



GE Free New Zealand In Food and Environment Newsletter May 2011

** Please note that some articles have been abbreviated in order to meet size constraints **

Get active to protect our 100% Pure New Zealand from government funded capitalist ventures into risky technologies.

A celebration for GE Free Northland is due after Whangarei District Council unanimously voted to reject outdoor use of (GE) crops and animals in the District. The vote reflects the concerns of the community about a lack of protection afforded by central government & ERMA in relation to GE and land use. WDC's decision to move ahead with plans to regulate GMOs many councillors supporting outright prohibition was loudly applauded by a crowded public gallery.

Environment Group chairwoman Councillor Shelley Deeming said council had received a clear mandate from the public that something must be done. "The community has spoken loud and clear to us on this issue for a number of years - in surveys, polls, and annual plan and LTCCP consultation and a 7000-person submission - they have taken every opportunity to let us know that they think this is a very major issue."

"Our council has said 'yes' to a way forward for our community.

Government has made it clear now that they don't see the ERMA process will be modified, so there will be no remedies coming from that direction. They have also made it clear they believe councils do have the legal ability to put the necessary protections in place."

"This council now feels it appropriate for us to show leadership. Other councils in New Zealand will also be watching developments very closely,

and should councils in the North introduce regulation of GMOs into their planning documents, other parts

of New Zealand are likely to follow this lead," Cr Deeming said.

Local action by councils is a necessary response to central government actively undermining the 100% Pure NZ brand. Whangarei will now actively seek to undertake a collaborative plan change to keep GMOs out of the wider region.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks are due to Zelka Grammer and all of GE Free Northland members for maintaining a strong profile throughout many years in bringing public concerns to the table of local government (See Backpage)

What an inspiration for all our GE Free groups around the country, especially coming at a time when annual plans are being renewed and prior to a general election. This decision shows it can be done and it is up to us all to keep pushing for what we believe in.

Our government's decision to invest heavily in cutting edge technology which we believe has resulted in the breakdown of justly applied law in the courts by judges towing a government line, picking on technicalities to find judgements in favour of GE industry.

We must continue to ensure choice is maintained in NZ and that collaborations like Pastoral Genomics are not given free rein to release GE ryegrasses and clover into the wider environment under the guise of 'cissgenics.' See P2.

However they do not reckon on the actions of the NZ people in refusing the technologies they don't want to use as they did with nuclear power. When we observe the situation that has

unfolded in Japan most of us must be very grateful that NZ made that choice.

So now it is again time to bring genetic engineering to the forefront of our consciousness and prevent any irreversible contamination by raising the issues loudly at a local level and at the next election.

Around the world governments are caving in. GE and cloned food is not labelled and restrictions are being relaxed **but** there is also huge popular support for choice of GE Free food and a refusal to accept genetic engineering in the open environment.

We need to continue the campaign and ensure a watchful eye on our NZ government as it aims to water down GE restrictions and sell our GE Free country off to the highest bidder.

In the last newsletter we wrote of the AgResearch application – ERMA 200223 to genetically modify cows, goats and sheep approved for 20 years. **The appeal by GE Free NZ unfortunately failed.**

The judge chose to see AgResearch as the champions of science - having a little terrier (GE Free NZ) biting at its ankles and decided to try and shoo it away for good by deciding in AgResearch & ERMA's favour; leaving us to pick up the costs.

GE Free New Zealand is still paying off its court costs. Any help you can give us is appreciated.

GE FREE NZ AGM

14 August 2011

61 Abel Smith Street, Wellington

Pastoral Genomics NZ -

biotechnology research consortium for forage. Boasting sustainability and productivity their emphasis is on ryegrass and clover. Watch what they now call GE – their new buzz word for the same process is **ciSSgenics**.

Pastoral Genomics is funded by our taxes by the Foundation for Research Science & Technology, and also Fonterra, Beef and Lamb New Zealand, Dairy NZ, DEEResearch and AgResearch.

Claiming to have produced a drought tolerant rye grass to extend the grazing season by mere weeks their claim is a reduction in palm kernel use.

US Professor Ronald (McDonald?) was sponsored by Pastoral Genomics to spread misinformation on a recent tour to NZ and she got a lot of traction in the media. Her sneaky way of avoiding the difficult questions in her promotion of GE to our country demonstrates the continuing interest in the US and the ties between our governments.

