

Feb 8, 2001

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Commissioner,

the proposed FDA regulations fail to require labels or safety tests on genetically engineered food. The new rules continue to deny us Americans the right to know what is in our food, while protecting the economic interests of biotech corps. Labeling G.E. Foods would protect the public from potential health effects that could only be traced if G.E. Foods can be identified. By refusing to require both labeling & mandatory safety testing of foods, the FDA puts consumer's health at risk, & ignores the recommendation of the Biotechnology Consultative forum, who in Dec 2000 urged the U.S. to require mandatory labeling of GE Foods.

I strongly urge you to consider this proposal & insure that GE Foods are subject to pre market testing and labeling. Americans have a right to make informed decisions about the food we purchase & consume.

I would also like to add that I feel the FDA needs to regulate the use of antibiotics and growth hormones in livestock. 70% of all antibiotic drugs in the US are being fed to farm animals as growth promoters and production aids, that's 25 million pounds of pharmaceuticals being fed to farm animals for non-therapeutic uses each year. Having high levels of "drugs" in our food can and is leading to major health problems & controversy in the US. As an educated consumer I want/demand to know that the food I consume is clean, not genetically engineered and not drugged. It's about time the FDA start listening to valuable consumers and not companies developing biotech products. The FDA's new policy regarding these things is absolutely unacceptable.

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