

THE "Time Out" Times

News & Information About Genetic Engineering

from GE Free Vermont



Fall 2005

50¢

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS:

COMING SOON TO
YOUR GARDEN?

by Carrie Abels

Every summer, backyard gardens teem with tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, peppers and other common vegetables. Home gardeners take pride in being able to feed this healthy food to their families. They can also be pretty sure that their veggies are *GMO-free*. But that is likely to change.

Many signs indicate that bio-technology companies will start selling genetically modified seeds to home gardeners within the next few years, adding new elements of risk to the gardening process. Companies are currently developing and testing market garden varieties of tomatoes, beets and potatoes, all suitable for sale to backyard gardeners, and *GM* squash is already being sold in the Seminis seed catalog. What's more, Seminis, the world's largest fruit and vegetable seed supplier, was recently bought by Monsanto, the world's largest developer of *GMOs*; Monsanto has its eye on the home garden market.

It's bad enough that people may start consuming *GMOs* through their backyard vegetables. But it's also unfortunate that the state of Vermont is refusing to develop rules for the labeling of *GMO* garden

seed packets.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture has not fully implemented the state's 2004 *GMO* seed labeling law, meaning there are no clear rules in place for how stores or seed companies would let consumers know that a seed packet contains *GM* material. The state's inaction means that Vermont's first-in-the-nation seed labeling law is virtually ineffective in guarding people against the potential hazards of *GMO* garden varieties.

Vermonters have a right to know what they are planting. This is why the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG) has launched its "Know What You Grow" campaign. The campaign seeks to educate home gardeners about *GMO* garden seeds and compel the Agency of Agriculture to initiate a 'rulemaking' process for the 2004 seed labeling law - a process that should lead to clear labels for all *GMO* seeds.

If you want to know whether *GMOs* are in the seeds you buy at hardware stores, supermarkets, and garden stores, write to Governor Jim Douglas expressing your desire to see all *GMO* seeds labeled

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through the rulemaking process. His address: Pavilion Building, 109 State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602. Or call VPIRG at 802/223-8421 for more information. **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW!**

- Carrie Abels interned this summer with Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG)



NATIONAL NEWS

Flax Industry Opposes 'Pharma' Flax in North Dakota

AmeriFlax, a branch of the North Dakota Oilseed Council, is strongly opposed to a plan by biotechnology company Agrigen to grow flax genetically modified to produce a drug. AmeriFlax fears that the pharma GM flax will contaminate traditional flax crops, enter into the food chain, and ruin the newly rejuvenated flax industry in North Dakota. (from The Non-GMO Report, August, 2005)

Hurricane Ophelia Hits Pharma Rice in North Carolina

Hurricane Ophelia headed straight for fields of pharmaceutical-producing rice near Plymouth, North Carolina, as it traveled up the east coast in mid-September. The hurricane's high winds and heavy rains threatened to scatter rice plants and seeds, a possibility that the U.S. Department of Agriculture discounted when it approved Ventria Bioscience's applications to plant pharma rice in North Carolina earlier this year. The pharma crops are genetically engineered to produce human proteins. Two more months remain in the hurricane season.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently issued a report recommending that governments do a case-by-case risk assessment on any new genetically modified food for its effects on human health, on the food chain, and on the environment. (source: foodnavigator-usa.com)

GE Free Maine Organizes

A lively group is doing grassroots educating in Maine, and has been attacked in the newspapers by the so-called Maine Biotechnology Information Bureau. "You know you're doing good work when the Industry is paying a PR flack to respond to your every move!" says GE Free Maine. info@gefreemaine.org

First U.S. Labeling Legislation for GM Food Becomes Law In Alaska

"Alaska has become the first state to give its citizens what 90 percent of Americans want - labels for genetically engineered foods. We anticipate that this legislation will be a bellwether for other state efforts to label biotech foods. It's only a matter of time before all states move to fill in the regulatory gap left by the Federal government's failure to require mandatory labeling."

www.gefreemaine.org/article.php?story=2005081603414094

Cloned Cows & Pigs for Dinner?

