



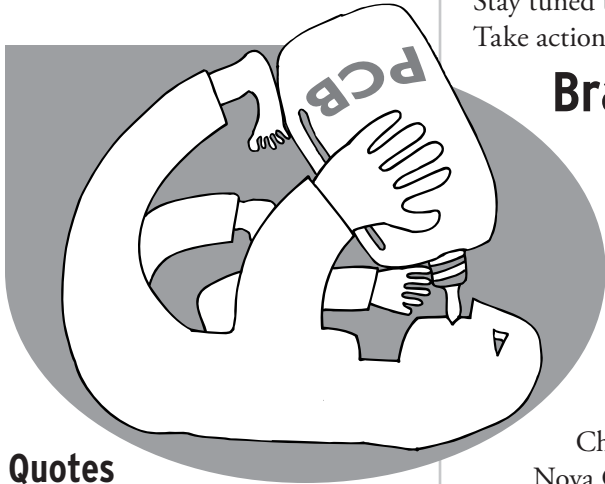
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## Proud To Be An American

Last week the United Nations voted on a resolution stating that all people have a "Right to Food". The common-sense resolution resulted in a near unanimous vote: 51 nations voted to approve it, and only one nation voted against it (the US). Read all about it: [organicconsumers.org/corp/042503\\_UN.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/corp/042503_UN.cfm)

## New Candy: Chocolate Covered Pork Fat

A Ukrainian candy company has begun marketing what may be the stickiest, richest and most fattening treat on the market: pure pork fat covered in chocolate. Cracking open a finger-sized stick of "Fat in Chocolate" reveals exactly that: a vein of white fat. (*USA Today* -Jan. 15)



## Quotes To Suck On

"Tell me what you eat, and I will tell you what you are." -Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826), *The Physiology of Taste*, 1825

"Food is an important part of a balanced diet." -Fran Lebowitz

# ORGANIC BYTES

Organic News Tidbits with an Edge... From the Organic Consumers Association

## 100% Organic Water?

According to the *Los Angeles Times*, the leading organic body care product corporations may have gotten away with too much for too long. A recent article in the newspaper pointed out that activists are gearing up to pressure the federal government into passing regulations that protect consumers from misleading advertising in the \$2.8 billion natural cosmetics industry. Unfortunately, the current USDA organic standards don't directly apply to body care products. As a result companies like Clairol advertise a "totally organic experience" with their Herbal Essences shampoos, when, truthfully, only a very small percentage of the product is actually organic. Other companies like Avalon, Nature's Gate and Kiss My Face claim their products are at least 70% organic, but take a close look at the back label and you'll find the main "organic" ingredient is water (infused with small amounts of organic herbs). The Organic Consumers Association will be filing a formal complaint to the California State Organic Program, regarding these labeling problems. Stay tuned to our website for more information.

Take action: [www.organicconsumers.org/bodycare/index.htm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/bodycare/index.htm)



## Brainwashing the Toxins Away

Researchers believe that environmental exposures are contributing to children's declining health status in the US. According to a recent study from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), since the early 1970s there has been a surprising increase in childhood cancer, asthma, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, reproductive defects, and autism. Among the suspects are lead, mercury, manganese, PCBs and dioxin. Not to worry, claims the American

Chemistry Council (ACC). According to Jeff Lipton, CEO of Nova Chemical Corporations and Board member of the ACC, the organization is about to launch an ad campaign "similar in size and scope" to the fifty million dollar effort some years ago by the American Plastics Council. "APC spends most of its money on TV commercials that focus on young, married women," Lipton said. "The commercials help young, married women feel that they and their families are safer because of plastic products. The concept has worked extremely well for plastics and it can work the same way for chemicals."

Read all about it: [www.organicconsumers.org/foodsafety/rachels042203.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/foodsafety/rachels042203.cfm)



## Organic Explosion Explodes Explosively

According to a new report issued by the USDA, "US farmland managed under organic systems expanded rapidly throughout the 1990s and has sustained that momentum". The report says that US farmers and ranchers have added another MILLION ACRES of certified organic cropland and pasture since 1997, bringing the 48-state total to 2.34 million acres in 2001. Pasture and rangeland more than doubled in the period, the number of certified organic beef cows, milk cows, hogs, sheep, and lambs went up nearly four-fold, and poultry showed even higher rates of growth. The US ranks fourth in the world for total organic acreage, but is not in the top ten as far as percentage of crop area—the top six are all European countries. The report mentioned that many EU countries—and some US states—subsidize conversion to organic farming for environmental reasons. Perhaps this is a factor in the disparity among states; nine actually lost organic acreage (mostly in the Southeast), while others grew rapidly. [organicconsumers.org/ge/usda042903.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/ge/usda042903.cfm)

## Funny Frigged-Up Ads of the Week

"Georgia Peaches—California Grown—89 cents/lb." (*Chris' Market Coupon Pages* - Sandstone, MN)

"Bars Sliced Bologna - Regular or Tasty - Save 30 cents on 2" (*Sheboygan Press* - Sheboygan, WI)

## Wheat War Wields Whacky Woes

Farmers across the US are building coalitions to fight the release of Monsanto's new genetically engineered "Round-Up Ready Wheat." A recent story in the *Washington Post* uncovers a massive new movement of conventional and organic farmers who are working together to pass state legislation that would put a moratorium on Monsanto's mutated wheat. North Dakota farmers met last week with Monsanto representatives to express their concerns about the new crop. Steven Pollestad, a conventional farmer, said, "The foreign buyers have flat out said they won't buy it. And I believe they won't." Pollestad called on citizens to take an active part in deciding whether GE-wheat should be released onto the market. "Or we could let Monsanto decide," he said, "and maybe we also could get Enron to run our utilities and Arthur Andersen to keep the books."

Read all about it: [www.organicconsumers.org/ge/wheatpost042203.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/ge/wheatpost042203.cfm)

## Passion, Romance, Adventure— You're Invited!



Leading up to the World Trade Organization (WTO) meetings and protests in Cancun this September, a mini-ministerial will be held in Sacramento, CA in June. The USDA, USAID, and the US State Department are hosting a summit to which the Ministers of Trade, Agriculture, and Environment from 180 nations have been invited. They're also putting on an Expo, to showcase industrial agriculture, chemicals, irradiation and biotechnology. Neither the meeting nor the accompanying Expo is open to the general public. But guess what? We're coming anyway! The Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture, made up of organic farmers, family farmers, environmentalists, labor, religious, and economic/social justice groups

is in the process of planning a public presence at the gathering. Events will include public demonstrations, media events, street theatre, public education forums, and non-threatening but disruptive direct actions. We encourage everyone who is concerned about the injustice of corporate globalization to join our network and/or organize actions leading up to June 23-25. This is a worldwide call to action. Please join us. Come to Sacramento this June. For more info or to get involved email: [silr@jps.net](mailto:silr@jps.net) or call 916-456-9435. Also consider joining the OCA delegation to the next WTO ministerial in Cancun, Mexico in September. [www.organicconsumers.org/wto\\_cancun.htm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/wto_cancun.htm)

For many more food issue daily headlines: [www.organicconsumers.org/log.html](http://www.organicconsumers.org/log.html)

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