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Molly Jahn on the Fragility of the Food System, New Dietary Risk Index Paper, Glyphosate in You and Me

1 message

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Tue, Aug 16, 2022 at 12:00 PM

“The new dicamba method may be one of the most significant enhancements in herbicide analytical chemistry methods in decades.”

- HHRA Executive Director Charles Benbrook on the new analytical method HHRA worked with CTQ laboratory in Canada to develop for measuring the herbicide dicamba in human urine

THE HEARTLAND STUDY NEARS 300 ENROLEES

We now have almost 300 Mother-Infant Pairs enrolled in our flagship project. This clinical research study is exploring whether rising herbicide exposures are impacting the health of moms and babies in the Heartland. Plus, we have sent our first batch of Heartland Study urine samples to the lab. These samples will be tested with the new method our analytical partner CTQ developed to detect dicamba, one of our herbicides of concern. As far as we know, this will be the first biomonitoring data on dicamba in human urine generated in the US, or indeed worldwide!

Learn about The Heartland Study [here](#).

HEARTLAND STORIES RADIO AND PODCAST: MOLLY JAHN

“You can’t turn money into food.” Dr. Molly Jahn, professor at University of Wisconsin-Madison talks with host Theresa Marquez about the instability and risk of slipping productivity within the current US food system. The Jahn Research Group focuses on domestic and global food system stability and security.

Listen to the episode [here](#).

FROM OUR RESEARCH ALLIANCE AND BEYOND

GLYPHOSATE AND AMPA IN YOU AND ME

Concentrations of some herbicides, many associated with cancer and reproductive or developmental problems, are rising in the urine of many people. In a recently published CDC report, 80% of urine samples

collected from children and adults in the US contained glyphosate. HHRA is working to improve analytical methods to better measure multiple pesticide exposures including glyphosate AND its metabolite AMPA. For more on why it is critical to measure both glyphosate and AMPA in food, water, and people, see our new blog.

Read our take on the CDC report [here](#).

NEW DIETARY RISK INDEX PAPER

HHRA'S Dietary Risk Index (DRI) is an analytical system that quantifies the risk from pesticide residues in foods. We introduced the DRI methodology in a 2020 [paper](#), and the system will soon be available on our website. Executive Director Charles Benbrook recently published a second DRI paper that discusses the methods and results from our analyses of pesticide residues in individual samples of foods tested by the US Pesticide Data Program and the UK's Food Standards Agency. Now that these two widely-trusted residue databases are integrated into the DRI, researchers can comprehensively study pesticide exposures in the global food supply. The take-home message is that most of the food we eat poses a relatively low-risk, but some high-risk samples continue to slip through the system designed to detect and, hopefully, eliminate them.

Read the paper [here](#).

AN UPDATE FROM HHRA

Hear the latest on what we have been up to, including a report on The Heartland Study and our Alliance partners.

Read the update [here](#).

RECOMMENDED READING

ORGANIC CENTER REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND PESTICIDES

We must learn from our past in order to improve pesticide regulation for the future. This important report by The Organic Center shares the history of agrochemicals and their role in decades of environmental racism and environmental justice problems in the US food system. They conclude:

“Social justice must be incorporated into all aspects of how we think about agriculture.”

Read the report [here](#).

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

We're working hard to provide scientifically-grounded answers to questions about pesticide exposure and public health. Want to help support our science? A \$100 donation pays for the lab costs to test one urine sample for glyphosate, while \$2,000 covers the cost of enrolling a new mother-infant pair in The Heartland Study.

Any amount helps, click here to support our work.

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