The Food and Drug Administration is soon

expected to announce a new policy that would legalize the sale of milk and beef for from cloned cows. Hundreds of cloned pigs and cows are already living all across the U.S. but cannot yet be sold for human consumption. A 60 day public comment period will follow the FDA proposal. The OCA will keep you posted on this issue. <http://www.organicconsumers.org/Toxic/clone.cfm>

Genetically Engineered Pigs Trot Into U.S. Food Supply

The FDA has officially closed its investigation on a 2003 food safety mishap, wherein nearly 400 bioengineered pigs, developed for research, mistakenly ended up in the U.S. food supply. The University of Illinois says it accidentally sold the pigs to a livestock dealer, instead of incinerating them, as is required by law. The FDA claims it cannot make a statement regarding potential risk to human health, given the fact that the researchers kept insufficient records. The mishap follows on the heels of a similar situation occurring in 2001, when genetically engineered pigs were stolen from the University of Florida, and later turned up in the sausage served at a funeral in High Springs, FL. <http://www.organicconsumers.org/ge/pigs.cfm>

(cont. on p. 6)

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Legislators' Update on the Farmer Protection Act

November 16, 7 PM

Christ's Church, Main Street, Saxtons River, VT

Talk with local state representatives Carolyn Partridge and Mike Obuchowski,

Windham County State Senators Rod Gander and Jeanette White.

Sponsored by the Vermont Genetic Engineering Action Group and Rockingham Education and Action for Tomorrow (EAT).

Volunteer In Rural Vermont's Office!

Rural Vermont is seeking volunteers to help in the office this fall. Weekly volunteers are needed to help us prepare for the legislative session. Activities would include compiling informational materials for elected officials, helping with mailings, and keeping our clips book up to date. If you can volunteer for 2 hours once a week we'd love to have you!

Can only spare a few hours a month? We always can use some help with archiving, phone calling, and occasionally events. Some of these activities can be done from your home!

Please email Annelisa at ruralvt6@sover.net

if interested.

GMO Film Kits Now Available

Inform & Activate Your Community on GMOs! Rural Vermont has compiled a toolkit with information on how to set up a screening as well as information and action items to distribute to attendees. **Have a home film party, or arrange a showing at your local school, library, or other venue!**

Most people who view the films about GMOs are outraged by what they see, but are left with little information on how to take action. This toolkit provides an action postcard for viewers to sign as well as information about local groups they can join to get involved.

For people who do not already have copies of films, Rural Vermont has a library of videos people can borrow. To see the selections visit our website at <http://www.ruralvermont.org/resources.html>.

The toolkits are free! To obtain one contact Linda Setchell at Rural Vermont at 802-223-7222 or email linda@ruralvermont.org

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dedicated to treading lightly upon the Earth ~
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BUTTERWORKS FARM'S ORGANIC SEEDS THREATENED: WHY? WE HAVE A LAW, DON'T WE?

by Kye Cochran

A month ago my husband and I visited Jack Lazor at his farm in Westfield, Vermont. Many of you know Jack and his wife Ann as the owner/operators of Butterworks Farm, Vermont's original organic dairy, which has produced highest quality organic yogurt and cream for the past 25 years.

What some may not know is that Jack is also an expert at growing organic grains and beans. Last year he tried growing a special short-season field corn for seed. It's called 'Early Riser', and Jack saved some of the seed to grow this year, intending to sell the seed to organic farmers in Vermont. He told us that it's the first seed field corn to be grown in Vermont in 60 years.

