



Laura Theis <idahosbounty@gmail.com>

A Cornucopia of News - Raw Milk Warfare, Updates in Food Safety, Raw Almonds and Infant Formula

The Cornucopia Institute <cultivate@cornucopia.org>
To: ltheis@idahosbounty.org

Fri, Jun 4, 2010 at 8:58 AM

THE CULTIVATOR

May-June 2010

News From [The Cornucopia Institute](http://www.cornucopia.org)

Raw Milk -- Raw Deals

Fierce Debates about marketing raw milk are flaring up all over the country.

Although it is legal to market raw milk in the European Economic Union and in almost 30 states, ranging anywhere from being available in retail stores to exclusively on the farm, the industrial dairy complex, and public health officials, are fully in the attack mode. In states like Wisconsin (America's Dairyland) and Massachusetts both sides are squared off in full fledged warfare.



Image courtesy of thebirdcagenorwich.co.uk

Proponents of raw milk and dairy products, such as the Weston A. Price Foundation, have strong documentary evidence about the nutritional advantages of unprocessed, fresh milk. On the other end of the spectrum the same agribusiness/public nutrition experts, who allow and/or promote food-like substances, such as Kraft's processed "cheese food" or Happy Meals at McDonald's, are claiming that consuming raw dairy products is akin to playing Russian roulette.

The Cornucopia Institute is "neutral" on the attributes of raw milk but fiercely defensive of the rights of individual entrepreneurial family farmers to engage in commerce with their customers.

Cornucopia's codirector Mark Kastel spent an hour recently on public radio debating a physician who actually favorably compared eating at McDonald's to drinking raw milk. ([Click here to listen.](#))

In Wisconsin, after overwhelming public support and strong majorities in the state legislature, lame-duck governor Democrat James Doyle vetoed a bill that would've legalized the sale of raw milk in the state.

In Massachusetts, although the state licenses and certifies raw milk farmers, the department of agriculture, under pressure from the dairy industry lobby, decided to enforce unwritten rules making it impossible for buyers clubs to deliver milk to citizens in cities like Boston.

And the second largest supplier of Organic Milk, Organic Valley, just issued an edict that will prohibit any of its farmer-owners from distributing raw milk directly to customers if they want to continue shipping their milk to the cooperative.

The sales of raw milk are growing exponentially. The Cornucopia Institute firmly supports the freedom of choice by farmers and consumers to make informed marketplace decisions and produce and consume the food of their choice.

Proposed Amendments Slowing Food Safety Legislation in

Congress

Still Time for you to Act

Cornucopia, the Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, and other groups have sent out several [alerts](#) regarding the food safety bills in Congress. We are continuing to monitor the situation with S. 510, the Senate's version of the bill.

As written, this bill would impose extremely burdensome and unnecessary requirements on the thousands of small farmers and food processors who are producing safe, nutrient-dense foods for their local communities. It's critical that the bill be amended or stopped!

The bill's progress has been slowed by controversial proposed amendments. The first controversy is over Senator Tester's (D-MT) proposed amendment, that we strongly support, and that would exempt small-scale processors and direct-marketing farmers from the most onerous requirements. [Click here](#) to read more. Please contact your two US Senators and ask them to sign on to the Tester amendment!

National Organic Program Moves to Ban Synthetic DHA/ARA

The USDA's National Organic Program announced at the spring meeting of the National Organic Standards Board that it has reversed a decision allowing synthetic "accessory nutrients" in organics. The decision applies to and includes the controversial additives DHA and ARA that are found in many brands of organic infant formula.

Cornucopia helped expose a sweetheart deal allowing the ingredients that was reached between a powerful Washington lobbyist and the former director of the National Organic Program, Dr. Barbara Robinson. Robinson overruled her staff who argued that it was illegal to allow the synthetic nutrients, derived from fermented soil fungus and algae, in organics.

Cornucopia's research also uncovered startling evidence implicating the DHA/ARA oils with severe and chronic health problems for a subset of infants around the country. For more, [click here](#).

