



Alert: Tell Hershey's to Stop Abusive Child Labor in Cocoa Production

For years, OCA has been taking action, along with the International Labor Rights Fund, to stop abusive child labor in the cocoa industry in West Africa. As a result of the constant pressure, major chocolate companies like M&M/Mars and Cadbury have recently agreed to stronger labor and environmental standards in the production of the cocoa they use. But one iconic us brand is lagging behind—and they need to hear from you! Ask Hershey's to switch to Fair Trade & Organic certified cocoa and sugar for all of their products: organicconsumers.org/fairtrade.cfm

Rainforest Alliance vs. Fairtrade Labeling

McDonald's, Chiquita, Mars, Wal-Mart, & Kraft all have products certified "sustainable," sharing, among other things, the little green frog label of the Rainforest Alliance. On the other side of the labeling world, we have Fair Trade, the original product certification initiative aimed at building equitable and sustainable trading partnerships and creating opportunities to alleviate poverty. What's the difference? See a comparison: organicconsumers.org/articles/article_18372.cfm



Look for this Label!

A Critique of Some Recent Articles on GE Wheat

As reported in *Organic Bytes* #176, Monsanto and the biotech industry are mobilizing their propaganda machine to force-feed GE wheat to consumers. A recent poll reveals, however, that 69% of Canadian wheat farmers are opposed to "franken-wheat", given the fact that it's banned in Europe, and most us consumers don't want it. As a result, the biotech industry is attempting to shift public perception by inundating the press with misinformation. The OCA's Honor Schauland takes a look at some recent quotes spewing out of the GE-wheat spin machine, most of which are more humorous than factual: organicconsumers.org/articles/article_18217.cfm

Headlines of the Week

Scientist Warns that Farmed Fish Could be a Source of Mad Cow Disease

In a paper that shows just how strange our modern world has become, Robert P. Friedland, neurologist from the University of Louisville, warns that farmed fish could be at risk of developing transmissible spongiform encephalopathy, a form of mad cow disease. Currently, farmed fish are fed cow slaughterhouse waste. Friedland and co-authors raise the issue in the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* and call on food regulators to ban feeding cow bone or meat to farmed fish

US and Canada Agree on Organic Equivalency

The us and Canada have come to an agreement on organic equivalency standards, expanding organic trade opportunities. The new rules mean that both the USDA Organic seal and the Canada Organic Biologique logo—which is due to be introduced on June 30—may be used on certified products in either country.

HR 2749 Food Safety Enhancement Act -Debate and Discussion

The bill proposes a substantial increase in power and resources for the FDA and would significantly diminish existing judicial restraints on actions taken by the agency. Although the bill includes some provisions that could improve the mainstream food system, many of these are vaguely worded and do not clearly define the scope of the agency's power, creating the potential for inappropriate application and enforcement...

'Humanure' Victory: Green Toilet Wins Austin City Approval

"It took more than four years of negotiations and construction, but this month an Austin Water Utility inspector gave final clearance to a glorified outhouse that is on the vanguard of down-and-dirty environmentalism. Instead of flushing the feces, it's safely composted into useful fertilizer. .."

American Medical Association Passes Resolution Supporting Organic and Sustainable Food

The American Medical Association has approved a new policy resolution in support of practices and policies within health care systems that promote and model a healthy and ecologically sustainable food system. Take Action: organicconsumers.org/articles/article_18220.cfm

Read these articles and many more at OCA's website: www.organicconsumers.org

NEW WEB TOOL SHOWS WHAT PESTICIDES ARE ON YOUR FOOD

The Pesticide Action Network has launched an online searchable database designed to make the public problem of pesticide exposure visible and more understandable. Whether you want to find out what's in your apple juice, milk, peanut butter, or bottled water, this innovative tool links pesticide food residue data with the toxicology for each chemical, making this information easily searchable for the first time:

organicconsumers.org/articles/article_18307.cfm

RELATED FACTS

- ◆ The average child gets 5+ servings of pesticides in their food and water each day.
- ◆ The pesticide Atrazine is so toxic it is banned in Europe, but it is used so widely in the us, it is found in 71% of the drinking water.
- ◆ Currently, over 400 pesticides can be legally used in the us. For example, apples can be sprayed up to 16 times with 36 different pesticides. None of these chemicals are present in organic foods.
- ◆ According to the Department of Health and Human Services, organophosphate pesticides (OP) are now found in the blood of 95% of Americans tested, and the levels are twice as high in blood samples taken from children. Exposure to OPs is linked to hyperactivity, behavior disorders, learning disabilities, developmental delays and motor dysfunction.

organicconsumers.org/organic/wic-faq.pdf

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www.organicconsumers.org/donations.cfm