Make up your own mind on who is the "flat-earther" here!

www.biofortified.org/2011/04/forbidden-fruit-genetically-engineered-crops-in-new-zealand

Soil & Health PR 23.3.11

Visiting Professor On GE Sales Mission Misrepresents Reality

www.organicnz.org

Otago University Report Should be Withdrawn (GE-Free NZ PR) 3.4.11

A report on "NZ's Clean Green Image" by a team from the Marketing Dept of Otago University should be withdrawn and the raw data released for peer review. Claims made by the report are only true within a framework of deceptive practices, which raise questions of ethics and academic credibility. They ignore the benefit of promoting Brand New Zealand as nuclear-free, GE-free and organic.

The Otago researchers have kept secret the data that shows how valuable the "100% Pure NZ" slogan is. The report has been represented as unbiased research, informed by literature reviews and involving a series of overseas experiments 2003-10.

nz.news.yahoo.com/a/-/top-stories/9122644/gm-or-nuclearfree-not-an-issue-for-tourists

Scion's smoke signals warn of imminent GE tree planting.

Soil & Health PR 17.4.11

www.organicnz.org

An old smoke belching tractor signals imminent planting of the newly approved GE tree trial at Rotorua says Steffan Browning. 1000's of GE trees environmentally and economically risky are to be planted with the governments blessing and funding over the next 25 years in undisclosed sites.

US partner Arborgen and Scion GE trial could contaminate the Rotorua district with GE pine trees.

Steffan Browning says, "ERMA has approved some non GE trees to release pollen in the upcoming GE experiments and is relying on the integrity of Scion, and its partner Arborgen, not to confuse the GE trees and the non GE control trees producing pollen.

However, Scion, ERMA and MAF-BNZ, who is to monitor the experiments, have previously allowed non-compliance by Scion to go unchecked when pollen release was a risk."

"Pollen spread by Arborgen is the basis for legal action in the US...They are now pushing for GE forestry in NZ."

Government has put \$10.8 million science funding into the Rotorua project and, with pro-GE forestry interests, actively lobby's Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and international forums such as the Convention of Biological Diversity and the World Trade Organisation along with the USA, for acceptance of GE forestry. Government's Tourism New Zealand announced the phase out of the 100% Pure New Zealand brand in January. Government's Tourism NZ recently announced the phase out of the 100% Pure New Zealand brand.

Public submissions to Rotorua's Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Policy Statement clearly reject these trials and any outdoor use of GE crops and animals.

"Poor liability provisions in the event of wider GE contamination, means that councils must add strong precautionary measures."

Unacceptable Death Rates End Cloning Trials in New Zealand

ISIS Report 28/03/11

NZ Government lab announced the end to cloning eight years after the scientist who pioneered the cloning technique abandons it for the same reasons says Dr. Mae-Wan Ho.

"Unacceptable death rates" forced AgResearch to end its trials on cloning animals But it will continue to create (GM) animals using a new research method.

Reports obtained by The Dominion under the Official Information Act - documenting chronic arthritis, pneumonia, lameness and blood poisoning among the causes of death in cattle, sheep and goats.

The reports include trials on GE animals for producing "super milk" as well as cloned animals. Cloning and genetic modification are closely linked. General manager Jimmy Suttie said "enough is enough" and that the decision was made after 13 years of study to find out how to prevent abnormalities in cloned animals.

www.isis.org.uk/death_rates_end_cloning.php

2,4-D Resistant Corn set for approval 14/4/11 www.gefree.org.nz

Food Standards Australia New Zealand Authority (FSANZ) is set to approve GE crops designed to survive spraying with a new range of toxic herbicides. FSANZ are risking the integrity of our food by ignoring the toxicity of 2, 4-D and missing research data.

MAF have highlighted important missing data while supporting official findings, they say: "*The key consideration of this section of the report should be the determination that the metabolism of the 2, 4-D residue is comparable to that of conventional crops, since if so the risks from the residue would not exceed those deemed acceptable during the establishment of the agricultural chemical Maximum Residue Limit*"

But there is still missing data, and it is possible that applications of 2, 4-D could increase as occurred with applications of Round-Up to Round-up Ready GE crops which increased herbicide residues up to 200 times.

GE Free NZ chair writes:

The last year has been very successful on the GE FREE front. The Organics movement is growing and has just fended off a massive attack by the pro-GE science flank Pamela Ronald trying to pretend that growing GE seeds will be less toxic if they are grown through Organic principles. Interestingly enough at last there is a massive non-GE movement taking over the consumers in the US. The NON-GMO project actually certifies products so that consumers can be guaranteed that their food is GE Free. For a while these consumers did not understand that their food supply was so full of GE, they thought it was all being exported as there is no labelling....surprise surprise!!!!

