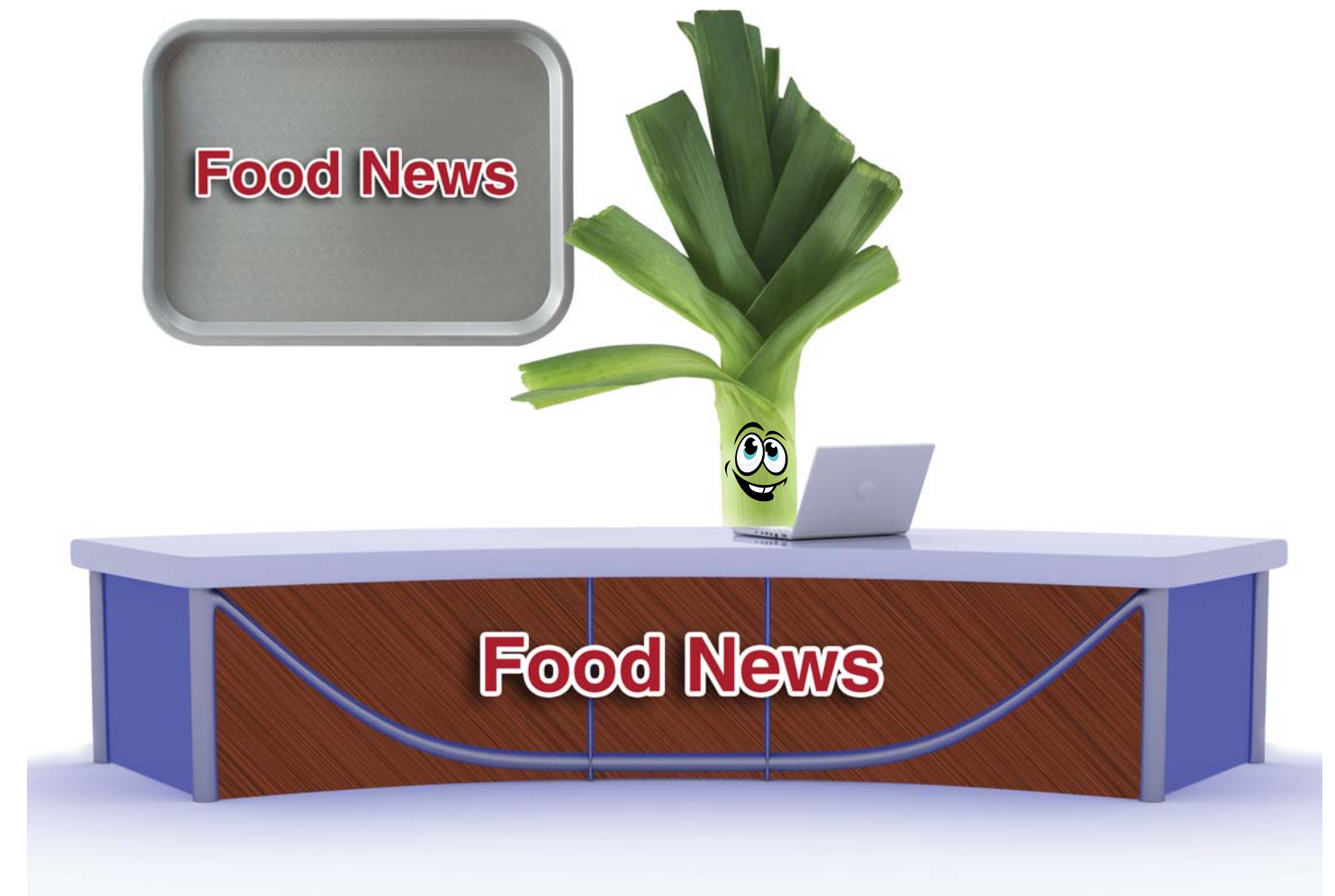
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Good morning, everyone, and welcome to today's *Food News* program.

I'm Olivia Leek, and I've got breaking news to get us started. Connie Carrot is at a local market interviewing members of the plant family, and she has just discovered that all the plants have one thing in common—they made themselves. You heard me right. They made themselves! Connie, are you there? Can you tell us how this could be possible?