The day we visited, Jack took us to see his



Early Riser cornfield, of which he is justifiably proud. But he is also very worried. A couple of weeks after Jack planted his seed, a friend of his decided to grow corn in a field that is less than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Early Riser. So the friend ordered seed from his seed dealer, and when it came, he planted it. A couple of days later, he complained to Jack that the corn seed the dealer sent was much more expensive than

usual (\$135 versus the usual \$90 per bag). Jack was instantly suspicious, and asked to see one of the grain sacks: sure enough, although it was not labeled genetically engineered (GE), Jack could tell by the wording on the label that his friend's corn was genetically engineered both to be Roundup Ready and for Bt genes.

Jack's friend did not ask for GE corn, did
(cont. on p. 4)

Genetically Engineered Crops and the Vermont Economy

1. Vermont enjoys a reputation for high quality farm products; the Vermont brand provides a genuine economic advantage to the state and a reliable quality indicator to Vermont consumers and those who buy Vermont food products, nationally and internationally. The demand for non-GMO food is growing domestically and around the world, most notably in Europe where there has been a planting moratorium and strict labeling of GE food imports.

2. The unlabeled and unknown presence of GMOs in food products in North America threatens current and future markets for Vermont food-related goods. Nationally, regulatory responsibility is spread across three federal agencies while independent long-term examinations of the overall health and safety issues for people and the environment don't exist. Some states are launching their own initiatives

for regulatory action, such as labeling and a moratorium.

3. Citizen support for slowing or halting the spread of GE crops in Vermont is growing. 83 towns have passed non-binding anti-GMO resolutions. A UVM poll showed that 80% of Vermonters would choose not to eat GE food if it were labeled. 96% of Vermonters support GMO labeling. Vermont farmers and consumers have the right to know what they are buying, growing or eating.

4. Organic farming is the fastest growing sector of Vermont agriculture. Vermont leads the nation in the amount of its agriculture dedicated to organic practices. Markets for organic products are growing at over 20% per year. Contamination from GE crops and animal feed threatens both the integrity and marketability for organic businesses.

5. While seed saving is no longer an issue in agribusiness operations, many Vermont growers save seed for their own use and to supply organic and other seed houses. Preventing GMO contamination by pollen drift is a serious threat to maintaining "pure" seed strains and varieties.

6. The potential for farmer-to-farmer conflict is growing as each farm owner makes the GE decision. This is not healthy in a state that honors its agricultural history and reputation. Agricultural survival is hard enough without adding the fear and distrust of crop contamination by a neighbor.

7. Vermont values its "green-ness" - its beauty and its largely healthy environment for both residents and visitors. The effects of GE crops on soils and nearby plant life are only beginning to emerge and the news is not good. Issues of genetic changes to related plants, soil bacteria concerns, and, ironically, increased pesticide and herbicide resistance are surfacing. The buffer issue is in a state of constant revision as contamination persists over huge areas. There are no effective biocontainment methods currently in place.

Early results show that the cost and productivity benefits touted for GE crops are overstated. Coupled with real world economic and ecological damages and an inadequate testing regime, the track record for agricultural biotech is too short and cloudy to jeopardize Vermont's agricultural future.

BUTTERWORKS FARM from p. 3

not want it, and did not know he had it; but now it is threatening to contaminate Jack's organic seed corn. Jack will test his corn after he harvests it; if it has any GE contamination he will not be able to sell it. He will have lost a whole valuable crop, just because we have no law (although we passed one!) requiring seed labeling.

How can this happen in a state that passed a seed labeling law in 2004 which mandated labeling of any package or bag containing GE seed? This is a question that must be asked of Agriculture Secretary Steve Kerr, whose job it has been for the past year and a half to develop rules for our seed labeling law.

One of Secretary Kerr's contentions is that if farmers just talk with their neighbors and figure out together how to keep from having GE corn contaminate non-GE corn, all will be fine, and GE farmers can live alongside organic and non-GE farmers. Actually, Jack Lazor is a perfect example of the farmer who talks with his neighbors every year, and works things out. But how can he work it out, when the neighbor doesn't even know he is growing GE corn?