In New Zealand we have only one field trial active. AgResearch GE animals;

This application is for GE goats, sheep and cattle with unlimited genetic constructs. The latest construct to be implanted in the glorified GE scheme is ERBITUX, a gene that is supposed to help with rectal cancer. The side effects are horrific and the product is already available on the market, produced by GE bacteria but it does not appear to extend life as it is supposed to. Not one ERBITUX calf has been born all surrogate animals aborted the embryos by day 76.

ERMA is considering our application for a reassessment of the Sheep, goat and cow trial to look at the regulatory controls which are lax and open NZ up to a potential biosecurity disaster, more info can be found on our website.

www.gefree.org.nz/submissions

This year ERMA approved a field trial of 4000 pine trees at Scion. We have just been notified that they will be planted out in April. This approval is for 20 years and yet again has not addressed the problems of monitoring and potential pollen production. It is difficult to see when there are no height controls that the monthly, 30 seconds visual check for reproductive structures will be robust enough to ensure that pollen is not produced. Given the lax inspection and facility upkeep the same mistakes may be

made as the last field trial that was closed down.

All information and press releases are on our website. We have added a page with all the court cases, breaches and other interesting documents with links

We have been told that the new Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is soon coming into force. The RMA has been working under the EPA for six months but ERMA is moving in on July 1st. ERMA in March updated their site, this new site is impossible to navigate. Vital documents were missing, business decision! Links were broken and the site is industry friendly. This is what the new EPA will be focused on. The public will no longer have a voice as the EPA has to "give effect" to Government policy. The next election is going to be a crunch time. GE and Free Trade deals are going to be the main push. Asset sales will include our GE Free status.

Secret and multiple GE sites, loss of "zero" tolerance and pressure to allow up to 1% GE in organic products is already being proposed. This year is vital to make your voice heard if you want to stay GE Free. Thankfully we have many overseas consumers and friends who are fully supporting us. They want to buy GE Free New Zealand produce.

There have also been many studies showing that the use of Glyphosate is causing problems with cancer and reproductive systems. This is additional to Round Up tolerant herbicide resistant weeds and new GE strains appearing. The Cry genes (isolated from the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that produces the insecticide toxin in every cell, causes sterility and organ damage. The AMA has come out advising doctors to warn their patients about these serious problems that GE foods could cause consumers.

Unfortunately our farmer colleagues in Aussie are fighting GE contamination. An organic farmer lost his certification due to GE contamination. It is in court now and rumour has it that Monsanto will help fund the farmer whose GE pollen contaminated his crop. Around 4% of US farmland is under organic management and around 2% of

organic farmers are losing certification each year. Do we want that here?

On the positive side, there has been strong support in the conventional and organic sector to keep NZ GE Free. This year there has been the release of UN and FAO sponsored documents showing how sustainability, reduction in methane levels and traditional growing practices that have raising economic standards and food production and out performed GE production.

Interestingly the GE companies take the highest performing traditionally bred seed variety as the parent line, then they GE all their proprietary chemicals into the plant. These plants do not out perform their non-GE parent. A great report called failure to yield highlights all these points.

Over the last few years there have been over 34 commercial new non-GE seed lines introduced on to the market. These confer drought, flood and saline tolerance.

These traditional seeds and farming practices will go further to feed the world and release people from the poverty cycle than GE ever will.

Thank you all for helping to maintain our GE Free status. At present GE is certainly not an economic, quality or safe technology.

Some small things you can do:

1. Buy certified organic as all organic foods are GE Free, synthetic
2. chemical free and ethically produced. All produce grown in NZ is GE Free,
3. Ask at the supermarket counter about any ingredients you might believe could be GE.
4. Don't feel scared of leaving any product that contains GE on the counter.
5. Beware - FSANZ just approved. new GE cotton product in vegetable oil and sausages casings etc
6. Small goods like, luncheon, sausages and processed meats are most likely to contain GE Cotton, soy meal and the casings are from GE cotton.

