



ORGANIC BYTES

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

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www.organicconsumers.org

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Is Monsanto's Controversial Cow Hormone Causing Cancer?

Since its release onto the market in 1994, Monsanto's recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) has been banned in most industrialized nations, other than the US, Brazil, and Mexico. While the genetically engineered hormone is regularly being injected into 22% of the dairy herd in the US to force cows to give more milk, scientists warn that it may increase your risks of getting cancer. Knowing consumers want to avoid rBGH, Monsanto has successfully sued a number of dairies over the years for labeling their products "rBGH-Free." After a decade of forcing rBGH-tainted milk and dairy products on consumers, Monsanto has recently admitted to having mysterious production problems in the Austrian factory supplying them with rBGH. Last week, the company announced it is being forced to cut back production of rBGH (trade name Posilac) by 50%, due, in part, to failing FDA inspections at its manufacturing plant. Rumors are circulating in the dairy industry that rBGH, the first genetically engineered animal drug put into the US food supply, may be pulled off the market.

www.organicconsumers.org/rbgh/cowhormone012804.cfm

Millions Against Monsanto

The Organic Consumers Association announces the launch of its new "Millions Against Monsanto" campaign. If you're talking about PCBs, Agent Orange, Bovine Growth Hormone, water privatization, biopiracy, untested/unlabeled genetically engineered organisms, or persecuting small family farmers for seed saving, you're talking about the Monsanto Corporation. Join OCA's campaign to mobilize one million consumers to end Monsanto's global corporate bullying.



www.organicconsumers.org/monlink.html

You can send an instant fax from the OCA website to Monsanto, demanding the corporation:

Stop intimidating small family farmers.

Stop force-feeding untested and unlabeled genetically engineered foods on consumers.

Stop using billions of dollars of US taxpayers' money to subsidize genetically engineered crops—cotton, soybeans, corn, and canola.

Monsanto Bullies Canadian Family Farmer

Seventy-three year-old Percy Schmeiser, a family farmer on the brink of bankruptcy, is currently being attacked in Canada's Supreme Court by one of the world's most controversial and powerful corporations, Monsanto. Schmeiser's canola fields were contaminated with Monsanto's genetically engineered Round-Up Ready canola by pollution from nearby farms. Monsanto says it doesn't matter how the contamination took place, and is suing Schmeiser for millions of dollars, for unlicensed use of its patented GE seeds. "I never had anything to do with Monsanto," says Schmeiser. "If I would go to St. Louis (Monsanto Headquarters) and contaminate their plots—destroy what they have worked on for 40 years—I think I would be put in jail and the key thrown away." Hundreds of other farmers across North America have had their crops contaminated by pollen from neighboring genetically engineered crops and have been forced to pay fines to Monsanto. However, a thousand organic farmers in Canada have decided to turn the tables, and have sued Monsanto for polluting their farms with Frankengenes. Stand up with Percy Schmeiser and family farmers and get involved with OCA's Millions Against Monsanto campaign.

www.organicconsumers.org/monlink.html



We Need To Talk

Interested in sharing your thoughts and ideas with hundreds of thousands of other like-minded folks locally and around the world? Register free for OCA's new online web forum and chat center. The OCA website has been getting 2-6 million hits every month, so we decided it's time to open up the communication channels and let everyone share their ideas, post articles, comment on related issues, and come together with others who share your concerns. Start talking with others in the organic consumers community right now!

www.organicconsumers.org/chat/index.php

WHO Says Sweets Make You Fat

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a report addressing global obesity as it relates to diet. To regulate caloric intake, the report logically suggests limiting added sugar consumption. In response to this recommendation, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (lobbied heavily by sugar intensive US food corporations) has issued a response, stating that the WHO report is not based on good science.

organicconsumers.org/corp/sugar012304.cfm

Organic Food Booms

Natural and organic food popularity within the foodservice sector of the US is exploding. According to current market statistics, if the current growth curve continues, organic foodservice sales will reach \$2 billion by 2007.

www.organicconsumers.org/organic/foodservice012204.cfm

Mendocino Leads The Way

Northern California farmers and consumers are challenging Monsanto and the biotech industry directly. In Mendocino County California, voters will soon be deciding whether or not to ban genetically modified crops, once and for all. The vote will be held March 2, 2004 and would make the county the first in the US to ban genetically engineered crops. The ballot initiative has been organized and supported by local farmers and citizens, but they are being outspent 50 to 1 by biotech and agribusiness front groups. OCA encourages people everywhere to follow Mendocino's example and go on the offensive. Your help is needed:

www.gmofreemendo.com/

EPA Busted for Backroom Industry Deals

A lawsuit has been filed against the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for secretly allowing chemical companies exclusive power over weakening environmental regulations. In 2000, under the new Bush Administration, the EPA established the new "Endangered Species Task Force." It has now been discovered that this powerful task force is comprised of only 14 members, and they are all agro-chemical companies. Thanks to the private "consultation" meetings from these industry groups, the EPA has announced new pesticide regulations that eliminate certain endangered species protections.

www.organicconsumers.org/foodsafety/epa012004.cfm

Mad Cow USA—Stop the Madness

As news headlines of the Mad Cow crisis rock the nation, beef industry lobbyists have effectively put a muzzle on regulatory decision-makers in Washington, at least in regards to mandatory testing of all animals at slaughter. However there are a number of Congress people, like Rep. Miller of California, who are calling for mandatory and universal testing. As John Stauber, author of *Mad Cow USA*, puts it, "unless there is a complete and total ban on the billions of pounds of rendered by-product being fed to cattle and other livestock in the US, the disease will just keep amplifying and spreading." Responding to consumer pressure, the FDA announced on January 26 they will no longer permit cows and calves to be fed cattle blood or chicken manure, nor allow cow and ruminant brain parts of animals 30 months or older to be used in cosmetics and nutritional supplements. The FDA still gives the green light to feeding slaughterhouse wastes, manure, and blood to chickens and pigs, however, as well as feeding these animals back to cows. Join OCA's *Mad Cow USA—Stop the Madness* campaign:

www.organicconsumers.org/madcow.htm

USDA Says GMOs Spread Like Weeds

A new study, commissioned by the US Department of Agriculture, confirms that genetically modified organisms pose a dramatic risk to the environment, given the fact that they simply cannot be contained, once released into the wild.

www.organicconsumers.org/ge/gmopollution012104.cfm

For many more food issue daily headlines: www.organicconsumers.org/log.html

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