

# NY Farms!

Building Farmer-Consumer Connections in the Empire State

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NY Farms! in an effort to increase networking among those in the farm and food industry is pleased to share the following with you. There is no subscription fee and at any time **you can subscribe or unsubscribe through an email to: [nyfarms@nyfarms.info](mailto:nyfarms@nyfarms.info)** Information that you would like to share should also be sent to this address. News will be compiled on a bi-weekly basis. Articles are posted for informational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the opinions/stance or unanimous consent of the Board of Directors of NY Farms! and its members. To learn more about NY Farms!, become a member or sponsor an issue of News to Share, contact us via this same email or visit our website [www.nyfarms.info](http://www.nyfarms.info)

## NEWS TO SHARE

May 18, 2007

### NEWS FROM NY Farms!

The Cornell Farm to School Program, NY Farms!, and the New York School Nutrition Association are pleased to announce the publication of a new Farm to School Toolkit: ***Farm to School in the Northeast: Making the Connection for Healthy Kids and Healthy Farms*** by Jennifer Wilkins, Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman, Meredith Graham, Betsey Bacelli, and Martha Goodsell. Part of a project funded by the Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE) Program, ***Farm to School in the Northeast*** is designed to enhance Extension educators' capacity for helping K-12 schools, colleges/universities, and farmers connect with one another for the benefit of both. Farm to School initiatives help schools provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students, economically support area farms, and increase students' awareness of the links between farms, health, and community development. ***Farm to School in the Northeast*** will also be helpful to other community leaders working to improve the health of children and the sustainability of local food systems through farm to school connections. In 200 pages, ***Farm to School in the Northeast*** provides a step-by-step guide to making farm to school connections, walking practitioners through a process from planning, to implementation and evaluation. Each chapter includes a "Toolbox" filled with a variety of resources from assessment and evaluation forms, to sample position announcements, contracts, and flowcharts designed to help keep you organized, confront inevitable challenges and celebrate successes as you work towards your farm to school objectives. **For a free pdf copy of *Farm to School in the Northeast: Making the Connection for Healthy Kids and Healthy Farms*, visit the Cornell Farm to School Program website at: <http://farmtoschool.cce.cornell.edu/>**

### WHAT'S IN SEASON?

We're glad you asked. This month we're featuring **SPRING GREENS**. If you are a producer and not listed on this website please send us your contact information. <http://www.nyfarms.info/whatsinseason.html>

### LETTERS

#### **USDA's "Good Agricultural Practices" -- Good For Whom?\***

by Russell Libby Executive Director of MOFGA

Responding to last fall's /E. coli 0157:H7/ contamination of spinach in California, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently issued "Final Guidance for Safe Production of Fresh-Cut Fruits and Vegetables," which includes recommendations for good handling practices at all stages of the food production system. The FDA's goal is to minimize bacterial contamination of food. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is working closely with the FDA to implement these guidelines. The USDA's interpretation is called "Good Agricultural Practices" or GAP. USDA's goal is to have all farmers supplying major markets GAP-certified. To become GAP-certified, each level of the food system, from farm to packer to processor to distributor, will have to be certified for the appropriate set of "Good Agricultural Practices" or "Good Handling Practices." A total of 122 farmers and distributors across the country are certified. USDA requires GAP compliance for all processors who supply publicly funded school lunch programs. Other large buyers, such as the U.S. Department of Defense Produce Procurement Program and many large retailers across the country, are instituting similar requirements for their suppliers. Processors, in turn, are requiring their suppliers (i.e./, farmers) to meet the GAP farm standards. <http://www.mofga.org/Default.aspx?tabid=735>

### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

## **Common chemicals are linked to breast cancer**

**Of the 216 compounds, many in the air, food or everyday items.**

By Marla Cone, LA Times Staff Writer May 14, 2007

More than 200 chemicals — many found in urban air and everyday consumer products — cause breast cancer in animal tests, according to a compilation of scientific reports published today. Writing in a publication of the American Cancer Society, researchers concluded that reducing exposure to the compounds could prevent many women from developing the disease. The research team from five institutions analyzed a growing body of evidence linking environmental contaminants to breast cancer, the leading killer of U.S. women in their late 30s to early 50s. More than 200 chemicals — many found in urban air and everyday consumer products — cause breast cancer in animal tests, according to a compilation of scientific reports published today. Writing in a publication of the American Cancer Society, researchers concluded that reducing exposure to the compounds could prevent many women from developing the disease. The research team from five institutions analyzed a growing body of evidence linking environmental contaminants to breast cancer, the leading killer of U.S. women in their late 30s to early 50s. To Read the full story: <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-cancer14may14,1,6867764.story?ctrack=1&cset=true>

## **FARM TO SCHOOL NEWS**

It's that time of year again! Since the beginning of April, our offices have been filled with artwork and writing projects submitted by Pre-K - 6th grade students all over the state for our annual "**Be Aware of New York Agriculture**" contest. We receive roughly 300 submissions at the state level, and several times that number participated in local and county contests. Many thanks to all of you who organized events on the local level. This week, the entries were judged by members of the Sigma Alpha agriculture sorority here at Cornell. The results are available at: <http://www.cerp.cornell.edu/aitc/BeAwareInfo.asp> As always, they had some really tough decisions to make as all the projects were very creative and embraced many aspects of agriculture in New York. Congratulations to the winning students, and to all the others who participated.

## **COALITION OF ADVOCATES SUPPORTS HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT**

NY Governor's Press Release May 8, 2007

Governor Eliot Spitzer, Lieutenant Governor David Paterson, and State Health Commissioner Richard Daines were joined today by a coalition of children's health advocates who voiced their support for the Governor's Healthy Schools Act, which will create healthier schools by improving nutrition and enabling local communities to shape school wellness policies. "Good nutrition and healthy eating habits begin when children are young. This legislation is an important step in the fight against childhood obesity, which has reached crisis levels in the State of New York," said Governor Spitzer. "By working together with local communities we are building a strong foundation for academic performance and future success that is built upon good nutrition and robust physical activity." The Healthy Schools Act will:

- Limit the types of beverages that may be served during the school day to milk, 100-percent fruit and vegetable juices; and water;
- Enhance the Department of Health's responsibilities under the Childhood Obesity Prevention Program to include collaboration with nutrition and physical education professionals by utilizing age-appropriate measurements of body mass index (BMI) to develop a comprehensive approach to improve health and nutrition for school age children;
- Ensure that more students receive a daily breakfast by requiring districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program to establish a school breakfast program for middle and high schools;
- Require the annual development of local school wellness policies to address health and nutrition in schools and to consider expanding breakfast, lunch and recess to ensure that sufficient time is provided to eat nutritious meals and participate in physical activity.

<http://www.ny.gov/governor/press/0508071.html>

**Entrepreneurs in the lunchroom:** Healthier meals for school children are a new growth industry, spurred into action even before the release of the IOM report, according to an article in the April 5, 2007 edition of USA Today. From coast to coast, savvy entrepreneurs have targeted middle income parents and their kids with more nutritious lunches sold on-line, at school, and from neighborhood storefronts. Small companies like Health e-Lunch Kids, Brown Bag Naturals, and Kid Chow are small but have a potential audience of more than 10 million children. They may charge \$4.50 to \$7.40 for a lunch – nearly three times the cost of a full-price school meal – but they offer fresh fruits and vegetables and organic or natural foods without trans fats, additives, or preservatives. The IOM standards, even if made mandatory for school meals and food sales, will not affect lunches brought from home. (Foodlinks America 5/11/07)

The Applied Environmental Education & Communication - Volume 6, Number 1 has been published. **The special issue about children's gardening** is available online at <http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=g777683130~db=all>

## **NUTRITION NEWS**

### **Bottled water trumps milk, nears beer**

May 4, 2007 Rutland Herald

Americans on average drank more bottled water in 2006 than milk, according to analysis of Beverage Digest data. The average per capita consumption of bottled water grew from 11 to 21 gallons between 1996 and 2006. Consumption of milk dropped from 22.7 to 19.5 gallons over the 10-year span, while beer consumption was steady at 21.8. Soft drink consumption dropped from 52 to 50.9 gallons, reported Rutland Herald.

