

WHAT NOW?

Following several actions and mounting consumer pressure in 2001, many supermarkets said they were going to start rearing their own brand products on uncontaminated crops.

Iceland, Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Asda, the Co-op and Sainsbury all claim that they are aiming to totally phase out the use of GM feed in their own brands. But while most poultry is now GM free, all dairy cattle and the majority of pigs are still raised on a GM diet. European law introduced in December 2002 requires all sacks of animal feed to be labelled if they contain GM ingredients.

They will stop using GM feed, just like they stopped using GM food, only if we keep up the pressure.

Safeway 0208 848 8744	Asda 0500 100055
Sainsbury 0800 636262	Co-op 0800 317827
Somerfield 0117 935 0359	M&S 0207 268 1234
Morrison 01274 494166	Spar 0208 863 5511
Waitrose 01344 424680	Tesco 0800 505555

Ring them, write to head office or visit your local branch. Whilst there you could ask to see the manager, hand out some leaflets, label their products for them, hang banners, start a petition, or hold a press conference.

Write to your MP, the press, the Minister of Agriculture and milk processors (see below) about the need to segregate and label GM milk immediately, and eventually ban the use of GM in agriculture.

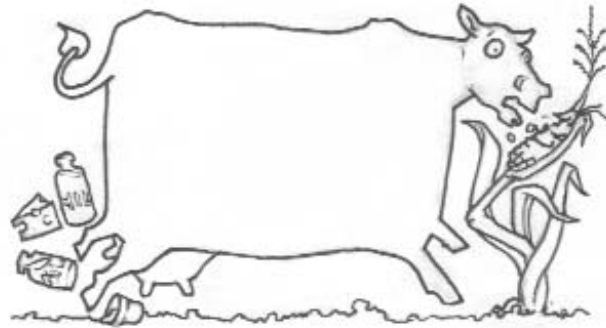
Dairy Crest	01952 653 088
Express Dairies	0116 281 6281

JUST DO IT !

There are currently no GM crops being grown commercially in Britain, but **the government wants to allow the cultivation of fodder maize** (used for cattle feed) **as soon as possible**. Write to producers of dairy products expressing your concern about this. For specific postcards to send on this issue, and for leaflets to inform farmers about the problems associated with growing GM, contact ToGG (see below).

Whatever you do, do something.

You really can make a difference. The campaign against GM has already made huge strides. It's up to all of us to ensure a future safe from the threat of genetic engineering.



Produced by the Totnes Genetics Group (ToGG), a voluntary organisation campaigning against GM crops

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GENETICALLY MODIFIED ANIMAL FEED



Something scary in the dairy

WHY WORRY?

Genetic engineering is a totally new way of creating living things that has involved taking part of the genetic blueprint from one thing, like a fish, and adding it to something completely different, like a tomato.

Most GM crops are engineered to be resistant to the company's own herbicide, so they can be sprayed with chemicals while they are growing. GM pollen can cross with wild relatives, creating an unpredictable living pollution that reproduces itself and cannot be traced or contained. Despite the claims from the corporations that GM is needed to feed the hungry, we already produce one and a half times the food needed to feed the world. And because GM seeds are patented and give corporations such control over the food supply, the African spokesperson to the UN has said of GM that

"we think it will destroy ... the sustainable agricultural systems that our farmers have developed over millennia and that it will thus undermine our capacity to feed ourselves."

But didn't we get rid of it?

In most of the food we eat ourselves, yes. After consumers made it clear they didn't want to eat GM food, the supermarkets stopped selling it directly.*

But 75% of GM crops grown worldwide go into animal feed.

The UK imports 3.5 million tonnes of soya and maize each year. Most of the world's soya comes from the USA. In 2001 68% of their soya was GM and was deliberately mixed with the non-GM crops, making it difficult to avoid.

*for information on products that may still contain GM ingredients try the shopper's guide on www.greenpeace.org.uk

IT'LL BE FINE?

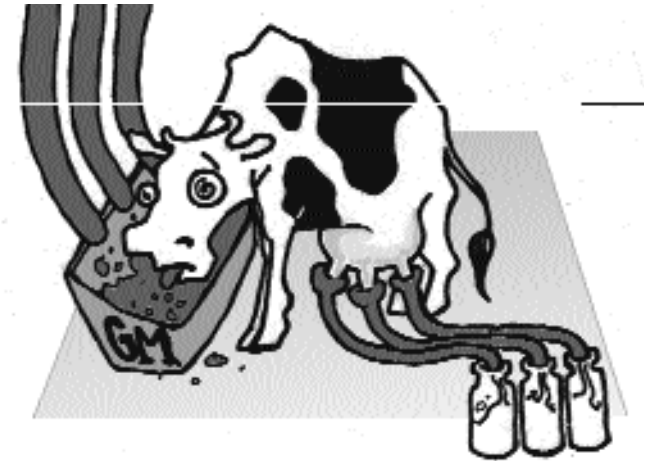
Most dairy and meat products in Britain come from animals fed on GM feed, and are not labelled

The government's regulatory bodies have, of course, issued many reassurances about the safety of GM crops. But then they were equally 'calm' on the matter of BSE for several years.

There have been no medium or long term safety tests to find out what effect eating GM may have on animals, or the people who then eat them. A brief trial on chickens submitted by AgrEvo to the University of Guelph found that changing to a GM diet doubled the mortality rate. This surprised those running the trial, but the experiment was never repeated.



I'LL BE FINE?



"As a scientist I wouldn't drink milk from cows fed GM maize with the present state of knowledge."

Bob Orskov, OBE, Director of the International Feed Resource Unit in Aberdeen

The only way you can be certain of avoiding GM at the moment is to grow your own food, buy organic produce or become a vegan. All of these are actually a lot easier (and more fun) than you may think.

Organic food is often much cheaper if bought directly from the producer, and buying things locally reduces the massive amount of pollution that's generated by flying our food in from all around the world. To discover suppliers near you check out www.bigbarn.co.uk.

For information about the practicalities of veganism look up www.vegansociety.com.