

GMOs: QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR NEW JERSEY FARMERS

Friday, May 9, 2014 9:00 AM to Noon

NJAES EcoComplex, Bordentown, NJ.

The New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and the NJAES Board of Managers is sponsoring an informational forum about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) that is directed specifically to New Jersey's agricultural community. The GMO issue is complex and elicits strong reactions from many people. Public concerns about GMOs have already led to the introduction of legislation in New Jersey that would mandate labelling for all food containing genetically modified materials. Members of the production agriculture community and associated business communities have expressed concerns about how consumer perceptions and legislative responses to these perceptions can affect their businesses.

"GMOs: Questions and Answers for New Jersey Farmers" will provide information about different aspects of the GMO issue that will help you understand and address your customers' concerns about a technology whose risks and benefits are often poorly understood. The discussion will be led by Mr. Greg Jaffe, Director of the Project on Biotechnology for the Center for Science in the Public Interest and a recognized international expert on agricultural biotechnology and biosafety. After an introduction by Dean Robert M. Goodman, himself an authority on GMO crops, Mr. Jaffe will provide a broad overview of agricultural biotechnology, differentiating between the elements grounded in science and the myths that pervade many discussions on this subject.

Dr. Cara Cuite, a food policy expert and Associate Research Professor in the Human Ecology Department at the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, will brief forum attendees on findings from a recent survey conducted by her and Dr. William Hallman that examines consumer perceptions of GMOs. Dr. Bradley Hillman, Professor of Plant Biology and Pathology and Director of Cooperative Research for NJAES, will provide more detail on the science behind GMOs and its implications for food/product safety and emerging policy responses to public concerns about this technology.

Attached please find a tentative agenda for this meeting, as well as directions to the EcoComplex building, which is located at 1200 Florence-Columbus Road, between Route 206 and Interstate Route 295. We will also serve a light lunch to meeting attendees. If you can join us, please let us know by using the following link to access an RSVP survey: <http://doodle.com/w9pmy3gv5igygggr6> . If you plan to attend the meeting only (from 9 AM to 12:00 PM), just fill in your name, then click the first box. If you plan to stay for lunch (12:00 PM to 1:00 PM), please click the second box, as well. Be sure to click "Save" after you make your entries. Alternatively, you may RSVP to Diane French at French@aesop.rutgers.edu or at 848-932-3567.

Knowing that this is a busy time of year for all in the agricultural community, we have arranged to have this forum videotaped; a link to this video will be posted on the NJAES website and we will let you know when this is available to access for viewing.

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FRIDAY MAY 9, 2014
9 am – NOON
NJAES ECO-COMPLEX, Bordentown, NJ

Tentative Agenda

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| 9:00 AM | Welcome: Meredith Compton, President, NJAES Board of Managers |
| 9:10 AM | Opening Remarks: Brad Hillman, Director of Cooperative Research, NJAES |
| 9:20 AM | Introduction of Greg Jaffe: Robert M. Goodman, Executive Dean, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, and Executive Director, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station, Rutgers University. |
| 9:30 AM | "Busting the Myths Surrounding Genetically Engineered Foods" Greg Jaffe, Director of Biotechnology, Center for Science in the Public Interest |
| 10:15 AM | Break |
| 10:30 AM | "Public Perceptions of Genetically Modified Food", Cara Cuite, Associate Research Professor, School of Environmental and Biological Sciences |
| 11:00 AM | "Dissecting issues of GMO science and policy", Bradley Hillman, Professor of Plant Biology and Pathology and Director of Cooperative Research, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. |
| 11:30 AM | General discussion/Q&A |
| Noon | Lunch |