7. Vegetable oils which contain cotton seed or soy are likely to be GE unless stated otherwise.
8. All canola is sourced from GE plants unless specified.
9. All processed corn and soy products from South Africa are likely to be genetically engineered. So it is best to avoid all South African products. Unless clearly stated as Non GE.
10. Un - packaged point of sale foods like fresh breads, cakes, pies can contain GE soy and they do not need to be labelled, but if the vendor is asked they are supposed to know, if they don't know do NOT buy!
11. Most High Fructose Corn syrup, & artificial sweeteners are GE.
12. A new website is live for you to go to. www.gefreepolicy.com

Have a great GE Free season,

New study confirms organ damage in GMO-fed animals.

www.enveurope.com/content/23/1/10

A review of 19 mice and rat studies using GM soy and corn shows significant disruptions in the liver and kidneys, with other organs affected. The study conducted by French scientists, led by Professor Séralini, who won a libel lawsuit against a scientist who tried to publicly condemn Séralini's earlier studies of GMO health dangers.

Jeffrey Smith submitted to the French court a document showing how attacks on scientists by biotech advocates are commonplace, and that the amount of safety research that takes place is limited.

www.responsibletechnology.org/blog/1340

Review conclusions - The 90-day-long tests are insufficient to evaluate chronic toxicity, and the signs highlighted in the kidneys and livers could be the onset of chronic diseases. However, no minimal length for the tests is yet obligatory for any of the GMOs cultivated on a large scale, and this is socially unacceptable in terms of consumer health protection.

We are suggesting that the studies should be improved and prolonged, as well as being made compulsory, and that the sexual hormones should be assessed too, and moreover,

reproductive and multigenerational studies ought to be conducted too.

Become a proud GE Free Shopper

Have you joined GE Free Shoppers?

If people don't buy GE Food, it sends a clear message to NZ farmers, food manufacturers & supermarkets, that there is no market for GE Food.

If we don't buy it, they won't make it.

In association with GE Free NZ we have started the GE Free Shoppers Campaign. When you shop, "If in doubt, leave it out".

Since there is no clear labelling of GE ingredients, be savvy, get informed and if in doubt leave it out of your shopping basket.

When Food Stuffs and Progressive noticed certain items on the shelf not moving, because people were confused over the country of origin, they began to demand their manufacturers label the origin of ingredients and voluntarily put country of origin signs on the fruit and vegetables.

We can apply the same pressure for GE labelling, in the absence of Government and FANNZ's lack on initiative of food labelling.

New Zealand should have been leading the charge on this issue, instead we lag behind the EU, Bolivia and now Cyprus. What an embarrassment.

www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1104/S00134/government-must-separate-ge-foods-in-new-zealand-shops.htm

www.truthdig.com/eartotheearth/m/bolivia_set_to_pass_the_law_of_mother_earth_20110410

Join the Facebook Group here:

www.facebook.com/pages/GE-Free-Shoppers-NZ#!/pages/GE-Free-Shoppers-NZ/205314966146372

True Food Guide for New Zealand & Australia here:

www.truefood.org.au/documents/TrueFoodGuideKids2011.pdf

Since many processed foods use US GE ingredients you can find the US GE Food Guide here: www.nongmoshoppingguide.com

Sustainable Agriculture Urgently Needed, UN Agencies say

ISIS Report 04/04/11

A rapid shift from industrial monoculture to sustainable farming is needed to save the climate and guarantee food security for all says a new discussion paper from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development UNCTAD. This follows a report by UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier de Schutter who says agroecology or eco-farming can double food production in entire regions within 10 years while mitigating climate change and alleviating rural poverty. Scientists consistently find agroecology can double food production.

De Schutter's report Agro-ecology and the right to food presented to the UN Human Rights Council on 8.3.11 draws extensively on recent scientific literature to support its conclusions, "Today's scientific evidence demonstrates that agroecological methods outperform the use of chemical fertilizers in boosting food production where the hungry live - especially in unfavourable environments."

"Agro-ecology mimics nature, not industrial processes. It replaces the external inputs like fertiliser with knowledge of how a combination of plants, trees and animals can enhance productivity of the land," Schutter said "Yields went up 214 percent in 44 projects in 20 countries in sub-Saharan Africa using agro-ecological farming techniques over a period of 3 to 10 years... far more than any GM [genetically modified] crop has ever done." Other recent scientific assessments have shown that small farmers in 57 countries using agro-ecological techniques obtained average yield increases of 80 percent. Africans' average increases were 116 percent.

Read report:

www.isis.org.uk/Sustainable_Agriculture_Urgently_Needed.php

Going going gone WA Government sells the farm 17/03/11

Greenpeace staged a mock auction and accused the Western Australian Government of selling off Australian farming to chemical companies and using the state for risky trials of genetically modified (GE) wheat.

Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Mick Murray, agrees there are serious questions about GM and corporate control of WA agriculture. Outside of the US, WA is the only place in the world holding trials of GM wheat. In 2010, the West Australian Government sold 20% of the state's wheat breeding company to Monsanto.

