

## *Genetically Modified Food*

Compiled by Calli Neumann, June 2014

[www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm](http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/tapthepower.htm)

Since the 1990s, the use of genetically modified (GM) crops has increased dramatically, and with it controversy regarding their regulation and demand for mandatory labeling of GM foods. While scientific research has shown that GM products are safe for consumption, labeling advocates argue that there may be long-term effects on human health and the environment, and, thus, that the public has a right to know. Opponents, including the biotech and food industries, feel that labels would unnecessarily confuse, alarm, and cost consumers. As states begin to adopt labeling laws, the problems caused by a patchwork of policies may force Congress to act. The resources in this bibliography cover general information on GM products, provide research and regulation documentation, and address the major issues of the labeling debate.

- American Association for the Advancement of Science. *Statement by the AAAS Board of Directors on Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods*. Washington, DC: American Association for the Advancement of Science, October 20, 2012. [http://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/AAAS\\_GM\\_statement.pdf](http://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/AAAS_GM_statement.pdf).
- Center for Food Safety. *Citizen Petition Before the United States Food and Drug Administration*. Washington, DC: Center for Food Safety, 2014. <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/files/ge-labeling-petition-10-11-2011-final.pdf>  
Petition requesting mandatory labeling for GE foods, including arguments and requested actions.
- Cowan, Tadlock. *Agricultural Biotechnology: Background, Regulation, and Policy Issues*. RL32809. Washington, DC: Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, 2013. <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/crs/RL32809.pdf>.
- Dennis, Brady. "A New Method Against Genetically Modified Salmon: Get Retailers to Refuse to Sell It." *Washington Post*, October 18, 2013. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-new-method-against-genetically-modified-salmon-get-retailers-to-refuse-to-sell-it/2013/10/18/6aee28bc-3101-11e3-9c68-1cf643210300\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-new-method-against-genetically-modified-salmon-get-retailers-to-refuse-to-sell-it/2013/10/18/6aee28bc-3101-11e3-9c68-1cf643210300_story.html).
- European Commission. *A Decade of EU-Funded GMO Research, 2001-2010*. Brussels: European Commission, 2010. [http://ec.europa.eu/research/biosociety/pdf/a\\_decade\\_of\\_eu-funded\\_gmo\\_research.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/biosociety/pdf/a_decade_of_eu-funded_gmo_research.pdf).
- Fernandez-Cornejo, Jorge, et al. "Genetically Engineered Crops in the United States." *Economic Research Report* 162. Washington, DC: United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, February 2014. [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err162.aspx](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err162.aspx).  
"This report examines issues related to three major stakeholders in agricultural biotechnology: GE seed suppliers and technology providers (biotech firms), farmers, and consumers."
- Freedman, David H. "Are Engineered Foods Evil?" *Scientific American* 309, no. 3 (September 2013): 80-85. Available full text through [www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net).  
"Proponents of genetically modified crops say the technology is the only way to feed a warming, increasingly populous world. Critics say we tamper with nature at our peril. Who is right?"
- "GM Crops: Promise and Reality." *Nature* 497, no. 7447 (May 2, 2013). <http://www.nature.com/news/specials/gmcrops/index.html>.  
"In this special issue, *Nature* explores the hopes, the fears, the reality, and the future." Web version includes links to related articles in the archive.
- Gustin, Georgina. "States Take the Lead on Labeling Laws." *CQ Weekly* 72, no. 14 (May 5, 2014): 658-660. (Ref./328.12/C761/v.72/no.14)  
"Vermont's new rules for GMO foods are likely to push the envelope in several other states and at the federal level."
- Helme, Morgan Anderson. "Genetically Modified Food Fight: The FDA Should Step Up to the Regulatory Plate so States Do Not Cross the Constitutional Line." *Minnesota Law Review* 98, no. 1 (2013): 356-384. [http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Helme\\_MLR.pdf](http://www.minnesotalawreview.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Helme_MLR.pdf).  
"[This Note] contends that if consumers desire labeling mandates, such regulations must originate within the federal government."
- Hopkinson, Jenny. "GMO Labeling Bill Would Trump States." *Politico*, April 9, 2014. <http://www.politico.com/story/2014/04/gmo-labeling-bill-105548.html>.  
"The Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2014...would give ultimate authority of GMO labeling to the Food and Drug Administration, which favors a voluntary approach to the issue. The measure, which has the support of the food, biotechnology and agriculture industries, looks to nullify efforts in no less than 20 states to require mandatory labeling for foods that contain GMOs."
- International Food Information Council (IFIC). *2014 IFIC Consumer Perceptions of Food Technology Survey, Executive Summary*. 16<sup>th</sup> ed. Washington, DC: International Food Information Council, 2014. <http://www.foodinsight.org/foodtechsurvey.aspx>  
"Explores U.S. adult consumers' awareness, perceptions, and behaviors with respect to various aspects of plant and animal biotechnology, modern agriculture, and sustainability."
- Jaffe, Gregory. *Straight Talk on Genetically Engineered Foods: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*. Washington, DC: Center for Science in the Public Interest, 2012. <http://cspinet.org/new/pdf/biotech-faq.pdf>.