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070504/BUSINESS/705040311/1011/BUSINESS>

**A new health program in California is using moms to encourage consumption of fruits and vegetables.** The program, called "Champions for Change," features television and outdoor ads that urge people to eat fruits and vegetables, and exercise more. California's Department of Health Services says the campaign features what it calls "everyday moms," not actors, to promote healthy actions that reduce obesity. <http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/05-17-2007/0004590959&EDATE=>

**Eating fresh grapes appears to protect against diabetes**, according to a study published in the *Journal of Nutrition*. Scientists found that the grapes fed in powder form to lab rodents significantly reduced the incidence of diabetes. The study credits naturally occurring antioxidants in grapes for providing the health benefit, reported *California Farm Bureau Federation*

## **HUNGER NEWS**

### **Hunger and Food Stamps**

If you think people do not go hungry in America, you're wrong. At last count in 2005, 35 million low-income Americans — about a third of them children — lived in households that cannot consistently afford enough to eat. Since 2005, the situation has most likely become worse. Last year, real wages for low-income workers were still below 2001 levels. This year, job growth is slowing and prices are rising. And each year, the federal food stamp program — the bulwark against hunger for 26 million Americans — does less to help. In large part, that is because a key component of the formula for computing most families' food stamps has not been adjusted for inflation since 1996. Over all, food stamps now average a meager \$1.05 per person per meal.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/13/opinion/13sun1.html?th&emc=th>

### **Global Rush to Energy Crops Threatens to Bring Food Shortages and Increase Poverty, Says UN**

By John Vidal May 9, 2007 The Guardian UK

The global rush to switch from oil to energy derived from plants will drive deforestation, push small farmers off the land and lead to serious food shortages and increased poverty unless carefully managed, says the most comprehensive survey yet completed of energy crops.

[http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/050907EA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/050907EA.shtml)

### **Less Green at the Farmers' Market**

By CORBY KUMMER Published: May 10, 2007 NY Times

IN the five years since the last farm bill was passed, the number of farmers' markets in this country has grown to nearly 4,500 from 2,750, gladdening the hearts of foodies who like nothing better than seeing locally grown Chioggia beets, butter radishes, Early Girl tomatoes, miniature pattypan squash, chervil, fresh goat cheese logs and duck breast in a conveniently located market. Some of the best customers of farmers' markets, though, haven't been free-spending foodies, but food-aid recipients. Happily, the new farm bill before Congress has several proposals to vastly increase food aid to the poor, including two programs that allow them to buy at farmers' markets. That normally would be great for small farmers. Without the guaranteed income from the farm bill's \$15 million Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and the separate \$25 million Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (part of the food aid program for families known as WIC), some small growers would be out of business, and many others would be reluctant to sell in low-income neighborhoods where fresh produce is otherwise a rarity — "food deserts." But, it turns out, new efforts to encourage food-aid recipients to eat more fruits and vegetables — which are calamitously underrepresented in American diets — could end up shutting out the small farmers who are the backbone of these markets.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/10/opinion/10kummer.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/10/opinion/10kummer.html?_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin)

## **FARMLAND PRESERVATION**

### **For Sale: Condo W/Chicken Coop**

By SARA SCHAEFER MUÑOZ May 17, 2007; Page D1 Wall Street Journal

Forget the golf-course community or the manicured subdivision. A number of developers are now offering homes on working farms. Catering to Americans' desire to live "green," developers around the country are creating communities on or adjoining farms, pitching views of sorghum fields, grazing livestock, and local -- very local -- food, such as eggs residents collect from the property's henhouse. The communities, however, aren't necessarily in the boondocks. Some are in suburbs or near cities. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117936116484705583.html>

## **ENVIRONMENT**

### **Global warming may be remaking the wine map**

#### **Viticultural regions are expected to shift toward the poles, cooler coastal zones and higher elevations**

BY CORIE BROWN Miami Herald May 17, 2007

Imagine a world in which the best sparkling wines come from Surrey in southern England, not France's Champagne region. A world where Monterey Bay is home to California's best cabernet sauvignons and Sweden produces world-class rieslings. <http://www.miamiherald.com/277/story/108404.html>

### **100 Things You Can Do To Prepare Yourself for Peak Oil**

By Sharon Astyk Groovy Green, March 5, 2007 Organic Consumers Association

52. If your community doesn't have a food coop, start one now. There is a great deal of information on the web here: This can be a powerful tool for creating local food economies.

[http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article\\_5209.cfm](http://www.organicconsumers.org/articles/article_5209.cfm)

## **TOOLS FOR CHANGING THE WORLD**

Everyday we are flooded with depressing news about what's happening to our planet. Not enough attention is given to those positive solutions that are emerging across the globe. WorldChanging.com is a new public interest website providing examples of sustainable and positive change. According to the Worldchanging.com founders "We pay special attention to tools, ideas and models that may have been overlooked in the mass media. We make a point of showing ways in which seemingly unconnected resources link together to form a toolkit for changing the world."

<http://www.worldchanging.com>

### **The Battle to Ban Toxic Toys**

"Phthalates" (pronounced THA-lates) are found in everything from cosmetics to IV bags to children's toys.

Environmentalists and environmentally minded legislators are beginning to worry about long-term exposure to the chemical compounds. Specifically, they are worried about the plastics commonly used in soft vinyl products made for babies, such as bath books, rubber ducks and teething rings, as well as bisphenol A (BPA), a building block for polycarbonate plastic used in shatter-resistant baby bottles. [http://www.truthout.org/issues\\_06/051507HA.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/issues_06/051507HA.shtml)

## **RISK MANAGEMENT**

For more information please click on our [webpage](#)

### **Farmers' health insurance co-op inspiring imitators**

By AMY RINARD April 27, 2007

An innovative health insurance cooperative for Wisconsin farmers has been so successful in its first few months that organizers are working with other groups in the state to launch similar co-ops and fielding phone calls from people all over the country interested in organizing co-ops to control insurance costs.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=597323>

## **TRENDS**

### **Bill-backers call for local growing, more organics**

#### **A push to aid Illinois' smallest farms unites broad range of environmental, dietary allies**

By Deborah Horan Chicago Tribune staff reporter Published May 10, 2007

Legislation to help local farmers in Illinois grow food, both organic and non-organic, for local consumption is being promoted by a diverse set of allies, including green activists, small farmers, urban food-policy planners and, most recently, the Illinois Farm Bureau. [http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/northwest/chi-0705091457may10,1,5809743\\_story?coll=chi-newslocalnorthwest-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/northwest/chi-0705091457may10,1,5809743_story?coll=chi-newslocalnorthwest-hed&ctrack=1&cset=true)

**Farmers markets go wild: What's not to like about farmers markets? The food is healthful and fresh. The prices are right. There's a community feeling.**

By Marilyn Marter Philadelphia Inquirer Food Writer May 17, 2007

Farmers markets in the Philadelphia region and across the country continue to multiply, with at least 10 new seasonal markets opening in the Philadelphia region this year. The number of farmers markets in the U.S. increased in the last decade, from 1,755 in 1994 to more than 4,385 in 2006.

[http://www.philly.com/inquirer/food/20070517\\_Sprouting\\_Everywhere.html](http://www.philly.com/inquirer/food/20070517_Sprouting_Everywhere.html)

**New Vine Logistics Announces First Release of its Quarterly Consumer Direct Shipping Index Study Finds Direct to Consumer Market Growth Rate Triples Rest of Industry**

May 10, 2007 New Vine Logistics Press Release

Wine sales through the direct to consumer segment of the market are growing at a rate three times faster than the industry as a whole. A significant portion of this growth is driven by the popularity of wine clubs and loyalty programs.