Amazing! Consumers need food to grow and live just as producers do, but they can't do it by themselves. In fact, it takes a whole food village to support consumers. And producers need only water, carbon dioxide, and the Sun to make it happen. What a story! Join us next time when we examine a truly odd group of plants that are both producers and consumers—the carnivorous plants! This is Olivia Leek for Connie Carrot and Dan D. Lion thanking our producers for making *Food News*!



Yes, Olivia, I'm here with a tremendous story, something that you'll find hard to believe. I'm in a local store in the produce section talking to some of the fruits and vegetables and asking how they got to be where they are today. What I've heard is truly amazing! Let's start with Adam Apple here.



Okay, you heard it here first, Olivia. Food matters to consumers, too, even though they can't produce it themselves. They only consume it.



Good morning, Mr. Apple.

Good morning, Connie.

I understand, Adam, that you have an amazing story about how you came to be.

Yes, Connie. I guess you could say I'm the fruit of a self-made plant. You see, I was raised on an apple tree. My tree absorbed water through its roots and carbon dioxide through its leaves to make the food it needed to create me and all the other apples in my family. They're here with me today, too. That's them back there in the bin.



Fascinating! One last question: Do you consider yourself to be food? I mean, is that a way you would classify yourself?

I'm a living organism, and I need other living organisms for food. I don't like to think of myself as food, even though I know it's possible. In fact, I lost an uncle to a king snake a couple of years ago and a cousin to an owl more recently. I just try to look on the bright side and make the best of each day. Besides, I'm too busy hunting for food and raising my family to worry about it.



Wait, Adam. Let me get this straight. You said you and your apple family came from a tree?

Yes, that's right.

So the tree made you from water and gas. Aren't those nonliving substances?

That's the bottom line, Connie. I know it's hard to believe, but it's true. The roots of our tree also absorbed nutrients from the soil, but I have to say, if it weren't for the Sun, none of us would be here today.

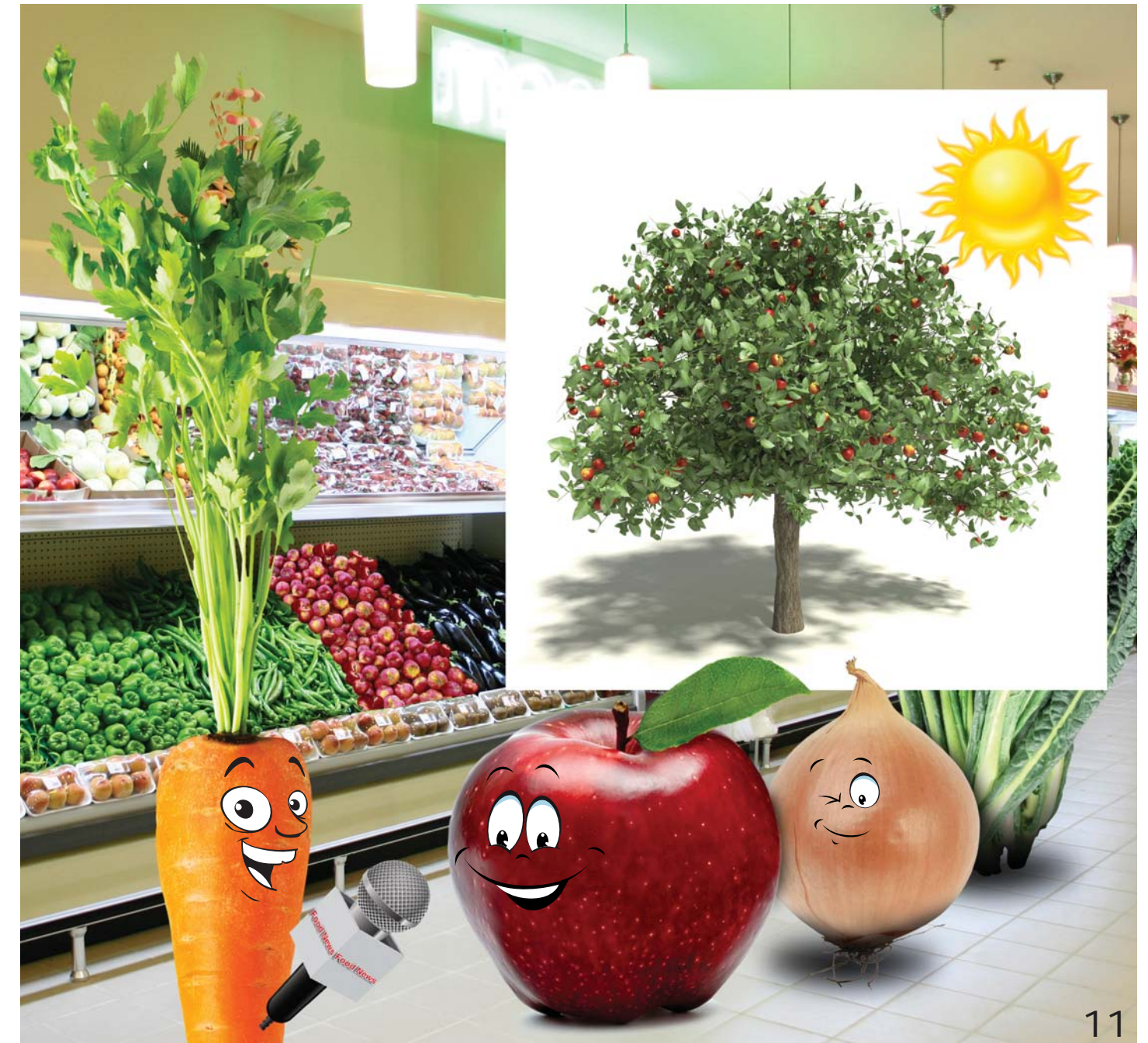
What do you mean?

