



Alert: Stop Monsanto's Genetically Engineered Wheat

Monsanto and the biotech bullies are once again moving to tighten their grip on the world's food supply. Genetically engineered (GE) varieties now account for 70-90% of all conventional (non-organic) corn, soybeans, cotton, and canola grown in the US. Joining the growing menu of unlabeled and untested gene-spliced Frankenfoods, GE sugar (derived from GE sugar beets) hit store shelves in 2008. Now it appears that the most controversial crop of them all, Monsanto's GE wheat, is not far behind, at least if industry gets its way. Given that wheat is such a major global crop and essential ingredient in bread, breakfast cereals, pasta and other everyday foods, the force-feeding of unlabeled GE wheat on the public would represent a major conquest for Monsanto and the biotech industry.

Although Monsanto withdrew their applications to the US and Canadian governments for approval of GE wheat in 2004 because of tremendous pressure from the OCA and hundreds of our allied public interest groups and farmers (as well as pressure from large food companies such as General Mills), it looks like we're in for another battle.

Wheat industry groups in the United States, Canada and Australia announced on May 14, 2009, they would work toward the objective of "synchronized commercialization of biotech traits in the wheat crop." For the sake of the Earth and public health, we must stop them.

Learn more: organicconsumers.org/wheat.cfm

Grow Your Own

The process of making your own flour is a lot easier than most people imagine. Before the advent of the modern flour mill, grinding wheat or corn into flour was a laborious task. For that reason, most Americans still assume flour is made with some sort of magical machinery in a factory somewhere. In actuality, wheat is one of the easiest crops to grow, even if you have limited space. Once you've grown it, you just need to cut an arm-full, flail it a bit to remove the grain, blow the chaff off the grain, and use a device like your blender to make the flour. From there, the cookie, bread, pasta or pancake recipe you use is up to you!

Organic Dairy Family Farmers Need Support

The OCA has called for a boycott of bogus organic dairy brands such as Horizon and Aurora (suppliers to Wal-Mart, Safeway and other giant chains), who have inundated the market with misleadingly labeled "organic" milk produced on factory farms. Recently, the situation has worsened as organic feed prices have increased and recession-pummeled consumers have cut back on the amount of organic milk they are purchasing. The result is a surplus of organic milk, depressed milk prices, and an increasing number of organic dairy farmers across the US being driven into bankruptcy. Consumers can support ethical organic dairy farmers and preserve organic integrity by boycotting Horizon and Aurora products and instead supporting local organic farmers and dairy cooperatives like Organic Valley and others. organicconsumers.org/articles/article_18096.cfm

Are Genetically Engineered Foods Dangerous?

When surveyed, the majority of consumers are not comfortable eating genetically engineered foods, but most people can't really explain specifically why they have concerns. Watch this in depth look at the history of the GE debate. This web movie covers every aspect of the issue, from health impacts, to pesticide use, to biotech industry cover-ups: organicconsumers.org/articles/article_18150.cfm

Articles of the Week

New EPA Study Shows 1,4 Dioxane is 17 Times More Toxic Than Originally Thought

The EPA's new assessment raises the cancer slope factor of this common toxin 17 times. The OCA recently released a shopper's guide indicating which so-called "natural" personal care products and home cleansers tested best and worst for 1,4 Dioxane.

How to Avoid Genetically Engineered Sugar

More than 70 companies have signed a pledge promising to avoid using sugar from genetically modified sugar beets "wherever possible." Unlabeled and untested GE sugar, derived from Monsanto's GE sugar beets, is now laced into hundreds of (non-organic) brand-name products. OCA and critics of genetic engineering have raised concerns that the modified beets could produce food allergies, threaten wildlife, and spread herbicide resistance or other modified traits to closely related species.

Monsanto Spent \$2 Million on Lobbying in Q1 '09

"Monsanto dominates the global market for GMO seeds like Microsoft dominates the operating-system software market. You don't skirt around anti-trust enforcement like that without having good friends in Washington. And to make friends, you've got have guys in suits working the Hill and the agencies..."

OCA and ILRF Respond to Rain Forest Alliance

"Certification and labeling programs can play an important role in improving labor and environmental conditions in the production of goods and can help consumers to support companies that

make a serious commitment to higher standards. We welcome Rainforest Alliance's commitment to conserving biodiversity and ensuring sustainable livelihoods. However, we do have concerns about how the certification program works on the ground..."

Read these articles and many more at OCA's website:

www.organicconsumers.org

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You can donate online at: organicconsumers.org/donations.cfm



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Fundamentally the science of genetic engineering is crap. One gene expressing one protein is the basis of genetic engineering, but the Human Genome Project discovered 23,000 genes, and there are 200,000 proteins in every cell. With this discovery, genetic engineering should have disappeared into the dustbin, but the biotechnology industry is so strong..."

Source: A recent interview with Dr. Arpad Pusztai, a world-renowned expert on food safety, and one of the first scientists to raise concerns about the safety of genetically modified foods. Pusztai was originally a supporter of biotech foods, but changed his mind as he began carrying out comprehensive laboratory feeding studies on Monsanto's GE potatoes and other crops.