

GMO TROJAN HORSE

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A WAKE-UP CALL FOR IRELAND'S FARM & BLOODSTOCK OWNERS



Owners of Irish farms, horses and stud farms should avoid the use of genetically modified (GM) animal feed, seeds, crops and food. Contamination by such GMOs may lead to contamination, health and breeding issues that damage their investments. For more information visit the GM-free Ireland at www.gmfreeireland.org or phone us on (0404) 43885.

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) include viruses, bacteria, plants and animals whose genetic codes have been modified with DNA from other species. GMOs include trees, insects, crustaceans, salmon and other fish, livestock, trees and food crops — including crops that grow pesticides, “pharma” crops to produce drugs and chemicals, virus genes in cereals, fish genes in vegetables, spider genes in potatoes, and pigs with human genes. Beyond lies the Brave New World of GM animals for human organ harvesting, and modified humans.

Most GM crops currently on the market are meant to resist weedkillers, produce their own pesticides, or both; *they are not intended to improve yields or nutrition*. Eight years of GM planting in North and South America shows increasing use of herbicides, herbicide-resistant “superweeds” and crop failures. GM seeds and crops rapidly contaminate conventional and organic seed supplies, wild and agricultural crops, animal feed, and human food. GM crops can not “co-exist” with conventional and organic crops, and can never be recalled after their release.

EC law requires that food from GM crops must carry a GM label, for which there is no market in Europe.

GM crops are banned by six governments, 172 regional governments and 4,500 local areas in 22 EU countries — but are still being promoted by the Irish government.

LIFE PATENTS AND BIOPIRACY

GMO seeds and crops are patented by giant transnational agri-biotech companies like Monsanto, BASF, Cargill, and Syngenta, which now also control most of the world's agricultural seeds. The WTO's Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights agreement and EU and Irish patent laws will enable these corporations to claim ownership of any Irish crops contaminated by their patented genes.

This appropriation of our natural capital would be the biggest rip-off in the history of the State — a catastrophe for Irish farmers, the end of our natural environment, and the demise of our economically valuable green image.

GM ANIMAL FEED

Most non-organic Irish animal feed contains GM soya, maize, maize gluten, distillers' grain and rapeseed authorised by the European Food Safety Authority based only on spurious risk assessments by the companies that manufacture them. Greenvale's **Gowla** range of horse feeds contains GM ingredients, as do most feeds from **Connolly's Red Mills**. Glanbia's **Gain Feeds** strives to avoid GM content in its horse feeds, but admits they may be contaminated. **Eclipse** haylage should be intact.

Large quantities of *unauthorised* GM animal feed containing antibiotic resistance genes have also entered the Irish food chain without detection or labelling.

A shipment of 2,500 tonnes of illegal Bt10 GM maize from the USA for **Arkady Feeds** was intercepted at Greenore port in 2005. No-one knows how many million tonnes of undetected or illegal GM ingredients entered the Irish feed and food chain since 2001.

The EC's legalisation of GMO rapeseed for animal feed is a major threat because any spillage will result in the *de facto* release of a GM crop without required EC and government authorisations. This may contaminate Irish broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, and turnips, damage conventional farms and wipe out organic growers.

Brazilian GMO soya for Irish animal feed comes from corporate haciendas hacked from Amazon rainforest, turning indigenous people into landless peasant slave labour forced to contaminate their land with toxic chemicals.

GM-RELATED DEATH AND DISEASE

There is now overwhelming medical evidence of deaths and disease attributable to GM products among laboratory and farm animals and in the human population. The US, EU and Irish regulatory authorities deny this because of their revolving door policy with the biotech industry.

The introduction of transgenic DNA usually scrambles the chromosomes of the host organisms, and causes them to produce novel proteins which our immune systems can not recognise. Transgenic DNA from GM food has been found inside animal and human gut bacteria, potentially turning people and animals into living pesticide factories. A recent study found that half the offspring of rats fed a GM diet died as a result of what their mothers ate.

Health risk studies of GM animal feed and food have triggered demands for an immediate ban on GM ingredients, reform of the EU and Irish Food Safety Authorities, and accusations of criminal negligence against the Irish and UK Governments and the EC.



