

# Massachusetts Coalition for GMO Labeling



A collaborative project of MASSPIRG, Mass Right to Know GMOs, MoveOn.org and NOFA/Mass

More than 90% of Americans support labeling genetically modified foods (commonly referred to as “GMOs”). Yet while some grocery chains, like Whole Foods, have pledged to label their store-brand products, for the most part consumers are still left in the dark. Labeling GMOs shouldn’t be the exception—it should be the law. Here are 5 reasons why:

- 1. The science is still out.** There is no scientific consensus on the safety of genetically engineered foods, and documented environmental risks include the promotion of “superweeds, superbugs<sup>1</sup>.”
- 2. They’re designed for increased pesticide use.** 99% of GMO crops are designed to withstand increasing applications of herbicides, to produce their own pesticide, or both. Chemicals herbicides like RoundUp have been linked to serious health impacts<sup>2</sup>.
- 3. Everyone else is doing it.** Sixty four countries require GMO food labeling<sup>3</sup>.
- 4. There’s little independent testing.** The federal government does not perform or require independent safety testing before genetically engineered foods wind up on store shelves<sup>4</sup>.
- 5. It’s a basic consumer right.** We should know what’s in the food we eat, what we are feeding our families, and what kind of agriculture we’re supporting with our food purchases.

## Genetic Engineering Transparency Food and Seed Labeling Act, H.3242

Chief sponsors: Representatives Ellen Story and Todd Smola,  
Senators Joan Lovely and Bruce Tarr



Partially produced with genetic engineering.

Foodcorp, Inc.  
123 Sesame St.  
New York, NY 12345  
foodcorp.com



1., 2., 4. Antoniou, Michael, Claire Robinson and John Fagan. GMO Myths and Truths : An evidence-based examination of the claims made for the safety and efficacy of genetically modified crops. London: Earth Open Source, 2014 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Version 1.0). earthopensource.org.  
3. Center for Food Safety. International labeling laws. centerforfoodsafety.org

3/27/2015

# ***Genetic Engineering Transparency Food and Seed Labeling Act***

## **Labeling Requirements**

Modeled after the GMO labeling bills passed in VT, CT, and ME, the *Genetic Engineering Transparency Food and Seed Labeling Act* will require all food offered for retail sale in Massachusetts that is entirely or partially produced with genetic engineering to be labeled clearly and conspicuously, “produced with genetic engineering” or “partially produced with genetic engineering.” If the product is not individually packaged this label will be put on the bin or shelf where it is sold. Food produced with genetic engineering shall not be labeled as “natural,” “naturally grown,” “all natural,” “naturally made” or anything similar that would tend to mislead a consumer.

Seed that is produced with genetic engineering shall, on the seed container, bear the identity of the seed and relevant traits that cause it to be identified as genetically engineered.

In accordance with international GMO labeling standards, food derived from an animal which itself was not genetically engineered shall not be subject to this labeling requirement, nor shall any food which contains less than 0.9% genetically engineered ingredients (by total weight).

Due to separate labeling systems and requirements, alcoholic beverages, medical foods and foods intended for immediate consumption or sold in a restaurant shall not be subject to this labeling requirement.

## **Retailers Liability**

Retailers shall not be liable for the failure to label processed foods as long as they are not the manufacturer of that food, or in the case of wholesale/unpackaged foods, as long as they did not knowingly and willfully fail to label the genetically engineered products.

## **Penalties and Enforcement**

Regulations are to be promulgated by the food protection program of the department of public health and enforced by the department and local boards of health, with corrective actions issued by the Attorney General. Manufacturers are responsible for accurate labeling. Failure to comply with the law will be treated as a civil penalty, not to exceed \$1000 per day, per each uniquely named, designated or marketed product. Citizens may similarly bring an action to court and enjoin the manufacturer, but may not be awarded monetary damages beyond legal costs. No action may be brought against a farmer unless that farmer is also the retailer or manufacturer.

This act shall take effect January 1, 2017, and contains no “trigger” clause, as 3 Northeast states have already passed GMO labeling laws. Vermont’s bill is scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2016 and Maine and Connecticut laws go into effect when a set number of states in the Northeast pass laws.

