



## How Monsanto Got Their Permit to Poison Us

**Dan Quayle Couldn't Spell Potato, But He Made Sure They'd Be Genetically Engineered**

On May 26, 1992, George Bush's Vice-President, Dan Quayle, proclaimed the Bush administration's new policy on bioengineered food:

"The reforms we announce today will speed up and simplify the process of bringing better agricultural products, developed through biotech, to consumers, food processors and farmers"... "We will ensure that biotech products will receive the same oversight as other products, instead of being hampered by unnecessary regulation."... "We will not compromise safety one bit."

In the FDA's nearby offices, not everyone was so sure. Among them was Dr. Louis J. Pribyl, one of 17 government scientists working on a policy for genetically engineered food. Dr. Pribyl knew from studies that toxins could be unintentionally created when new genes were introduced into a plant's cells. But under the new edict, the government was dismissing that risk and any other possible risk as no different from those of conventionally derived food. That meant biotechnology companies would not need government approval to sell the foods they were developing.

Dr. Pribyl, a microbiologist, was not alone at the agency. Dr. Gerald Guest, director of the center of veterinary medicine, wrote that he and other scientists at the center had concluded there was "ample scientific justification" to require tests and a government review of each genetically engineered food before it was sold.

The scientists were displaying precisely the concerns that Monsanto executives from the 1980's had anticipated—and indeed had considered reasonable. But now, rather than trying to address those concerns, Monsanto, the industry and official Washington were dismissing them as the insignificant worries of the uninformed. Under the final FDA policy that the White House helped usher in, the new foods would be tested only if companies did it. Labeling was ruled out as potentially misleading to the consumer, since it might suggest that there was reason for concern. -Excerpt from "Biotechnology Food: From the Lab to a Debacle," by Kurt Eichenwald, *New York Times*, 1/25/01

## Tell the FDA to Fix What Dan Quayle Got Wrong

In 1992, Monsanto successfully lobbied President George H.W. Bush's administration to deregulate its controversial and untested technology of genetic engineering.

The Bush-Quayle loophole, still in effect today, is based on industry propaganda rather than peer-reviewed science; it claims that genetically engineered (GE) food, crops, and animals "substantially equivalent" to conventional food and crops. No safety testing or labels are required.

The result is that GE foods are everywhere, but nobody knows that they're eating them or what effect they're having on our health. Study after study indicating serious damage to animals fed genetically engineered food have been downplayed or ignored. Links to human hazards, such as the genetically engineered L-tryptophan disaster of 1989, which killed scores of Americans and permanently injured thousands more, or experiments in 1999 in the UK by renowned scientist Arpad Pusztai, have been literally suppressed.

Now, years later, we're beginning to learn what government regulators should have told us all along. Recently, independent scientists reviewed animal feeding studies conducted by Monsanto in 2000 and 2001. They found that Monsanto's own data revealed the dangers of three of their commonly used GE corn varieties. One scientist explained:

"For the first time in the world, we have proven that GE foods are neither sufficiently healthy or proper to be commercialized. Each time, for all three genetically modified organisms, the kidneys and liver which are the main organs that react to a chemical food poisoning, had problems." Given this evidence, it is unconscionable to continue to promote the fallacy that GE food is the same as normal food. It's different. Consumers have a right to know what they're eating.

The OCA supports Congressman Kucinich's **Genetically Engineered Food Right to Know Act**, but an act of Congress isn't necessary to label GE foods.

The Truth in Labeling Coalition is asking the FDA to fix what Bush-Quayle got wrong. TLC has submitted a Citizen's Petition making the case that the FDA can reverse the Monsanto Mandate forced on us by Bush-Quayle, and put an end to the idea that genetically engineered foods and crops are trustworthy and don't need to be labeled, as they are in the European Union.

We have a chance now to make the change. The FDA needs to admit that, in the Bush-Quayle era of deregulation, they took the wrong approach to GE foods. On the campaign trail, President Obama professed support for mandatory labeling. Now is the time for him to fulfill his promise to support consumers' right to know. Please support the Truth in Labeling Coalition's Citizen Petition by taking action now to write FDA Commissioner Margaret A. Hamburg:

[www.is.gd/dwYqH](http://www.is.gd/dwYqH)

## Four Simple Ways to Avoid GE Food

1. Buy organic—organic producers are not allowed to use GE ingredients
2. Look for "Non-GMO" labels
3. Avoid risky ingredients: corn, soy, vegetable oil (canola, cottonseed, and soybean), sugarbeet sugar
4. Buy products listed in the *Non-GMO Shopping Guide*: [nongmoshoppingguide.com](http://nongmoshoppingguide.com)

## Coming Clean Campaign in the NY Times

The *New York Times* covers OCA's successful campaign to get Whole Foods Market to dump faux organic health & beauty products.

[www.is.gd/dwYUV](http://www.is.gd/dwYUV)



## Spreading the Biointensive Revolution

OCA and our affiliate in Mexico, *Via Organica*, believe that "biointensive" organic agriculture is the only way we're going to feed ourselves and feed the world in this emerging era of climate chaos, Peak Oil, and scarce water.

*Biointensive* is a cutting-edge method of organic farming and gardening, incorporating traditional methods, appropriate in both urban and rural settings, spearheaded by agronomist John Jeavons and the California-based organization, Ecology Action.

Jennifer Ungamach, *Via Organica*'s resident expert and a student of John Jeavons, will be holding English language, Biointensive Agriculture Workshop for three consecutive Saturdays beginning August 14 at the *Via Organica* farm school in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. The course will also include an introduction to soil microbiology, compost tea brewing and clay pot irrigation. For information please contact Jennifer: [oficina@viaorganica.org](mailto:oficina@viaorganica.org)

## Corporate Hall of Shame: Vote Monsanto!

Corporate Accountability International, a membership organization that protects people through campaigns that challenge abusive corporations, is opening up voting to the public for their popular Corporate Hall of Shame.

The Hall of Shame exposes some of the most abusive, manipulative and harmful corporations - and this year Monsanto is one of eight possible inductees.

Voting is open now, so please vote to make sure Monsanto gets inducted: [www.is.gd/dwZ0u](http://www.is.gd/dwZ0u)

## Ronnie Cummins on GE Salmon

If the FDA approves the first ever genetically engineered salmon, so-called "Frankenfish" could soon be coming to a plate near you. OCA Director Ronnie Cummins speaks with Uprising Radio in Los Angeles, about the dangers of GE frankenfish. Listen to the interview at [www.is.gd/dwZ2i](http://www.is.gd/dwZ2i)