Raw Almond Lawsuit Gets Court Hearing

The lawsuit challenging the USDA's pasteurization mandate for American-grown raw almonds continues winding through the federal courts. Attorney John Vetne reports that he provided oral arguments before the federal appeals court in April. Eleven farm families are insisting that they have the right to challenge the rule in court – the USDA contends that farmers (and consumers) cannot legally challenge the federal regulation.

Vetne expects a ruling from the court this Summer. He is cautiously optimistic, and notes that a previous case he recently handled also found that farmers, in a dairy case, had the right to legally challenge a federal regulation. A victory in the appeals court would send the raw almond lawsuit back to the federal district court where the merits of the argument against the pasteurization mandate would be aired. For more, [click here](#).

Friend-raising -- Help Bring New Supporters to Cornucopia a Fun/Easy Way

Cornucopia's members -- both farmers and consumer, and their allies -- are our lifeblood. You make our hard-hitting farmer advocacy on behalf of local and organic foods possible. Our members provide the moral authority to do this work; they help give us the legitimate voice that helps us push against often powerful forces that would corrupt the organic label and kill local and sustainable agriculture; and they provide the needed funding to keep our staff working hard on behalf of farmers and consumers. Because of all of these reasons, it is important that we continue to grow our membership base.

Now there is a tool available that is helping Cornucopia reach new members and new spokespeople who might support our efforts. The

Promoting Economic Justice for Family Scale Farming

The Cornucopia Institute

Page Creator: Will Fante
Page Closes: Apr 2, 2011

Will Fante's Fundraising Page

Fundraising target: \$1,200
Total raised so far: \$1,022.00

Give now >

I want to raise money, too

Share this page

My personal message:

Dear Friends and Family!

Thank you so much for visiting my personal fundraising page for The Cornucopia Institute's Protect Organic/Local Food and Farming Campaign.

As you know, I've spent virtually my entire adult life working and volunteering on behalf of our environment. It was my interest in the environment that led me to co-found Cornucopia. Here, every dollar donated goes a long way to support our farmer-consumer coalition. We

tool is online, person-to-person friend-raising and we'd like to invite you to give it a try!



Thank you so much for visiting my personal fundraising page for The Cornucopia Institute's Protect Organic/Local Food and Farming Campaign.

As you know, I've spent virtually my entire adult life working and volunteering on behalf of our environment. It was my interest in the environment that led me to co-found Cornucopia. Here, every dollar donated goes a long ways to support our farmer-consumer coalition. We

Cornucopia has completed a test-run using a tool from Firstgiving. Participants create attractive "personal fundraising pages" then simply send e-mails to acquaintances, relatives and friends on their e-mail list, inviting them to visit their personal fundraising page with a little information about Cornucopia and an easy way to make a donation and become a member online. You can visit Will Fantle's (one of our co-founders) page at www.firstgiving.com/willfantle to see how this works.

So far, with just a few participants, we have raised \$7,028! Won't you consider being one of our friend-raisers helping support Cornucopia? *With help from Cornucopia staff -- we will walk you through the process on the phone --* it will take you all of 15 minutes to set up your own personal friend-raising page. It's very easy. Please [email Amy](mailto:amy@cornucopia.org) (our Outreach and Development Director) or call her at 801-953-1925 if you'd like to invite new supporters to Cornucopia. And thanks!



[Support The Cornucopia Institute](#)



The Cornucopia Institute is a non-profit group based in Wisconsin and working on food and farm policy issues concerning sustainable and organic agriculture. We depend upon our members and readers like you for support. Please visit our website at <http://www.cornucopia.org/> for more details about our activities and how you can become involved or email us at cultivate@cornucopia.org.

CORNUCOPIA
I N S T I T U T E

cultivate@cornucopia.org P.O. Box 126 Cornucopia, WI 54827 608-625-2042 2010

[Update Profile / Unsubscribe](#)