

March 10, 2008

\$25: the amount you can save on tax preparation at H&R Block.

Get a coupon now.

- HOME
- OPINION
- FEATURES
- LIFE
- ARTS
- VIDEO
- ARCHIVE
- ABOUT US
- SEARCH

Opinion

- COCKBURN After Texas
- MID EAST Where is Blair?
- EUROPE Taking over
- ORGANIC Wholesome truth
- BIG BOOK Monbiot lies
- KIND OF BLUE Prince Harry
- VATICAN What is Pope up to?
- ARMY Political football
- COLOMBIA Betancourt blues
- ECONOMY US party ends



◀ the highest pesticide level was in an organic food.

Organic farmers spray crops with 'natural' pesticides such as the noxious microbe BT which kills bees, ladybirds and butterflies as well as pests by releasing the same toxin made by genetically modified plants. If inhaled, it can cause bronchitis and worsen asthma.

Organic farmers treat fungus with copper solutions which also poisons earthworms and friendly bacteria. They also use Derris which can cause Parkinson's disease; pyrethroids, which cause tumours in mice; and potassium permanganate which kills fish.

• **Myth No 4: Organic food does not contain additives.**

At least three dozen 'E' numbers are allowed as additives, preservatives, flavourings, binders, anti-caking agents, antioxidants and processing agents in 'organic' food.

For cleaning and disinfection, organic farmers use the same substances as conventional farmers, including formaldehyde, caustic soda, nitric and phosphoric acid, quicklime, alcohol and other highly



Yields from organic farms are around half of those from conventional ones

toxic chemicals that can contaminate food.

Organically reared animals can have up to a quarter of their daily food from non-organic sources and all organic food can contain five per cent of conventional ingredients.

• **Myth No. 5: The demand for organic food is at an all-time high.**

Even with the support of TV chefs Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Wittingstall, only two per cent of the food sold in Britain is organic. At the end of the Second World War all our food was organic so, in fact, demand has actually gone down by 98 per cent over the last 60 years.

Despite the vocal campaigns by celebrity chefs, only about one per cent of the chickens sold in Britain are organic. Nor does buying organic food support British farmers since 70 per cent of it is imported.

Organic food is a fashion and lifestyle choice. It is probably no worse for you or the environment than conventional foods, but organic proponents should get their facts straight and stop using dubious claims about 'natural' meaning 'better' and stick to the facts. ■

FIRST POSTED MARCH 5, 2008

◀ GO BACK...

PAGE 2 OF 2

STAY IN TOUCH

- The First Post on Facebook
- Sign up for our daily email
- RSS feeds
- Contact us

TOOLS

- Comment on this article (9 comments)
- Send to a friend
- Add to: Del.icio.us | Digg | Facebook | Reddit | Shoutwire
- Printer-friendly version

RELATED LINKS

- The rumblings of a food crisis**
As China and India turn to meat, food prices are soaring, writes Philip Delves Broughton
- Agriculture goes up in the world**
Could vertical farming be the next thing? Ravi Somaiya investigates



About Us Our other sites: Auto Express | Bash the Boss | Computer Buyer | Computer Shopper | Custom PC | Den of Geek | Den of Wii | Evo | Fortean Times | IT PRO | Know Your Mobile | London is Free | Mac User | Men's Fitness | Micro Mart | Mobile Computer | Octane | PC PRO
The First Post is a registered Trade Mark of First Post Newsgroup IPR Limited