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## **JOHN'S CORNER:**

### **NEWS FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF SOIL AND PLANTS**

*by John Ferguson*

Research at the University of Copenhagen has found that beneficial microbes mediate biocontrol of diseases by interfering with pathogens or by strengthening the host plant. The bacteria produce plant hormones including cytokinins.

A study in the Journal Nature Communications from the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology has found that the Hawk Moth acquired the highest energy gain when they visited flowers that matched the length of their proboscis. They use the scent of the flowers to go to the correct species. The Hawk Moths proboscis is 8 centimeters long, which is the same as the flower of the *Nicotiana glauca* or fragrant tobacco that we grow in our gardens.

The UK based news agency called the Daily Mail published a report from Argentina where the Glyphosate weed killer unleashes grotesque chemical deformations in farm animals... two-headed calves, pigs born with no skin, twisted life forms seem spawned from Hell. They report that the number of mutations has quadrupled as the use of GMO (genetically modified) grains were fed to the animals. There is a summary at:

[http://www.naturalnews.com/054129\\_glyphosate\\_weed\\_killer\\_animal\\_mutations\\_genetically\\_modified\\_crops.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/054129_glyphosate_weed_killer_animal_mutations_genetically_modified_crops.html)

A report in the Journal Food and Chemical Toxicology (V. 84, October 2015, pp. 133-153) has found that exposure to glyphosate can accelerate the growth of human breast cancer cells. GMO foods have much higher levels of glyphosate than conventional food. This another reason to grow one's own vegetables and buy organic whenever one can.

The University Of California San Francisco (UCSF), was the first-ever comprehensive and validated LC/MS/MS testing project to be carried out across America on glyphosate in humans. A staggering 93



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percent of Americans tested positive for glyphosate, according to the test results, announced yesterday (May 25, 2016). Worse yet? Children had the highest levels.

Another report states that fungicide chemicals have been found to produce autism-like symptoms in animal studies, causing inflammation of the nervous system.

[http://www.naturalnews.com/054124\\_fungicides\\_neurodevelopmental\\_disorders\\_autism.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/054124_fungicides_neurodevelopmental_disorders_autism.html)

Researchers at the University of Nebraska have found a way to kill the deadly virus PEDV (Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus) that has caused billions of dollars in losses for swine producers. To dispose of the mortalities to prevent the spread of the disease they looked at many ways to treat the carcasses from burial to liming, etc. and nothing worked. They tried composting the carcasses and they found no traces of the virus.

The USDA reports that organic farming increased another 12% from 2014 to 2015! This is a 300% increase since 2002. There are now 32,160 organic farms around the world.