I talked with friends from Windham County (Brattleboro area) a few days ago and told them about Jack Lazor's problem; they told me they know another farmer who was sent GE seeds this year when he simply asked his seed dealer for corn seed. This farmer was savvy enough, however, to realize that the seeds were GE, and he sent them back.

WHY IS STEVE KERR BEHAVING LIKE THIS?

Why would Secretary Kerr refuse to develop rules for our seed labeling law? Why does he persist in thinking that having farmers 'work things out' is the solution to GE contamination of non-GE crops (in the face of numerous studies to the contrary, the latest being printed in the August, 2005 edition of *The Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society* by Miguel Altieri of the University of California)? To get a sense of Steve Kerr's attitude toward genetic engineering, I read some recent newspaper articles in which he stated his views.

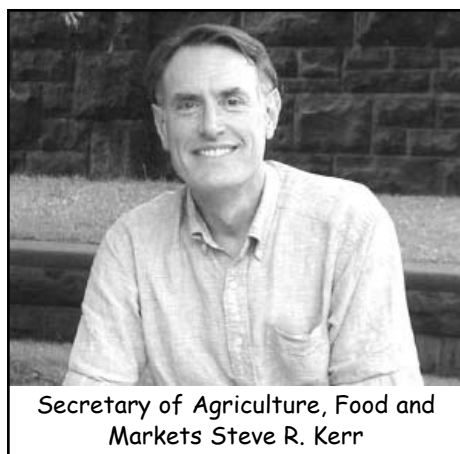
The following are Kerr's statements (in bold) from an article in the *Brattleboro Reformer* in March, 2004, by Howard Weiss-Tisman, with clarifications from Jim Moulton of the Genetic Engineering Action Group (GEAG), a grassroots education group from Windham County:

"Scientists have said that there is no risk to human health."

This is an inaccurate generalization. There is no scientific consensus. While some scientists say there is no risk, there are hundreds of scientists worldwide and scientific organizations (Union of Concerned Scientists and Britain's Independent Science Panel, among others) that have declared that GMO foods and crops pose serious health and safety questions that need thorough exploration. Internal memos of FDA scientists reveal concerns relating to novel allergens, toxin production, decreased nutritional values, and transfer of antibiotic resistance to humans and animals of an inherently unstable technology; these concerns are shared by many within the medical community.

"If scientists say it is OK, what do I say to a farmer who wants to use it?"

This is based upon the same flawed generalization as above. Scientists don't agree that GMO crops are 'OK'. There are good scientific reasons to add agricultural GMOs to the long list of herbicides and pesticides that are outlawed because they are too dangerous. What do you say to farmers who would like to use any of these banned



Secretary of Agriculture, Food and Markets Steve R. Kerr

products? You simply say "you cannot!" Maybe you also say that the choice you make as a farmer has the probability of harming your neighbor, or that your use of GMOs may put another farmer out of business.

"Vermont Assistant Attorney Michael Duane counseled against the moratorium [on the growing of GE crops] "...we can't ban them and we can't restrict them."

This is misleading, presenting incomplete information. The Secretary knows that Stephen Vina, an attorney for the nonpartisan research arm of Congress, the congressional Research Service, stated that a moratorium on genetically engineered crops

in Vermont could survive a constitutional challenge. It is regrettable that the Secretary is so willing to concede Vermonters' rights to address their health and safety concerns when there is a reasonable chance these rights would be upheld.

"Vermonters may have to learn to live with" GMO cross-pollination and contamination of organic fields."

This statement reaffirms the notion that his 'co-existence' meetings [Secretary Kerr held a series of meetings in the summer of 2003 with a group of people that included representatives of organizations concerned about genetic engineering. The meetings purported to be to discuss the possibility of co-existence of organic farming and genetically engineered crops, but he would not allow any discussion of a proposal to simply stop growing GE crops.] were a sham, and it insults the organic farming community, the voters of 83 Vermont towns, the more than 100 conventional dairy farmers and the thousands of concerned Vermonters who have said "no" to GMOs and "yes" to strict regulations.

