

# “GENETIC ROULETTE: The gamble for our lives”

## 2014 GMO Media Fact Sheet

*HK comment 5/1/14: America's total preoccupation with money will be the death of us all. 40% of the world has rejected GMOs, but because big industry payoffs run our politics, there is little hope in this country for the health of our children and grandchildren. This film documents a life threatening tragedy that must be addressed. The same chemicals that kill bugs are now killing humans. Monsanto is spending millions to prevent labeling of GMO products, with absolutely no concern for your health. Those of us who want to prevent cancer in our families have the right to know what we are eating without worrying about Monsanto's 'bottom line'. Our film "Genetic Roulette" dramatically shows the damage to fetuses, babies and adults from this desecration of our food supply. Our nation's farmer's lives are being destroyed by herds of their cattle dying from RoundUp carried by the wind from neighboring farms. If the pesticide treated produce kills insects and farm animals eating it, imagine what it will do to you!*

1. 91% of Americans polled want Genetically Modified Organisms( GMOs) labeled, a right already enjoyed by 40% of the world's population in 49 countries.
2. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not require independent safety studies of genetically engineered foods.
3. No long-term safety studies exist on either the safety or benefits of GMO ingredients.
4. The American Academy of Environmental Medicine (AAEM) urges all doctors to prescribe no-GMO diets for their patients.
5. Many physicians now prescribe non-GMO diets, and people are getting better from a variety of disorders. Livestock taken off GMOs are also getting better. These same disorders, (e.g. reproductive, immune, and GI tract) are the ones that the AAEM identified as common among lab animals fed GMOs, and their incidence has soared in the US population since GMOs were introduced.
6. What is a GMO? Bacteria and/or virus genes that are forced into the DNA of crops like soy and corn. 80% are engineered to withstand normally deadly doses of herbicides, primarily Monsanto's Roundup.
7. GMO corn varieties are also engineered to produce their own toxic insecticide that breaks open the stomach on insects and kills them.
8. GMO plants either drink poison or produce poison. Roundup and insecticide, now found in the blood of pregnant women and their unborn children, have been found to be extremely dangerous.
9. The only human feeding study ever conducted showed transference of foreign DNA into human gut bacteria.
10. Multiple independent studies show links to allergies and other serious potential health risks including cancer.
11. In 2012 the AMA called for mandatory premarket safety studies of GMOs.
12. Consumers Union says labeling may be the only way to determine that GE process is linked to adverse health effects.
13. Twenty years ago, Vice President Dan Quayle announced the FDA's policy on genetically engineered food as part of his 'regulatory relief initiative' and held the American biotechnology industry would reap huge profits 'as long as we resist the spread of unnecessary regulations.'
14. Dan Quayle's 1992 policy announcement that genetically engineered crops are 'substantially equivalent' to regular crops and thus do not need to be labeled or safety tested was quickly refuted by the FDA's own scientists
15. The 'substantially equivalent' or GRAS policy was crafted by Michael Taylor, a former Monsanto lawyer who was hired by the Bush FDA to fill the newly created position of deputy commissioner of policy.
16. The Monsanto Corporation controls 90% of all genetically engineered seeds in the world.
17. Vice President George H.W. Bush visited a Monsanto lab for a photo op with the developers of Roundup Ready crops. He told them, "Call me. We're in the dereg businesses. Maybe we can help."
18. Non-GMO labels are the fastest growing private label claim.
19. Millions of dollars were poured into the 2012 opposition campaign in California to defeat Proposition 37, which would have required the labeling of foods containing GMOs.
20. The final tally of votes as certified by California's Secretary of State was ... 6, 088,714 in favor of Proposition 37 and 6,442,371 against. A scant difference of 353, 657 votes.
21. GMO Labeling is endorsed by: American Public Health Association, American Medical Students Association, American Academy of Environmental Medicine, Physicians for Social Responsibility, California chapters,

