NO   PESTICIDE     CLAIM  
  
7-18-16  
  
A commonly held mis-conception is that "organic farmers" do not use pesticides. Included under the definition of pesticides are: Insecticides - for control of insects; Herbicides- for control of weeds and grass;  Fungicides- for plant disease control; Miteicides- for control of small parasite organisms; and Rodenticides for control of various rodents.  
  
Dr. Adrianne Massey, managing director of science and regulatory affairs for the Biotechnology Industry Organization, has found that most people are stunned to discover organic farmers can and do use many pesticides for control measures. Not only just chemicals that do not occur in nature but organic farmers are allowed to use "natural materials," that are often more toxic than synthetic ( man made ) pesticides.  
  
Dr. Massey is all to well familiar with  the claim that organic farmers make about pesticides used in conventional agriculture through various meetings with farm and consumer groups, and answering the GMO- bashing that seems to be generated by environmental groups, almost on a daily basis.  
  
Its too bad that one segment of agriculture spends time and energy to discredit ( tear down ) another segment of agriculture to promote their's. Isn't there enough american families (consumers ) to support each - organic and conventional food farmers ????  
  
A list of approved pesticides for use in organic farming systems can be found on the USDA's Natural Organic Standards web-site: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/national-list>  
  
Also, articles concerning misleading claims about no pesticides used in organic food products can be found at web-site: <http://n.pr/1jxgJsw>  and  <http://bit.ly/1TFEcpl>  
  
Maureen Langlois in an article"Organic Pesticides: Not an Orymoron" reports that nearly 20% of organic lettuce tested positive for pesticides. Also, of interest was approved pesticides for organic farmers included -- pyrethrin, azadirachtin, and spinosads that are considered toxic by the Environmental Protection Agency.  
  
There is not much difference between organic and conventional foods when comparing the nutritional values of each. No more difference than can be caused by temperature, rain, soil type, variety, time of harvest or type of fertilizer ( chemical or manure ),  any one item can influence nutrition. Reachers have found little evidence that organic foods are more nutritious ( vitamins, minerals, protein, fats ) or carry fewer health risk than conventional foods. Check out web-site:   <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2012/09> little-evidence-of-health-benefits-from-organic-foods-study-finds.html  
  
The organic market is continuing to expand as many american consumers are willing to pay a premium, ( often two times as expensive as conventional foods ) for fruits, vegetables, grains, meat, milk, poultry and eggs due to more expensive farming practices.  
  
Their research has revealed conventional foods posed no greater health risk than organic foods. Eating a healthy diet overall regardless of how foods are raised, check out web-site:  <http://www.mayoclinic.org/healthy-lifestyle/nutrition-and-healthyeating/in-depth/organic-food/art-20043880>  
  
USDA has established an organic certification  program that requires organic foods to meet strict government standards identified by the USDA Organic Seal.  Fifty years of studies reviewed concluded that organic and conventional foods are not significantly different in their nutrient content.  
  
Th National Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine has released a compilation of the results of more than 900 studies showing Genetically Engineered Crops are safe and beneficial to agriculture, humans and the environment.   
  
Other references: Delta Farm Press May 27 and June 2 Forrest  Laws, editor.  
  
Related articles you may like   
1- [Thoughts Concerning Mis-Representation](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/thoughts_misrepresentaiton.docx)  
2[- No Antibiotics in Milk](http://weebly-link/595379463207765094)  
3-[All Food Labels Are Not Created Equal](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/all_food_labels_are_not_created_equal.docx)  
4[- Earth Day](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/32714_earth_day_comments.doc)  
5-[Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/peanut_butter_and_jelly.docx)  
6- [GMO labeling](http://weebly-file/1/8/9/9/18991133/gmo_editorial_comments.doc)  
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