

# Irradiation is Not "Pasturization" - Contact the FDA

By Bonnie Urfer

**Pasteurization**, n. a method of destroying or checking bacteria in milk, beer, etc. by heating the liquid to 142 – 145 degrees for thirty minutes.

**Deception**, n. deceiving or being deceived. 2. something deceiving, as an illusion, or meant to deceive, as a fraud.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has proposed confusing and inaccurate ID language for irradiated foods, labeling it "pasteurized." Irradiated food currently requires that all single-ingredient products sold in stores be labeled: "treated with irradiation" and carry the "radura" symbol. (The radura symbol is itself deceptive since it resembles a flower and the EPA symbol.) Using a claim made by the nuclear industry, the FDA says the word "pasteurized" provides more useful information to consumers. The agency wants the use of the word "irradiated" and the radura symbol only for food that undergoes a change in taste, texture, shelf-life or smell.

"This move by FDA would deny consumers clear information about whether they are buying food that has been exposed to high doses of ionizing radiation," stated Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director of Food & Water Watch.

Consumers have largely rejected irradiated food. Studies show irradiation at least destroys vitamins and at worst promotes cancer. Irradiated foods can lose from 2 to 95 percent of their vitamins. Irradiation can destroy up to 80 percent of the vitamin A in eggs, up to 95 percent of the vitamin A and lutein in green beans, up to 50 percent of the vitamin A and lutein in broccoli and 40 percent of the beta-carotene in orange juice. Irradiation also doubles the amount of trans fats in beef. Irradiation is an unacceptable replacement for cleaning up slaughterhouses and work places.

SureBeam, a major irradiation company, went bankrupt in 2004. Three additional irradiators in Sioux City, Iowa, Chicago and Los Angeles sit idle waiting for a market. One chief executive at Sadex, an irradiator waiting for business in California, contaminated spinach with E coli, irradiated it and then ate it hoping to enjoy a comeback after recent E coli outbreaks.

The FDA has only approved irradiation for fruits and vegetables in order to destroy plant pests, not for killing pathogen contamination. Irradiation does not work on all food. Tomatoes go mushy if exposed, lettuce wilts and strawberries turn color and melt.

The U.S. National Center for Policy Analysis estimates that irradiation costs about five cents per pound for meat and poultry products. Roughly 50 irradiation facilities operate in the U.S.



"T-Day" by Christoph Nieman, The New Yorker, April 9, 2007

Just as the Democratic-controlled Congress came under attack by liberals for approving another \$100 billion for U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, *The New Yorker* magazine ran this cover art, boldly reminding taxpayers of their own culpability.

## Civilians killed, "more or less"

After a Dec. 12, 2005 speech, George W. Bush in answer to a question estimated civilian Iraqi deaths, saying "30,000, more or less, have died as a result of the initial incursion and the ongoing violence against Iraqis."

A team of U.S. and Iraqi researchers from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health estimated that 655,000 more Iraqis have died since the March 2003 bombardment and occupation than would have died if the invasion had not been launched. About 601,000 died by violence, the rest from diseases and other causes, they reported in the British medical journal *The Lancet*.

## Estimates of Iraqi Dead

**28,000** — United Nations, Jan. 2006 - Oct. 2006

**30,000** — George Bush, Dec. 12, 2005

**52,000** — Iraq Body Count, Mar. 2003 - Dec. 2006

**150,000** — Iraqi Health Minister, Mar. 2003 - Nov. 2006

**601,000** — Johns Hopkins, *Lancet*, Mar. 2003 - July 2006

— Sources: Amanda Cox/*New York Times*, Jan. 1, 2007; White House press release, Dec. 12, 2005

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 allows companies to petition the agency to use additional alternate terms other than "irradiated," but no businesses have done so.

