

Veritable Vegetable's PRODUCE NOTES

On September 23 The Committee for Sustainable Agriculture and other agriculture activists sponsored a demonstration in front of the Pacific Stock Exchange in downtown San Francisco. The event was the first in a series designed to educate the public and to demonstrate a strong objection to genetically engineered (GE) foods, also called GMOs (food made with genetically modified organisms). The event included speakers, theatre, music and organic food sampling, and was attended by hundreds of folks on their lunch breaks. The following facts were reported to the crowd:

- GE foods are unlabeled, mixed in with non-GE foods, and in a few years may comprise virtually the entire food supply. The FDA does not allow non-GE foods to be labeled as non-GE
- GE foods can cause unexpected and toxic reactions
- GE foods can also result in self-propagating of genetic pollution in wild plants, obsolescence of BT toxin which is commonly used in organic agriculture, increased use of herbicides such as Roundup, and the spread of antibiotic resistance in bacteria
- The EEU has declared a three year moratorium on GE foods in Europe
- Deutsche Bank, the largest bank in Europe, has advised its investors to sell stock in companies which produce GE foods or food products
- Corporations such as Gerber's, McDonald's, Burger King, Kirin, Sapporo, Nestle and KFC have prohibited the use of GE foods sold in Europe, Mexico and Japan
- Monsanto stock has fallen in 12 months from \$62 to \$40 per share
- 81% of US consumers want labeling of GE food
- The American Corn Growers Association predicts a 25% decrease in GE corn acreage in the year 2000, due to decreased demand for this corn

The Sustainable Agriculture Community is calling for a complete moratorium on the use of GE products. Until then you can help by doing these things:

1. Demand the labeling of foods, seeds and fiber products. Write to Dr. Jane Henney of the FDA at HF-1, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20857
2. Buy organic!
3. Learn more about food safety and tell everyone you know. Resources include
 - Campaign for Food Safety 218-226-4164 www.purefood.org
 - Union of Concerned Scientists 617-547-5552 www.ucsusa.org
 - Greenpeace 212-865-5645 www.greenpeace.org
 - GMO Taskforce at the Organic Trade Association www.OTA.com

TELL YOUR STOCKBROKER "SELL MY INVESTMENTS IN" –

AgrEvo	Dow Chemical
American Home Products	DuPont
Archer Daniels Midlands	Hoescht
Asgrow Agronomics	Monsanto
Calgene	Nabisco
Cargill	Novartis

