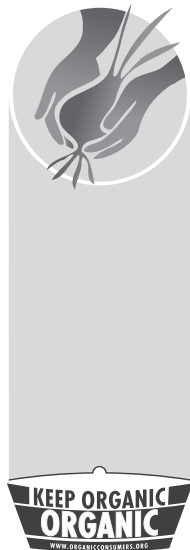


**USDA REPORT:****Organic Labeling Fraud Increasing**

The USDAS National Organic Program (NOP) announced this week that 15 of the 30 accredited organic certifiers they recently inspected failed the USDA audit and will have 12 months to make corrections or lose their accreditation with the NOP. Although the USDA euphemistically calls their enforcement actions “renewal pending subsequent audit,” it is clear that there are numerous violations of organic standards taking place in the US and across the world. A number of the violations noted in the several hundred page audit related to Chinese imports certified by the French-based organic certifier Ecocert and other certifiers. Strangely enough, Quality Assurance International (QAI), the largest organic certifier in the world, is not cited by the USDA, even though the OCA has recently reviewed documents that indicate that QAI is indeed under investigation by the NOP. QAI has recently been in the news for sourcing ginger, contaminated with a dangerous and banned pesticide, Aldicarb, from its Chinese certification sub-contractors and then labeling it as “USDA Organic.” QAI is also under public fire, along with other certifiers, for certifying factory farm feedlot dairies supplying milk to Horizon and Aurora Organic Dairy, who in turn supply Wal-Mart, Costco, Safeway, and other organic private label organic milk. **Learn more and take action:** [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_13943.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_13943.cfm)

**Help Senator Harkin Defeat Junk Food Ads**

A new Federal Trade Commission (FTC) report has revealed that food and beverage corporations spent \$1.6 billion dollars in food advertising in 2006. As parents and public health officials understand, the nation’s alarming surge in childhood obesity and diabetes are directly related to increased consumption of junk food. Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) has urged industry and government regulators to redirect the massive funds spent every year in junk food advertising toward education and programs focused on healthy eating. Take Action:

[salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/642/campaign.jsp?campaign\\_KEY=25289](http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/642/campaign.jsp?campaign_KEY=25289)

**More Fish Fed to Livestock Than to Humans**

According to the UBS Fisheries Centre in Vancouver, BC, despite rampant over-fishing and depletion of world fish populations, globally, we are now feeding 14 million tons of edible wild-caught fish to factory farm animals, like pigs and chickens, each year. That amounts to over six times the amount of fish the entire US population eats annually. Wild fish fed to animals on a massive scale include perfectly edible anchovies, sardines, mackerel, and herring, which are ground into a cheap fishmeal and sold for animal feed. In other words a protein source is being fed to animals on corporate farms with a 90% energy loss. Given the global food crisis and the over-harvesting of many of the ocean’s commercial fish varieties, careful analysis of resource use by the global industrial food complex is becoming a life or death imperative. **Learn more:** [www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_13294.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_13294.cfm)

**Quote of the Week**

“Globalized industrialized food is not cheap: it is too costly for the Earth, for the farmers, for our health. The Earth can no longer carry the burden of groundwater mining, pesticide pollution, disappearance of species and destabilization of the climate. Farmers can no longer carry the burden of debt, which is inevitable in industrial farming with its high costs of production. It is incapable of producing safe, culturally appropriate, tasty, quality food. And it is incapable of producing enough food for all because it is wasteful of land, water and energy. Industrial agriculture uses ten times more energy than it produces. It is thus ten times less efficient.” -Dr. Vandana Shiva, scientist, world-renowned author, and grassroots leader in India. Member of the Policy Advisory Board of the Organic Consumers Association.

**Micro-Generation and Micro-Farming**

As energy and food prices continue to rise, global experts predict that micro-generation and micro-farming will boom over the next few years. New trends in urban farming, like vertical gardening and backyard chickens, can help feed households in an economical and earth friendly way.

New technologies in micro-generation, powering your home with a wind turbine or solar paneling, for example, are making off-the-grid living more financially feasible than ever. In fact, priorities in Silicon Valley are already shifting from developing better micro-chips towards focusing on thin-film solar cells. Meanwhile, programs like ‘Solar City’ are offering 20% savings in solar paneling installations for neighborhoods who buy in bulk.

**Learn more:** [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_13636.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_13636.cfm)

**Website Helps Understand Eco-Labels**

There are literally hundreds of different types of eco-labels on consumer products ranging from organic, to sustainably-made, to “Green”. But what does it all mean? *Ecolabeling.org* provides an online searchable database of over 300 eco-labels. Don’t get scammed into paying extra for a product that may not be as earth-friendly as the label suggests.

**Find out what the label means at:** [www.ecolabeling.org](http://www.ecolabeling.org)

**How to Stop Fast Food in Your Town**

The Los Angeles City Council has agreed to ban the building of new fast food restaurants in poor areas of the city. Three-quarters of the restaurants in South LA are fast food, and the City Council hopes the decision will attract healthier alternatives. The decision was made after area residents complained that junk food was destroying public health. The resolution is likely to be used as a model by other cities where similar citizen campaigns are launched. **Learn more:** [organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_13834.cfm](http://organicconsumers.org/articles/article_13834.cfm)

**Please Donate**

We need your support today to continue fighting for the rights of organic farmers & consumers! [organicconsumers.org/donations.htm](http://organicconsumers.org/donations.htm)