Mahayla Winsor

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Genetically Modified Food

Are genetically modified foods enhancing nature’s creations or are they posing potential health risks? Genetically modified foods are foods which scientists change or tweak the DNA to help reduce food costs, eliminate diseases in plants, and make plants more resistant to insects or temperature. Although they may be economical and may produce higher profits, genetically modified foods are dangerous.

Look around the room. How many people have eaten genetically modified food? The answer may be surprising…most people have eaten food that has been scientifically changed at the molecular level. Nearly everyone is unaware that they are eating these foods.

A new technology is modifying Bt corn to make it disease resistant. The corn is injected with a bacterium that contains Cry1Ab. “But the Cry1Ab toxin is nonspecific and can enter into the environment threatening local ecology and causing negative impacts on nontarget species like monarch butterflies and aquatic invertebrates. A recent study showed that 100 percent of streams tested within 500 meters of farms growing Bt crops contained the Cry1Ab toxin” (Oram). With toxins polluting our waters, the microorganisms that are destroyed start a ripple effect in the food chain affecting our fish, wildlife, ourselves.

If we are what we eat, what do we become if we do not know what we are eating? If scientifically changed foods are harming our environment and defiling our food and water sources, they are more detrimental than beneficial.

Work Cited

Oram, Katie. Genetically Modified Crops Pose Health Risk. *Watertown Daily Times.com.* 15 May 2011. Web. 16 May 2011. <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20110515/

OPINION02/305159987/0/FRONTPAGE>.

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