

# A Page of Organic Issues

by Karen Klonsky

1. Access to big box stores. The Walmart effect
2. Local vs. organic
3. Fair trade versus organic as primary reason for purchase
4. Organic viewed as mainstream by those who want to be edgy
5. Beyond organic labeling (fair trade, EuroGAP, social justice, food safety)
6. International trade – exemption from tariffs, fumigation requirements (Korea), reciprocity of certification (Japan refuses to accept Chilean nitrate use despite equivalency agreement with US)
7. USDA label on organic food produced outside the US but certified by a USDA accredited foreign certifier
8. Public versus private certifiers (Marin County and Monterey County are both certifiers taking business away from private certifiers). Are they subsidized?
9. Organic access to EQIP and CSP funds
10. Cost share program in USDA for certification
11. Labor availability particularly for produce harvest
12. Urban encroachment on farmland
13. Fraud
14. Regulations and law are still evolving. Access to pasture still undefined.
15. Organic fish (feed is the issue), cosmetics (animal testing, colors, and scents), and pet food (definition of slaughter byproducts, organic and non- organic sources can't be used for the same ingredient) still not regulated
16. Desire to expand the industry and keep premiums high simultaneously
17. Exemption from paying into marketing orders
18. Creation of an organic marketing order
19. Allowance of non-synthetic flavors and colors
20. Shortages of supply to major retailers (example: Horizon dairy)