



## Alert: Get GE Vaccines Out of Organic!

Currently, vaccines are allowed for use in organic livestock production. However, many vaccines on the market today are genetically engineered—which means that these vaccines, according to federal law, are supposed to be excluded from organic production. Unfortunately many GE vaccines are being used in organic livestock production, without the review or approval of the organic oversight board that is supposed to control what inputs can legally be used in organic production, the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). The NOSB will be considering a recommendation at their November 3-5 meeting in Washington, DC to allow unrestricted use of GE vaccines in organic livestock production.

The OCA opposes the use of GE vaccines, and all GMOS, in organic production. Please join us in the telling the NOSB to reject the recommendation for unlimited use of GMO vaccines and instead to adhere to the regulation that requires each GE vaccine to be individually reviewed. Scientists are warning, “Genetically engineered vaccines possess significant unpredictability and a number of inherent harmful potential hazards.”

Already, we have seen these hazards manifest themselves. To name just one example, a small biotech firm in Texas tainted half a million bushels of soybeans with a trial vaccine used to prevent upset stomachs in piglets. Tell the NOSB that GMO vaccines have no place in organics:

[organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19372.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19372.cfm)

## Hemp Farmers Arrested

On October 13, North Dakota farmer Wayne Hauge, Vermont organic farmer and OCA advisory board member Will Allen, and fed up American entrepreneurs who have been developing and marketing healthy, environmentally-friendly hemp products, turned to civil disobedience with the planting of industrial hemp seed at DEA headquarters to protest the ban on hemp farming in the US. Even though the US is the largest market for hemp products in the world, and industrial hemp is farmed throughout Europe, Asia and Canada, not a single American farmer has the right to grow the versatile crop which is used for food, clothing, body care, paper, building materials, auto paneling and more.

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## Book of the Week: The Raw Milk Revolution

Here’s an excerpt from: *The Raw Milk Revolution: Behind America’s Emerging Battle Over Food Rights* by David E. Gumpert

“This is a full assault against us. It’s a war against raw milk... they’ve done hundreds of tests and found zero pathogens. If the authorities didn’t back off and allow him to reopen, we’re going to sue them for \$100 million.”

As I would come to know over the ensuing months, Mark McAfee didn’t mince his words, nor did he shirk from standing up to government regulators. He described for me a situation in which a dozen or more guys in white coveralls and plastic gloves from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the FDA were combing every crevice and corner of his dairy, taking milk and manure samples from cows, inspecting bulk tanks, tearing apart packaging, and digging up soil samples...

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### QUOTE OF THE WEEK WORLD FOOD DAY - ORGANIC IS THE ANSWER TO FOOD SECURITY

“Organic agriculture puts the needs of rural people and the sustainable use of natural resources at the centre of the farming system. Locally adapted technologies create employment opportunities and income. Low external inputs minimize risk of indebtedness and intoxication of the environment. It increases harvests through practices that favor the optimization of biological processes and local resources over expensive, toxic and climate damaging agro-chemicals... Yes, the world can be fed by the worldwide adoption of Organic agriculture. The slightly lower yields of Organic agriculture in favorable, temperate zones are compensated with approximately 10-20% higher yields in difficult environments such as arid areas.” -*Int’l Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements · World Food Day, 10/12/09*

## Kucinich Secures Funding for Organic Research

Congressman Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) secured a legislative victory for organic farmers and consumers by recently ensuring that the USDA will collect and share economic data that is essential to the growth of the nation’s \$25 billion organic food and farming sector. The \$500,000 allocation for the Organic Production and Market Data Initiative was secured as part of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriation Act. This allocation for organic economic research represents a mere drop in the bucket considering that the USDA spends \$90 billion dollars of our tax money every year subsidizing GMOS, chemical agriculture, junk food commodity crops, and factory farms, but is a step forward nonetheless.

[organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19371.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19371.cfm)

## Obama’s Chemically Dependent Friends

OCA network members sent 100,000 emails last fall opposing Tom Vilsack’s appointment as USDA Secretary, because the former Iowa Governor

had served as a leading advocate for Monsanto, genetic engineering, and factory farming. We generated nearly 40,000 letters opposing former Monsanto lobbyist Michael Taylor’s appointment as a senior adviser to the FDA Commissioner on food safety. We’ve been able to keep PA Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff (notorious for his support of Monsanto’s controversial RBGH) out of the Administration, but President Obama has just nominated two high-profile biotech advocates, closely connected to Monsanto and corporate agribusiness, to key USDA and trade positions, tapping Roger Beachy, long-time president of the Danforth Plant Science Center (Monsanto’s nonprofit arm) as chief of the USDA’s newly created National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and Islam Siddiqui, currently the VP of Science and Regulatory Affairs at CropLife America (a major front group for GMO and chemical agriculture), for the post of Chief Agricultural Negotiator for the US Trade Representative’s office. CropLife’s regional partner, the Mid America CropLife Association, was the group that infamously chided the First Lady for refusing to use pesticides on the White House garden. Siddiqui gave the maximum personal contribution to Obama’s campaign and held a major fundraiser for Obama at his home early last year.

Take Action: [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19325.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19325.cfm)

## Maine Organic Farmers Unite

Last February, a group of Maine organic dairies were facing economic disaster. Citing a soft organic market, a depressed economy, and the great distances to serve organic milk producers, 10 organic dairy farms were given the “pink slip” by northeast milk bottler H.P. Hood Inc.

The farmers were flabbergasted. Each had a contract, and all said they had made substantial investments in their farms to convert to organic.

But this is rural Maine, and with true Yankee ingenuity, the ten farmers banded together to find a solution. Through a cooperative agreement among the farmers, private investors, Smiling Hill Farm, Oakhurst Dairy, the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, the Maine Farm Bureau and the Maine Department of Agriculture, a new company has been launched: MOOMilk Co., short for Maine’s Own Organic Milk Co.

“In the farmer’s minds, converting to conventional was a death sentence. Going out of business was a death sentence. This was the only and best answer,” said Bill Eldridge, MOOMilk’s general manager said.

[organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_19352.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_19352.cfm)