



## Alert: Tell President-Elect Obama: Sack Vilsack for Secretary of Agriculture

Ten thousand organic consumers signed OCA's petition last week to Barack Obama, asking him to take a clear position in support of organic agriculture. Thanks to all who joined in to deliver this resounding message to the incoming administration. Unfortunately, it is now being widely reported that former Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack is being considered for the Secretary of Agriculture position in the Obama Administration. Vilsack is a notorious cheerleader for genetically engineered crops and chemical and energy-intensive industrial agriculture—certainly no friend of organic food and farming. Tom Vilsack's appointment would represent a major disappointment for the Organic Consumers Association and its members. But there is still time to make your voice heard. Take Action: [salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/642/petition.jsp?petition\\_KEY=1751](http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/642/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=1751)

### Study Confirms GE Food Damages Fertility

"This work will do huge damage to the GM industry worldwide, since it shows that a crop—Monsanto's maize line NK603 x MON810—which has been approved as safe by EFSA, and given consent for use in food and feed by the EC, is in fact dangerous to health. It demonstrates that the approvals process is at best inadequate and at worst corrupt." -Dr. Brian John of GM Free Cymru speaking about a new study out of Austria confirming previous study results that indicate GM corn damages the reproductive system of laboratory rats.

[www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_15588.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_15588.cfm)

### Heated Debate Over Thanksgiving Fare

There's a lot of discussion in OCA's web forum about the coming Thanksgiving holiday meal. One of the forum participant posted the following comment: "This is my second year without turkey for Thanksgiving. It makes me sad because I love turkey. From what I've read, they inject poultry (using many needles) with a seaweed extract solution. It pumps up the chicken in weight and they can sell it for more. It can be anywhere from 18% to 30% solution. They also inject our red meats like the chuck. Kalsec seems to be a popular product to inject into meats. These are essential oils which many people with allergies cannot tolerate..."

Read the full posting and join the discussion on the OCA Forum:

[www.organicconsumers.org/forum](http://www.organicconsumers.org/forum)

### Pesticide Cocktails Cause 99% Mortality Rate in Frogs

A new study in the journal *Oecologia* indicates that when pesticides mix in the environment, they form "chemical cocktails" that are more toxic than previously estimated. Researchers at the University of Pittsburgh discovered that when 10 of the world's most commonly used pesticides combine, as they regularly do in the environment, the chemicals caused an astounding 99 percent mortality in leopard frogs. According to the study abstract, "Wetland communities can be dramatically impacted by low concentrations of pesticides (both separate and combined) and these results offer important insights for the conservation of wetland communities." [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_15608.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_15608.cfm)

### OCA Brings Consumer Concerns to NOSB Meeting

Thank you to all of you who sent us comments to share at the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting this week. Your passionate, well-reasoned and informed comments were just what the NOSB needed to hear! Alexis Baden-Mayer presented OCA's testimony on Monday. You can read the full testimony at:

[www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_15652.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_15652.cfm)

In other organic standards news, the USDA National Organic Program is accepting comments on their proposed rule for organic livestock.

Important issues on the horizon at the National Organic Standards Board include whether to continue to allow producers to use non-organic soy lecithin in products labeled "USDA Organic."

If you'd like to have your thoughts on livestock or soy lecithin included in OCA's comments to the USDA National Organic Program or the National Organic Standards Board, please send a note to Alexis Baden-Mayer at

[alexis@organicconsumers.org](mailto:alexis@organicconsumers.org)

### New Revolutionary Ride-Sharing Service

OCA's new Organic Transitions campaign is focused on providing concerned readers with suggestions and tools for making those necessary household, cultural, and political changes that will enable us to survive peak oil, global climate change and economic crisis. This week's 'post-carbon' survival recipe addresses the problem of 800 million greenhouse gas belching cars and trucks around the world sucking up massive amounts of fuel to each carry an average (in the USA) of 1.6 people to their destination. Over 23% of all petroleum expenditures and greenhouse gas pollution in the US come from our personal car use. A five-seat car traveling with only a single driver is inherently inefficient, and yet 85% of the time, that's how cars travel in much of the world. The solution unfortunately is not to hold your breath until you and every driver in the world can afford a \$30,000 plug-in 100 MPG electric hybrid, but rather to join up and try out the time-tested practices of ride-sharing and informal taxicabs and jitneys, now supercharged with 21st Century communications technology. Using a computer or cell phone, you can drastically reduce your carbon footprint and your transportation expenses by filling

up those empty seats in your car with passengers heading in the same direction, or, if you don't have a car, you can hop a ride yourself and share the expenses. This is not pie-in-the-sky. It's already happening on college campus and community ride boards, online at *Craigslist*, and most notably in Ireland, where climate and environmental concerns and \$10 a gallon gas have prompted drivers and passengers to tune into *Avego.com*

Tune into the next transportation revolution at:


[www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_15633.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_15633.cfm)


### Please Donate


We need your support today to continue fighting for the rights of organic farmers & consumers! [organicconsumers.org/donations.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/donations.cfm)




#### WHO OWNS NATURE?

 Ten companies now control more than two-thirds of global proprietary seed sales.

 Ten companies now control almost 90% of agrochemical sales worldwide.

 Ten companies now account for three-quarters of industry revenues.

 The top ten pharmaceutical companies control 55% of the global drug market.

Source: ETC Group's new 48-page report, "Who Owns Nature?", released last week.