

Commentary:

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How a fish becomes a “new animal drug”

Kudos to Rosie Mestel of the L.A. Times for her article on the Genetic engineering of foods and how it strains old food laws by trying to match old laws to new science techniques. Genetic engineering of foods is nothing new and actually began before this country was formed. We are just barely getting the opportunity to have our say on the matter, as it has been quietly monitored and loosely regulated by the government and large corporations. The more I study the more I understand why we would genetically modify foods to meet the needs of the ever growing population, but I am not so sure there aren't unforeseen ramifications due to such modifications. At SafeFoodTest.com we are concerned with the end consumer and their ability to get safe, quality and nutritious food. We have written this article to provide you with better understanding of some of the concerns and drawbacks.

Our founders found a country rich in resources, but limited in food variety due to the continental separation. In the beginning days of our country we sought out different plants and food items throughout the world. They were brought back to this country and planted in similar climates. Then we began to modify these plants to satisfy our desire for different types of foods. Some of the plants didn't necessarily grow particularly well in our part of the world so scientists began modify the plants to help them grow in their new environment. Fast forward to 2013 and we now have the ability to make plants pest and herbicide resistant. We also have the ability to engineer Salmon, yes Salmon. Atlantic Salmon can grow quickly due to a growth hormone gene from another salmon species and are deemed “new animal drugs” and these “new animal drugs” are now regulated under the antiquated Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act of 1938. Cotton plants with insect killing proteins are now an Insecticide in the eyes of the EPA and regulate it under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act of 1972. The same issues, apply to corn, soy and other plants and food items as the regulators twist and turn laws and try to apply them to these new technologies.

It might be time to take a closer look at GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) foods and the laws that govern them just to be safe. At SafeFoodTest.com we will begin a comprehensive study into all GMO foods and potential costs and benefits and we will be sure to communicate our findings. Please forward information or concerns to info@safefoodtest.com.