The light from the Sun gets the whole process started. It helps plants like our tree make food for us to grow.

That's almost unbelievable!



Sure, Dan. I hunt for seeds, berries, insects, earthworms, and other types of food. After I find the food, I eat it. My body digests it so that I can maintain my daily life. Organisms like me are called consumers because we consume our food. Some folks might be familiar only with the consumers who shop in stores. My store is the ecosystem I hunt in.



Connie, this is Olivia. You've landed on an amazing story. Can we hear from someone else?

We sure can. Thank you, Mr. Apple. Olivia, I have Karla Kale with us here in the market, and she can help us understand this phenomenon. Good morning, Karla. How are you doing today?



Well, obviously, you grew from an infant to an adult, and that takes matter and energy from food. If you can't make food yourself, what do you do?

Well, I hunt for the food and eat it, Dan.

Could you explain that for the folks watching today?



I'm doing well.

Can you tell us about how you got to where you are today?

Yes. I'm a self-made plant.

Is your story similar to Mr. Apple's?

Yes, but I didn't grow on a tree. I grew directly in the ground.



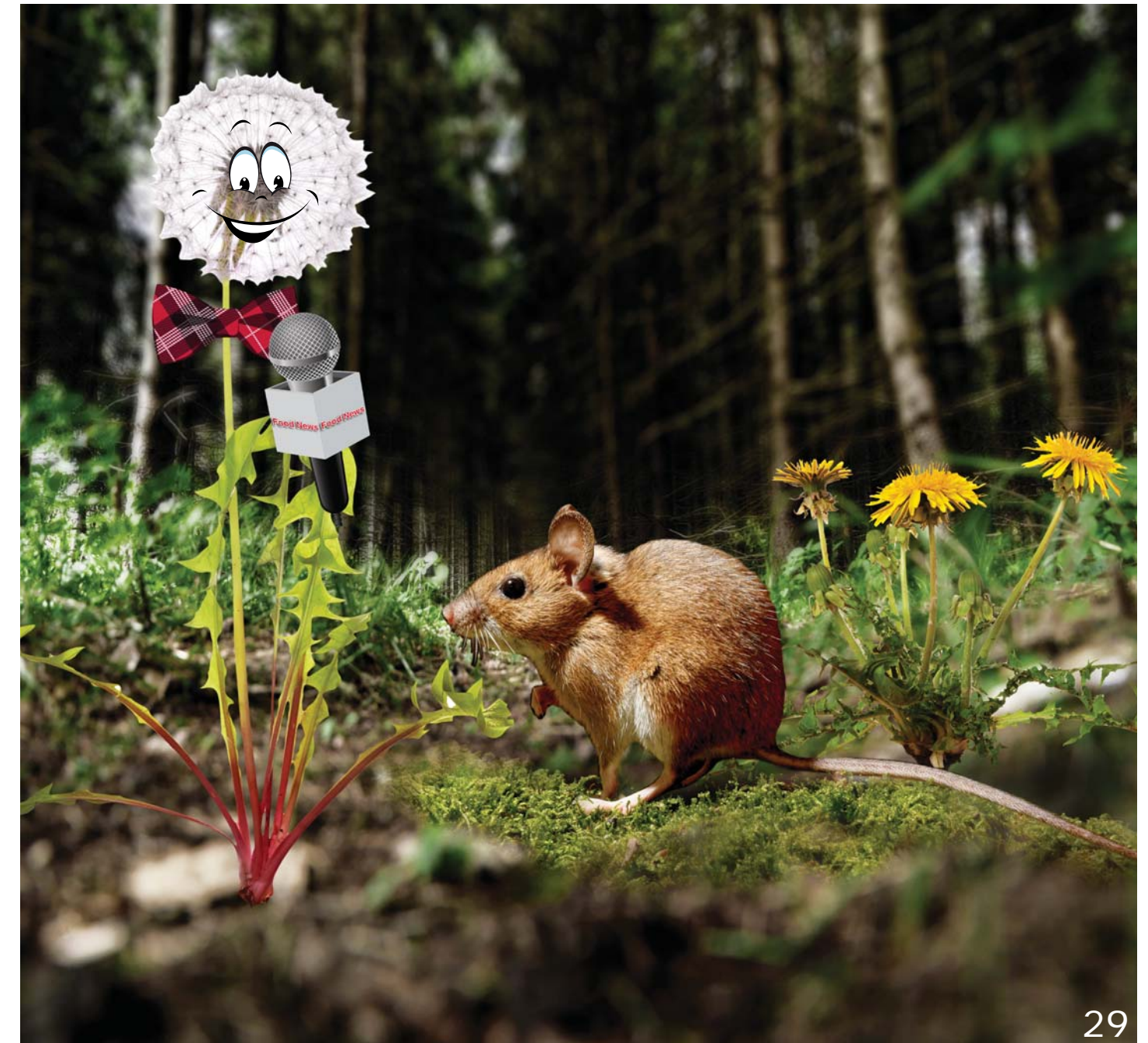
No, Dan, I can't. I drink water, inhale oxygen, and exhale carbon dioxide, but I can't make my own food. It doesn't matter how long I stay in the Sun; I still get hungry.



