

Jennings, Henry

From: Debra Greenland <djg@greenlandtwc.com>
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2012 10:57 AM
To: Jennings, Henry
Subject: GMOs

Good Morning! I would like to voice my concerns regarding Maine's allowing the planting of Bt-corn. We moved to Springfield in late August and my husband is returning to Maine after being away for several years. We will be growing crops here, mainly for our own consumption, but potentially for sale at farmer's markets, and are disturbed that Bt-corn has been planted nearby. There are several farms in the area that are organic, and this is a concern for them, as well. Apparently, the trend in Maine is that farmers are leasing their land to out-of-state people who grow the GMO crops here. Of course, out-of-staters would have no particular love or care regarding the future of Maine.

We have done quite a lot of research regarding GMO crops and rBGH use in dairy cattle and are very much against it. I donated to Percy Schmeiser's legal defense fund and find it very troubling that Monsanto can claim crops contaminated by GMO crops nearby and sue farmers for copyright infringement. Mr. Schmeiser DID NOT want these in his fields and had spent 50 years developing a canola well-suited to his climate and soil. This genetic material is getting into everything, including trees, and is making problems not only for farmers, but for plants to evolve to their environment and for animals and polinators (I am a beekeeper).

Over the decades, organic and sustainable agriculture have become more viable and economically feasible. There is large movement towards organic produce in the marketplace and a growing distain/mistrust for GMOs. Maine is still a "clean" state with huge natural resources and lots of land. I would think the State of Maine would want to capitalize on this and instead of opening a Pandora's Box of genetic invasion, promote Maine crops as GMO-free, organic and healthy. Once the GMOs have gone too far, I have doubts that the monster can be put back in its box.

I read the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Board of Pesticides Control Chapter 41: Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use. While I applaud your requirement for training and certification and chain of ownership, I frankly would rather Maine ban GMOs completely. This is happened in Europe, South American, Mexico and several states are considering it, as well. How can I made my concerns known and what is Maine's big-picture plan for GMOs in the future? I wrote to Mr. Michaud (our representative), but have not heard back from him yet.

Thank you for your time and have a great weekend!

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