## Testimonials

*Genetic Roulette unveils a world most of us have never seen. It raises alarming questions about GMOs, and we deserve answers. For all that you love, hear this message and act now.*

**- Frances Moore Lappé, author of *Diet for a Small Planet* and *EcoMind***

*In exposing the bullying and deceit of the biotech industry, Jeffrey Smith's mesmerizing film shines a bright light of hope that we can reclaim our health and our food systems. Meticulously documented, thoroughly comprehensive, and well presented, this is more than an adventure story with intense drama and high stakes. It is in fact one of the most important stories ever told. Watch it and be galvanized, inspired, and engaged. Then tell everyone you know.* - **John Robbins, author of *Diet for a New America*, Founder and Board Chair Emeritus of EarthSave International**

*Genetic Roulette is a powerful, compelling indictment of the biotechnology industry's genetically engineered food experiment that is being foisted on the American public. The film shows in disturbing detail the many health hazards of this potentially dangerous technology. Adding to the film's power and hopeful message are the many testimonials from health professionals and individuals who describe the benefits of eating a non-GMO diet. All Americans who are concerned about the foods they eat should see this film.*

**- Ken Roseboro, editor and publisher, *The Organic & Non-GMO Report* and *The Non-GMO Sourcebook*, and author of *Genetically Altered Foods and Your Health*.**

*Congratulations to Jeffrey Smith on this excellent, compelling and important documentary!*

**- Martine Joseph, Film Critic**

*Americans are sick—and getting sicker. Chronic diseases account for more than 70% of all deaths in the United States, a rate that has risen sharply over the last two decades and surpasses that of all other nations. Obesity, smoking, and environmental factors clearly play a role in this convergence of health crises. But what if a prime culprit were lurking in the very food we eat?*

*This is the question asked by *Genetic Roulette: The Gamble of Our Lives*, a new documentary exploring the potential dangers posed by genetically modified organisms in our food supply. Directed by outspoken GMO critic Jeffrey M. Smith, the film is an unsettling tour through a myriad of serious health conditions implicated with genetically altered crops, from allergies and intestinal disorders to diabetes and autism. Many explanations are offered for how these ailments could arise. For example, the haphazard process of genetic modification—which involves blasting foreign genes into cells—leads to “massive collateral damage” in the DNA sequence of the plant. Consuming this mutated DNA, the film argues, could present unpredicted effects such as inflammation, immune disorders, and allergic reactions.*

*Supported by references to research studies and interviews with a wide range of physicians, scientists and activists, these claims are compelling, even when admittedly speculative. But what is ultimately most persuasive is the story of collusion between the U.S. government and the biotech industry, which *Genetic Roulette* reveals with relish. Here unfolds a sordid tale of revolving-door politics starring key figures in the FDA, USDA, and top brass at the biotech giant Monsanto. When FDA scientists assessed GMO technology in the early 1990s, they warned of potential health hazards such as allergies and new diseases. But the person in charge of policy at the agency was former Monsanto attorney Michael Taylor, who today serves as Food Czar under Obama. The FDA scientists were ignored, and GMO foods were fast-tracked to our dinner plates without regulation.*

Clearly the fox is watching the henhouse, and we can take no assurance from government claims that genetically engineered foods are proven safe. In a dense 80 minutes of information, *Genetic Roulette* makes a strong case to the contrary. Smith leaves no GMO stone unturned in his film, dispelling the myth about increased yields from genetically-modified crops and touching on Monsanto's notorious patent lawsuits against small farmers. The documentary closes with an appeal to California voters to support Proposition 37 for mandatory GMO labeling, a people's initiative which was narrowly defeated after a Monsanto-led lobby spent \$46 million on attack ads to squash it. Supporters quickly affirmed that they would continue to educate the public on this vital issue. As the food fight rages on, films like ***Genetic***

***Roulette*** wield the persuasive power to tip the balance and send GMOs to the compost heap of history.

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