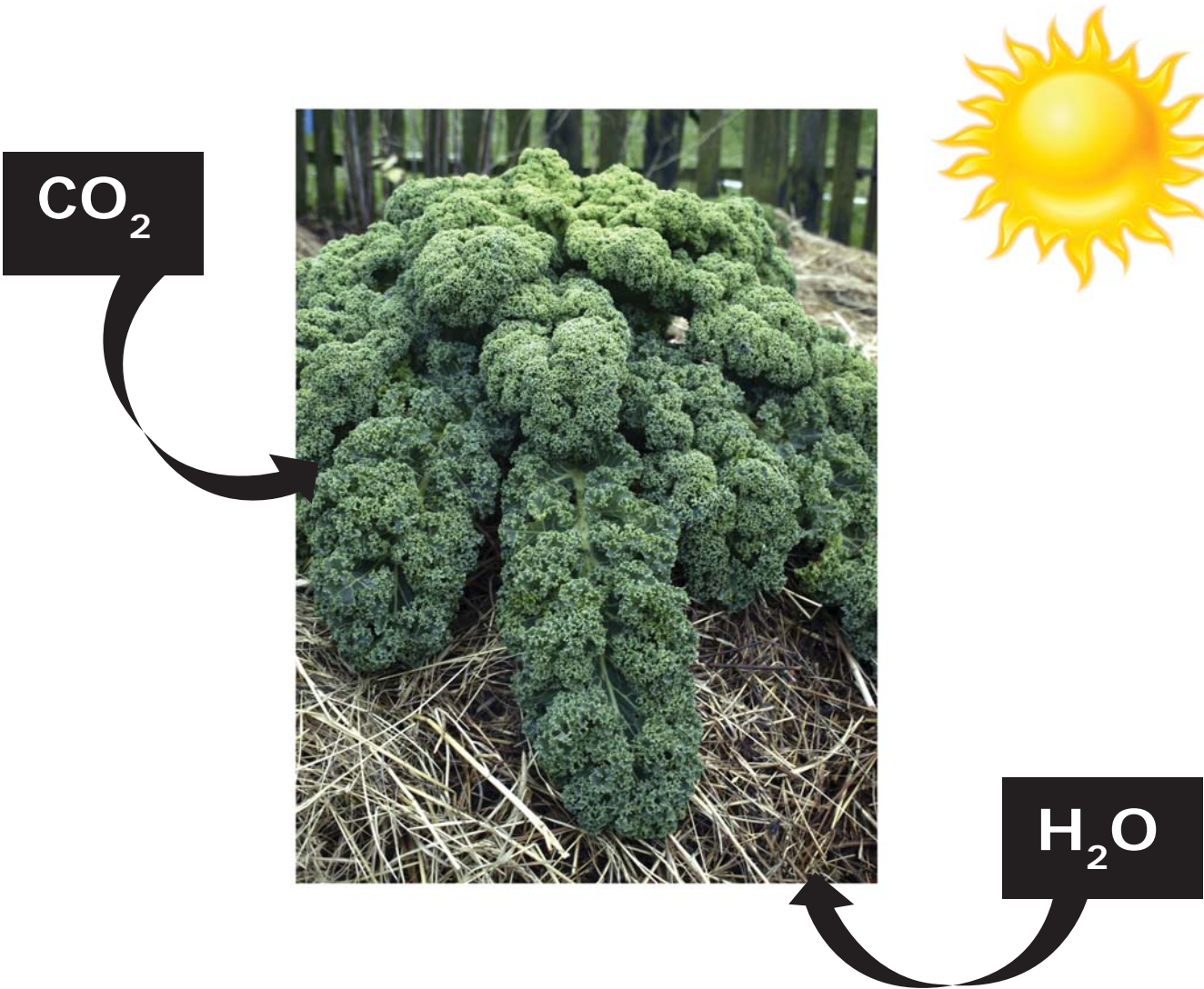
Like the tree, I used water and carbon dioxide to make my own food. Then, I used the food to help me grow and stay alive.

What about the Sun? Did the Sun help?

Yes. I have the Sun to thank for helping warm the soil so that I could sprout from my seed. The Sun also helps me make my food.



I have with me a local resident, Melanie Mouse. Melanie, let me ask you a few questions. First of all, can you make your own food as producers do?



One last thing, Karla. How do you classify yourself?

Connie, I don't really like to put myself in a box like that, but I feel I can speak for all plants by saying we are simply the most special organisms on Earth. We can make or produce our own food, and food matters. In fact, food is matter, and we use the food we make to grow and live. So, we make ourselves, and we feed ourselves while also feeding the world. Producers are truly the life of the party!

Thank you, Karla. That is a fantastic story.



Hello, folks, this is Dan D. Lion out in the field, and you'll notice that there are lots of plants around here making their own food. According to Connie, they must be producers, too, but, I'm not here to bring you their story. I'm here to capture another perspective.



Olivia, I have something else that will help this whole thing make sense. Every plant in here has the same story. They all credit the Sun for helping them get started. They all make their own food using water and carbon dioxide, and they use the food they make to live and grow. Now here's the thing: We are in the produce section of the market, right? Well, all these fruits and vegetables are known as producers! Get it? Produce produces itself. Producers! This is Connie Carrot reporting live from the produce section of a local market.



Well, that's not all we have, folks. Wait until you hear this. Dan, are you there?

Yes, Olivia, I am.

Dan is out in the field today, folks, with another fascinating report about food.



Thank you for that phenomenal report, Connie. It's just fantastic that this goes on every day right under our noses, and we don't even realize it. I mean, who would think a living organism could create its own food out of nonliving substances like water and a gas? It's amazing!

