
From: Food & Water Action Fund <noreply@fwwatch.org> on behalf of Susan Helwig <act@fwwatch.org>
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2017 10:56 PM
To: AMS - GMO Labeling
Subject: Label GMOs with on package labeling

Jul 19, 2017

USDA GMO Labeling Comments

Dear GMO Labeling Comments,

I believe that U.S. consumers should have the same access to information about how their food is produced as consumers in over 60 countries around the world. That is why it is critical that the USDA implements strong, accurate standards for mandatory labeling of genetically engineered ingredients. I urge you to consider the following when developing the new regulations for labeling:

On-package labeling: While the law includes options other than on-package labeling, such as QR codes and websites, only on-package labeling provides easy access to this information for all Americans.

Anything else is simply discriminatory and leaves many Americans who do not have reliable access to smartphone technology in the dark.

All GE Foods Must be Labeled: All foods produced through genetic engineering must be labeled, including those with ingredients derived from genetically engineered sources, such as highly refined sugars and oils and processed corn and soy ingredients. This should be the case even if the GE ingredients are present only at undetectable levels in the final product: they are still GE foods. The regulations must also account for current and potential future changes in biotechnology, including techniques such as CRISPR and RNA interference, and require ingredients derived from these techniques to be labeled.

Labeling is Long Overdue: Manufacturers have already had years to prepare to provide this information, at the state and federal level, and many companies are already labeling their packages. It is unnecessary to give companies more than a short effective date for these labeling regulations.

Polls consistently show that nearly 90% of Americans want to know whether the foods they purchase are produced using genetic engineering, through clear, on-package labeling disclosures. When developing these regulations, the USDA needs to provide easy access to this information to everyone, for all GE ingredients.

Sincerely,

Susan Helwig

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