

Not immune to GM issues

FURTHER STUDIES have emerged that raise contention about GM corn food safety for consumers and which have gained the attention of Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ).

An Italian research team has found significant disturbances in the immune system of young and old mice fed GM maize MON810.

Their report also found higher levels of a cell connected with asthma and food allergies in children.

Reporters stated results indicate the age of consumers is an important factor to be taken into account when evaluating GMO food safety.

In addition, an Austrian study released last November found reduced fertility in mice fed GM corn, relative to those fed conventional corn.

Mice fed maize containing MON810 produced third and fourth litters with lighter offspring, underlining the need for studies to evaluate GMO safety across different generations.

In Australia, FSANZ has reacted to the report's suggestion that similar animal



reproduction studies be included in the safety assessment of GM food and animal feed by reviewing data contained in the as-yet unpublished report 'Biological effects of transgenic maize NK603x MON810 fed in long term reproduction studies in mice'.

To access the research reports visit:
 Italian study: <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/MON810gmMaizeMiceImmuneSystem.php>
 Austrian study: <http://www.i-sis.org.uk/GmMaizeReducesMiceFertility.php>

More meat on non-GM animals?

Research presented by US geneticist Dr. John Fagan presented last November

included on-farm data from the US and Germany suggesting animals may turn non-GM feed into meat more efficiently than GM alternatives.

According to Dr. Fagan, findings have the potential to balance the higher cost of non-GM feed.

Data included information on broiler chickens which needed to be fed 2.55 – 2.75kg of GM feed to put on 1kg of weight, with the same breed requiring just 2.3 – 2.5kg of non-GM meal for the same weight gain.

Original source: The Ecologist, Dec/Jan 2009 www.theecologist.org



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