"The level of interest in GMOs does not extend far beyond the state borders."

This is patently false. California's Mendocino County passed a GMO ban, with other counties following suit; the entire European Union and dozens of other countries have enough 'interest' to have strict controls and bans over GMO plantings and products; half the states of Australia just banned GMOs to preserve their export market, and that entire continent has banned any further field trials of GMOs. One million Japanese consumers signed a petition calling for a ban on GMO wheat, farmer uprisings against biotechnology are common in countries like India and Brazil, and there is a class action lawsuit against the biotech industry in Canada for destruction of its organic canola sector. These are only a few examples of the widespread "interest" beyond Vermont.

From an article entitled "Enhanced Crops Are Topic At One NH Town Meeting" by Chelsea Conaboy of the Concord Monitor, reprinted by the Valley News, March 1, 2005:

"Kerr called the movement to stop such [GMO] technology 'A fraud'. He said people are afraid of food being genetically contaminated, but moving DNA from one natural product to another does not introduce toxins into the crops."

My comment: Fish and bacteria and tomatoes and corn are all natural, but they do

VERMONT HAPPENINGS & EVENTS



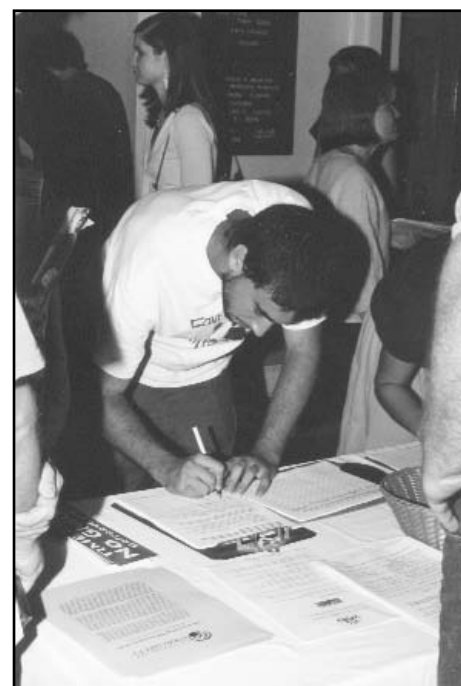
Future Of Food Comes To Vermont

This summer, independent filmmaker Deborah Koons Garcia toured New England with her latest masterpiece. Audiences from Massachusetts to Maine viewed the film and participated in post-film discussions with Deborah. The movie has since gone national in big theaters!

Clockwise from left:

(L - R) Lori Vanhandel of Slow Foods of the Berkshires, Deborah Garcia, Sandra Thomas, and Jim Moulton of Vermont GEAG share a Kodak moment at the screening at Images Cinema in Williamstown, MA.; film attendees collect informational literature, sign petitions and mailing lists, and purchase DVDs; Deborah Garcia (L) shares a chat with Woodstock independent filmmaker Anne Macksoud (*The Global Banquet*) at the Town Hall Theater in Woodstock Vermont.

(If you missed the shows, you can borrow this film from Upper Valley Co-op or other local groups!)



not mix genes in nature. Forcing this to happen is unnatural, and, as Jim stated above, many scientists are very concerned about the possible consequences to human health and the environment.

A journalist friend of Brian Tokar, scientist at the INstitute for Social Ecology in Plainfield, Vermont, attended the annual meeting of the Biotechnology Industry Organization in Philadelphia this year. He sent Brian the following email:

"I went to a session over at BIO today. It was entitled 'Organics and Biotech: Won't You Be My Neighbor?' The moderator was

one Stephen Kerr of the Vermont Agency of Agriculture. Like a mantra, Kerr and others repeatedly said that there could be no scientific doubt about these GM crops because regulators had approved them. 'There's no science to even support the discussion we're having today,' he said. 'We're only having it because we live in a democracy and "people have the right to be wrong.'