The bill is cosponsored by a bi-partisan, broad coalition of 154 lawmakers, more than 150 organizations and businesses, over two dozen grocers, more than 150 Massachusetts farmers and more than 40,000 residents who are calling for labeling.

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# Legislative Cosponsors

## H.3242 - Genetic Engineering Transparency Food and Seed Labeling Act

Chief sponsors: Rep. Ellen Story, Rep. Todd Smola, Sen. Joan Lovely, and Sen. Bruce Tarr

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# Businesses, Farms and Organizations Endorsing Mandatory GMO Labeling

(over 330 in total, see full list at [marighttoknow.org/endorsements](http://marighttoknow.org/endorsements))

## Advocacy Groups

Acropolis Boston (Cambridge)  
Agricultural Hall (Jamaica Plain)  
ALO Resources (Great Barrington)  
Animal Advocates of Smith College  
Attleboro Area Sustainability Action  
Bees in Italy Photography Project  
Belchertown Ag. Commission  
Berkshire Enviro. Action Team  
Berkshire Ultra Community Service  
Chefs Collaborative (Boston)  
Choose Wiser (North Easton)  
City Growers (Dorchester/Roxbury)  
Council for Responsible Genetics  
Dartmouth Grange No. 162 (Dartmouth)  
earthitis (New Bedford)  
edible Boston, SouthShore  
GMO Free Massachusetts (Chicopee)  
Green City Growers (Somerville)  
Grow Food Amherst  
Grow Food Northampton  
Guiding Star Grange #1 (Greenfield)  
Healthy Appetites (Plymouth)  
Hilltown Non-GMO Working Group  
JP Forum (Jamaica Plain)  
JP New Economy Transition (JP)  
Kitchen Porch (Chilmark)  
LEAH Advocacy Group (Needham)  
Marion Institute (Marion)  
Mass Animal Rights Coalition (Barre)  
Massachusetts Nurses Association  
Massachusetts Sierra Club (Boston)  
Massachusetts State Grange  
MASSPIRG (Boston)  
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance  
New England Farmers Union  
New Entry Sustainable  
Farming Project (Lowell)  
NOFA/Mass (Barre)  
North End Waterfront Health (BOS)  
Seeds of Solidarity (Orange)  
Slow Food Martha's Vineyard  
Slow Food Western Mass. (Sheffield)  
Small Planet Institute (Cambridge)  
Somerville Climate Action  
Sustainable Westford's Healthy Kids  
The Green Dad (Halifax)  
Westford Board of Health (Westford)  
Worcester Roots Project

## Businesses

Artisan Beverage Coop (Greenfield)  
AURaw foods (Haverhill)  
Bart's Homemade Ice Cream (G'field)  
Ben's Bins (Leverett)  
Carter & Stevens Farm Store (Barre)  
Commonwealth Herbal Medicine  
Compassionate Commerce LLC  
Corso Distributors (Wrentham)  
Dean's Beans Coffee (Orange)  
Delicious Living Nutrition (S'wich)  
FedCo Seeds (Colrain)  
The Flexible Farmer (Hadley)  
Food For Thought Health (Arlington)  
Good Health, Inc. (Quincy)  
Green Path Garden Supply (N.boro)  
Groton Wellness (Groton)  
Jonathan's Sprouts (Rochester)

Life Force Juice (Jamaica Plain)  
Lighter (Somerville)  
Mindful Universe (Amherst)  
Neptune's Harvest (Gloucester)  
Perfectly Nourished (Georgetown)  
Pioneer Valley Nutritional Therapy  
Progressive Asset Mgmt (Wellesley)  
Real Pickles (Greenfield)  
Salem/North Shore Food Tours  
Shire City Herbals (Pittsfield)  
SLS Fitness (Lowell)  
Steem Peanut Butter, Inc. (Gr. field)  
TaylorMade Meals (Sudbury)  
Traditional Health First (Turners Fls)  
Western MA Food Processing Center

