

National Day of Action Against Frankenfish

OCA joined Food & Water Watch and Ben & Jerry's at the White House Farmers' Market on September 16 for a rally and press conference to oppose GE salmon. We asked shoppers at the market to call President Obama and ask him to stop the FDA process that could lead to the approval of unlabeled GE salmon without an adequate safety assessment. On September 19 & 20, OCA presented testimony at the Veterinary Medicine Advisory Committee Meeting in Rockville, MD, the only venue for public comment before the FDA makes its final decision on releasing Frankenfish into the food supply. 9,457 OCA activists have sent letters to the FDA. September 16 was the last day to submit written comments to the FDA before they decide whether to approve GE salmon for human consumption. www.is.gd/fksZk

Protect Family Farms & Organic!

The Food Safety Modernization Act (S. 510) could reach the Senate floor as early as today. Changes are needed to avoid serious harm to family farm value-added processing and the emergence of local and regional food systems. S.510 would considerably ramp up FDA regulation on farms that even minimally process their crops and sell them to restaurants, food coops, groceries, schools and wholesalers. An amendment sponsored by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) would exempt small farm and small food processing facilities as well as small and mid-sized farmers who primarily direct market their products to consumers, stores or restaurants within their region. Please call your Senators today and ask them to support the Tester Amendment. www.is.gd/fktbv

Organic Wine Standards Under Attack!

Recently, long-established USDA organic wine standards have come under attack. A group of foreign and domestic wine producers and distributors seeks to change current established US organic wine standards to allow a synthetic preservative called sulfite, a known allergen, to be added to organic wine. Organic wine in the US has always been defined as "made with organic grapes and no added sulfites." The proposed amendment would allow the addition of sulfites to organic wine for the first time. The new proposal would allow adding up to 100 times the amount of sulfites that occur naturally in organic wine. Take Action: www.is.gd/fkt7d

The Fair World Project

The OCA has launched the Fair World Project (FWP) to promote fair trade in commerce, especially in organic production systems in developing countries as well as at home, and to protect the integrity term "fair trade" from dilution and misuse. The OCA's new project fills a critical need for a watchdog of misleading fair trade claims, and a cheerleader for dedicated fair trade mission-driven companies. Through FWP, OCA will focus on promoting projects that connect the environmental and health benefits of organic agriculture with the social benefits derived from fair trade. Visit the FWP website at fairworldproject.org

Court To Hear Claims of Organic Milk Fraud

Dairy consumers, including OCA members, who sued several national chains (Wal-Mart, Costco, Target, and Wild Oats Markets) as well as the largest US provider of store-brand organic milk (Aurora Organic Dairy) claiming they falsely labeled and sold milk from industrial feedlots as "organic" can continue with their lawsuit under a federal appeals court ruling issued Wednesday. The ruling from the Eighth US Circuit Court of Appeals means a lower court must hear claims that Aurora Organic Dairy's milk was deceptively marketed as coming from small farms with open pastures. "Each defendant is alleged to have misrepresented the manner in which the

dairy cows were raised and fed in violation of various state deceptive trade practices laws," the ruling said. www.is.gd/fktiP

Climate Actions 10-10-10

On 10/10/10, 350.org is organizing a Global Work Party to involve people in efforts that could lower the amount of carbon in the atmosphere back down below the dangerous tipping point of 350 parts per million. A worldwide shift of cropland from industrial to organic production could sequester 40% of global greenhouse gases. That's why 350.org is encouraging people to spend 10/10/10 working on a community garden or an organic farm. Sign Up: www.350.org

Join OCA at the COP16 Climate Conference

Over 100,000 concerned citizens from North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia are expected to converge on Cancun, including leading farm, food, Fair Trade, climate justice, and anti-GE activists. They'll attend a wide range of workshops, forums, and cultural events. Following up on the theme of the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, "Another World is Possible," the emphasis in Cancun will be on presenting solutions and alternatives to the climate crisis. The OCA delegation, limited to 100, will include international experts on organic agriculture and climate justice, including OCA Directors Ronnie Cummins and Alexis Baden-Mayer, organic farm leader and author, Will Allen, and author and food activist Jill Richardson.

OCA will be hosting two tours:

► 6-Day Tour: November 29- December 5 : Hostel \$750, Ramada \$950

► 5-Day Tour: December 5-11: Hostel \$700, Ramada \$900

It is also possible to stay for the entire 11-day event from Nov. 29 - Dec. 11

Speakers and activists including Vandana Shiva, James Hansen, Bill McKibben, Pat Mooney, and Maude Barlow are expected to make presentations at the Grassroots Summit, which will take place simultaneously with the global negotiations of leaders from every nation in the world. Sign Up: viaorganica.org/via-a-cancun/

The Problem With Palm Oil

Palm oil is a globally traded agricultural commodity that is used in 50% of all consumer goods, from lipstick and packaged food to body lotion and biofuels. Demand for palm oil in the US has tripled in the last five years, pushing palm oil cultivation into the rainforests and making monoculture palm oil plantations one of the key causes of global rainforest destruction. Approximately 85% of palm oil is grown in the tropical countries of Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea on industrial plantations that have severe impacts on the environment, forest peoples and the climate. Companies like Cargill and General Mills purchase from, operate, and own many palm oil plantations in SE Asia, making these corporations a powerful force in the palm oil market and rainforest destruction. www.is.gd/fktmV



A Challenge to All Gardeners

"In times past, a large portion of the population knew how to grow and preserve food and could survive on what they could grow and preserve. In the United States today, only about 2 percent of the population farms, and they farm largely in ways that are totally dependent upon imported oil and gas, electricity, irrigation, roads, national and international markets, and an intact financial and social infrastructure. In many kinds of mega-hard times, those farms would not be functional, and the knowledge of how to farm in those ways would be useless. In some of the mega-hard times of the future, what food we have may be a result of the knowledge and skills of gardeners. I challenge all gardeners to fully accept their role as a source of resilience for their communities in mega-hard times, and to play and adventure in good times so as to develop the kinds of knowledge and skills that would most matter." -*The Resilient Gardener: Food Production and Self-Reliance in Uncertain Times* by Carol Deppe