

IFAS Matters

Jack Payne



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IFAS Matters - May 2015

Posted on May 14, 2015 by Jack Payne

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"We couldn't find a raw-vegan, gluten-free, sugar-free, non-G.M.O. cake for your birthday, so we got you nothing."

Source: [P.C. Vey](#)

Are Food Giants Putting Their Money Where Your Mouth Is?

I'm a news hound. Accordingly, I pay close attention when the subject is food. (After all, the "F" in IFAS does stand for "food.")

So these recent stories jumped right out at me:

- Pepsi will no longer use aspartame in its formulation of diet Pepsi products in the US this year. Pepsi's sales have dropped 5% in the past year. Vice-president Seth Kaufman, said "Aspartame is the number one reason consumers are dropping diet soda."
- Chipotle announced that it will use only non-GMO (genetically modified) ingredients. CEO Steve Ells has said that the

Articles

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UF/IFAS research, breeding showcased at Flavors of Florida. [Read article »](#)

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[UF/IFAS implements the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program](#)

[Florida Sea Grant highlights aquaculture in new Florida Trend report](#)

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[UF/IFAS, Immokalee working together to get residents moving and eating healthy](#)

[Researchers show animals can adapt to increasingly frequent cold snaps](#)

company felt it was best not to use GMOs given the "lack of consensus" about their effects.

- Following the worst year on record McDonald's Corp's new chief executive officer is planning to cut costs to turn the fast-food chain into a "modern, progressive burger company. "I will not shy away from the urgent need to reset this business," said Easterbrook. He never mentioned "food" even once during his video announcement.
- Panera will drop more than 150 food additives by the end of 2016 in order to "simplify its pantry."

All this "news" makes me wonder:

- Is this really news or just shameless, free promotion?
- Is pleasing the public more important than making a scientific choice?
- Why does money and marketing always seem to up-end good nutrition?

One more thing, whether their decisions are or good or bad for people isn't the point. Can we trust someone who would throw us under the food truck to make an extra buck? You make your own conclusions.

-Jack



Two UF/IFAS Agricultural and Engineering Faculty Earn High Global Honors

Congrats, Drs. Munoz-Carpena and McLamore! [Read more...](#)



A Mushroom a Day...

UF/IFAS Study: Mushrooms boost immunity. [Read more...](#)



Congratulations, Wendy Wilber!

Alachua County Extension agent named Statewide Master Gardener Coordinator.

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UF/IFAS Solutions

Termites



Two destructive termite species forming superswarms, UF/IFAS study finds.

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Homebuyers



UF/IFAS study sheds light on homebuyer types.

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TSA Beetle



Program to control Tropical Soda Apple earns national award.

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Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, P.O. Box 110180

Gainesville, FL 32611-0180 | Phone: (352) 392-1971