## Restaurants

Baba Louie's Pizza (Gt. Barrington)  
Cafe Evolution (Florence)  
Franklin Flatbreads (Franklin)  
Hearty Eats (Shelburne Falls)  
La Luncheonette Cafe (Shelb. Fls)  
Life Alive (Lowell/Cambridge)  
Martha's Stone Soup (Plymouth)  
Mocha Mayas Coffee (Shelburne Fls)  
Picasso Restaurant & Bar (Barre)  
Seeds & Songs Bakery (N. Weymth)  
The Bohemian Kitchen (Orange)  
Vienna Restaurant & Inn (S. bridge)

## Grocers

Assabet Village Co-op (Maynard)  
Berkshire Co-op (G. Barrington)  
Berkshire Organics (Dalton)  
Better Life Whole Foods (Sp. field)  
Boston Organics (Charlestown)  
Cornucopia Foods (Northampton)  
Common Crow Natural (Gloucester)  
Cronig's Market (Vineyard Haven)  
Debra's Natural Gourmet (Concord)  
Down to Earth (New Bedford)  
Green Fields Market (Greenfield)  
Guido's (Pittsfield/ G. Barrington)  
Harvest Co-op Market (Boston)  
How On Earth (Mattapoisett)  
Living Earth Nat. Foods (Worcester)  
McCusker's Market (Shelburne Falls)  
Natural Food Exchange (Reading)  
Old Creamery Co-op (Cummington)  
River Valley Market (Northampton)  
South Shore Organics (Hanover)  
TipTop Country Store (Brookfield)  
Wild Oaks (Williamstown)

## Farms, Dairies and CSAs

2 Friends Farm (Attleboro)  
3 Little Birds Farm (Plymouth)  
3 Maples Market (W. Stockbridge)  
Adams Farm (Hadley)  
Akin Bak Farm (Franklin)  
Alexander Farm (Winchendon)  
Allen Farm (Chilmark)  
Arrowhead Farm (Pittsfield)  
Astarte Farm (Hadley)  
Bay End Farm (Bourne)  
Bedford Blueberry Goat Farm  
Beetlebung Farm (Chilmark)  
Benedict Farm West (Brookfield)  
Berkshire Bounty Farm (Southfield)

Blue Rose Gardens (Wellfleet)  
Blue Star Farm (Belchertown )  
Blue Vervain Farm (Plymouth)  
Brix Bounty Farm (Dartmouth)  
Bug Hill Farm (Ashfield)  
Butterflies & Blueberries (Rutland)  
Cape Cod Organic Farm (Barnstable)  
Checkerberry Farm (Orleans)  
Coop's Microcreamery (Watertown)  
Cooper Shop Farm (Buckland)  
Coyote Hill Farm (Bernardston)  
Crimson and Clover Farm (Florence)  
Crooked Farm (Orleans)  
Dancing To to Farm (Carlisle)  
Dismas Family Farm (Oakham)  
Dragonfly Farm (Harvard)  
Earthing Farm (Southbridge)  
Edgewood Farm (Warwick)  
EIEIO Farm (Leverett)  
Equinox farm (Sheffield)  
Fern Brook Farm (Lakeville)  
First Light Farm (Hamilton)  
First Root Farm (Concord)  
Flynn Farm (Southwick)  
Forgotten Acres (Hawley)  
Foxtown Farm (Montague)  
Front Yard Farm (Ware)  
Gardens by the Sea (West Harwich)  
Gibbet Hill Farm (Groton)  
Golden Oak Farm (Hatfield)  
Golden Rule Farm (Plymouth)  
Good Bunch Farm (Conway)  
Good Roots Farm (Lincoln)  
Grace Farm (Plainfield)  
Gray Farm (Ashfield)  
Green Meadows Farm S. (Hamilton)  
Green Tractor Farm (Milton)  
H & H Farm (Wellfleet)  
Hana's Honey (Westport)  
Harmony Farm (Medfield)  
Harms Family Farm (Brookfield)  
Headwater Cider (Hawley)  
Heart Beets Farm (Berkley)  
Heavens Harvest Farm (N. Braintree)  
Heritage Fields Farm (Orange)  
Higher Ground Farm (Boston)  
Holly Hill Farm (Cohasset)  
Hopstill Farm (Sherborn)  
Hydeaway Farms (Winchendon)  
Indian Line Farm (Great Barrington)  
Jewel Hill Farm (Ashby)  
Jones Farm (Westford)  
Justamere Tree Farm (Worthington)  
Kearney Goat Cottage Farm (W.port)  
Keller Farm (Wendell)  
Kettle Pond Farm (Berkley)  
Kinne Brook Farm (Worthington)  
Kimball Farm (Haverhill)  
Kirk Farm (Groton)  
Ladybug Farm (Hubbardston)  
Langwater Farm (North Easton)  
Left Field Farm (Middlefield)  
Lexington Community Farm  
Liberty Farm (Chelmsford)  
Lindentree Farm (Lincoln)  
Long Life Farm (Hopkinton)  
Lucky Field Organics (Rochester)  
Manda Farm (Plainfield)