<http://www.newvinelogistics.com/index.cfm?method=pages.showPage&pageid=2143415c-9f74-3856-b462-1079d45b72ad>

**New farmers buck trends, take on risks**

By ADAM GORLICK, Associated Press Writer May 17, 2007

Between 2005 and 2006, the number of farms in America dropped by 9,000. Currently, there are just more than two million farms, 160,000 fewer than there were 20 years ago, according to USDA. Some new farmers are modeling their businesses on community supported agriculture programs which rely on customers who pay a fixed price at the start of the season in return for a certain amount of produce.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070517/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/new\\_farmers;\\_ylt=AnKUoQhoiqNNK3Q2oMxVeD5u24cA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070517/ap_on_bi_ge/new_farmers;_ylt=AnKUoQhoiqNNK3Q2oMxVeD5u24cA)

**Pizza Place Delivers Pies With a Purpose**

By Patrick Condon, Associated Press Writer May 3, 2007

More small business owners are finding ways to achieve social "good" through their practices. Galactic Pizza, for example, emphasizes environmental sustainability and protection in its business practices, uses organic and locally grown ingredients when possible, and donates a small portion of its profit to hunger relief and other charities.

[http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070503/super\\_pizza.html?.v=2](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070503/super_pizza.html?.v=2)

**Biodynamic farming gains ground in the wine world**

By Jolene Thym, FOOD WRITER Oakland Tribune May 10, 2007

Biodynamic farming is gaining ground in the wine industry. This farming method combines farm land and nature so there is a unique natural environment that is entirely self-sustaining.

[http://www.insidebayarea.com/bayarealiving/cj\\_5853134](http://www.insidebayarea.com/bayarealiving/cj_5853134)

**Researchers: Organic push won't hurt world food supply**

USA Today

Organic food has generally been considered a niche market and a luxury for wealthy consumers; however, researchers found that an increase in organic agriculture may help fight world hunger and improve the environment.

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-05-05-un-organic\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2007-05-05-un-organic_N.htm)

**Switch to organic crops could help poor**

Associated Press May 5, 2007

Researchers told a U.N. conference Saturday that a large-scale shift to organic agriculture could help fight world hunger while improving the environment.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070505/ap\\_on\\_re\\_eu/un\\_organic\\_food\\_1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070505/ap_on_re_eu/un_organic_food_1)

**International Conference on Organic Agriculture and Food Security**

Rome, 03 - 05 May 2007 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Meeting the food security challenge through organic agriculture, States should integrate organic agriculture objectives within national priorities, FAO says.

[http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/index\\_en.htm](http://www.fao.org/organicag/ofs/index_en.htm)

**Hannaford Earns Organic Retailer Certification, Widens Offering**

Progressive Grocer May 10, 2007

Hannaford Bros. Co. expanded the organic and natural product offering in its stores, in response to shopper demand. The company recently completed the process to become a certified organic retailer by Quality Assurance International.

Additionally, this month the company is rolling out 120 new products in its Nature's Place private label line of organic and natural products.

[http://www.progressivegrocer.com/progressivegrocer/magazine/article\\_display.jsp?vnu\\_content\\_id=1003583549](http://www.progressivegrocer.com/progressivegrocer/magazine/article_display.jsp?vnu_content_id=1003583549)

### **Confidence in Food Safety Down, Energy Costs Changing How People Shop**

FMI Consumer Trends 2007

Consumers Wary About Food From Cloned Animals. Consumer shopping behavior and attitudes are changing due to the increase in foodborne illness outbreaks and rising energy costs. The report found that the number of consumers "completely" or "somewhat confident" in the safety of supermarket food declined from 82% in 2006 to 66%.

<http://www.fmi.org/media/mediatext.cfm?id=873>

### **Online Retail Is Years Away From Saturation: Survey**

New York Times May 14, 2007

E-commerce is moving "full steam ahead" and is years away from saturation, with double-digit growth expected for several years, according to an online retail industry report by Forrester Research for Shop.org. The industry's 25% growth in 2006 to \$220 billion was above expectations of 20% and matched growth seen in 2005.

[http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/technology/tech-online-retail.html?\\_r=3&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/technology/tech-online-retail.html?_r=3&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

### **Small Dairies Profit From a Resurgence Of Home Deliveries Firms That Held Out In Tough Times See Payoff in Higher Sales**

By GWENDOLYN BOUNDS May 15, 2007 Wall Street Journal

The old-fashioned trade of home milk delivery is making a comeback around the country. An increase in demand for homegrown products, coupled with rising gas prices, is giving an unexpected marketing boost to some tiny dairies and local milk distributors, helping them compete against larger rivals who saturate store shelves.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117919278542402777.html?mod=us\\_business\\_biz\\_focus\\_hs](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117919278542402777.html?mod=us_business_biz_focus_hs)

### **Local foods battle for shelf space: As more consumers demand home-grown, a new market arrives**

By NAOMI SNYDER May 7, 2007 The Tennessean.com

More people demand local but, "It's not easy (for grocers) to have 50 different contracts with every Tom, Dick and Harry," said Larry Yee, co-chairman of the board for the Association of Family Farms. "The supply side isn't organized in any meaningful way to get that product to market with any volume or consistency."

<http://tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070507/BUSINESS01/705070336/1436/BUSINESS>

### **Hemp Milk Hits Store Shelves**

May 9, 2007 WSYR-TV Syracuse

Soy milk, almond milk and rice milk have a new friend on the store shelf: hemp milk. The non-dairy alternative just came out this month. It's made from the nuts, or seeds, of the hemp plant, and is already flying off shelves nation-wide. Is it worth it? There's hemp protein powder, hemp bars, hemp shakes, and hemp cereal. Now, there's milk to go along with that breakfast meal.

[http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story.aspx?content\\_id=2d320b4c-3eb9-4f99-a475-775837d24e44&rss=112](http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=2d320b4c-3eb9-4f99-a475-775837d24e44&rss=112)

### **Plan to Require Restaurants to Post Calorie Counts Passes Senate**

Chain restaurants in Connecticut would be required to print the number of calories for their menu items under legislation approved by the state Senate. The Senate voted 28-7 in favor of the bill, which now goes to the House of Representatives. Lawmakers said they are concerned about obesity and consider the proposal a natural step after dietary information on supermarket labels were required decades ago, reported NBC30.com.

### **Food Safety Concerns Grow as Imports to US Surge**

By Daniel B. Wood May 8, 2007 The Christian Science Monitor

"Our food inspection system in America is broken and collapsing further all the time," says Representative Rosa De Lauro (D-Connecticut). She and Senator Richard Durbin (D-Illinois) in February reintroduced the Safe Food Act, calling for a single food safety agency and standardized procedures to govern American food safety. More than 130 countries ship food to the United States, yet the FDA is able to inspect only 0.7 percent of all imported food products.

[http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/050807P.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/050807P.shtml)

### **Chicken from China? Questionable farming practices fuel skepticism of US plan to import poultry**

By Diedra Henderson, Boston Globe May 9, 2007

In China, some farmers try to maximize the output from their small plots by flooding produce with unapproved pesticides, pumping livestock with antibiotics banned in the United States, and using human feces as fertilizer to boost soil productivity. But the questionable practices don't end there: Chicken pens are frequently suspended over ponds

where seafood is raised, recycling chicken waste as a food source for seafood, according to a leading food safety expert who served as a federal adviser to the Food and Drug Administration.

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2007/05/09/chicken\\_from\\_china/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2007/05/09/chicken_from_china/)

### **Imports of irradiated goods set to increase**

Food Navigator May 9, 2007

More irradiated products from abroad will become available to US processors following the arrival of the first shipment of mangoes treated in India. The mango imports represent a wider range of products that can now be imported since approval for irradiated fruit and vegetables imports was granted in 2002. The process exposes foods to ionizing radiation that kills insects, moulds and bacterium. The technology, which can kill up to 99 per cent of pathogens, is seen by the industry as a means of ensuring food safety. Last year, a generic dose of irradiation was recognized as an approved treatment for a wider range of produce, including Indian mangoes. Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approves the importation of pre-cleared, commercial shipments, providing certain conditions are met, including dosage. <http://www.truthabouttrade.org/article.asp?id=7504>

### **Scientists Look to Vaccines in the War on E. Coli**

by: Andrew Pollack New York Times

Shousun C. Szu, a scientist at the National Institutes of Health, says the best way to prevent people from being poisoned by deadly E. coli would be to vaccinate all infants against the bacteria. Graeme McRae, a Canadian biotechnology executive, says it would be more practical to inoculate cows instead. Vaccines for people and for cattle are just two approaches under development to prevent or treat food poisoning by the strain E. coli O157:H7.