The WA Government lifted a ban on GM crops last year despite a majority of public submissions calling them to keep the contentious crop out of the state.

Most Australians do not want to eat GM foods, and key export markets such as Europe have strict laws to stop its import. Non-GM canola is currently fetching \$50 more per tonne than GM. Greenpeace is calling for the introduction of farmer protection legislation in states across Australia.

Fonterra Must Avoid Human-Cow Milk 8/04/11 www.gefree.org.nz

Fonterra's biotech arm ViaLactia must reject human-cow hybrids as unethical, Fonterra is setting up 5 farms with up to 10,000 housed dairy cows in China with little regulation of animal welfare. Does Fonterra have any involvement in this transgenic Chinese project?

Fianna Fáil caves in on GM 08/02/11

The Irish Government performed a u-turn following Green Party's exit from cabinet. The Green Party has said it is alarmed by Fianna Fáil's u-turn on the issue of GM food today, following confirmation by the Agriculture Minister that Ireland is to vote in support of European Commission proposals to allow GE maize and cotton onto the market.

The US is mobilizing against GMOs!

Have you caught the non-GMO buzz lately? GMOs are being blogged about, tweeted about, reported on, and talked about more than ever before.

There were rallies all over the US in March, more rallies scheduled, and the topic is catching fire. A food executive at the recent natural products expo said, "This feels like the time we've been waiting for." An activist at a recent festival said, "I am so amazed at how much people want to know about GMOs—our table was bombarded! I feel like we're at a turning point."

Millions of people in the US are also angry and outraged at the approval of GM alfalfa. The USDA also did a run around the courts to keep GM sugar beets growing, and approved a GM corn used for ethanol.

Institute For Responsible Technology- Spilling the Beans Newsletter.

Stop Genetically Modified "Humanized" Milk Cows!

Researchers at the China Agricultural University say they have inserted GE human genes into cows to produce a breast-milk-like substance. The research hopes to soon sell its GE

dairy products in supermarkets.

The cows are likely to suffer poor health and produce milk that is nutritionally inferior and more likely to trigger an allergy or increase cancer risks in the children or adults who drink it.

Cloned and genetically modified animals also suffer greater health problems, increased mortality and a high number of still births.

Food produced from these animals is dangerous for humans because the insertion of foreign genes into DNA strands remains an inexact science and creates proteins never before ingested by human beings. These novel proteins could prove dangerous for large segments of the human population who find they are allergic to them.

Cloned Meat & Milk Coming - Be Very Afraid ISIS 16/03/11

Cloning by nuclear transplant is completely different from cloning by splitting embryos, and is closely associated with genetic modification of livestock to produce drugs in their milk; in deregulating cloned meat and milk, the European Commission will be approving the sale of highly unethical and unsafe products that are also illegal. Milk and meat from 'cloned' animals' offspring is to be

unregulated and could soon be on sale without any labels, the European consumer group BEUC warns.

The European Commission (EC) is threatening to force through the proposal backed by the British Government, arguing that any ban on food from clone offspring risks triggering a trade war with the US. It is currently illegal to sell meat or milk from cloned animals or their offspring in the UK.

The EC wants to allow offspring of clones onto the market without labels or approval; but opposes the sale of food from clones themselves. The UK government has no objection to selling meat and milk from clones.

According to BEUC, an overwhelming majority of EU consumers do not want cloning to be used for food production purposes. Some 84% have concerns about long-term health & safety.

www.isis.org.uk/Cloned_Meat_and_Milk_Coming.php

Fonterra blacklisted in New True Food Guide 13/04/11

www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10712065

Fonterra - the world's biggest dairy exporter - is under scrutiny over potential GM contamination in the milk products it sells. Greenpeace Australia questioned the controls on dairy farms run by an Australian company in which Fonterra has a controlling stake. Fonterra refused to answer the environmental group's questions - prompting a red flag in the Greenpeace True Food Guide 2011.

Lawsuit seeks to invalidate Monsanto's GMO patents

"A new invention to poison people ... is not a patentable invention."
Lowell v. Lewis, 1817

A landmark lawsuit citing *Lowell v. Lewis*, filed on March 29 in US federal court seeks to invalidate Monsanto's patents on genetically modified seeds and to prohibit the company from suing those whose crops become genetically contaminated.

The Public Patent Foundation filed suit on behalf of 270,000 people from sixty organic and sustainable

businesses and trade associations, including thousands of certified-organic farmers.

