



## Quote: Agriculture and Climate Change

“Organic farming contributes to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions because it reduces the consumption of fossil fuels (notably those used in fertilizer manufacturing), and reduces emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, methane and nitrous oxide. It also reduces vulnerability of soils to erosion, while at the same time increasing carbon stocks in the soil. Consequently, conversion to organic farming is believed to be a viable way of reducing GHG emissions.” -Introduction to Organic Agriculture and Climate Change Conference, September 28-29, 2009, Sofia, Bulgaria

[organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19296.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19296.cfm)

## Tell Congress: Organic is the Answer!

Watch this new video from the Rodale Institute's Demand Organic Project and learn how, if the world's 3.5 billion tillable acres were transitioned to organic agriculture, organic farms could sequester 40% of yearly carbon emissions. Then, tell Congress “Organic Is the Answer to Climate Change!” [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19298.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19298.cfm)

## Alert Updates

Preserve Organic Integrity  
Safeguard Animal Welfare  
Stop Labeling Fraud  
Ban Nanotech

At the November 3-5 meeting of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board in Washington, DC, the Organic Consumers Association will be presenting your demands for stronger organic standards. Please let the NOSB, USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack and Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan know that you want them to:

- Stop personal care and cosmetic companies from advertising their products as “organic” unless they are USDA certified!
- Keep nanotechnology out of organic!
- Improve the living conditions of organic poultry and livestock!

**Take Action:** [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19301.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19301.cfm)

## A New Chance to Stop Methyl Iodide

The EPA—which had, under Bush, approved the carcinogenic new pesticide for use despite protests from scientists around the country—just indicated that it plans to re-consider methyl iodide, pending the results of California's independent Scientific Review Panel.

This chemical is so toxic, and so consistently carcinogenic, that scientists who use minute amounts in the lab are required to take extraordinary precautions in order to avoid exposure. If used as a fumigant, methyl iodide would be released as a gas at rates up to 175 lbs. per acre. The pesticide would likely contaminate groundwater while putting farm workers and nearby communities at serious risk as the invisible chemical moves with the wind. **Take Action:** [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19305.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19305.cfm)

## Help Support and Defend the OCA

We know times are tough for everyone right now. That's why the OCA continues to work to organize its more than 500,000 supporters to fight for consumers, family farmers, our environment, and our most precious assets, our children. We want to continue fighting the good fight, as well as bringing you *Organic Bytes*, but we need your donations to survive these financially difficult times. If you enjoy *Organic Bytes* and believe the world is a better place with OCA's nonprofit work, please consider donating today. Any size donation is helpful and appreciated.

**Donate Online:** [organicconsumers.org/donations.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/donations.cfm)

## Vanishing of the Bees

A new documentary seeks to unravel the mystery of why billions of honey bees have been disappearing from hives across the United States.

*Vanishing of the Bees* follows a group of us beekeepers hit by Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), which first struck in 2004 and made us headlines three years later. Countless bees would suddenly vanish, leaving an empty hive but few bodies. While the cause has yet to be established, the film suggests there is a link to Bayer's “Gaucho” insecticide.

Watch & Take Action: [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19306.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19306.cfm)

## Uncertain Peril

*Uncertain Peril: Genetic Engineering and the Future of Seeds* by Claire Hope Cummings has been selected as a winner of the thirtieth annual American Book Awards for 2009 by the Before Columbus Foundation.

Here's an excerpt: On a frozen island near the North Pole, a huge hole has been blasted out of the side of an Arctic mountain and a tunnel has been drilled deep into the rock. When the facility under construction here is

completed, it will be lined with one-meter-thick concrete, fitted with two high-security blast-proof airlock doors, and built to withstand nuclear war, global warming, terrorism, and the collapse of the earth's energy supplies. It's known as the “Doomsday Vault,” and in it will be stored millions of seeds and mankind's hope for the future of the world's food supply. [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19307.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19307.cfm)



## Little Bytes

### Chart of the Week: Peak Oil Wars and Global Permaculture Solutions

Mark Robinowitz has created “a political map to connect the dots” between ecology, energy and economy. It offers “a choice for civilization: cooperation or collapse.”

### Global Warming on Your Plate

The us is overeating and overheating. Agriculture contributes as much as one-fourth of all us greenhouse gas emissions. The Cooperative Grocer magazine explains how we can drastically reduce fossil fuel, chemical inputs, and water consumption in the us food system, by producing and buying organic foods and fiber.

### Organic Farming Yields Far Better Crop Resistance and Resilience

In addition to cutting fossil fuel use and decreasing climate-destabilizing greenhouse gases, a shift to organic farming and ranching dramatically increases the amount of carbon sequestered in the soil, enabling organic farms and ranches to maintain high production even during periods of drought or heavy rain.

### Factory Farms' Wide Net of Pain and Destruction

Gross overcrowding and anesthetic-free castration, tail-docking, and ear-cutting are all standard practice on the modern farm. And animals aren't the only ones harmed by factory farms.

### Military to Get Mandatory Swine Flu Shots

“Because I can compel people to get the shots, larger numbers will have the vaccine,” said Renuart, commander of us Northern Command. “They will, as a percentage of the population, be vaccinated more rapidly than many of us. So we may see some objective results, good or not, of the vaccinations.”

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