MOFGA's Right to Know – GMO Labeling Campaign

Join the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) and our coalition partners to help enact **LD 718**, "An Act to Protect Maine Food Consumers' Right to Know about Genetically Engineered Food and Seed Stock." Foods made from GMOs (genetically modified organisms, also called genetically engineered crops) should be labeled so that consumers can make informed choices about what to buy and what to eat.

Public interest in GMO labeling dramatically increased as a result of a 2012 referendum on the issue in California.

MOFGA's Board of Directors designated GMO labeling a strategic priority for 2013. MOFGA has built a strategy with key Maine legislators to pass the nation's first comprehensive GMO labeling law.

Please help MOFGA pass this important legislation and honor the vision that Russell Libby had for a more local, more organic food system.

KNOW THE FACTS

- GMOs are crops that have been engineered, not simply bred, to contain DNA from entirely different organisms so that the crops then have traits that could not be gained through traditional plant breeding. For example, many crops have been engineered with special bacterial or viral DNA to make them herbicide resistant or lethal to insects. Already 62 countries around the world label foods that contain GM ingredients, including all of Europe, Russia, China, India and South Africa. These foods should be labeled in Maine too.
- A recent poll conducted by MSNBC showed that 93% of consumers wanted to know if they were eating GM foods.
- Five main GM commodity crops corn, soy, cotton, sugar beets and canola have byproducts, such as high fructose corn syrup, soybean oil, cottonseed oil and canola oil, in an estimated 75% of processed foods sold in grocery stores.
- Commercial foods already are labeled extensively with nutritional information, country of origin and information about their production. It is time to add a label for GM contents.



About the Act

Labels foods made with GMOs at the point of sale, informing consumers and creating meaningful choice in the marketplace

Labels genetically engineered seeds at the point of sale so that farmers and home gardeners can know what they are buying and growing

Makes Maine a leader by creating a model labeling law and making it easier for other states to pass labeling laws

Goes into effect when five other states, or any state or states with a total population of 20 million people, enact labeling requirements for GM foods

Exempts restaurants and alcoholic beverages from labeling requirements

Does not include labeling of products from animals fed GMO crops – for example, dairy products or meat

Prevents foods containing GM ingredients from being labeled as "natural"

Helps Maine's farmers by creating transparency in the marketplace and increased demand for Maine products

Support the Effort to Label GMOs with a Donation Today

MOFGA is fully committed to this historic effort for Maine to lead the nation by becoming the first state to pass a comprehensive GMO labeling law. This is a costly endeavor and your contributions will help ensure our success. Please make a donation today at www.mofga.org

Stay Involved

call MOFGA at 568-4142 or email righttoknowgmo@mofga.org to let us know you would like to be involved in the effort to label GMOs. We will let you know about action opportunities and how you can help as the campaign progresses.



MOFGA will post campaign updates as the legislative session progresses. Check <u>www.mofga.org</u> for updates. In the meantime ...

TAKE ACTION

Fifteen-Minute Action

Please **contact your legislators today** and let them know that you are excited about Maine requiring labeling of foods with genetically modified ingredients. Tell them that you want their support for this important bill. Thank them if they have already agreed to cosponsor the bill. You can find your legislators' contact information here: http://www.maine.gov/legis/house/townlist.htm.

One-Hour Action

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. For tips on writing an effective letter and on talking points, download the PDF document from our Resources page on www.mofga.org: http://www.mofga.org/Programs/PublicPolicyInitiatives/RightTo-KnowGMOMaine/GMOResources/tabid/2587/Default.aspx

Full-Day Action April 23 in Augusta!

Come to Augusta on April 23 to be heard! Join MOFGA from noon to 1 p.m. for a rally and press conference, and at 1 p.m. attend to hearing before the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. For more information, see www.mofga.org/Programs/PublicPolicyInitiatives/MaineLegislation/tabid/1899/Default.aspx