

# 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.D. 369

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

2/05/2015

# ***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.

*For more information: Deirdre Cummings, MASSPIRG, 617-747-4319, [dcummings@masspirg.org](mailto:dcummings@masspirg.org);  
Martin Dagoberto, MARTK, 508-361-0136, [masscritical.gmos@gmail.com](mailto:masscritical.gmos@gmail.com) – [MRighttoknow.org](http://MRighttoknow.org)*

# Legislative Cosponsors

**HD. 369 - Genetic Engineering Transparency Food and Seed Labeling Act**  
**Chief sponsors: Rep. Ellen Story, Rep. Todd Smola, Sen. Joan Lovely, and Sen. Bruce Tarr**

Sen. Mike Barrett	Rep. Michael Day	Rep. Elizabeth Malia
Sen. Harriette Chandler	Rep. Marjorie Decker	Rep. Brian Mannal
Sen. Cynthia Creem	Rep. Marcos Devers	Rep. Paul Mark
Sen. Viriato deMacedo	Rep. Geoff Diehl	Rep. Christopher Markey
Sen. Sal DiDomenico	Rep. Stephen DiNatale	Rep. Joseph McGonagle
Sen. Kenneth Donnelly	Rep. Daniel Donahue	Rep. Joseph McKenna
Sen. Benjamin Downing	Rep. Paul Donato	Rep. Paul McMurtry
Sen. James B.Eldridge	Rep. Shawn Dooley	Rep. James Miceli
Sen. Ryan Fattman	Rep. Michelle DuBois	Rep. Aaron Michlewitz
Sen. Jennifer Flanagan	Rep. Peter Durant	Rep. Leonard Mirra
Sen. Linda Forry	Rep. James Dwyer	Rep. Rady Mom
Sen. Anne Gobi	Rep. Carolyn Dykema	Rep. Frank Moran
Sen. Robert Hedlund	Rep. Lori Ehrlich	Rep. Michael Moran
Sen. Donald Humason	Rep. Tricia Farley-Bouvier	Rep. David Muradian
Sen. Patricia Jehlen	Rep. Kimberly Ferguson	Rep. Mathew Muratore
Sen. Brian Joyce	Rep. John Fernandes	Rep. David Nangle
Sen. Thomas Kennedy	Rep. Ann-Margaret Ferrante	Rep. Harold Naughton
Sen. BarbaraL'Italien	Rep. Michael Finn	Rep. Shaunna O'Connell
Sen. Eric Lesser	Rep. CaroleFiola	Rep. James O'Day
Sen. Jason Lewis	Rep. Gloria Fox	Rep. Sarah Peake
Sen. Joan Lovely*	Rep. Paul Frost	Rep. Alice Peisch
Sen. Thomas McGee	Rep. William Galvin	Rep. Thomas Petrolati
Sen. Mark Montigny	Rep. Sean Garballey	Rep. William Pignatelli
Sen. Michael Moore	Rep. Denise Garlick	Rep. Elizabeth Poirier
Sen. Kathleen O'Connor Ives	Rep. Colleen Garry	Rep. Denise Provost
Sen. Karen Spilka	Rep. Carmine Lawrence Gentile	Rep. Angelo Puppolo
Sen. Bruce Tarr*	Rep. Susan Gifford	Rep. David Rogers
Sen. James Welch	Rep. Thomas Golden	Rep. John Rogers
Sen. Daniel Wolf	Rep. Kenneth Gordon	Rep. Dennis Rosa
Rep. Timothy Whelan	Rep. Danielle Gregoire	Rep. Jeffrey Roy
Rep. James Arciero	Rep. Jonathan Hecht	Rep. Byron Rushing
Rep. Brian Ashe	Rep. Paul Heroux	Rep. Daniel Ryan
Rep. Cory Atkins	Rep. Bradford Hill	Rep. Tom Sannicandro
Rep. Bruce Ayers	Rep. Kate Hogan	Rep. John Scibak
Rep. Ruth Balsler	Rep. Kevin Honan	Rep. Frank Smizik
Rep. Christine Barber	Rep. Steven Howitt	Rep. Todd Smola*
Rep. Jay Barrows	Rep. Bradley Jones	Rep. Theodore Speliotis
Rep. Jennifer Benson	Rep. Louis Kafka	Rep. Thomas Stanley
Rep. Donald Berthiaume	Rep. Jay Kaufman	Rep. Ellen Story*
Rep. Nicholas Boldyga	Rep. Mary Keefe	Rep. Benjamin Swan
Rep. Paul Brodeur	Rep. James Kelcourse	Rep. Walter Timilty
Rep. Antonio Cabral	Rep. Kay Khan	Rep. Timothy Toomey
Rep. Kate Campanale	Rep. Peter Kocot	Rep. Paul Tucker
Rep. Gailanne Cariddi	Rep. Robert Koczera	Rep. Aaron Vega
Rep. Leah Cole	Rep. Stephen Kulik	Rep. John Velis
Rep. Edward Coppinger	Rep. Kevin Kuros	Rep. RoseLee Vincent
Rep. Brendan Crighton	Rep. John Lawn	Rep. Chris Walsh
Rep. Claire Cronin	Rep. David Linsky	Rep. Susannah Whipps Lee
Rep. Daniel Cullinane	Rep. Jay Livingstone	Rep. Donald Wong
Rep. Mark Cusack	Rep. Marc Lombardo	Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik
Rep. Josh Cutler	Rep. Timothy Madden	
Rep. Angelo D'Emilia	Rep. John Mahoney	

# Businesses, Farms and Organizations Endorsing Mandatory GMO Labeling

(over 300 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  
earthitis (New Bedford)  
edible Boston (Brookline)  
edible South Shore (Kingston)  
GMO Free Massachusetts (Chicopee)  
Green City Growers (Somerville)  
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)  
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)  
Cronig's Market (Vineyard Haven)  
Debra's Natural Gourmet (Concord)  
Down to Earth (New Bedford)  
Green Fields Market (Greenfield)  
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)  
ColMax Farm (Heath)  
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)  
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)  
Herbert Honey (Oxford)  
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)  
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 England Wild Edibles (Colrain)  
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)  
Peet's Farm (Dartmouth)  
Pete & Jen's Backyard Birds (Sdbury)  
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)  
Vanguard CSA (Dover)  
Wake Robin Botanicals (Cheshire)  
Walker Farm New (Braintree)  
Weeweeder Farm (Nantucket)  
Wellness Paths... (Yarmouth)  
Wild Browse Farm (Wendell)  
Wilder Brook Botanicals (Charlemnt)  
Wolfe Spring Farm (Sheffield)