



Feed: the hidden GM on your plate

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Who's eating GM?

Most people in the UK don't eat food made from genetically modified (GM) ingredients¹ but the animals that produce our meat, eggs and dairy products have less choice.^{2 3 4 5}

The vast majority of non-organic farm animals are fed GM soya and/or maize, even if they spend some of their time grazing outdoors.

Surveys show that consumers want to know about GM animal feed,^{6 7} but it is hidden from view because it does not need to be listed on the label of the food it goes to produce.

Why does it matter?

At least a third of global farmland is used to produce animal feed^{8 9} and the GM versions support farming regimes that harm people, animals and the environment.

Most GM soya is designed to survive being sprayed with large doses of specific weed killers, mostly glyphosate which, according to the World Health Organisation¹⁰, probably causes cancer. It has been sprayed so extensively that glyphosate-resistant weeds are now commonplace^{11 12} and GM companies are creating new GM crops that can be sprayed with even more powerful herbicides¹³.

GM Bt maize produces a substance that kills insect pests, but in time they develop resistance.¹⁴ Meanwhile beneficial insects like lacewings and ladybirds are also harmed.¹⁵

GM farming works in conflict with nature. It reduces biodiversity¹⁶ and victims include the monarch butterfly, whose 90% decline is caused by GM farming.^{17 18}

Don't we need GM?

The GM crops that are being fed to our farm animals don't help people in developing countries.¹⁹ They won't help us to prevent or adapt to climate change. They are part of an industrial approach to farming that uses patents to control farmers and puts profits for multinational corporations before sustainability, animal welfare or good quality food.²⁰

Is it too late to change things?

Animal feed is the back door for bringing GM into the UK but you can close it. GM and non-GM feed are often mixed together but if customers demand non-GM-fed meat, eggs and dairy products, the farmers, importers and wholesalers will have an incentive to keep them separate. ²¹

Consumer power can, and does, change the world. German poultry producers recently switched to GM chicken feed, but quickly changed back because consumers and campaigners persuaded the supermarkets to specify, and pay for, non-GM. ²²

If we all stand together and say NO to GM-fed meat, eggs and dairy products, more orders will be placed for GM-free; existing crops will be better segregated and less GM will be grown.

What can I do?

If you eat non-organic meat, eggs or dairy products, the only way you can know if the animals were GM-fed is to ask the supplier. We publish the information we have at www.gmfreeze.org/gmfed, where you will also find guidance and contact details to help you make effective enquiries of your own.

The most important thing you can do is **let the people who make the food you buy know that you don't want GM in the food chain:**

- Write to your favourite brands, contact the supermarkets and ask questions in store. See www.gmfreeze.org/gmfed for tips and contact details.
- Support those producing GM-free by buying their products and telling them why.
- Talk about GM animal feed and spread the word on social media.
- Sign up to GM Freeze to join a growing movement of people saying **NO to GM**.

Visit www.gmfreeze.org/gmfed for up to date information and to get involved.

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GM Freeze is the national umbrella campaign for a moratorium on GM food and farming in the UK. We believe that our food should be produced responsibly, fairly and sustainably. Our members include national charities like Friends of the Earth and the Soil Association, specialist and grassroots campaign groups, scientists, farmers, food producers, retailers and concerned individuals.

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Phone calls cost 3p per minute plus your telephone company's access charge.

References

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