In Organic Seed Growers and Trade Association, et al. v. Monsanto, et al. (U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, Case No. 11 CIV 2163), PUBPAT details the invalidity of any patent that poisons people and the environment, and that is not useful to society, two hallmarks of US patent law. Justice Story wrote in 1817, to be patentable, an invention must not be 'injurious to the well being, good policy, or sound morals of society,'"

The suit points to studies citing harm caused by Monsanto's Roundup herbicide, including human placental damage, lymphoma, myeloma, animal miscarriages, and other impacts on human health

Through its monopoly, Monsanto has spiked the cost of seeds. In the past decade, corn seed prices increased 135% and soybean prices 108%, the suit asserts.

Plaintiffs condemn Monsanto for prohibiting independent research on its transgenic seeds and for its successful lobby efforts to ban GM food labeling.

The new lawsuit couldn't come a moment too soon, given the USDA's recent decision to allow rice modified with human genes by Ventria Bioscience

www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=24103

Global Research April 2 2011

Monsanto Is Poisoning Us All 8/4/11

117 Peer-Reviewed Scientific Studies Expose Hazards of Monsanto's Roundup Herbicide & "Roundup Ready" GMOs Don M. Huber, Ph.D., emeritus soil scientist of Purdue University, wrote to USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack about a newly discovered virulent pathogen that proliferates in soil treated with Monsanto's Roundup herbicide.

The Monsanto pathogen is taken up by plants, transmitted to animals via their feed, and is passed on to human beings by the plants and meat they consume. The pathogen has yet to be described or named, though that work is almost complete.

Huber summarized 117 peer-review scientific studies showing hazards of Monsanto's Roundup herbicide and the "Roundup Ready" GMO crops that have increased its use:

- Compromised plant defense mechanisms; plants more susceptible to disease.
- Reduced availability and uptake of essential nutrients.
- Increased virulence of pathogens that attack plants.
- Lower yields.

Huber warned that ignoring these emerging realities may have dire consequences for agriculture such as rendering soils infertile, crops non-productive, and plants less nutritious.

He said it could also, and apparently already is, compromising the health and well-being of animals and humans.

Ecologist 1/04/11
Barclays making up to 340 million on food price speculation.



GE HYPE - A lack of success with GM "solutions" Non-GM success stories can end up being claimed as GM breakthroughs!

Crops touted as GM breakthroughs are not always what they seem – and it's the best-kept secret of the biotech industry.

In summer 2010 Monsanto bought out part of a West Australian cereal breeding company, Intergrain. An

Intergrain spokesman explained Monsanto's interest like this: "A really important concept is that biotech traits by themselves are absolutely useless unless they can be put into the very best germplasm."

Biotech company raid the germplasm of natural crop varieties that have been developed by farmers and breeders over centuries for the traits they want. It uses conventional breeding and sometimes marker assisted selection – not GM – to get the plant it wants. Its own proprietary genes are added primarily so that it can patent and own the seed and resulting crop.

This GM tweak often adds nothing to the agronomic performance of the crop but is usually either a Bt toxin to kill insects or a herbicide-resistance gene that allows it to be drenched in herbicide. But it has one magical effect – on the biotech company's profit margins who owns the patent.

This process is never disclosed. The questions we should all ask are: 'Which natural parent variety or varieties did the company pirate for its GM variety?'

How much improvement was made in the parent variety by conventional breeding and marker assisted breeding, aside from the GM tweak?

How do the natural parent variety, the non-GM improved variety, and the final GM variety compare with each other with regard to the desired trait in side-by-side field trials?

In other words, how much actual value was added by the GM manipulation?