WWW.GMFREEIRELAND.ORG

OUT OF CONTROL

The first report on GMOs escaping into the environment reveals 113 cases of widespread contamination, illegal planting and negative agricultural side effects in 39 countries. Contamination events include growing international distribution of illegal antibiotic-resistant GM maize seeds, contamination of crops with GM crops containing pharmaceuticals, planting of smuggled illegal GM crops, mixing of unapproved GM crops in animal feed and food, inadvertent mixing of different GM strains in high-profile scientific field trials, and meat from GMO pigs being sold to consumers. See www.gmcontaminationregister.org

CONTAMINATION ROUTES FOR HORSES

- animal feed contaminated by EC-authorized GM soya, soya flour, maize, maize gluten, distiller's grain and oilseed rape, which carries a GM label;
- animal feed contaminated by unauthorized GM ingredients, which does not carry a GM label;
- GM-contaminated crops and weeds in fields;
- GM-contaminated straw and bedding materials;
- GM pollen blowing in the wind.

ECONOMIC RISKS FOR STUD FARMS

Owners of land, horses, and livestock which are contaminated or at risk of future contamination by GMOs may find the economic value of their investments declines as buyers choose to avoid related problems. Note that insurance companies refuse to cover GMO contamination risks.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Contamination of animal feed, bedding materials, and pastures by GMO seeds, crops, weeds and pollen will also expose owners to the risk of expensive lawsuits between neighbours, clients, and the giant agribiotech companies which own the patented GMO crops.

Land and bloodstock owners who fail to take preventive action could face the following legal problems:

- GMO patent infringement lawsuits by biotech companies against contaminated farmers and landowners.
- cross-contamination lawsuits by neighbouring landowners who allege contamination by GMO seeds, crops, weeds, and pollen from each other's land;
- lawsuits by bloodstock buyers claiming that their horses either fail to perform as expected, become sick, or die due to alleged exposure to GMO animal feed, GMO crops, GMO weeds or GMO pollen.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Our Government has played a leading role in legalising GMO seeds and crops in the EU, and has never voted against them in the EU Parliament or the Council of Ministers. Dick Roche still claims GMOs are safe. Our Food Safety Authority is run by a former biotech lobbyist. And the Dept of Agriculture policy to "ensure the co-existence" of GM crops will irreversibly contaminate our countryside.

Since this government is failing to protect our biosafety and food security, it is up to us, as citizens, to take responsibility before it is too late.

As Margaret Mead said, "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world."



PROTECT YOURSELF

- Join the 32,000 members of the GM-free Ireland Network and sign our petition to the Government at www.gmfreeireland.org
- Make a financial donation to GM-free Ireland's public awareness campaign through An Taisce — registered charity No. CHY4741.
- Display a GMO-free zone sign on your property and set up a local GMO-free zone in collaboration with your neighbours. For details see www.gmfreeireland.org/map
- Get informed with *The Future of Food* DVD. Order your copy for €25 from (0404) 43 885. Show it to your colleagues, friends and neighbours, and screen it in your community.
- Demand organic or certified GM-free conventional feed for your horses and livestock. Ask your local retailers, restaurants, and schools to guarantee (a) GM-free food ingredients, and (b) meat and dairy produce from animals fed a certified non-GM diet.
- Ask your City, Town or County Council requesting to follow the lead of Counties Clare, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Galway city, Clonakilty, Navan and Newry by (a) prohibiting the cultivation and transportation of GM seeds, trees, crops, livestock, and fish, and (b) exclude Council funds for procurement of GM food in schools, hospitals and local authority canteens. Because the Government will dismiss such motions, also ask your Councillors, TDs and MPs to sign the EU-wide petition at www.gmofree-europe.org/Petition.htm for a new EC Directive that recognises the democratic right of regional and local authorities to ban GMOs if they choose to do so.
- Ask your MEP to vote in the EU Parliament against GM animal feed, seeds, trees, crops, livestock, fish and food.
- Tell Dick Roche and Mary Coughlan to stand up to the WTO and protect our right to keep Ireland free of GMO crops, feed and food.
- Call Michael O'Callaghan on (0404) 43 885, or send an email to mail@gmfreeireland.org

GM-free Ireland Network

WWW.GMFREEIRELAND.ORG

Co-ordinated by Global Vision Consulting Ltd in collaboration with An Taisce, the National Trust for Ireland - registered charity no. CHY4741
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