# Genetically Modified Food

## Continued

- Kardish, Chris. "What Vermont's GMO Law Means for the Labeling Movement." *Governing*. Last updated May 9, 2014. <http://www.governing.com/gov-what-vermonts-gmo-law-means-for-the-labeling-movement.html>.
- Le, Jenni. "Genetically Modified Crops." *Wisconsin Briefs* 12-10. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, December 2012. (LRB/w) <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/lrb/pubs/wb/12wb10.pdf>.  
"This brief provides background on GM crops, the major issues of debate, and what is being done on the state and federal level to regulate GM crops."
- McLure, Jason. "Genetically Modified Food: Should Labels Be Required?" *CQ Researcher* 22, no. 30 (August 31, 2012): 717-740. (374.757/C761d)
- Miller, Henry I. "The Use and Abuse of Science in Policymaking." *Regulation* 35, no. 2 (Summer 2012): 26-35. Available full text through [www.badgerlink.net](http://www.badgerlink.net).  
Miller argues that the anti-biotechnology movement has caused "public confusion and government over-regulation."
- National Conference of State Legislatures. *Vermont's New GMO Labeling Law Faces Challenges*. Hendrick, Scott. Accessed May 29, 2014. <http://www.ncsl.org/blog/2014/05/12/vermonts-new-gmo-labeling-law-faces-challenges.aspx>.
- Paarlberg, Robert. *Food Politics: What Everyone Needs to Know*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2013. (614.34/P11)
- United States Food and Drug Administration. "FDA's Role in Regulating Safety of GE Foods." *FDA Consumer Health Information*. Silver Spring, MD: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, May 2013. <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/UCM352193.pdf>.
- Upton, Harold F., and Tadlock Cowan. *Genetically Engineered Salmon*. R43518. Washington DC: Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, 2014. <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/crs/R43518.pdf>.
- Van Eenennaam, Alison, et al. "The Potential Impacts of Mandatory Labeling for Genetically Engineered Food in the United States." *CAST Issue Paper* no. 54. Ames, IA: Council for Agricultural Science and Technology, April 2014. (374.757/Ee6) <https://www.cast-science.org/download.cfm?PublicationID=282271&File=1e30b75b9bd89a5ce3847262282a17772f5dTR>.  
"This publication examines arguments for and against labels, the costs involved with labeling, and experiences in countries that use mandatory labeling." Includes table of food labeling legislation – including exemptions and status – by state.
- "Vermont v Science." *The Economist* 411, no. 8886 (May 10-16, 2014): 25-26. Currently available in the Legislative Reference Bureau's reading room. <http://www.economist.com/news/usa/2014/05/10/21601831-little-state-could-kneecap-biotech-industry-vermont-v-science>.
- Washington State Academy of Sciences. *White Paper on Washington State Initiative 522 (I-522): Labeling of Foods Containing Genetically Modified Ingredients*. Olympia, WA: Washington State Academy of Sciences, October 2013. [http://www.washacad.org/initiatives/WSAS\\_i522\\_WHITEPAPER\\_100913.pdf](http://www.washacad.org/initiatives/WSAS_i522_WHITEPAPER_100913.pdf).  
This analysis was created to inform and assist Washington legislators as they considered a state GMO labeling initiative.
- Weasel, Lisa H. *Food Fray: Inside the Controversy over Genetically Modified Food*. New York: AMACOM, 2009. (374.757/W37)
- Whitesel, Russ. "Labeling Issues Related to Bioengineered Food." *Information Memorandum* 01-2. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Legislative Council, 2001. (LegisCI 2001-2003/m/vol.1)

### Related Web Sites:

- Center for Food Safety. *Genetically Engineered Food Labeling Laws*. "Center for Food Safety." Accessed May 27, 2014. <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/ge-map/#>.  
World map of genetically-engineered food labeling laws and bans.
- National Agricultural Law Center. "Biotechnology." Accessed May 28, 2014. <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/research-by-topic/biotechnology/>.  
Includes links to related statutes, regulations, case law, research reports, bibliographies, and reference resources.
- National Conference of State Legislatures. "Agriculture and Rural Development." Accessed May 29, 2014. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/agriculture-and-rural-development/agriculture-and-rural-development-legislation-data.aspx>  
Search for biotech-related legislation by state, status, and/or year.
- United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Biotechnology Regulatory Services." Accessed May 22, 2014. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wps/portal/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology>.
- United States Food and Drug Administration.
- "Foods Derived from Genetically Engineered Plants." Accessed May 20, 2013. <http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodScienceResearch/Biotechnology/ucm346858.htm>
  - "Genetically Engineered Animals." Accessed May 20, 2014. <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/GeneticEngineering/GeneticallyEngineeredAnimals/default.htm>.
  - "Genetically Engineered Salmon." Accessed May 20, 2014. <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/DevelopmentApprovalProcess/GeneticEngineering/GeneticallyEngineeredAnimals/ucm280853.htm>.
- World Health Organization. *Food Safety*. "20 Questions on Genetically Modified (GM) Foods." Accessed May 28, 2014. <http://www.who.int/foodsafety/publications/biotech/20questions/en/>.  
Features brief explanations of the issues surrounding GM foods. Notably addresses their assessment and international concerns, including international concerns.

### Legislative Reference Bureau

One East Main Street, Suite 200

Madison, WI 53703

Library Catalog: <http://lrbcat.legis.wisconsin.gov/>

### For questions or to suggest a topic for future bibliographies:

[LRB.Library@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:LRB.Library@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Library Circulation Desk: (608) 266-7040

Research Questions: (608) 266-0341