

Resolved: In the U.S., the benefits of increasing organic agriculture outweigh the harms.

BACKGROUND:

Only eat organic? You're paying too much, and it's not worth it, author says,

Harvard Gazette, February 2, 2021

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2021/02/author-robert-paarlberg-argues-against-buying-organic/>

Nearly half of all Americans claim to prefer organic food, and the label has spread far beyond food. You can now buy organic lipstick, organic underwear, and even organic water. The 2019 Super Bowl featured ads for organic beer, and health-conscious smokers are able to purchase organic cigarettes. Most farmers, however, have little interest in switching to the more costly and less convenient production methods required for organic certification, so this constrains the supply, which makes organic food needlessly expensive. America's farmers so far have certified less than 1 percent of their cropland for organic production, and fewer than 2 percent of commodities grown in 2017 were organic. Processed and packaged foods can now be organic as well, but fewer than 6 percent of total retail food purchases are organic products. Two decades after federal organic certification began in America, the brand remains a single-digit phenomenon.

REQUIRED RESEARCH (VIDEOS):

The Meatrix (Three Short Films)

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEkc70ztOrc>

2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAN6G8sBNIE>

3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aGK3Rqooux8>

Grocery Store Wars

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVrlyEu6h_E

Is Organic Really Better? Healthy Food or Trendy Scam?,

Kurzgesagt – In a Nutshell, January 13, 2019 [9 min]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PmM6SUn7Es>

REQUIRED RESEARCH (ARTICLES):

Why Organic Food Might Be Worth the High Price,

TIME Magazine, February 4, 2016

<https://time.com/4206738/organic-food-worth-the-price-study/>

4 Science-Backed Health Benefits of Eating Organic,

TIME Magazine, July 27, 2017

<https://time.com/4871915/health-benefits-organic-food/>

The Campaign for Organic Food Is a Deceitful, Expensive Scam,

NEWSWEEK, January 19, 2018

<https://www.newsweek.com/campaign-organic-food-deceitful-expensive-scam-785493>

Organic Food Is Worse for the Climate Than Non-Organic Food,

U.S. News & World Report, December 13, 2018

<https://www.usnews.com/news/national-news/articles/2018-12-13/study-organic-food-is-worse-for-the-climate-than-non-organic-food>

OPTIONAL RESEARCH (ARTICLES & VIDEOS):

**[VIDEO] *Is Organic Food Really Worth It?*,
CNBC News, September 21, 2021 [18 min]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LAFIDR56Sw>

***Health benefits of organic food, farming outlined in new report,*
Harvard University, February 8, 2017**

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/health-benefits-organic-food-farming-report/>

***When should you consider buying organic?,*
Harvard University, January 25, 2018**

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/when-to-buy-organic/>

***Are organics worth it?,*
Harvard Health Publishing, December 10, 2019**

<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/are-organics-worth-it>

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Thanks!*