

Genetically modified foods, pesticides safe

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Re: Report on organic food fails to examine important issues, Letters, Sept. 12

The report, just like the 2009 Food Standards Agency (U.K.) report, looked at decades of research and both reports came to the same conclusion about organic food. It is not nutritionally superior to conventional food.

It is well documented that 99.9 per cent of all the toxins we consume on a daily basis are from natural sources. When plants are exposed to insect attack the plants fight back by producing thousands of very toxic compounds. Of the few hundred that have been analyzed, fully one third are carcinogenic. But not to worry, just like trace amounts of synthetic pesticides, the small amounts of naturally derived toxins are not a significant health issue.

A multi-decade National Cancer Institute (U.S.) study looked at farm workers, professional pesticide applicators and their families. The result was these groups, with higher exposure to pesticides than the average person, had lower cancer rates than the general public. Therefore the link between cancer and the vast majority of pesticide exposure has been debunked.

The dangers of genetically modified crops and food are imaginary and after 25 years of study the European Union stated the risk from GM crops and food are in no way greater than from conventionally bred plants. This is the same safe opinion that every single food safety authority in the world holds.

The colony collapse disorder has absolutely nothing to do with GM crops as the same collapse is occurring in Europe and there are no GM crops grown there. This is another of the many myths by propagated by anti-GMO activists.

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