<http://www.truthabouttrade.org/article.asp?id=7480>

### **Smithfield-Premium Standard Farms Merger Harmful to Rural America**

The Justice Department today announced their approval of plans by Smithfield Foods Inc. to purchase Premium Standard Farms Inc. National Farmers Union President Tom Buis made the following statement. "I am very disappointed at today's Justice Department decision. The Smithfield-Premium Standard Farms merger will further concentration in the livestock industry, while lessening competition. The move will leave both consumers and independent livestock producers at a disadvantage. "NFU recently released a study that revealed troubling trends in agriculture. The top four beef packers dominate 83.5 percent of the market, four pork packers control 66 percent of that market and the top four poultry companies process 58.5 percent of the broilers in the United States. "It is imperative that livestock markets operate in a free, fair and transparent manner. This merger will force independent producers out of business and consumers will, ultimately, lose."

<http://www.swnebr.net/newspaper/cgi-bin/articles/articlearchiver.pl?160591>

### **Meet the new meat cuts**

By Lisa Singhania For The Associated Press Ashland Daily Tidings May 15, 2007

A combination of improved butchering and marketing techniques have generated new, attractively-named cuts of meat designed to appeal to flavor- and time-conscious cooks. The new cuts come from the chuck and bottom round, beef mainstays whose popularity has suffered as consumers have become more health conscious and the nation's demographics and cooking habits have shifted.

[http://www.dailytidings.com/2007/0515/stories/0515\\_bp\\_new\\_meat\\_cuts.php](http://www.dailytidings.com/2007/0515/stories/0515_bp_new_meat_cuts.php)

### **Dairy Prices Pinch Food Companies**

Forbes Associated Press May 15, 2007

Companies that make chocolates, yogurt, ice cream and cheese are beginning to feel the effect of increased milk prices. The ethanol boom and strong global demand for corn have driven up milk prices, thus prompting the companies to warn of lower earnings and ponder price increases.

[http://www.forbes.com/fdc/welcome\\_mjx.shtml](http://www.forbes.com/fdc/welcome_mjx.shtml)

### **Milk prices fuel replacement heifer demand**

May 14, 2007 Dairy Herd Management

Rising milk prices will continue to fuel demand for dairy replacement heifers. For the first three months of 2007, dairy-cow slaughter is running 14 percent ahead of last year, but cow numbers have been holding relatively stable, explains Greg Scheer, dairy analyst with Doane Advisory Services in St. Louis. The cow herd could grow slightly this year, buoyed by the sharp jump in milk futures and projections of record farm-gate prices. However, high feed prices are poised to limit producer profitability.

### **Study Warns U.S. Near Tipping Point in Corn-Based Ethanol**

May 17, 2007 AMI Press Release

A major new study officially issued today conservatively estimates that increased corn prices driven by rapidly expanding U.S. ethanol production already have increased U.S. retail food prices by \$14 billion annually. Further, the study finds that the increase in U.S. retail food prices could reach \$20 billion annually under a scenario in which crude oil prices range from \$65 to \$70 per barrel and U.S. corn prices reach \$4.42 per bushel, compared to the \$2 per bushel that existed in mid-August 2006. Under the high-price crude oil scenario, the study projects that U.S. ethanol production could reach 30 billion gallons by 2012, consuming more than half of U.S. corn, wheat and other coarse grain production and triggering higher meat prices for consumers, reduced production across-the-board for all segments of the meat sector, and even greater reductions in grain and meat exports. "We recognize the importance of the United States diversifying its energy sources to enhance energy security," said J. Patrick Boyle, president and chief executive officer of the American Meat Institute (AMI), one of the study sponsors. "But this study clearly shows that we are reaching a tipping point, and that over-reliance on corn-based ethanol to meet stringent government mandates would further drive up retail food prices, reduce domestic meat and poultry production, and erode our vital meat and grain export markets."

[http://www.meatami.com/Template.cfm?Section=Press\\_Statements&template=PressReleaseDisplay.cfm&PressReleaseID=3281](http://www.meatami.com/Template.cfm?Section=Press_Statements&template=PressReleaseDisplay.cfm&PressReleaseID=3281)

### **Study questions cost-effectiveness of gestation crates for sows**

By Ann Bagel Storck on 5/11/2007 for Meatingplace.com

A study by researchers at Iowa State University found that placing pregnant sows in group housing structures called hoop barns could be more cost-effective and just as productive as placing them in individual gestation crates. The ISU study, conducted for two and a half years at a research farm in southwest Iowa, compared sows housed in stalls in mechanically ventilated confinement buildings to those housed in naturally ventilated hoop barns with straw bedding. After tracking 957 litters from 353 sows, researchers discovered that sows in the hoop barns gave birth to more live pigs per litter than those in gestation stalls. They also found that group housing may produce pigs at a cost of as much as 11 percent less per weaned pig than the gestation stalls. The researchers hypothesized that the bedding and the sows' ability to huddle in the hoop barns, thus controlling their temperature, may have helped their performance. "In the United States, using a bedded system for gestating sows in hoop barns is relatively unfamiliar," Mark Honeyman, animal science professor and coordinator of ISU's Research Farms, said in a statement. "With increased experience, management will evolve, and production may be enhanced."

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Senators in Bipartisan Deal on Immigration Bill**

By ROBERT PEAR and JIM RUTENBERG Published: May 18, 2007 NY Times

Senate negotiators from both parties announced Thursday that they had reached agreement on a comprehensive immigration bill that would offer legal status to most of the nation's 12 million illegal immigrants while also toughening border security. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/18/washington/18immig.html?th&emc=th>

### **Bush endorses immigration plan with ag provisions**

May 17, 2007 Capital Press

President Bush today announced his support for a bi-partisan immigration reform bill hammered out by the Senate. The bill includes a temporary worker program and other provisions of the AgJOBS proposal favored by agricultural interests and sponsored by Sens. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. "This proposal delivers an immigration system that is secure, productive, orderly and fair," Bush said in a statement issued by the White House. <http://capitalpress.com/main.asp?SectionID=94&SubSectionID=801&ArticleID=32406>

### **Johanns Outlines 2007 Farm Bill Proposals to Expand, Improve Trade**

USDA unveiled the Bush Administration's farm bill proposals regarding international trade, pointing out that the trade provisions complement the entire farm bill package. The Administration's proposals for trade would increase funding for the Market Access Program; target funds to boost international markets for specialty crops; increase the U.S. presence within international trade standard-setting organizations; provide additional tools to respond to unfair trade practices and strengthen efforts to revitalize the agricultural sectors in fragile regions. [http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7\\_0 A/7\\_0 1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/05/0137.xml](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/ s.7_0 A/7_0 1OB?contentidonly=true&contentid=2007/05/0137.xml)

### **Johanns Highlights USDA's 2007 Farm Bill Proposals for Specialty Crops Proposes \$5 Billion in Additional Targeted Funding**

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today highlighted the array of changes put forward in the Administration's farm bill proposals that would benefit specialty crop growers. In a speech to the Organic Trade Association and the United Fresh Produce Association the Secretary called the proposals clear evidence of the Administration's commitment to equitable farm policy. <http://www.usda.gov/2007/05/0131.xml>

