

# **Organic Bytes** • Weekly Newsletter of the Organic Consumers Association

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## Take Action, Planting Peace

#### **Ceasefire Now!**

Why should people who love regenerative organic food take a stand for peace? Here's one of many reasons:

Decontaminating land poisoned with pesticides and synthetic fertilizers is a wicked problem, but farms sown with cluster bombs and land mines are beyond the power of agriculturalists to recover, no matter how regenerative their practices.

It would take 1,100 years to remove all of the unexploded ordinances, if no new ones were laid.

The U.S. is not a party to the Convention on Cluster Munitions and has been sending them to Ukraine.

TAKE ACTION: Tell Congress, No More Money for War! <a href="https://orgcns.org/3s4yMiX">https://orgcns.org/3s4yMiX</a>

#### **Nebraska Tribes Are Buying Back Farmland**

Destiny Herbers, Flatwater Free Presswrites:

"Land ownership on the Winnebago Reservation had gone in only one direction—away from Native tribes and farmers. Until recently, when several tribes decided to change that."When you asked a student at my high school what a farmer looks like they would tell you a white guy with cowboy boots and a cowboy hat on," said LaPointe, senior director of business operations for Ho-Chunk, Inc. "They didn't see themselves as farmers, they just thought that's what the white guys do. And we just let them use our land to do that."

That perception is rooted in a century of reality. The tribe only owns roughly 27,000 acres of its 120,000-acre reservation, after U.S. government actions directly or indirectly led its farmland to pass into non-Native hands— mostly white farmers.

But that reality is starting to change. In the past five years, three Nebraska tribes—the Winnebago, the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska—have bought a combined 3,000-odd acres of farmland that was once theirs."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/3Mz8JYb

#### Al: We Need a Humanity Defense Organization

By Susan D'Agostino, The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists:

Al Godfather' Yoshua Bengio, Excerpt:

"Depending on how cautious we end up being collectively, we could more or less contain the risks with national regulation and international treaties. It's important, like for nuclear treaties, to have minimal standards across nations. The harms that AI could do are not bounded by national borders.

There's no 100 percent guarantee that nothing bad will happen. Even if we had an international treaty that bans AI more powerful than some level, somebody will disrespect those constraints. But delaying that by, say, 10 years would be great. In that time, we might improve our monitoring. We might improve our defenses. We might better understand the risks."

Read more: <a href="https://orgcns.org/3uaceOk">https://orgcns.org/3uaceOk</a>

### Organic Agriculture was not the Cause of Sri Lanka's Economic Chaos

Joint statement from Lanka Organic Agriculture Movement, EarthRestoration, Navdanya, Regeneration International, and Organic Consumers Association:

Agribusiness cartels and media articles stated that Sri Lanka's economic chaos was caused by the government forcing the country to go organic.

These articles' familiar false narratives, untruths, and language style show spin doctors wrote them from a PR company employed by pesticide/big agriculture cartels. They were cut and pasted by poorquality journalists who did not fact-check.

The narrative was that the government forced farmers to become organic by banning chemical fertilizers. This caused crop failures and food shortages, which caused the riots causing economic chaos.

This is a gross distortion of the truth by falsely connecting dots. The economic chaos was not caused by the country going organic, as it hadn't gone organic. The government was only planning to do so in the future.

Read more: https://orgcns.org/3u7nBgi

# Into the Weeds is a Tragic and Cautionary Tale of What Happens When Government Agencies are Captured

Max Goldberg, Founder, Organic Insider:

"The film follows the heroic plight of Lee Johnson, a groundskeeper from California, who suffers excess exposure to Monsanto's glyphosate weedkiller Ranger Pro, a commercial-grade variant of Roundup — the most widely used herbicide in the world.

Unbeknownst to him, exposure to this toxic chemical — one that is linked to cancer, kidney and liver disease, endocrine disruption, and microbiome disruption in humans, soil, insects and plants — would soon lead to Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and litigation against Monsanto itself."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/49sXJ8x

# Native American Culturally Significant Plant Guides

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) writes:

"In collaboration with Native American plant authorities, NRCS plant material centers, and university specialists, has assembled a series of culturally significant plant guides and technical notes for each NRCS region. These guides can help Native American tribes and NRCS field offices to establish and manage culturally significant plants and restore traditional gathering sites.

These guides provide information and images of plant species that play a significant role in the lives of Native Americans involved in cultural activities utilizing plants. The guides feature one native plant species each, and provide botanical identifying features, morphology, general information about the plant's reproductive biology, range, distribution, and habitat requirements.

Read more: https://orgcns.org/476AD65