Animal Experiments Funded by the Research and Promotion Boards

Below is a list of descriptions of animal experiments published between 2015 and 2019 that were funded by the various research and promotion (R&P) boards overseen by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). These experiments were funded purportedly to establish human health claims for marketing the agricultural products and ingredients promoted by the R&P boards.

**Hass Avocado Board**
- Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet, repeatedly force-fed them an avocado ingredient, starved them for eight hours, injected them with glucose and insulin, repeatedly bled them from their tails, killed them by suffocating them and draining their blood, and dissected them.¹

**U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council**
- Experimenters repeatedly starved mice, repeatedly took their blood, repeatedly injected them with a chemical that induces menopause, douched their vaginas, fed them a high-fat diet with blueberries, injected them with insulin, and killed and dissected them.²
- Experimenters fed rats strawberries or blueberries; forced them to perform a series of stress-inducing psychomotor and cognitive tests, including grabbing wires while suspended, walking or balancing on accelerating rotating rods, and swimming in a maze; repeatedly injected them with a chemical; and killed and dissected them. Five rats were killed before the end of experiment owing to excessive weight loss.³
- Experimenters fed rats blueberries; changed their cagemates daily; repeatedly restrained them in tubes smeared with cat food with a cat in the room, inducing post-traumatic stress disorder–like symptoms in the rats; forced them to perform a stress-inducing behavioral test; and killed and dissected them.⁴
- Experimenters injected mice with cancer cells, fed them blueberries or black raspberries, and killed them.⁵
- Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with blueberries, took their blood, and killed and dissected them.⁶

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• Experimenters fed rats blueberries, restrained them in plastic tubes, rendered them cognitively impaired by irradiating them, forced them to perform confusing and stress-inducing memory tasks, killed them by cutting off their heads, and dissected them.\textsuperscript{7}

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet, cut off 70% of their stomach, starved them, injected them with glucose, took their blood, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{8}

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet, repeatedly starved them, repeatedly took their blood, cut off 70% of their stomach, inserted a catheter into their arteries, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{9}

• Experimenters fed rats a high-fat diet with blueberries, repeatedly starved them, force-fed them glucose, repeatedly took their blood, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{10}

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with blueberries and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{11}

• Experimenters surgically injured rats’ brains, fed them blueberries, forced them to perform stress-inducing behavioral tests such as getting through mazes, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{12}

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with or without blueberries, repeatedly starved them for 16 hours, injected them with glucose and insulin, repeatedly took their blood, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{13}

Mushroom Council

• Experimenters fed rats white button mushrooms and forced them to perform several stress-inducing motor and cognitive tests, such as walking on balance beams and rotating rods and swimming through a water maze. Fourteen rats died or had to be killed early because of excessive weight loss.\textsuperscript{14}

• Experimenters fed mice white button mushrooms, starved them for 15 hours, injected them with glucose, took their blood, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{15}


• Experimenters fed pigs white button mushrooms, repeatedly poked their anuses, took their blood, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{16}

• Experimenters fed genetically modified mice who were prone to atherosclerosis a high-fat diet with or without shiitake or portobello mushroom, suffocated them to death and drained their blood, and dissected them.\textsuperscript{17}

**National Mango Board**

• Experimenters injected mice with cancer cells, repeatedly force-fed them mango extracts, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{18}

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with mangoes, starved them, took their blood, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{19}

• Experimenters fed rats mangoes or pomegranates, fed them a chemical that induces colitis, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{20}

• Experimenters fed rats mango juice, repeatedly fed them a chemical that induces colitis, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{21}

**National Processed Raspberry Council (Disbanded)**

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with raspberries, starved them, injected them with glucose, repeatedly took their blood, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{23,24}


• Experimenters repeatedly starved rats, repeatedly took their blood, injected them with a chemical that induces diabetes, injected them with plant metabolites commonly found after eating raspberries, inserted a catheter into their arteries, and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{25}

• Experimenters mated mice, swabbed their vaginas, fed them a high-fat diet with an ingredient common in grapes and raspberries, killed some of the babies, fed the remaining babies a high-fat diet, starved them, injected them with glucose, repeatedly took their blood, put them in a room where the temperature was 4°C for six hours, repeatedly shoved a thermometer into their rectums, killed both the mothers and babies by breaking their necks, and dissected them.\textsuperscript{26}

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with raspberries, starved them, injected them with glucose or insulin, repeatedly took their blood, killed them by breaking their necks, and dissected them.\textsuperscript{27}

• Experimenters forced rats to perform a series of stress-inducing psychomotor and cognitive tests, including grabbing wires while suspended, walking or balancing on accelerating rotating rods, swimming in a maze, and grabbing a metal grid while being pulled by the tail. Experimenters then took their blood, fed them raspberries, and killed and dissected them. Eighteen rats died or had to be killed early because of excessive weight loss.\textsuperscript{28}

• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with raspberries and killed and dissected them.