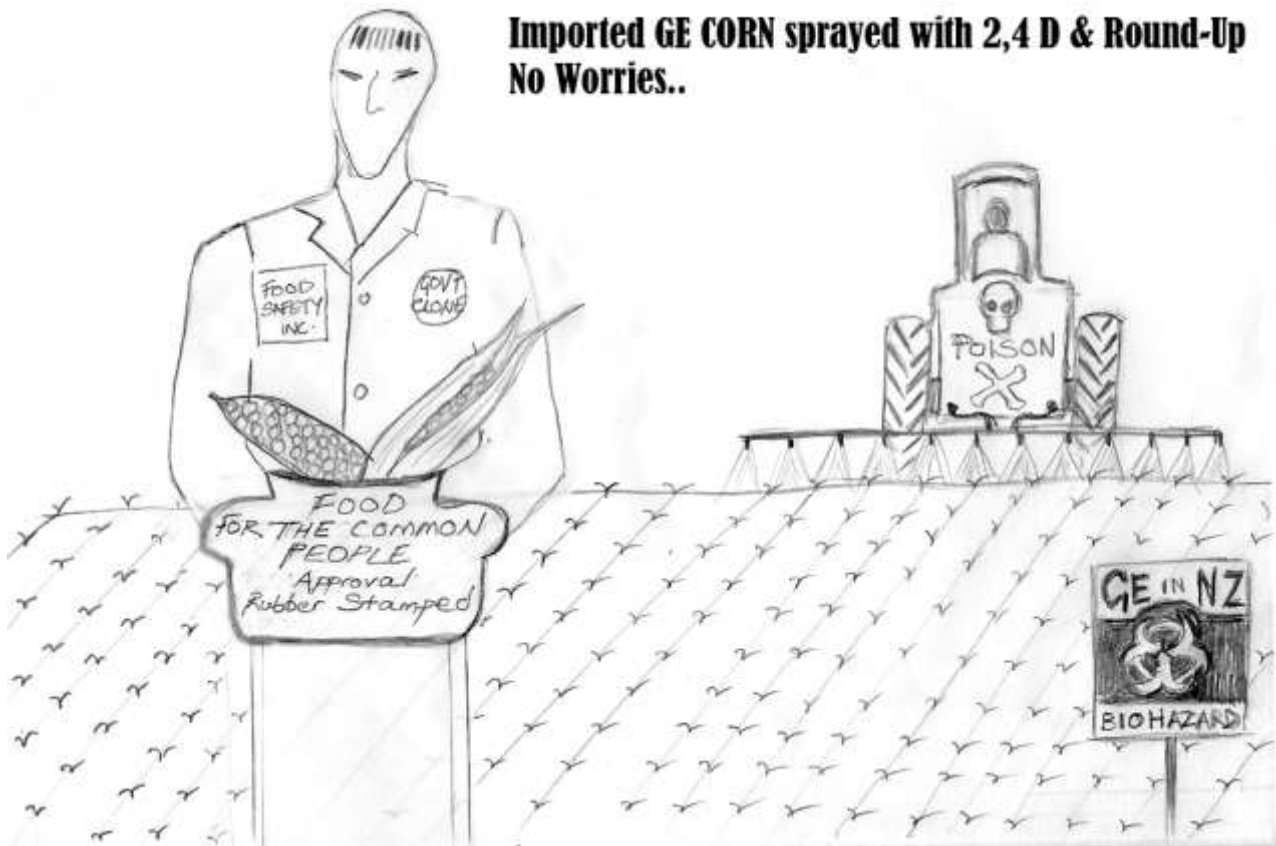
This information is of course commercially confidential. So biotech companies maintain their seductive lie that GM is necessary for the future of plant breeding.

GE FREE NZ AGM
14 August 2011
61 Abel Smith Street, Wellington

**Spread the word:
Cut out or photocopy the next page and put on noticeboards at organic shops, work, cafe's etc.....**

Government dirty tricks put GE in our food

**Imported GE CORN sprayed with 2,4 D & Round-Up
No Worries..**



Do you want to eat food from Genetically Engineered (GE) plants that have been sprayed heavily with 2,4-D and Round Up?

Corn resistant to 2,4-D and Round-Up is about to be allowed into our food supply.

Do you want to eat food which includes GE high-fructose corn syrup, known to be responsible for various illnesses?
Also from GE crops in the US, it was recently a component part of a NZ Free Trade deal with the United States.

Do you know that our government uses taxpayers money to fund research into GE grasses and clover?

A consortium of corporations including AgResearch and Fonterra intend to be trial these GE crops outdoors in our clean green New Zealand.

Do you know that Scion has permission to grow thousands of GE pine trees in a secret site near Rotorua?

The company Scion is in collaboration with US Arborgen who aim to grow ¼ of a million GE Eucalypts in 7 USA States.

Do you know that our government requests that international forums support the inclusion of GE Trees in Forest Stewardship Council products?

New Zealand appears to be trying to force the world to accept GE Trees. Do we want this?

The National Government is pushing this potentially damaging technology. GE food remains untested and the laws regarding environmental releases are becoming increasingly lax.

To find out more about how to avoid GE food and read our current Press releases go to our website:

www.gefree.org.nz

Join GE Free New Zealand, PO Box 693 Nelson to support resistance to GE in New Zealand.