### **Farm Bill Developments by Keith Good of FarmPolicy.com May 11, 2007**

[Congressional Quarterly](#) reported yesterday that, "Rep. Collin C. Peterson, D-Minn., chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, said today that markups will begin the week of May 21 on at least three titles of the 2007 farm bill." The CQ item indicated that, "Peterson reiterated his committee's primacy in the process. 'People are misguided if they think the farm bill will be written on the floor . . . it would be a recipe for chaos,' he said. "Some hallmarks of the 2002 law will remain in his draft of the bill, he said, including [planting restrictions for fruit and vegetable growers](#), as well as the general farm subsidies known as [counter-cyclical payments](#) and [loan deficiency payments](#)." In a more detailed article from CQ yesterday, Catharine Richert indicated that, "[Direct payments](#), a familiar component of the subsidy program, may not make it into the chairman's draft. Recently, Peterson told reporters that he did not see the annual payments as necessary and that the money would be better spent bolstering other priorities. The idea is likely to be unpopular with lawmakers from the South and the Plains states, who represent farmers who are heavily reliant on direct payments." Also yesterday, [Philip Brasher](#), writing at the Des Moines Register's Cash Crops blog, reported that, "The chairman of the House Agriculture Committee is throwing down the gauntlet to colleagues who want to make major changes in farm policy: Get a committee member to sponsor your ideas or don't try to push them. "Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn., tells reporters he's been assured by the House Democratic leadership that the committee's wishes will be followed on the 2007 farm bill." Mr. Brasher added that, Peterson tells those lawmakers they should have gotten on the committee, if they wanted to have a say on the farm bill." Chris Clayton, writing yesterday at DTN ([link requires subscription](#)), reported that, "Peterson noted he is 'not going to be very happy' if lawmakers attempt to subvert the committee process and try to bring their various farm-bill proposals to the House floor for a vote. That tells him that the proposal wasn't strong enough to get committee support, he said. "'I think people are somewhat misguided if they think that the farm bill is going to be written on the floor,' he said. "Too many people don't have a deep understanding of how the pieces of the farm bill fit together 'and that would be a recipe for chaos,' he said. Peterson, a certified public accountant, compared the farm bill to income taxes in complication and scope that shouldn't have pieces just added in the final moments of a floor vote." Mr. Clayton indicated that, "On Thursday, four congressmen, Reps. Joe Crowley, D-N.Y., Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., Ron Kind, D-Wis., and David Reichert, R-Wash., [proposed what they called a 'bold new farm bill'](#) that would gradually transform the current commodity programs to 'risk-management accounts' and revenue assurance tools. [Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., offered comparable legislation in the Senate](#). "The proposal, which also would eliminate current restrictions on planting fruits and vegetables on land that receives farm-program payments, likely would be 'hugely controversial' and not get a lot of support among lawmakers in large specialty crop states such as California, Florida or Texas, Peterson said. "'This doesn't sound like something a whole lot of members of the committee would have a lot of interest in,' he said."

*(Editors Note: Follow up columns posted on May 11 and May 12 to this report are posted on [www.FarmPolicy.com](http://www.FarmPolicy.com) )*

### **Floor Fight?**

Submitted by Dan Owens on Fri, 05/11/2007 - 15:35. Blog for Rural America (Center for Rural Affairs)

This is an excellent example of the political ins and outs of the farm bill that most people don't have the time to comprehend. But I'll try to explain a little bit, because the question of what Speaker Pelosi allows to happen on the floor of the House is perhaps the second-most important question of the entire farm bill process (the first being the budget- how much money is available).

<http://www.cfra.org/blog/2007/05/11/floor-fight#fullpost>

### **Citigroup proposes ag subsidy buyouts**

By PHILIP BRASHER REGISTER WASHINGTON BUREAU DesMoines Register May 12, 2007

Farmers and landowners would have opportunities to sell their rights to some federal subsidies under a plan being shopped to lawmakers by the financial giant Citigroup. The voluntary buyouts could save the budget \$18.9 billion during the first 10 years, if half the recipients took the offer, according to Citigroup. The budget savings could be shifted to conservation payments, biofuel development and other programs Congress is struggling to fund. The buyouts would likely lower land values, Citigroup said. Elliott Conway, a managing director of Citigroup Global Markets Inc., is to brief Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Ia., on the plan next week. Harkin is chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Conway has met with Harkin's House counterpart, Rep. Collin Peterson, D-Minn. Most of the buyout payments would go to 15 states, led by Iowa, which would receive \$1.8 billion, Citigroup estimates.

<http://www.dmregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070512/BUSINESS01/705120342>

### **European Patent Office Revokes Monsanto's Species Patent On GE Soy Beans**

In a public hearing at the board of appeal at the European Patent Office a basic patent (EP 0301749) of US company Monsanto was revoked today. Reasons were that parts of the patent were not really new and others details were not described in a way that the invention could be really repeated by other experts.

[http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/chris/2007/05/03/european\\_patent\\_office\\_revokes\\_monsantos\\_species\\_patent\\_on\\_ge\\_soy\\_beans.htm](http://www.newmediaexplorer.org/chris/2007/05/03/european_patent_office_revokes_monsantos_species_patent_on_ge_soy_beans.htm)

### **Ban on Monsanto genetically modified alfalfa upheld**

By Jim Christie May 3, Reuters

A U.S. judge let stand a precedent-setting ban on the planting of a genetically modified alfalfa crop variety developed by Monsanto Co., citing the potential for genetic contamination.

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070503/sc\\_nm/food\\_monsanto\\_dc;\\_ylt=Agkx82c7zUUKAlfVmEeyaW8hANEa](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070503/sc_nm/food_monsanto_dc;_ylt=Agkx82c7zUUKAlfVmEeyaW8hANEa)

### **House passes stand alone ag disaster aid, MILC extension**

by Bob Meyer and Peter Shinn May 11, 2007 Brownfield Ag News

House Democratic leaders this week decided to split out ag disaster aid from an emergency war spending bill vetoed by President Bush. And yesterday, the \$3.5 billion dollar ag disaster aid bill that also includes a one-month extension of the Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program passed by a vote of 302 to 120, more than enough to overcome a presidential veto. The measure now moves to the Senate. But even if the Senate doesn't take it up, House leaders have reportedly promised to tuck the ag disaster aid provision back into the emergency war spending bill when a new version of that measure goes to conference.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=7BB8AECC-9BD3-594D-A77CCA460180B922>

### **Nebraska's Nelson warns against stand-alone ag aid**

Wednesday, May 9, 2007, 4:32 PM by Peter Shinn Brownfield Network

Congressional Quarterly reported Tuesday that leaders in the House of Representatives are considering taking ag disaster aid out of an emergency war spending bill and putting it in stand-alone legislation. The move comes in the wake of President Bush's veto last week of a massive \$124 billion dollar emergency spending measure that contained nearly \$4 billion in ag disaster aid, along with a timeline for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=72C156CE-9362-9857-DD3A8F6E1036303C>

### **Bush and Democrats in Accord on Trade Deals**

By STEVEN R. WEISMAN Published: May 11, 2007 NY Times

The Bush administration reached agreement on Thursday with the House speaker, Nancy Pelosi, and other Democrats to attach environmental and worker protections in several pending trade accords, clearing the way for early passage of some pacts and improving prospects for others.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/11/business/11trade.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/11/business/11trade.html?_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin)

### **European Ag Commissioner impressed by farm size**

by Tom Steever May 11, 2007 Brownfield Ag Network

There are signs of the European Union loosening its stance on accepting products originating from genetically enhanced crops. There are 11 genetically enhanced products that have been approved by the EU and 14 more that are in the approval pipeline, according to Mariann Fischer Boel, Agriculture Commissioner of the EU. Further concessions may have to be made to get the products the EU needs, says Fischer Boel.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=7D01D8AF-E58A-5CA6-56D8B9D2261BD677>

### **NFU Supports Competition Legislation**

In a letter of support to the House Agricultural Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Chairman Leonard Boswell, D-Iowa, National Farmers Union President Tom Buis commended the recently introduced 2007 Competitive and Fair Agricultural Markets Act. Buis said NFU recognizes this legislation as an important step in re-establishing competition and transparency in agricultural markets.

<http://www.nfu.org/wp-content/5-3-07-boswell-competition-bill.pdf>

### **The FARM 21 farm bill plan**

by Bob Meyer May 11, 2007

Four Congressmen and a Senator will introduce legislation to create risk management accounts for farmers to replace farm program payments. The Food and Agriculture Risk Management for the 21st Century Act (FARM 21) is the brainchild of Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), Joe Crowley (D-NY) and David Reichert (R-WA) along with Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN).

