

Oxford Real Farming Conference 2019 Brexit Marketplace



GM Regulation: what could happen and how can you help?

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GM crops are not responsible, fair or sustainable. They support large-scale industrial monoculture, reductions in biodiversity and a corporate takeover of the food chain.

GM regulation derives largely from EU Directive 2001/18/EC. EU rules require case by case risk assessment and approval, traceability and labelling of GM foods for human consumption. Europe's GM regulation is seen by the US and others as a non-tariff barrier to trade.

The UK Government supports and funds GM crop development, but Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have all taken formal steps to prevent GM cultivation in their own territory.

The European Court of Justice ruled in July 2018 that a range of new genetic engineering techniques, including genome editing, are covered by EU Directive 2001/18/EC and must be treated as GM. Environment Secretary Michael Gove and Farming Minister George Eustice have publicly stated their opposition to the ruling.

The Withdrawal Agreement would see the whole UK abide by EU rules on GM in food and farming until December 2020 and Northern Ireland continue to follow these rules under the "backstop" protocols.

With a **no-deal Brexit**, GM regulations would be transferred via statutory instruments. Some responsibilities currently held by EU institutions would pass to UK bodies and some to the devolved nations. None of these bodies currently has the capacity to discharge such responsibilities effectively. In this scenario we anticipate early moves to water-down GM regulations in England.

Visit www.gmfreeze.org/brexit for more, including:

- Regularly updated summary of what key political options mean for GM plus links to consultation submissions and more.
- Two-page briefing on GM and Brexit, updated in December (or ask Liz for a paper copy today).
- *Don't Hide What's Inside* public campaign to retain GM labels.
- *Safeguard our Farms* public campaign for robust GM regulation and proper protection from GM contamination.

What you can do:

- Sign up for email updates at www.gmfreeze.org/emails
- Sign the petition at www.donthide.gmfreeze.org
- Share the petition and other campaign actions across your networks.
- Mention GM as a key Brexit issue in your consultation submissions, contact with MPs and others.

