



# CEH

center for environmental health

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The Center for Environmental Health Wishes you a Happy and Healthy Valentine's Day

## Many Thanks for Your Support!

We are grateful to all of you who have made a contribution to our 10th Anniversary Campaign! Thanks to your support, CEH has raised just over half of our \$200,000 goal – funds we will use to support new initiatives in 2007 and beyond.

And if you haven't made your contribution yet, it is still not too late to make a donation. Contributions to the campaign will be matched by our Tenth Anniversary Honorary Committee. To make a tax-deductible gift to CEH, [click here](#).

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## Toxic Love?

What comes to mind when you think of Valentine's Day? For many, flowers and chocolate are among the top answers. And since people are likely to be buying both over the next week, we asked nationally renowned pesticide expert Caroline Cox (CEH's research director) to share her thoughts on the health impacts of the flower and chocolate industries.

What we learned was alarming: Of the ten pesticides most widely used to grow greenhouse flowers in California, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that four cause cancer, three are toxic to fish, one depletes stratospheric ozone, one causes birth defects, and one is toxic to the nervous system. In cocoa growing, a 2006 study found that most of the commonly used pesticides are classified as 'moderately' or 'highly' hazardous by the World Health Organization and have been banned or restricted in many countries.\*

The bottom line is that conventionally produced flowers and chocolates require the use of appallingly toxic and dangerous pesticides.

But there is also good news: you have more organic options than ever for flowers, chocolates, and other Valentine's treats. Global Exchange is once again featuring its [Fair Trade Valentine's Day Action Kit](#). And below you'll find sources for you to consider as you shop for flowers and chocolate on Valentine's Day and beyond.

\*If you're curious, the study is A. A. Tijani, "Pesticide Use Practices and Safety Issues: The Case of Cocoa Farmers in Ondo State, Nigeria," J. Hum. Ecol., 19(3) 183-190 (2006)

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## Where to Find Organic Flowers

Your local farmer's market

[California Organic Flowers](#), 530-891-6265 (Tell them you were referred by CEH and they will donate 10% to CEH!)

[Manic Organics Flowers](#), 678-377-8258

[Diamond Organics](#), 888-ORGANIC



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## Where to find Organic Chocolate

- Local candy makers
- Equal Exchange
- Chocolove xoxox
- Dagoba
- Rapunzel
- 365 Organic
- Green & Blacks
- 3400 Phinney Chocolate Factory
- Sunspire
- Endangered Species Chocolate
- Newman's Own Organics
- Premium Thompson Organic
- Terra Nostra Organic

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## Celebrating a Decade of Success!

The year was 1996. Bill Clinton occupied the Oval Office. Enron was said to be a sound place to invest your money. The Macarena was performed by people who were not trying to be funny. It was a different era.

It was a time when lead, arsenic, and other highly dangerous toxins were found in items like

diaper creams, baby powders, hair dye, lunchboxes, children's jewelry, playground equipment, and a host of other everyday consumer products that people bought and used, assuming they were safe. Then in 1996, CEH came along and began working to change that.

This year marks our 10th Anniversary, and CEH is planning to celebrate our first decade of far-reaching public health victories with a special celebration. Stay tuned for more details.

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## Cloned Food on Your Plate?



When we hear about cloned animals, most of us think of science fiction, or perhaps our thoughts turn to Dolly, the sheep that just ten years ago was the first mammal to be cloned. But now, the biotech industry is attempting to weave this reckless and untested technology into the fabric of our daily lives.

Despite widespread scientific concern about the safety and animal welfare issues that accompany cloning, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has announced it plans to approve milk and meat from animal clones this year. Even worse, the agency says that labels will not be required on food from clones, so you will have no way to avoid these untested, experimental foods.

Animal cloning companies are hoping that unlabeled food from their laboratory-made animals will sneak its way into supermarkets without consumer complaints. That's why CEH is spearheading a drive to flood the FDA with official public comments in

opposition to cloned food.

To read the answers to frequently asked questions about cloned food and to download a letter you can send to the FDA, [click here](#).

To watch a 30-second video on cloned food, click [here](#).

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## Paul Adelstein and Cecil Corbin-Mark Join the CEH Board of Directors

One reason behind CEH's success is our board of directors – a committed group that includes national leaders in philanthropy, environmental justice, environmental health, green business, and other fields. As the body responsible for overseeing and steering the organization, our board strives to provide CEH with a regular infusion of new ideas, perspectives, and energy.

Over the past few months CEH's board has appointed two new members who boast impressive credentials and a passion for CEH's mission: Cecil Corbin-Mark and Paul Adelstein.

Mr. Corbin-Mark is a nationally respected leader in the environmental justice movement. He is the Director of Programs of West Harlem Environmental Action – a proven and effective environmental justice organization committed to empowering the West Harlem community.

Mr. Adelstein is a successful actor who has appeared in stage, television, and major motion picture productions. He can currently be seen in the television program *Prison Break*. In addition, Mr. Adelstein is longtime supporter of CEH and a strong advocate for environmental health.

Both are delighted to have the opportunity to serve on CEH's Board of Directors, and they are looking forward to working with our other board members – Marni Rosen, Antonio Diaz, Larry Smith, Kathy Gerwig, Katie Silberman, Julie Parker-Benello, Michael Dorsey, Anuja Mendiratta – to help shape CEH's next decade of public health victories.

Finally, we bid a fond farewell to longtime CEH Board member Karleen Lloyd, who stepped down at the end of 2006 after fulfilling multiple terms. We will miss her incredible expertise, wonderful humor and passion for environmental justice, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.