[http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=7C4C0FA8-E7B8-A9BB-B44E4DC7BEE28EA3&cache\\_refresh=1](http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=7C4C0FA8-E7B8-A9BB-B44E4DC7BEE28EA3&cache_refresh=1)

### **FDA Stymied In Push to Boost Safety of Produce**

By Jane Zhang Wall Street Journal

A \$76 million effort proposed by FDA to monitor produce safety and impose stringent rules on growers and processors to prevent contamination was met with resistance at the Department of Health and Human Services, reported The Wall

Street Journal. Industry groups such as the United Fresh Produce Association and the Grocery Manufacturers Association support such rules that will be more effective than voluntary measures in bolstering consumer confidence. [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117927974746604312.html?mod=hps\\_us\\_pageone](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117927974746604312.html?mod=hps_us_pageone)

### **Regulators Slap Wal-Mart for Misleading Organic Consumers**

Consumer fraud investigators in the state of Wisconsin released their findings this week after a three-month long investigation into allegations that Wal-Mart stores throughout the state of Wisconsin had misled consumers by misidentifying conventional food items as organic. In a letter to Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., based in Bentonville, Arkansas, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection stated they'd found numerous instances of conventional food products improperly labeled as organic by the retail chain. Specifically, Wisconsin authorities told Wal-Mart's legal counsel that "use of the term 'Wal-Mart Organics' in combination with reference to a specific non-organic product may be considered to be a misrepresentation and therefore a violation" of Wisconsin state statutes. <http://cornucopia.org/index.php/250>

### **Small Poultry Firms Push To Rein in Use of 'Natural'**

By LAUREN ETTER Wall Street Journal May 17, 2007

A coalition of poultry producers is mobilizing to push the Agriculture Department to tighten the definition of "natural," a word food companies often use on their labels to appeal to health-conscious consumers. The coalition is made up of producers who don't typically use additives in their fresh chicken products. It wants the department, which is rewriting its 25-year-old definition of "natural," to craft a new one that excludes chicken products that contain anything other than chicken. The group, which includes Sanderson Farms Inc., Foster Farms and Gold'n Plump Poultry, plans to deliver its formal request to the agency in a letter this week. Industry giants like Tyson Foods Inc. and Pilgrim's Pride Corp. recently have started labeling their products as "100% Natural," even though they are mechanically injected or tumbled with a marinade solution that consists of sea salt, water and in some cases starchy products like carrageenan, a seaweed extract that helps chicken breasts retain moisture.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB117936462224205670.html>

### **Biodiesel industry seeks more subsidies**

By PHILIP BRASHER REGISTER WASHINGTON BUREAU DeMoines Register May 9, 2007

Biodiesel producers are asking Congress for an additional subsidy to go with the \$1-a-gallon tax credit that the fuel additive already receives. In testimony to the Senate Agriculture Committee, the chief executive of an Iowa biodiesel plant said the additional subsidy is needed to protect U.S. producers from imported biodiesel.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070509/BUSINESS01/70509042/1029/BUSINESS>

### **National Milk task force looks at Federal Orders**

by Bob Meyer May 16, 2007 Brownfield Ag Network

The National Milk Producers Federation has assembled a 14-member task force to take a look at what can be done to improve the Federal Milk Marketing Order System. Foremost Farms USA CEO, Dave Fuhrman chairs the group which met for the first time last week. "The first thing we all agreed on is that we are probably better-off with it (the Federal Order System) than without it." The group also agreed that it takes too long to amend the system and that needs to be fixed. <http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=965B2AC3-E01B-353D-17AF8E734B2E3C3D>

### **Arizona First State To Prohibit Mandatory Animal Id**

USAgNet - 05/09/2007

Arizona became the first state in the nation to prohibit mandatory participation in a National Animal Identification System. State Senator Karen Johnson, who sponsored the bill, stated 'we are delighted that the legislature and the governor recognize the dangers of allowing government to force people to register their premises, tag every one of their livestock animals, and then report to the government every time their animals move off their premises.'

<http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?id=1051&yr=2007>

### **China Urges U.S. Not to Punish All Food Exporters**

By DAVID BARBOZA Published: May 17, 2007 NY Times

The Chinese government urged the U.S. not to take punitive action against its country's exporters of agricultural goods even though Chinese officials have determined that two Chinese companies intentionally contaminated American pet food ingredients with an industrial chemical. The government said it had shut the two companies and detained several of their officers for their roles in setting off one of the largest pet food recalls in U.S. history.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/17/business/worldbusiness/17food.html?\\_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1179396048-S3iEwuFhQTgKKmsCg5ew6g](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/17/business/worldbusiness/17food.html?_r=1&adxnnl=1&oref=slogin&adxnnlx=1179396048-S3iEwuFhQTgKKmsCg5ew6g)

**Grassley says Senate WRDA passage sends signal to Brazil and the world**

by Julie Harker May 17, 2007 Brownfield Ag Network

Iowa Senator Chuck Grassley predicted earlier this week that the Water Resources Development Act to improve our river navigation system in the U.S. would pass overwhelmingly in the Senate, and Wednesday it did. Grassley says it sends a signal to the rest of the world, especially Brazil, that the U.S. will be strongly competitive. Grassley says Brazil doesn't need locks and dams; they have a whole ocean and an efficient way to move grain and goods. Plus, he says passage of WRDA is a win for our environment and energy efficiency, allowing the U.S. to use more barges than trucks and railways.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=9B9F63C6-A349-59A1-1494ECD5B12F2E56>

### **CME back on track to buy CBOT, Carey says**

by Peter Shinn May 14, 2007 Brownfield Ag Network

The Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) on Friday beat back a rival, unsolicited offer from the Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) for the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT). The move apparently ends a major potential threat to the CME's acquisition of the CBOT.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=8C9A7D92-9D4A-BAB1-6A2DE16C6896800A>

### **Deere and Company second quarter income over \$620 million**

By John Perkins May 17, 2007 Brownfield Ag Network

Deere and Company is reporting solid earnings for the second quarter of 2007, which ended on April 30. According to a statement from Deere, worldwide net income and total income from continuing operations was \$623.6 million, which works out to \$2.72 per share. In the second quarter of 2006, net income was \$744.6 million or \$3.13 per share, but Deere states that included \$227.6 million from a discontinued health care venture. Without the health care venture, Deere pulled in \$517 million, \$2.17 a share, making the second quarter 2007 financially better than second quarter 2006 after the adjustment.

<http://www.brownfieldnetwork.com/gestalt/go.cfm?objectid=9AB5E9F9-C53B-4148-569B36EAFE68100C>

### **Higher Dairy Prices Pressuring Food Companies' Profits**

May 15, 2007 AP

Higher dairy prices, driven up by factors including strong global demand for corn, are putting pressure on already hamstrung food companies. Companies that churn out chocolates, yogurt, ice cream and cheese have begun to feel the heat, prompting them to warn Wall Street of lower earnings and ponder price increases. Chocolate-maker Hershey Co., Hershey, Pa., last week tempered its guidance for the year due to higher costs for milk. Dallas-based Dean Foods Co., which makes ice cream, Horizon organic milk and yogurt, recently warned it would only meet the lower end of an earlier forecast. Dean Foods' stock is off 25 percent so far this year, while Hershey is still up 5 percent.

[http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070515/dairy\\_prices\\_pressure.html?v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/070515/dairy_prices_pressure.html?v=1)

### **Prion-disease vaccine shown to be effective in mice**

By JOHN FAUBER May 3, 2007 Milwaukee Journal

An experimental oral vaccine designed to prevent prion disease warded off symptoms in mice, raising the prospect that a similar approach someday could be used to stop the spread of chronic wasting disease in wild deer.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=601027>

### **Environmental Groups Join Forces: Time is short, challenges are enormous, leaders say**

By Juliet Eilperin The Washington Post Tuesday 15 May 2007

Some Americans think of the environmental community as a fractious bunch of free thinkers, that if you put two of them together they would generate at least three different opinions. But now two groups - the Pew Charitable Trusts environmental program and the National Environmental Trust - are trying to buck that reputation by combining to form the Pew Environment Group. The merger, to be announced today, highlights a shift among green groups toward campaign-oriented advocacy. Rather than having staffers who work on general environmental issues over time, Pew Environment Group will aim to accomplish a few high-profile goals - such as overhauling the 1872 Mining Law and creating several major overseas marine reserves - within the next few years.

