



Bitter Sweet Spring

The Obesity Epidemic: How Did We Get Here?

Mercola Reports:

“The growing obesity epidemic shows no sign of stopping and is predicted to cost over \$4.3 trillion by 2035, when experts estimate more than half of the global population will be overweight or obese, and nearly 2 million will be obese. The rising number of children with obesity not only increases a child’s risk of health challenges during childhood, but also raises their risk for health concerns in adulthood including blood clots, overweight and obesity, cardiovascular disease and premature death.”

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3Kkh1SP>

Public Schools to Start Serving Kraft Lunchables, Thanks to ‘Sweetheart Deal’ with USDA

Suzanne Burdick writes for the Defender:

“Starting this fall, more highly processed foods will be on the menu for children in public schools thanks to a ‘major new initiative’ to get Kraft Heinz’s ‘Lunchables’ products into U.S. public school cafeterias.

The company said two versions of the Lunchables product will be served in K-12 public schools, either for students to buy or free, under the National School Lunch Program...

But critics — including John Fagan, Ph.D., a leading authority on biosafety, food authenticity and sustainability in the food and agricultural system — said he doubted the nutritional value of the products.”

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/40Op5ko>

Alongside Encouraging Trends That Emerged at Expo West 2023, Tension is Growing Over GMO 2.0

Max Goldberg writes for Organic Insider:

“Natural Products Expo West returned to Anaheim last week, attracting 65,000 people with more than 3,000 brands exhibiting, and the show could be characterized as similar to the weather we experienced — a mixture of sunshine and rain.

On the one hand, Expo West was filled with tremendous excitement and energy, and many organic companies I spoke with had an incredibly productive few days. Furthermore, some very positive industry trends began to take hold.

On the other hand, the continued allowance of GMO 2.0 companies at Natural Products Expo West resulted in a palpable sense of anger among a growing number of attendees, and it cast an inescapable shadow over the entire show, particularly for those who attended the very contentious GMO 2.0 panel discussion.”

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3TYP9Hp>

Pfizer Pfeeds COVID-19 Pfears

OCA columnist Martha Rosenberg reports:

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been good for Pfizer and news outlets who run the drugmaker’s seemingly back-to-back ads. (Question: How medically objective is a newscast when the station announces the news “is sponsored by Pfizer”?)

But Pfizer has a problem. As COVID-19 becomes less deadly, the public’s fear level is dropping and so are the drugmaker’s profits. According to FiercePharma, a drug industry web site, the drug giant expected to bring in a mere \$13.5 billion this year, compared with the COVID-19-leavened \$36 billion-plus it netted in 2021/2022. Ouch.”

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3KiQV2O>

Obesity Linked to Areas with the Most Grocery Stores Selling Unhealthy Foods

Brenda Balletti writes:

“Counties with higher obesity rates across the U.S. tend to have more food stores selling more unhealthy food options relative to counties with lower obesity rates, according to a report from The Urban Institute published this month.

“We find that areas of higher obesity prevalence are more likely to have greater exposure to the types of food stores likely to offer less healthy options, even when controlling for differences across counties,” the authors wrote.

In high-obesity counties, the study reported that 65.5% of food establishments are likely to be “unhealthy,” as opposed to low-obesity counties where just 51.5% of food establishments are “unhealthy.”

This was true across rural and non-rural areas.”

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3IUbily>

This Farm Bill Really Matters

Civil Eats reports: “These efforts to feed people and distribute more local food in small but impactful ways are important to the state’s food system, yet they’re dwarfed by the scale of commodity farming in Kansas. In fact, between 1995 and 2021, the USDA also sent more than \$15 billion to wheat, sorghum, and corn farmers to continue producing commodities and \$3 billion in payments to encourage conservation practices on those same farms. This funding—and the system it shapes—is determined by the federal farm bill, authorized by Congress every five years. Now, D.C. is abuzz with the start of 2023 negotiations, and Pearson McClish is one of many farmers and food advocates who are clamoring for change. At the summit, she likened the food system to critical infrastructure such as bridges and roads. “Food has to be a policy issue, not a profit issue,” she said. Over the course of this year, Civil Eats will report on a number of specific aspects of this important legislation. For starters, here’s an overview of the 2023 Farm Bill.”

Read more: <https://orgcns.org/3zkYFek>

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