



DON'T EAT THAT! - TEXT 7A

Here is the second half of our article about food scares.

a. Fill in the gaps (a)-(h) with one or more suitable words.

b. Research a fifth food scare and complete the article with a short description of what happened.

Don't eat that! Five times that foods hit the news, for all the wrong reasons (continued)

3. The German E. Coli outbreak of 2011

In May and June of 2011, a (a)_____ of cases of foodborne illness was reported in north Germany. The most common symptom was bloody diarrhea, and, in around a quarter of cases, patients developed a severe blood disorder. Almost 3,000 cases were eventually identified, with 53 fatalities.

The illness was found to be (b)_____ a new strain of the E. Coli bacterium. Before investigations were complete, German health officials linked the outbreak to imports of Spanish cucumbers; as a result, the European Union forced the closure of several vegetable producers in southern Spain, and sales of cucumbers (c)_____ throughout Europe.

However, further tests showed that the source of the (d)_____ was not Spanish cucumbers but beansprouts from a farm within Germany. The presence of the bacteria was blamed in turn on seeds imported from Egypt, although the Egyptian agriculture minister rejected this explanation, instead accusing Israel of "waging a commercial war against Egyptian exports".

Meanwhile, growers in Europe estimated losses at over \$400 million a week, while the incident set off a long-running dispute between Spain and the EU Commission over compensation to farmers affected by the scare.

4. Dihydrogen Monoxide

From the 1980s onwards, there have been repeated scare stories about a substance called Dihydrogen Monoxide (DHMO), and campaigns to restrict or ban its use have gained support from politicians and officials in the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

One of the longest running campaigns is via the site dhmo.org, which lists several severe health effects: inhaling the substance can be (e)_____, while prolonged exposure to its solid form (f)_____ causes damage to skin and nerve tissues. Ingesting large (g)_____ of the liquid form leads to unpleasant though not life-threatening side-effects.

The common name of the substance? H₂O... or water! Jokers and hoaxers regularly use terrifying-sounding scientific language to confuse government representatives into supporting campaigns against the presence of water in industry, food, local rivers and even the water network. Sometimes this is done for a laugh, but there may occasionally be a serious point: are the safety warnings and health scares of today's world creating a/an (h)_____ of fear?

5. _____

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