I guess I'm naïve, but I was surprised to hear this Vermont state official talking like a paid proponent of the biotech industry. I mean, I wouldn't be surprised to hear that coming from Pennsylvania's secretary of agriculture, but Vermont?"

NATIONAL NEWS from p. 2

Monsanto's GE Seeds Pushing US Agriculture Into Bankruptcy

Genetically engineered crops are causing an economic disaster for farmers in the U.S., says a new report released by Britain's Soil Association. The report is a massive compilation of data showing GE crops have cost American taxpayers \$12 billion in farm subsidies in the past three years. "Within a few years of the introduction of GM crops, almost the entire \$300 million annual US maize exports to the EU had disappeared, and the US share of the soya market had decreased," the report said. In addition, the study says that GE crops have led to an increased use of pesticides, while resulting in overall lower crop yields.

www.organicconsumers.org

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Engineered Crop Outcrosses To Distant Relative

According to a report in The Guardian newspaper, genes for herbicide resistance moved from genetically engineered oilseed rape into a distantly related weed called charlock during a field trial in the United Kingdom. Although the transfer of genetically engineered traits to related weeds is a common occurrence, these two species were so dissimilar that scientists considered outcrossing between them to be virtually impossible. The event raises concerns that a larger group of weeds than previously suspected will be able to pick up genes from engineered crops. Genetically engineered crops are not grown commercially in the UK.

-from the September issue of the Food

and Environmental Electronic Digest of the Union of Concerned Scientists

New EU Moratorium On GM Cultivation

The EU Environment Commissioner has blocked all new applications for growing GM crops in Europe. According to newspaper reports, Stavros Dimas has ordered all applications to be halted until the issues of co-existence and the contamination of seeds are addressed at a European level. The new moratorium is likely to be a big set back for the biotech companies; they were hoping this year would see the first approval to grow GM crops for seven years.

-from the Biotechnology Programme of Friends of the Earth Europe, July 2005

Japan Gets Illegal GMO Corn From U.S. for the 7th Time

In early August, Japan received illegal Bt-10 genetically modified corn from the U.S. for the seventh time. The ministry requested that the importer destroy the cargo or return the shipment to the U.S.

Quebec Wants Mandatory GM Food Labeling

The Quebec government has come out strongly in favor of mandatory labeling for all genetically modified food products. Quebec consumers support mandatory labeling by a wider margin than elsewhere in Canada.

-from The Non-GMO Report, September, 2005

Ghana Stops Imports of GM Foods

Ghana has taken a strong stand against genetically modified foods, crops, and materials. The government has said that it will reject, without hesitation, the importation of any GMOs, even if they would solve immediate famine problems in

the country.

-from the Non-GMO Report, September, 2005

New Research Shows GM Crops Contaminate Countryside For Up To 15 Years After Harvest

A study, published by the Royal Society, examined five sites across England and Scotland where modified oilseed rape has been cultivated, and found significant amounts of GM plants growing even after the sites had been returned to ordinary crops. The findings suggest that farmers who try the GM seeds for one season will find fields blighted for a decade and a half. Nine years after a single modified crop, an average of two GM rape plants would grow in every square metre of an affected field. After 15 years, there was still one plant per square metre. The report effectively torpedoes the Government's strategy for introducing GM oilseed rape to this country. Says Pete Riley, the director of GM Freeze, "It is becoming clearer and clearer that it is going to be impossible to grow GM crops in Britain."