• Experimenters bred mice, repeatedly injected them with a chemical that induces a genetic defect, fed them a high-fat diet with raspberries, starved them, injected them with glucose, repeatedly took their blood, killed them by breaking their necks, and dissected them.\textsuperscript{29}

• Experimenters fed mice raspberries and then a chemical that induces colitis and killed and dissected them.\textsuperscript{30}

• Experimenters fed mice raspberries and then a chemical that induces colitis, killed them by breaking their necks, and dissected them.\textsuperscript{31}

• Experimenters fed rats a Western diet with raspberries, repeatedly restrained them and cuffed their tails, took their blood, starved them for 18 hours, killed them by cutting off their heads, and dissected them.\textsuperscript{32}


• Experimenters repeatedly injected genetically modified mice who were prone to diabetes with a drug that induces diabetes, fed them a high-fat diet with or without raspberries, and killed and dissected them.33
• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with or without raspberries, forced them to perform stress-inducing behavioral tests such as going through mazes, took blood straight from their hearts, and killed and dissected them.34
• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with or without raspberries, killed them by suffocating them and breaking their necks, and dissected them.35
• Experimenters fed raspberries to genetically obese rats and killed and dissected them.36
• Experimenters fed red raspberries to genetically obese rats, starved them overnight, killed them by suffocating them and draining their blood, and dissected them.37

**National Watermelon Promotion Board**
• Experimenters repeatedly force-fed rats watermelon or a watermelon ingredient, injected them with a carcinogen, and killed and dissected them.38
• Experimenters fed rats watermelon or a watermelon ingredient and took their blood.39
• Experimenters fed rats watermelon, took their blood, and killed and dissected them.40
• Experimenters fed rats an atherogenic diet with or without watermelon, suffocated them to death, took their blood, and dissected them.41

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• Experimenters fed rats watermelon, repeatedly injected them with a carcinogen that induces colon cancer, and killed and dissected them.\(^{42,43}\)
• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with various parts of watermelon, starved them, injected them with glucose, repeatedly bled them from their tails, took blood straight from their hearts, killed them by breaking their necks, and dissected them.\(^{44}\)
• Experimenters fed rats a high-fat diet with or without watermelon, fed them a chemical that induces colitis, starved them, suffocated them to death, and dissected them.\(^{45}\)
• Experimenters fed mice a high-fat diet with various parts of watermelon and killed and dissected them.\(^{46}\)

**United Sorghum Checkoff Program**

• Experimenters fed rats sorghum bran and a chemical that induces colitis and killed and dissected them.\(^{47,48}\)

**United Soybean Board**

• Experimenters fed rats casein, soy protein, corn oil, soybean oil, or salmon oil and killed and dissected them.\(^{49,50}\)
• Experimenters injected mice with cancer cells, repeatedly injected them with an immunosuppressive drug and other substances, repeatedly force-fed them two plant ingredients, and killed and dissected them.\(^{51}\)

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• Experimenters repeatedly injected a soy ingredient into mice whose ovaries had been cut out, suffocated them to death, and dissected them.52
• Experimenters fed or repeatedly injected a soy ingredient into genetically modified mice who were prone to cystic fibrosis, suffocated them to death, took blood straight from their hearts, and dissected them.53
• Experimenters fed genetically obese mice a soy ingredient, suffocated them to death, and dissected them.54,55,56
• Experimenters fed mice a soy ingredient, suffocated them to death, and dissected them.57
• Experimenters fed mice soybean oil or coconut oil, starved them, took their blood, and killed and dissected them.58
• Experimenters injected mice with a carcinogen, fed them casein or soy protein, and killed and dissected them.59
• Experimenters fed genetically obese mice a soy ingredient and killed and dissected them.60
• Experimenters fed genetically modified mice who were prone to cystic fibrosis a soy ingredient or a laxative and killed and dissected them. Forty-nine animals died of the disease before they could be killed by the experimenters.61
• Experimenters repeatedly force-fed genetically modified mice who were prone to diabetes a soy ingredient, injected them with cancer cells, starved them for 15 hours, injected them with glucose and insulin, repeatedly took their blood, suffocated them to death, and dissected them.62