



## Feathering their Nests

If nutritional quality and animal welfare issues factor into your egg-buying decisions, get ready for more bad news out of the Trump administration's USDA.

The USDA plans to ditch rules, finalized under the Obama administration, that would have required organic egg producers to provide hens with more space and more outdoor access.

The Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP) Rule was the result of a 14-year effort by the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) to tighten up animal welfare rules for organic egg producers.

The OLPP was set to be enacted in January 2017. But under the incoming Trump administration's regulatory freeze, the rule was delayed multiple times. Now the USDA wants to throw it out completely.

If the agency succeeds, organic egg producers won't have to follow updated animal welfare rules—rules that the industry fought for, and that consumers overwhelmingly support.

Why would the USDA get rid of this law? To help "Big Organic" egg producers who already routinely flaunt existing animal welfare standards keep pocketing higher profits. [orgcns.org/2qQo9Qs](http://orgcns.org/2qQo9Qs)

## Arsenic & Old Monsanto

Last week we told you about a new study showing that Monsanto's Roundup® weedkiller damages the gut microbiome of rats. This week, scientists report that glyphosate-based herbicides, including Roundup®, contain toxic levels of heavy metals, including arsenic.

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup®, has been the subject of intense scrutiny and controversy. Documents recently made public as a result of multiple lawsuits filed against Monsanto by people who blame exposure to Roundup® for their non-Hodgkin lymphoma suggest Monsanto has known for decades about the health risks related to glyphosate. Some countries have banned its use. But as the authors of this latest study point out, glyphosate is not the only ingredient in herbicides like Roundup®—it's one of multiple ingredients. Those other ingredients make glyphosate-based herbicides even more dangerous than we thought—and should lead to a global ban on all glyphosate-based herbicides.

According to Prof. Gilles-Eric Séralini, one of the authors of the study: "These results show that the declarations of glyphosate as the active principle for toxicity are scientifically wrong, and that the toxicity assessment is also erroneous: glyphosate is tested alone for long-term health effects at regulatory level but the formulants – which are composed of toxic petroleum residues and arsenic – are not tested over the long term. We call for the immediate transparent and public release of the formulations and above all of any health tests conducted on them. The acceptable levels of glyphosate residues in food and drinks should be divided immediately by a factor of at least 1,000 because of these hidden poisons. Glyphosate-based herbicides should be banned." [orgcns.org/2FrMzmg](http://orgcns.org/2FrMzmg)

## Real Farming

What do you do if you don't like the conference going on down the road? You start your own, better, conference.

Regeneration International's Oliver Gardiner recently caught up with Nessie Reid, program director for the Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC) in Oxford, UK, who shared a little history of the ORFC conference, an "antidote" as she calls it to another farming conference held nearby every year, one that focuses on the industrial agribusiness model.

As you might have guessed, the ORFC is planned around promoting an organic regenerative food and farming system. [orgcns.org/2EwKR1F](http://orgcns.org/2EwKR1F)

## One by One

This week Ben & Jerry's proudly announced its 10 best-selling ice cream flavors in 2017. Seven of those best-selling flavors made OCA's list, too—our list of flavors that tested positive for glyphosate, the active ingredient in Monsanto's Roundup weed-killer. By now, most conscious consumers know that Ben & Jerry's has been scamming consumers with its claims of caring about the environment and getting money out of politics.



You can't claim to care about the environment, and still source your milk from farmers that use pesticide-drenched GMO grains to feed their cows. You can't claim to care about the environment if your supply chain is a major source of water pollution.

You can't claim to care about getting money out of politics (no matter how much free ice cream you promise) if your dairy farmers are buying all their seeds and toxic chemicals from Monsanto—a company that spends millions to buy off politicians and regulators.

We're not buying it. We're also not buying Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Unfortunately, a lot of retail stores—including natural health stores and food co-ops—are still buying, and selling, Ben & Jerry's.

That's why we've been asking you to ask your favorite stores to dump Ben & Jerry's until the Unilever-owned brand commits to going 100% organic. And it's starting to work.

Case in point: One of our members recently reported asking Feather River Food Co-Op in Portola, California, to stop stocking Ben & Jerry's. She spoke with a store employee, and here's what she reported back:

This store had never carried Ben and Jerry's ice cream until a sale flyer came out from their main co-op supplier, NCG, (National Co-operative Grocers) listing Ben and Jerry's pumpkin cheesecake ice cream as a sale item on the flyer. She and her assistant decided to stock a small supply of just that flavor for the sale ad. Soon she was hearing from customers (besides me) that there were problems with Ben and Jerry's Ice cream company, perhaps even more than the glyphosate. Soon they pulled the three that were left. She has told me they do not plan to sell this product in the future. I hope someone from OCA has contacted the NCG.

That's what we call a victory. Now we need to replicate that victory all over the country. Can you help? It's easy. Check out this list of natural food stores and co-ops. If your local store is listed, please contact the store and ask it to dump Ben & Jerry's!

Let's get every natural food store and food co-op to stop selling Ben & Jerry's—even if we have to do it one by one!

Does your favorite store carry Ben & Jerry's? [orgcns.org/2AsOJsz](http://orgcns.org/2AsOJsz)

Take this letter to your store manager asking the store to dump Ben & Jerry's: [orgcns.org/2zYlMdX](http://orgcns.org/2zYlMdX)

After your store visit, please fill out this questionnaire to let us know what happened: [orgcns.org/2iE127X](http://orgcns.org/2iE127X)

Make a tax-deductible donation to our 'Ben & Jerry's: Go Organic!' campaign: [orgcns.org/2ujbkha](http://orgcns.org/2ujbkha)