

Organic Perspectives

Volume 1, Issue 3

June 2002

Study Finds Pesticide Residue Significantly Higher on Conventional Produce as Compared to Organic Produce

Findings from a recent scientific study on pesticide residue levels published in the Food Additives and Contaminants Journal confirmed that organic produce contained at minimum a third less residue as conventional produce. Combined Data from USDA, California State Department of Pesticide Regulation (CPR), and the Consumers Union covered over 94,000 food samples from more than 20 crops. USDA data showed that conventional produce was six times as likely than organic to contain multiple pesticide residues. CPR found residues in 31 percent of conventional and 6.5 percent in the organic produce, and the Consumer Union found residues of 79 percent of the conventional samples and 27 percent on the organic. (Source: <http://www.nytimes.com>)



Demand For New Zealand Organic Product Surges

Consumer demand for New Zealand's organic products generated around \$52.8 million in 2001 and is expected to grow to \$220 million by 2005. Of the total earnings in 2001, \$30.8 million was generated from export sales. Exports to North America constitute 21.4 percent of that total with the balance exported to Europe, Asia, and Australia. The largest commodity component is fresh fruit at 71 percent of total exported product. Certain product groups increased significantly in 2001. Organic meat and wool exports increased to \$1.76 million representing an increase of 250 percent on the previous season. Based on information provided by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, this large increase is due to substantial premiums over conventionally raised stock. For the full report, please refer to [NZ2012](http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200205/145683393.pdf) (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200205/145683393.pdf>).

Updated Amendment Adds Language to the 2002 Farm Bill

An amendment to the report language in the 2002 Farm Bill, FACT Act, for the Organic Agricultural Research and Extension Initiative adds a requirement for the Secretary of U.S. Department of Agriculture to consult with the National Organics Standards Board in making grants, and to add to the purposes by which grants may be rewarded. New purposes include items such as:

- “Determining desirable traits for organic commodities...”,
- “Pursuing classical and marker-assisted breeding for publicly held varieties of crops ...”,
- “Identifying marketing and policy constraints on the expansion of organic agriculture”,
- “Conducting advanced on-farm research and development that emphasizes observation....”.

For additional information, please visit: <http://www.iatp.org> or contact nritchie@iatp.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 **Study Finds Pesticide Residue Significantly Higher On Conventional Produce As Compared To Organic Produce.**
- 2 **Demand For New Zealand Organic Product Surges.**
- 3 **Updated Amendment Adds Language to the 2002 Farm Bill.**
- 4 **Belgium Update: Third Largest Retailer Opens its Second All-Organic Supermarket. and more....**

Belgium Update: Third Largest Retailer Opens its Second All-Organic Supermarket

Last month, Belgium's third largest food retailer, COLRUYT, opened its second all-organic supermarket "BIO-PLANET." This distributor opened its first organic supermarket last August. It is reportedly showing positive results. According to the COLRUYT group, the past year has demonstrated that there is a market for organic food and non-food products. Just like the first one, this second supermarket sells 6,500 products, which are also available, on-line at <http://www.bio-planet.be>. For the full report, please refer to [BE2025](#). (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200206/145683757.pdf>)

More Than 4,000 Farms in Japan Are Certified Organic

According to a Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries survey, the number of Organic Farms in Japan has grown to over 4,000. These farms are certified organic under the organic certification system of the revised JAS law. The majority of certified farms are held in Okayama Prefecture at 256, followed by Kumamoto Prefecture at 210. Approximately 602 processing companies were certified as makers of processed foods. For more information, please refer to The Japan Agrinfo Newsletter at <http://atn-riai.agr.ca/info/asia/e3184.htm>.

Nitrofen Found in Organic Livestock Products and Feeds

Residues of the banned herbicide Nitrofen were found in organic livestock products and organic feeds in Germany. Although parts of the organic industry had knowledge about the contamination, notification of government authorities was delayed by several months. Products known to be contaminated have reportedly been taken off the market. In addition a small amount of Nitrofen contaminated grain (72 tons of wheat) ended up in conventional feed. The 400

Nitrofen Found in Organic Livestock Products and Feeds

Continued...

farms that received this feed are not allowed to sell any products until residue checks have been made. For the full reports, please refer to [GM2009](#) & [GM2010](#). (<http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200206/145683789.pdf> and <http://www.fas.usda.gov/gainfiles/200206/145683813.pdf>)

Three New Organic Cereals to Hit the Grocery Stores Shelves This Month

General Mills will add three new organic breakfast cereals to its line to be marketed nationwide as the *Cascadian Farm* brand. Distinguishing its conventional product from its organic product line may increase recognition by consumers who tend to avoid famous or well-known brands. This trend is increasingly popular as manufacturers focus more readily on sales trends in the organic and natural foods market. With more than 20 percent growth in sales, Whole Foods Market Inc. is a major outlet for the brands less recognizable to the consumer as national brands. (Source: <http://www.msnbc.com>)

USDA News

In a recent USDA press release, AMS listed the names of the first round of accredited organic certifiers. These entities are accredited to certify organic production and handling operations to comply with the US National Organic Program (NOP) standards. On October 21, 2002 the standards will be fully implemented and all USDA certified organic production and handling operations will be allowed to use the USDA organic seal on fresh and processed products. For more information, please visit the NOP site at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/>.

Upcoming Events

International

May 19-20, 2003 – ORGANEX, Organic Food Show, Paris, France. Contact information: <http://fr.organex.net> or Caroline Joucla-Fabre or Paola Goyon at (33-1)41 18 8618 or via e-mail paola_goyon@groupemm.com or caroline_joucla-fabre@groupemm.com

October 18-20, 2003 – NATEXPO (formally the DIETETIC), Organic Health and Dietetic Trade Show, Paris, France. Contact information: Sylvie Dalouche at (33-1)49 09 6068 or via e-mail sdalouche@comexpo-paris.com.

Domestic - 2002

October 3-6 - Natural Products Expo East, Washington, DC. Contact Info: New Hope Media at 1-866-458-4935, via Internet at <http://www.naturalproductsexpo.com>, via e-mail at tradeshows@newhope.com.

**Indicates a USDA-endorsed show.*



Editors Note: As publishers of *The Organic Perspectives Newsletter*, AgExport Services continuously strives to maintain a partnership with the organic food community by sharing information and providing export assistance through our many export program services. For more information on how we might support your company in establishing opportunities abroad, please contact our office at (202) 205-3771 or visit our Web site: <http://www.fas.usda.gov/agexport/exporter.html>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Organic Trade Association - comprehensive listing of organics/sustainable agriculture events: <http://www.ota.com>

FAS, AgExport Services Division's Organic Page
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/agx/organics/organics.html>

FAS's Trade Shows and Other Marketing Events - a complete list of international food and trade shows including those for conventional products.
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/scripts/agexp ort/EventQuery.asp>

National Organic Program Web site - <http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop>



*Edited, written, and compiled by Pamela McKenzie,
AgExport Services/Marketing, Tel: (202) 205-3771
Fax: (202) 690-0193*

E-mail: mckenzie@fas.usda.gov