Many Hands Organic Farm (Barre)  
Marlborough Street Farm (Sp. field)  
Matt's Organic Gardens (Dennis Port)  
Meadow Marsh Farm (Marshfield)  
Medway Community Farm  
Mermaid Farm (Chilmark)  
Michael s Farm (Ashby)  
Middle Earth Farm (Amesbury)  
Mill City Grows (Lowell)  
Mill River Farm (New Marlborough)  
Moon In The Pond Farm (Sheffield)  
Natural Awakenings Boston  
Natural Garden (Granby)  
Natural Roots Farm (Conway)  
Ness Farm (Bolton)  
New Heritage Farm (Wrentham)  
New Lands Farm (Worcester)  
NMH School Farm (Mt. Hermon)  
Old Field Farm (Leverett)  
One Acre Farm (Bolton)  
Osgood Farm (Amesbury)  
Pemble Farm (Pittsfield)  
Pee's Farm (Dartmouth)  
Pete & Jen's Backyard Birds (Sdury)  
Plough & Stars Project (Medford)  
Powisset Farm (Dover)  
Puddingstone Organics (Middleboro)  
Quabbin Gate Farm (Petersham)  
Quintessential Gardens (Westport)  
Rawson Brook Farm (Monterey)  
Red Fire Farm (Granby, Montague)  
Redberry Farm (Eastham)  
Rich Fields Organics (Warwick)  
Robinson Farm (Hardwick)  
Round Lot Farm LLC (Medfield)  
Round The Bend Farm (Dartmouth)  
Ruggles Rose Farm (Hardwick)  
Scantic Valley (E. Longmeadow)  
Second Hand Farm (Gt. Barrington)  
Seeds of Solidarity Farm (Orange)  
Sheep's End Farm (Lincoln)  
Simple Gifts Farm (North Amherst)  
Skinny Dip Farm (Westport)  
Sky View Farm (Sheffield)  
Skye Farm (Northfield)  
Slow Tractor Farm (Hadley)  
Spruce Pond Creamery (Franklin)  
Stearns Farm CSA (Framingham)  
Summer Dreams Farm (Marshfield)  
Summit Farm (Plainfield)  
Sunflower Sheep Farm (Carlisle)  
Sweet Autumn Farm (Carlisle)  
Sweet Morning Farm (Leyden)  
Sweetwater Farm (Petersham)  
Tending the Wild CSA (Belchertown)  
The Adzi Farm (Belchertown)  
The Herb Hill Microdairy (Andover)  
The Kitchen Garden (Orleans)  
The Little White Goat Dairy (Orange)  
Turkey Hill Brook Farm (Spencer)  
Uncle Edgar's Farm (Orleans)  
Vanguarden CSA (Dover)  
Wake Robin Botanicals (Cheshire)  
Walker Farm New (Braintree)  
Weeweeder Farm (Nantucket)  
Wild Browse Farm (Wendell)  
Wilder Brook Botanicals (Charlemnt)  
Wolfe Spring Farm (Sheffield)