**Take action:** Let the FDA know how you feel about food irradiation and labeling. A 1984 FDA proposal to allow irradiated foods to go unlabeled garnered the agency more than 5,000 comments. Two years later, it reversed course and published a final rule that required the small number of FDA-regulated foods treated with radiation to bear identifying labels,



## 2007 War Funding Facts

In May, the so-called Democratic-controlled Congress approved the Bush administration's \$99.7 billion proposal for additional fiscal year 2007 funds for U.S. wars of occupation in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Associated Press and *The Wall Street Journal* published this breakdown (in billions):

- \$ 41.5 for "ongoing military operations"
- \$ 26.7 for "repairing and replacing equipment"
- \$ 10 for body armor
- \$ 9.8 to "train & equip Afghan and Iraqi forces"
- \$ 2.5 to "combat roadside bombs"
- \$ 2.7 for "intelligence activities"
- \$ 6.5 for "miscellaneous"

In September 2006, Congress approved an additional \$70 billion for FY 2007. The new funds put 2007 spending at \$170 billion, \$60 billion more than the Bush administration had predicted and \$50 billion more than was spent in 2006.

The FY 2007 military budget is \$436.6 billion. The two wars' \$170 billion is separate and additional.

## Who Gets the Money?

### MILITARY CONTRACTS, FISCAL 2005 (in billions)

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Lockheed Martin     | \$19.45 |
| Boeing              | \$18.32 |
| Northrop Grumman    | \$13.51 |
| General Dynamics    | \$10.64 |
| Raytheon            | \$ 9.11 |
| Halliburton         | \$ 5.83 |
| BAE Systems         | \$ 5.58 |
| United Technologies | \$ 5.02 |
| L-3 Communications  | \$ 4.71 |
| Computer Sciences   | \$ 2.83 |

(Sources: Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Defense Department via *New York Times*)

## General Strike For Peace Sept 21, 2007

If Congress cannot or will not stop the war, the people must.

On September 21, 2007

we will not work and we will not shop.

We will demonstrate against war.

Show your support for peace.

Don't work. Don't shop.

The war machine can operate in the face of a certain amount of dissent. However, its power to do so is limited. There is a point at which sufficient solidarity among the people can cause the machine to grind to a halt. Our goal is to get sufficient participation in the Sept. 21, 2007 general strike to raise the level of dissent beyond that at which the war system can continue to operate. Then we will strike again Oct. 19, 2007 and again Nov. 16, 2007. In December we will strike for two days — the 21st and the 22nd. Imagine Dec. 22, 2007 as an utter failure for corporations dependent on holiday gift shopping.

We can make it happen. We can stop war. However, to do so requires participation. If you are ready to commit to striking, tell us. If you are willing to help us organize or have suggestions as to how people can join in, contact us. If you are willing to help support the effort financially, donate. If you want to become a listed supporter, let us know. If you have questions, ask.

Contact: <[generalstrikeforpeace.com](http://generalstrikeforpeace.com)>

including the radiation symbol. Comments on the FDA proposed ruling must be received by July 3, 2007.

The proposed revisions to the rules on labeling can be found on the FDA's website: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments. Fax: 301-827-6870. Mail: Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), FDA, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852

## Jury Unanimous: British B-52 Disarmers Not Guilty of Sabotage

BRISTOL, England — A jury in Bristol Crown Court agreed unanimously May 22 that Oxford peace activists Philip Pritchard and Toby Olditch were not guilty of conspiring to cause criminal damage to U.S. B-52 bombers at a British airbase in Gloucestershire.

The two successfully argued that they were acting to prevent war crimes and crimes of violence against the people of Iraq when they acted March 18, 2006 to disable the B-52s and keep them from attacking. The warplanes were stationed at the Royal Air Force Base at Fairford.

The activists carried nuts and bolts that they used to gum up the bombers' turbines. During the trial even the prosecution accepted that delaying the bombers would have prevented civilian casualties, as it would have allowed those fleeing cities more time to escape, the Oxford Support Group reported.

It was the second trial for the alleged offence; the first having ended in a hung jury in Oct. 2006. — [www.B52Two.org](http://www.B52Two.org)

## Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Fair

Join us for the 18th annual Renewable Energy and Sustainable Living Fair  
**June 15-17, 2007**

The Fair will be held at the ReNew the Earth Institute,  
7558 Deer Road, Custer, Wisconsin.

### Keynote Speaker: Helen Caldicott

author of *Nuclear Madness*,  
*If You Love This Planet* and  
*The New Nuclear Danger*

**Friday, June 15, 1:00 p.m.**

[the-mrea.org](http://the-mrea.org)

Visit the Nukewatch booth  
and attend our workshop:

**Why Nuclear Power is Not the Answer**  
**Friday 10:00 & Sunday 11:00.**

## NUKEWATCH QUARTERLY



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