



# Organic Bytes · Newsweekly of the Organic Consumers Association

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## Meaty Advice

Want to know what might be in your meat? Look no further than an article published this week by *Consumer Reports*. After conducting an in-depth review and analysis of government drug residue testing, *Consumer Reports* concluded that not only could your meat contain drug residues, but that some of those residues may be from drugs that are strictly prohibited in food production.



Andrew Gunther, executive director of A Greener World, told *Consumer Reports*: “I’m floored by these results. These are potentially very dangerous drugs, appearing in more samples and at higher levels than I would have ever expected.”

*Consumer Reports* specifically called out these three drugs: ketamine, a hallucinogenic party drug and experimental antidepressant; phenylbutazone, an anti-inflammatory deemed too risky for human use; and chloramphenicol, a powerful antibiotic linked to potentially deadly anemia. All these drugs are prohibited in beef, poultry and pork consumed in the U.S.

How do these and other drugs end up in meat sold to consumers? The article raises that question, along with questions about whether the USDA’s Food Safety Inspection Service is doing an adequate job of policing the meat industry and protecting consumers.

Look for producers who follow organic, regenerative production practices that not only reject the use of drugs, including antibiotics, but also keep the environment clean and treat animals humanely. [orgcns.org/2wsneFi](http://orgcns.org/2wsneFi)

## Get Real

Last year, the *Washington Post* exposed flaws in the U.S. organic dairy market, calling into question just how “organic” the milk sold by big producers, such as Aurora Dairy, really is.

A follow-up report by the *Post*, on the USDA’s dubious investigation into Aurora Dairy, didn’t do much to inspire consumer confidence in the USDA Organic seal on cartons of Aurora milk, or on other brands from similarly large operations.

The situation hasn’t much improved, at least not according to a newly updated report from the Cornucopia Institute. “The Industrialization of Organic Dairy” highlights the ongoing problems inside the “Big Organic” dairy industry: “These industrial-organic dairies and the businesses marketing their milk skirt organic regulations, harm the environment, compromise the nutritional content of organic dairy products, and sacrifice the health and well-being of livestock. They also undermine the organic market, making it difficult for ethical family-scale organic farmers to get a fair price for their milk and maintain their livelihoods.”

What can consumers who want real organic milk do?

Avoid store-brand organic milk, which is often supplied by big dairies like Aurora. Instead, seek out the brands with strong ratings from Cornucopia, or research local organic dairies that may not (yet) be listed on the scorecard. [orgcns.org/2LFdTzH](http://orgcns.org/2LFdTzH)

## Got Aspirin?

Monsanto has built its brand on lies and deception. But you’d think if someone offered to pay \$66 billion to buy it out, company executives might play it straight with the buyers.

But, no. This week, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. reports that, true to form, Monsanto withheld internal papers relevant to the lawsuit against the company by former school groundskeeper, Dewayne “Lee” Johnson. Monsanto was ordered to pay \$289.2 million to Johnson after the jury decided that exposure to Monsanto’s Roundup weedkiller caused his non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

With Monsanto now facing thousands of similar lawsuits, Bayer is scrambling to publicly reassure shareholders, who want answers after watching the company’s stock plummet.

Bayer CEO Werner Bauman is doing his best to paint a sunny future for the company, despite Monsanto’s mounting legal woes. Good luck with that.

Meanwhile we look forward to our own day in court with Monsanto. In May, a federal judge ruled that our lawsuit against Monsanto for the deceptive labeling, marketing and selling of Roundup retail products can proceed.

[orgcns.org/2wrsFoU](http://orgcns.org/2wrsFoU)

## Homework

We’ve chosen to honor Dewayne “Lee” Johnson, the man who took on Monsanto and won, by organizing a massive campaign to get Monsanto’s Roundup weedkiller out of U.S. schools.

Johnson, a former school groundskeeper who was required to spray Roundup on school properties, is terminally ill with non-Hodgkin lymphoma. A jury in San Francisco recently decided that Monsanto’s glyphosate-based weedkillers caused Johnson’s cancer. The jury also agreed that Monsanto knew Roundup was carcinogenic and that Monsanto acted with “malice and oppression” when it concealed that information from Johnson.

We can’t give Johnson his health back. But we can engage parents across the country in a campaign to get Roundup out of schools.

We’re already hard at work, behind the scenes, investigating the use of Roundup in U.S. school districts. As we obtain specific information, we’ll use it to reach PTA and other parent groups. We’ll help parents pressure school boards to get not just Roundup, but all pesticides and other toxic chemicals out of schools.

But we need your help. First, please sign our petition to the National School Boards Association. Then please share the petition with friends and family members, and with any parent groups you know who might be able to send the petition via their online newsletters.

Second, please contact your school board. Find the phone number for your school board president. Then go to this online form. Use the form as a guide while you speak with someone on your school board. You can check off the answers to the questions provided, while you’re on the phone.

We all support our local schools with our tax dollars—so you have the right to ask these questions even if you don’t have a child in school right now.

Scientists confirm that children are more vulnerable to harm from pesticide exposure. Their bodies are less able to detoxify and expel harmful chemicals. They also interact differently with their environment, including learning by touch and hand-to-mouth behaviors. Dewayne Johnson took on Monsanto and won. Let’s make that win mean something big.

Take Action: Tell the National School Boards Association: Get Monsanto’s Roundup and other toxic agro-chemicals out of schools: [orgcns.org/2NcqqV9](http://orgcns.org/2NcqqV9)

Take Action: Help us identify schools that use Roundup and other pesticides: [orgcns.org/2Lm2lRq](http://orgcns.org/2Lm2lRq)