



ABOUT CHARLES SHOW ARCHIVE PODCAST STATION FINDER
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The Osgood File. Sponsored in part by Auto Owners Insurance, the No Problem People. To find an independent agent near you, visit AutoOwners.Com. And by Barbasol. America, you're looking good. You're shaving with close, comfortable Barbasol Shaving Cream. Now in containers with new rust-proof aluminum bottoms. This is Charles Osgood.

There are few things in this world that taste as bad as sour milk.

But some scientists have come up with a "smart milk cap" – a cap that they say can tell you just how fresh the milk is before it hits your mouth.

The story after this...

(((BREAK)))

Why would anyone want a "smart milk cap" – when they've got an expiration date printed right on the milk container?

Waste not, want not – says Dr. Liwei Lin...

SOT – Dr. Liwei Lin, University of California-Berkeley

"Typically, we throw out the milk after the expiration date. But in reality, the milk may be still fresh..." (:06)

Lin is a professor of mechanical engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, where he and his team used 3D printing technology to create the "smart milk cap" – which has a sensor on the inside...

SOT – Dr. Liwei Lin

"You have to turn the bottle upside down such that your milk can go inside the sensor." (:05)

Each sensor is filled with circuits that can measure changes in bacteria.

That information is then sent in real time to a wireless device that can show you if indeed the milk has gone bad.

Dr. Lin says the next step is to develop a smartphone app that can read the data...

SOT – Dr. Liwei Lin

“In the future, if you go to supermarket, you may be able to use your cellphone – and your cellphone would have a reader – and the reader would read out if the milk is fresh or not.” (:11)

And someday, such sensors might be used on items other than milk...

SOT – Dr. Liwei Lin

“That will be very beneficial not only for the consumer, but also for the manufacturer.” (:04)

Dr. Lin says the big breakthrough here is how they were able to use 3D printing to create the “smart milk cap” – and that this technology will shake up electronics, in ways large and small, for years to come.

The Osgood File. This is Charles Osgood on the CBS Radio Network.

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