[http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/051507H.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/051507H.shtml)

## **NEW YORK STATE NEWS**

### **Dash's, other small markets find niche in food business**

#### **Unique mix helps them compete with Tops and Wegmans**

By Matt Glynn, Buffalo News, 05/13/07

The store is smaller than a typical supermarket, but the size suits his purposes. The shelves are stocked with a mix of local brands, national staples, and specialty brands that he and his team hand-picked from outside the area. Dash runs

three stores in a region dominated by heavyweights Tops Markets and Wegmans. But he and some other smaller operators are finding ways to grab a share of the market and grow.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/145/story/74701.html>

### **NNY Farmer Happy to Save Money Not Over-Fertilizing Corn**

After participating in a Northern New York Agricultural Development Program-funded research project, Mike Kiechle now spends about \$700 less to grow corn to feed his 110 dairy cows in Philadelphia, NY. "Participating in this Northern New York Ag Development project was a win-win situation. It didn't cost me anything and ended up saving me money," Kiechle says. Kiechle collaborated on a precision nitrogen (N) management project with project leader Dr. Quirine M. Ketterings, an associate professor of crop and soil sciences at Cornell University; Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County Field Crops Educator Michael E. Hunter; and Cornell University graduate student Joseph Lawrence, who grew up in Northern New York on a Cape Vincent dairy farm. "Based on research conducted in Northern New York and combined with similar work elsewhere in New York state, we conclude that first-year corn will benefit from a small starter nitrogen application of about 30 lbs. per acre and does not require any additional N beyond the starter," Ketterings says.

<http://www.nnyagdev.org/press-05-09-07.htm>

### **WORTH READING**

#### **Who's Watching What We Eat?**

By MARIAN BURROS Published: May 16, 2007 NY Times

ELIZABETH ARMSTRONG did not give the Food and Drug Administration much thought until her children became ill from eating contaminated bagged spinach.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/16/dining/16fda.html?\\_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/05/16/dining/16fda.html?_r=1&th&emc=th&oref=slogin)

#### **Bloated boondoggle Our position: Congress should ditch its wrong approach to farm subsidies.**

EDITORIAL Orlando Sentinel Posted May 7, 2007

In the next few weeks, Congress is planning to take up a new, five-year farm bill. The time is ripe for members to get U.S. agricultural policy out of the farm-subsidy furrow it's been stuck in for decades. What's wrong with farm subsidies? Where do we start?

[http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/orl-ed07107may07\\_0\\_1583103.story?coll=orl-opinion-headlines](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/opinion/orl-ed07107may07_0_1583103.story?coll=orl-opinion-headlines)

**With peak oil--according to some analysts--in sight, the industrial agricultural model is looking increasingly unsustainable.** As Heinberg states, ours is a "food system profoundly vulnerable at every level, to fuel shortages and skyrocketing prices. Both are inevitable." "Is it possible," he asks, "that a solution lies in deliberately de-industrializing production but doing so intelligently, using information we have gained from the science of ecology as well as from traditional and indigenous farming methods?" He believes that it is possible, and in fact, imperative that we apply such an approach. With the Special Period in Cuba as reference, *Heinberg estimates that to maintain national food production up to fifty million farmers will need to join the three to four million current farmers. However a return to the land would require more than just willing farmers. Heinberg believes that these farmers must be aided by affordable access to land, university training in small-scale ecological farming methods, direct financial aid through start up phase, and long-term low-cost loans. "It is not a simple or easy strategy, and it will require a coordinated and sustained national effort. But in addition to averting famine this strategy may also permit us to solve a host of other seemingly unrelated social and environmental problems."* Heinberg tells us that "if we do this well, it could mean the revitalization not only of democracy but of the family and of authentic, place-based culture." In his lecture Richard Heinberg has vividly outlined the reasons for returning to an agricultural system designed specifically to supply food to its own region. As an expert on the future of oil and natural gas he is well positioned to tell us that we must begin making changes. The production of food is of central concern not only because it is heavily dependent on fossil fuels, but also because continued production is vital to our survival. Heinberg would have us "accept the current challenge--the next great energy transition--as an opportunity to re-imagine human culture from the ground up, using our intelligence and our passion for the welfare of coming generations and for the integrity of nature's web as our primary guides." Heinberg's 2006 lecture "Fifty Million Farmers" edited by Hildegard Hannum, is now available in pamphlet form from the E. F. Schumacher Society. Cost is five dollars each. Pay with BerkShares (<http://www.berkshares.org>), cash, check, or credit card. For a full list of E. F. Schumacher lecture pamphlets with descriptions, a printable order form, and secure online payment form, go to: <http://www.smallisbeautiful.org/publications.html> The complete text of most all of the lecture pamphlets may also be read online at no cost--thanks to the support of Schumacher Society members. Enjoy the fine reading!

#### **Food, Farming, Feminism**

by Elaine Lipson MS Magazine

“What’s for dinner?” is just too simple a question for anyone to ask these days. How about, “What’s for dinner, where did it come from, who grew it, and did they use toxic and persistent pesticides or genetic modification?”

<http://www.msomagazine.com/summer2004/organicfarming.asp>

### **Organic Animal Agriculture Threatened by Genetically Engineered Alfalfa**

By now many farmers producing organic milk or meat from ruminants have seen the news about the federal court ruling that the USDA violated the law by failing to conduct a full Environmental Impact Study before approving Monsanto’s genetically engineered alfalfa trademarked Roundup Ready®. The judge’s latest ruling in the case bans any further planting of the GE seed until the USDA conducts a complete Environmental Impact Statement on the GE crop. Genetically modified alfalfa presents significantly different challenges than any other previous GE crop introduction. These differences mean the introduction of GE alfalfa could have significant economic impact on producers of organic forage and animal products. The differences directly relate to the biological differences between alfalfa and the grain crops and the way seed is produced. One key difference between the grain crops and alfalfa is the distance over which pollen is carried. Alfalfa is pollinated by bees carrying pollen from one plant to another, whereas the grain crops are pollinated by the action of gravity and air movement. Research and practical experience have shown that bees can carry pollen for a range of more than 2 miles, which is much farther than wind-carried pollen.

<http://cornucopia.org/index.php/253>

### **Will China's Practices Hurt Food Sales?**

The Chinese government — moving to protect its multibillion-dollar exports of fruits and vegetables — has now banned melamine and shuttered plants that may have used it. China insists every container with agricultural products is inspected. But the reality, experts tell CBS News, is that serious spot checks are rare.

<http://news.aol.com/partners/cbs-news/a/will-chinas-practices-hurt-food-sales/20070501063109990001?cid=2249>

### **No Organic Bee Losses**

<http://www.informationliberation.com/index.php?id=21912>

## **SMALL BITES**

## **RESOURCES**

### **American Meat Institute release animal handling guidelines**

*May 7, 2007 AMI Press Release*

The American Meat Institute (AMI) today announced the release of the 2007 Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide. These internationally recognized guidelines are an updated version of the 2005 guidelines and have been revised based upon feedback from the field. Audit points in the guidelines include measurement of: frequency of slips and falls by livestock; frequency of vocalizations; frequency of electric prod use; stunner accuracy; and how effectively livestock are made insensible during processing. The audit also calls for the monitoring of any willful acts of abuse (which is an immediate audit failure) and the provision of water at all times. Major changes include the addition of a new audit point for monitoring slips and falls at unloading and a new approach to vocalization scoring of pigs.

<http://www.animalhandling.org/>

### **Virtual tour teaches modern dairy farming**

*May 17, 2007 Newark Advocate*

A new virtual tour on the dairy checkoff-funded Web site [www.dairyfarmingtoday.org](http://www.dairyfarmingtoday.org) allows the public to learn how dairy producers care for their animals, land and water. The site is part of an ongoing dairy farmer image program designed to protect and promote the image of dairy producers and the industry. The virtual tour uses video footage from dairy farms in Arizona, Florida and Illinois to guide visitors through the various steps of milk production -- from the calf barn and the milking parlor to cow feeding and health and dairy farm recycling and environmental protection efforts. View the virtual tour at: <http://www.dairyfarmingtoday.org/DairyFarmingToday/Virtual-Tour.htm>

### **Home Grown Economy Conference Proceedings Available Online**

Recently, in an effort to address and explore how local foods can be an economic development engine for rural communities, Congressman Collin Peterson sponsored a conference called "The Home Grown Economy: Foods from Local Farms as an Economic Development Tool". The proceedings from this conference are now available online. Presentation materials and videos of parts of the conference are available to download from Additional resources, such as biographies and contact information for the speakers, are also available on the web site.