Cotton Farmers In India Going Bankrupt From Monsanto's GE Cotton

Monsanto convinced many of India's farmers that buying more expensive GE cotton seeds would result in higher yields and better cotton - but crop yields for GE cotton were 5 TIMES LESS than traditional Indian cotton and the income from GE cotton was 7 TIMES LESS than conventional cotton, due to Monsanto's cotton having lower quality short fibers. As a result of the insurmountable deluge of debt accrued from paying more for the GE seeds and having a weak crop, more than 100 Indian farmers committed suicide in the last year.

www.organicconsumers.org

HOW TO AVOID GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS

Decoding Produce: Polls show that around 90% of Americans want genetically engineered foods to be labeled as such. Although 70% of processed foods contain genetically engineered ingredients, there are no laws requiring the labeling of these products in the U.S. But smart consumers are able to tell how their produce was created, just by looking at the PLU code on the sticker of the fruit or vegetable. The PLU code for conventional produce (grown with synthetic pesticides and fertilizers) consists of four numbers. Organically grown produce has a five digit PLU prefaced by 6 the number 9. Genetically engineered

produce has a five digit PLU prefaced by the number 8. Now if we could just get processed food to carry such labels...

Currently Commercialized GM Crops in the U.S.:

Soy (85%), cotton (76%), canola (75%), corn (40%), Hawaiian papaya (more than 50%), zucchini and yellow squash (small amount), and tobacco (Quest® brand).

Other Sources of GMOs:

Dairy products from cows injected with rbGH.

Food additives, enzymes, flavorings, and processing agents, including the sweetener aspartame (NutraSweet®) and rennet used

to make hard cheeses.

Meat, eggs, and dairy products from animals that have eaten GM feed.

Honey and bee pollen that may have GM sources of nectar and pollen.

Some of the Ingredients That May Be Genetically Modified:

Vegetable oil (soy, corn, cottonseed, or canola), margarines, soy flour, soy protein, soy lecithin, textured vegetable protein, cornmeal, corn syrup, dextrose, maltodextrin, fructose, citric acid, and lactic acid.

Know what you eat - choose whole unprocessed foods - talk to the producers - buy & eat local!

JOIN YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR GMO EDUCATION AND ACTION!

In Vermont, a growing number of regional groups have been conducting grassroots education about GMOs since 2001. As of this printing, the following groups are active:

Windham County Genetic Engineering Action Group (GEAG)

Contact: For general interest, GEAG, P.O. Box 6322, Brattleboro, VT 05302, or Rich Garant, phone: 802-257-1589

For legislative matters, Jim Moulton, jmmoulton@sover.net or 802-824-6670

Upper Valley Folks

Contact: Kye Cochran, Upper Valley Food Co-op, 193 N. Main Street, White River Junction 05001
Phone: 802-295-5804.

e-mail: uvfcgm@aol.com

Lamille County Sprouts

Contact: Judy Clark, Applecheek Farm, 567 McFarlane Rd., Hyde Park, VT 05655-9260
802-888-4482

Addison County GE Free Food Group

Contact: Joyce Hawes
802-877-6743 grandoak@sover.net

Washington County

Contact the folks at Rural Vermont (see below for contact information).

GE Free Chittenden County

Contact: Bayard Littlefield, 802-272-9536
e-mail: Bayardl@hotmail.com

Committee for Study of Genetically Engineered Food and Food Choices

Contact, Jim Ampatiellos
e-mail: jgampatiellos1@aol.com

STATEWIDE CITIZEN GROUPS

G.E.Free Vermont (formerly Vermont Genetic Engineering Action Network - VT GEAN)

www.gefreevt.org
Kye Cochran
uvfcgm@aol.com
802-295-5804

Institute for Social Ecology Biotechnology Project

Brian Tokar
1118 Maple Hill Road
Plainfield, VT 05667
biotech@social-ecology.org
www.nerage.org
www.biodev.org
802-454-7138

Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA)

Enid Wonnacott, Executive Director, or any of

the staff at 802-434-4122
e-mail: info@nofavt.org

Rural Vermont

802-223-7222
www.ruralvermont.org
Amy Shollenberger, amybeth@together.net
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ruralvt2@sover.net
Annelisa Donlan, Membership Director

Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG)

Andrew Hudson, Field Director
802-223-8421 x4787 drew@vpig.org

You can read VPIRG's GMO reports, and learn more at: <http://www.vpirg.org/campaigns/GMO/take%20action.htm>.