GE FREE NORTHLAND
Chairwoman Zelka Grammer says "We never gave up believing that we could work collaboratively with local councils to keep GE crops and animals off our patch, to protect our bio security, economy, environment and primary producers. Local councils do have a duty of care to their constituents and to manage natural and physical resources in a sustainable manner. They just need to be reminded that banning risky GMOs is part of that duty of care.

Central government tried to tell our local authorities a few years ago that "GE was nothing to do with them and ERMA were the "Experts".

But ongoing problems with (and further deterioration of) the performance of central government agencies including ERMA, MAF and NZ CRI's only heightened the concerns of local ratepayers and their councils, and at last, Minister Nick Smith provided the clarification that central governments refusal to properly amend the HSNO Act did not "preclude local authorities from regulating or preventing GMOs using the RMA".

(see 5 August 2010 response to the June 2010 letter sent to central government by the 9 council strong INTER COUNCIL WORKING PARTY ON GMO RISK EVALUATION AND OPTIONS.

Recent incidents involving consents for GE experiments given by ERMA (which do not require a precautionary approach to GMOs) have shown that the "safeguards" in place in NZ for GMOs are grossly inadequate.

CRI's have repeatedly been in breach of the conditions of approval laid down by ERMA for GE experiments. MAF has failed on at least 2 occasions to adequately monitor NZ CRI's Crop & Food Research and Forest Research.

Whangarei District Council have done us proud- we are particularly grateful to our rural councillors who are farmers themselves, who have seen through the hype of GE crops and refuse to be held responsible for adverse impacts from ERMA approved GE stuff-ups.

GE free Northland also thanks local Iwi in Tai Tokerau, who were first to prohibit the use of GMOs in their rohe. Our existing GE free status is worth protecting - kia kaha.

For more information, contact GE FREE NORTHLAND at: email: zlg@xnet.co.nz ph: 09 4322155 or contact Dr. Kerry Grundy, chairman and coordinator of the Inter Council Working Party on GMOs to send key GE policy papers and correspondence to your community group or council: kerryg@wdc.govt.nz ph: 09 430 4200 (Whangarei District Council) or 0800 932 463 during normal council opening hours.

Write & talk to your elected members to have a GE FREE .

"Risks of GE trees and what to do instead." 28/04/2011

A meeting in Rotorua to discuss the Scion (Rotorua) GE tree trial with permission to plant 4000 GE pine trees, preparation is underway.

Amongst the presenters: Dr Elvira Domisse, Steffan Browning, Claire Bleakley, Karen Summerhays, Martin Sharp, Gareth Hughes, Dean Satchell Biosecurity NZ Farm Forestry Association.

Dean is opposed to GMOs including GE trees and has the science of what to do in keeping with sustainability & FSC certification principles.

Hawkes Bay GE Free activities

The GE Free Hawkes Bay group have regrouped and are working hard

They feel it will be very important to promote public awareness on the GE issue.

GE Free 2010 Food guide from
www.truefood.org.au/truefoodguide

The new GE Free Food guide is at present being updated put together at the moment but the best thing to do is buy locally produced organic produce.

GE Free NZ Contacts

We have revamped our website and added lots of new documents...

www.gefree.org.nz

Head office: PO Box 693, Nelson
Ph 03 547 9383 Fax 03 547 9329
Email: info@gefree.org.nz

For **Subscriptions** or **donations** please send us a cheque - or pay by Internet Banking:
Account #:(National Bank)
06-0996-0521358-00

Auckland GE-Free NZ,
youcangetmeonline@yahoo.com

GE Aware Nelson GEAN
Susie Lees 03 543 2341
gefree@ts.co.nz

GE Free Northland
Zelka Grammer 09 4322155
zlg@xnet.co.nz
www.gefreenorthland.org.nz

GE Free Wellington
PO Box 13402, Wellington
Jon Muller 04 4774744
jon.muller@xtra.co.nz

GE Free Hawkes Bay
Adrian White Ph (06)8781512

GE Free Rotorua
Martin Sharp - 027 348 8577

GE Free Wairarapa
Claire Bleakley ph: 06 308 9842
p.bleakley@orcon.net.nz

GE Free Tauranga
Karen Summerhays - 021 043 7858

Press contacts: Spokesperson
Jon Carapiet ph: 09 815 3370
youcangetmeonline@yahoo.com

Transgenic animal/health issues
Claire Bleakley ph: 06 308 9842
p.bleakley@orcon.net.nz

When you have finished with your newsletter, pass it on ...

Disclaimer-We are not liable for any error, omission, fact or misinterpretation in this publication, nor any action taken on the information given.