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

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# Pharmaceuticals Are Illegally Being Grown In and Contaminating Food Crops

## Pharmaceuticals Are Contaminating Food Crops Illegally

Alexis Baden-Mayer, Political Director at Organic Consumers Association, writes:

"Edible vaccines might not be approved for the produce aisle yet, but we've known that pharmaceuticals and vaccines are grown in food crops—and are contaminating the U.S. food supply—since 2002 when news broke of the ProdiGene scandal.

Congress made adding drugs to food illegal in 2007. In Section 912 of the Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007, "Prohibition against food to which drugs or biological products have been added," Congress forbade adding pharmaceuticals, including vaccines, to food unless the FDA "has issued a regulation, after notice and comment, approving the use of such drug or such biological product in the food." The FDA never created a process for this, so no pharmaceutical food has ever been commercialized, but many have been tested.

Pharmaceuticals and vaccines might not be added to food legally, but they are contaminating food illegally."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/3v5A12E

TAKE ACTION! Tell Congress to stop funding pharma crops! <a href="https://orgcns.org/3TozHWh">https://orgcns.org/3TozHWh</a>

## Boiling Tap Water May Be Solution to Microplastics

Saul Elbein writes for The Hill:

"Boiling tap water can destroy at least 80 percent of three of the most common plastic compounds that can be found in your water, according to findings published Wednesday in Environmental Research Letters.

This means drinking tap water that has been boiled, something commonly done in East Asian kitchens already, may be a safer bet than drinking bottled water. Columbia researchers found last month that bottled water can contain up to a quarter-million fragments of nanoplastics per liter."

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

#### **Green Exercise Can Improve Physical and Mental Health**

Holly Tiret writes for the Michigan State University Extension:

"Green exercise, which is considered as any physical activity that takes place outside, has been shown to improve both physical and mental health...Green exercise can include a variety of activities such as gardening, cycling, walking, flying kites, walking a pet, hiking local trails or participating in a neighborhood project like planting flowers."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/49T04cs

#### Genetically Modified Ingredients in Most US Cheeses

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Analysis by Ashley Armstrong:

- "\* Traditionally, cheese was made with just four ingredients: milk, salt, starter culture and animal rennet
- \* Today, there are four types of rennet used in the cheese making industry: animal rennet, vegetable rennet, microbial rennet, and a genetically modified version called FPC (fermentation-produced chymosin), made by Pfizer
- \* Bioengineered chymosin (FPC) was granted Generally Regarded as Safe (GRAS) status, which exempted Pfizer from the pre-approval requirements that apply to other new food additives. This despite the fact that studies have detailed concerns about safety
- \* An estimated 90% of North American cheese is made with FPC rennet, and ingredient labels do not distinguish between bioengineered rennet and the original animal-based type so consumers have no way of knowing what they're eating"

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

#### Nazi Coal "Butter"

Alexis Baden-Mayer, Political Director at Organic Consumers Association, writes: "I first heard about the Nazi's coal 'butter' reading the article, 'Ultra-Processed Food: how it's making you sick and unhappy' by Andrea Hill...Nazi coal 'butter'?! I suspected there was a connection to I.G. Farben, the conglomerate that Bayer, which merged with Monsanto in 2018, was part of during World War II, and indeed there was...Coal "butter" inventor Arthur Imhausen was half-Jewish (by his mother), but he was shepherded into Nazi circles by Wilhelm Keppler...Keppler ran a three-year human experiment with Imhausen's coal "butter" on the prisoners of Sachsenhausen, one of several death camps (the most infamous is Auschwitz) where I.G. Farben located factories to exploit slave labor and subjects for human experiments."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/3V0S70t

#### PFAS "Forever Chemicals" Found in Deodorants — Guide

Mamavation writes:

"Does your favorite deodorant contain indications of PFAS "forever chemicals?" PFAS "forever chemicals" are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances used as stain-resistant, water-resistant, & oil-resistant chemicals in commerce. These chemicals are very useful, but also incredibly persistent and toxic. Mamavation was asked if any deodorants contained indications of PFAS and we were not sure unless they were tested. So we sent several off to an EPA-certified laboratory to find out."

Read more: https://orgcns.org/3V3CdSY