<http://www.morris.umn.edu/HomeGrownEconomy/>

### **Cutting Height Impacts Alfalfa Harvest: New Resource Online for NNY Farmers**

The Northern New York Agricultural Development Program has posted a new resource for alfalfa growers online at [www.nnyagdev.org](http://www.nnyagdev.org). Now available via the Internet is a report, published by The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute in Chazy, NY, on "The effect of cutting height on the yield and quality of alfalfa in Northern New York." Alfalfa is a valuable feed crop for dairy production. Approximately 700,000 acres of alfalfa and alfalfa mixes are grown across New York State. The eight-page report provides details on the results of an evaluation of an alfalfa crop and an alfalfa-grass mix cut at the currently recommended height of two inches compared to a four-inch height that has been commonly used on farms. The trial took place at The Miner Institute.

<http://www.nnyagdev.org/press-05-14-07.htm>

### **Organic Seed Production Manuals Available Online**

The Organic Seed Alliance has produced three crop-specific seed production manuals to assist current and would-be seed growers in producing quality seed. The manuals were part of a two-year WSARE-funded, farmer-led education project that involved field days, workshops, and development of manuals on seed production. Three separate manuals are available online as PDF files, covering organic seed production for radishes, beans, and spinach.

<http://www.seedalliance.org/index.php?page=SeedProductionManuals>

A new issue of **Amber Waves magazine** is available from [USDA ERS](http://www.ers.usda.gov).

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

The Animal Welfare Institute, which works with over 500 pig farmers in the U.S., now has a seal of approval, "Animal Welfare Approved", to offer farmers who fulfill the AWI Husbandry Standards for pigs, dairy and beef cattle, poultry, sheep, goats and rabbits (so far), and to restaurants and retailers who offer the products of these farms to consumers. You can check out the new seal and read supporters comments about it at: [www.animalwelfareapproved.org](http://www.animalwelfareapproved.org). We want to make a special effort to inform New York farmers of the availability of this seal. Consumers are becoming ever more aware of the need for identifying family farmers who meet meaningful welfare standards, and they want to support family farmers who practice a humane ethic that can be passed to future generations. We will be providing auditing/certification services free of charge. There are no fees or royalties for using the Animal Welfare Approved seal or for farm inspections to qualify. For more info contact: Diane Halverson, Farm Animal Advisor, Animal Welfare Institute Midwest Office cell phone 507-261-3209

I am working on NOFA-NY's next winter conference and would like to include a panel workshop on Farmer Inventions and Innovations. I would like to include a woman farmer who has done a good job modifying equipment to make it easier for her to manage it. If you are that person or know of someone who could be a good presenter for this topic. Could you please give me a call to discuss some options? Thanks! I really appreciate it. Kate Mendenhall, Projects Coordinator, Northeast Organic Farming Assoc. of New York, Inc. v: 585-271-1979 [projects@nofany.org](mailto:projects@nofany.org)

The Community Food Security Coalition, The Food Trust, and the Public Health Law Program are excited to announce a new national network to support efforts to bring healthier foods into corner stores in low-income and underserved communities. The Healthy Corner Stores Network (HCSN) will bring together people from across the country to share information about best practices and lessons learned, and to brainstorm about how to address common challenges. If you are working to bring healthier foods into corner or small-scale stores in underserved communities, or just considering getting involved with this work, we welcome your participation in this network. The HCSN will be designed to respond to the interests and needs of its participants. If you are interested in participating, please complete our brief survey to provide basic information about your work and feedback on possible call topics and network activities. The online survey is available at <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=U26Q3BRA964E> and takes just a few minutes to complete. The reply deadline is June 5, but please respond by May 25 if you want to provide input on timing for the first call.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker today announced a new wholesale farmers' market has opened at the New Fulton Fish Market at Hunts Point in the Bronx. This wholesale market is open during early morning hours only, and allows retail stores, restaurants, florists, distributors, and the general public the opportunity to purchase locally grown produce and plants directly from farmers at wholesale prices. "Demand is growing rapidly in New York City and surrounding areas for local produce, plants, and flowers," the Commissioner said. "We are thrilled that the New Fulton Fish Market, which handles the largest selection of high quality fresh seafood in the country, including locally harvested Pride of New York seafood, has provided the former Bronx Terminal Market farmers with a new home for their marketplace in time for Mother's Day and the spring gardening season." The new farmers' market, located in the large parking lot of the New Fulton Fish Market's state-of-the-art facility at 800 Food Center Drive in Hunts Point, will offer buyers expanded access to a wide range of local products over the course of the local growing

season. It will operate Monday through Saturday from 1:00 am to 10:00 am to accommodate wholesale food and plant buyers as well as individuals seeking plants and local produce at wholesale prices. The new market was organized jointly by the New Fulton Fish Market Cooperative and the Bronx Terminal Market Growers, with the assistance of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Farmers participating in the market include growers of plants and produce from the Hudson Valley, Long Island and New Jersey. There is a \$5.00 entrance fee at the New Fulton Fish Market toll plaza for farmers' market shoppers. Directions to the market can be found at [www.newfultonfishmarket.com](http://www.newfultonfishmarket.com). Product availability and additional information on the new farmers' market is available from growers Jack Hoeffner at 845-457-3453 or Steve Perrone 201-261-1574, or by contacting the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets' New York City Office at 718-722-2830.

### **CALL TO ACTION**

Articles are posted for informational purposes and do not necessarily reflect the opinions/stance or unanimous consent of the Board of Directors of NY Farms! and its members.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service **proposed a rule to add 38 substances, along with any restrictive annotations, to the National Organic Program's National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances**, as recommended by the National Organic Standards Board. Interested persons have a seven-day comment period to respond to this proposed rule. Comments must be received by May 22, 2007. [Full Notice](#)

### **EMPLOYMENT**

For more information please click on the [webpage](#)

### **GRANTS**

#### **What's for Dinner? Grant makers come to the table to support local food**

By Debra E. Blum

Jon M. Jensen of Cleveland's George Gund Foundation has a theory about tomatoes. If residents of northeast Ohio bought more locally grown tomatoes instead of those shipped in from California and other faraway places, he says, fewer dollars would leave the Cleveland area, which would benefit both local farmers and the entire local economy. Such thinking, says Mr. Jensen, who oversees Gund's environmental grants, is in part what is behind the foundation's debate over whether to add a new area of grant making — one that would focus on promoting locally produced food. <http://philanthropy.com/summary/v19/i13.htm>

#### **NY Farm Viability promotes outcome-based funding model in grant writing workshops**

A series of workshops planned this spring will describe opportunities for funding farm-level research projects through the New York Farm Viability Institute. New York Farm Viability Institute Outreach Coordinator David Grusenmeyer will facilitate the grant writing workshops, which will include a review of the Institute's grant opportunities, funding priorities and 2007 grant cycle timeline. Descriptions of past-funded projects will be provided. The workshops will include explanation of the Institute's commitment to outcome-based funding. General terms and concepts of the Rensselaerville Institute's Outcome Funding Framework model will be described. Variations of the Rensselaerville Institute's Outcome Funding Framework model are currently used by the Farm Viability Institute, as well as Northeast Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education, and USDA Risk Management. Tips on writing successful proposals, an overview of the proposal evaluation and fund ranking processes, and reporting responsibilities for funded projects will be described. The Farm Viability Institute provides funds for projects that include farmer participation and address barriers and opportunities identified as high-priority issues by producers. Projects explore business and production models and technology with a focus on increasing profits for participating farmers and providing templates for other producers. Projects are selected for funding by the Institute's farmer-member volunteer board of directors. The Institute will accept grant applications from May-Aug. Funding decisions will be made before year-end. For more information, visit [www.nyfarmviability.org](http://www.nyfarmviability.org). All workshops are free admission and include lunch and handouts. Online registration is required at <http://db.nyfarmviability.org>.

9 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. May 22, Room 229 ILR Conference Center, Cornell University, Ithaca

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. May 24, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville.

9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Room 107 Spader Greenhouse, Morrisville State College, Morrisville

**SAVE THE DATE** For an updated calendar of events, visit: <http://www.nyfarms.info/calendar.html>

### **CLASSIFIEDS**

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