Windham County GEAG holds its regular Thursday night meeting in the Brattleboro Food Coop community room.

RESOURCES

There are endless resources available; we name just a few in each issue.

ON-LINE RESOURCES

True Food Network's Non-GMO Shopping List

www.truefoodnow.org/shoppersguide/guide_printable.html

True Food Network's List of GE Crops Currently Being Field Trialed

www.truefoodnow.org/crop/pipeline_r dintro.html

BOOKS & PUBLICATIONS

Vermont Towns vs. Genetic Engineering: A Guide To Reclaiming Our Democracy

revised edition by the Institute for Social Ecology, Biotechnology Project
118 Maple Hill Rd., Plainfield, VT 05667
biotech@social-ecology.org
Has your town passed a resolution on Genetic Engineering? (83 Vermont towns have!) If not, and if you wish it had, get this terrific 20-page guide from ISE. It is an

excellent source of information on the history of Vermont's grass roots town meeting action on genetic engineering, and it is a clear, beautifully designed guide for anyone wishing to lead an effort to pass a resolution in 2006. Actually, anyone interested in what all the fuss is about regarding GMOs would find this a useful and informative booklet.

Genetically Engineered Food

A Self-Defense Guide for Consumers

Ronnie Cummins and Ben Lilliston
Completely revised & updated 2004 edition.
- Clearly explains the hazards of GE foods and crops and what you can do about it.
- Outlines what consumers can do to pressure companies to go "GE-free."
- Shows how you can shop, cook, garden and advocate to help convert US agriculture to organic.

Ronnie Cummins is the national director of the Organic Consumers Association (www.OrganicConsumers.org) and the editor of BioDemocracy News, a monthly on-line newsletter devoted to genetic

engineering, factory farming, and organics. Ben Lilliston is a writer on health and the environment and is the communications coordinator for the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy in Minneapolis.

Eating in the Dark

America's Experiment with Genetically Engineered Food

Kathleen Hart
Science - Biotechnology | Pantheon |
Hardcover | May 2002 | \$25.00 |
0-375-42070-3

Eating in the Dark tells the story of how GE foods quietly entered America's food supply. "This book lays bare a scandal bigger than Enron: We've planted half our nation's fields in transgenic crops with only the dimmest sense of what that might mean to our own health and the health of the planet. Reading this volume will make you angry, but from that anger will hopefully come a renewed resolve to make our governments actually perform the jobs we entrust to them." -Bill McKibben, author of The End of Nature

"Iowa is so conducive to growing corn. The climate, the soil; you put a kernel in the ground and you're pretty much assured it's going to grow. Pharmaceutical corn in Iowa is like putting bacteria in a petrie dish."

~ Lavonne Griffieon, Iowa farmer; speaking about the contamination threat of genetically modified 'pharma' corn grown in Eastern Iowa.

"This is one of the broadest, most sweeping regulatory prohibitions I have ever seen in 17 years of working in Sacramento."

~ Yvonne Hunter, lobbyist for the League of California Cities, speaking about a bill introduced into the California legislature that would pre-empt counties, cities, and towns from regulating genetically modified seed.

Voices

"I certainly didn't save myself any money, and I certainly didn't save myself any time."
~ Chris Dzisiak, Manitoba, Canada, speaking about his experience growing Roundup Ready canola, which caused him problems with volunteer canola plants sprouting in wheat fields.

"The worry is that GM could be like Thalidomide - only after some time would the full extent of the problems be seen."

"If a farmer approached us with any kind of insurance policy relating to a farm associated with GM we would have to refuse their application -whatever the kind of insurance applied for."

~ Insurance company spokespersons in the UK

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE?

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