



CCOF

Organic Certification

Education & Outreach

Political Advocacy

Promotion

CCOF GMO Policy Position

1. CCOF shall continue to call for a moratorium on GMOs in agriculture. More independent research and regulation are necessary before any more GMOS are allowed in the food system. In fact, there is increasing scientific evidence that GMO crops can cause environmental & health problems.

CCOF shall adopt policy positions that uphold the long-term goal of a moratorium on GMOs. Until that goal is reached:

2. CCOF supports mandatory labeling of all agricultural GMOs and their products. CCOF supports the consumer's right to know, and to choose foods, fiber, and personal care products based on environmental, personal health, religious, dietary, or other preferences. Labeling of GMO seed, products grown from GMO seed or stock, or made with ingredients and byproducts of GMO crops is necessary for farmer, supply chain, and consumer choice.

3. CCOF shall also adopt policies that address the problems the industry shall face as a result of continued GMO deregulation.

- CCOF shall advocate for a more robust regulatory framework for federal oversight of GMO crops that includes economic, environmental, and human health impacts of GMO crops petitioned for deregulation.
- CCOF shall adopt policy positions that lead to a review of currently deregulated crops under an improved framework.
- CCOF shall directly engage in dialog with agencies and Congress regarding GMO policy.

4. CCOF shall bolster organic as the gold standard by advocating for continuous improvement of the organic practice standard.

- CCOF shall adopt policy positions that strengthen the organic standards to minimize GMO contamination & increase enforcement on the prohibition of the use of GMO crop varieties while minimizing the negative impact to farmers.
 - CCOF shall advocate for GMO testing by certifiers as part of the requirement for periodic residue testing to verify compliance and enforcement of the standards.
 - CCOF shall adopt policies that encourage the reduction of testing costs to organic farmers, handlers, and certifiers wherever possible.
- CCOF supports the incorporation of a GMO threshold, for crops that have genetically engineered counterparts, into the NOP regulations at the appropriate time. CCOF will work with industry stakeholders, the NOSB, and NOP to that end.



- CCOF shall facilitate data collection and analysis on the extent of low-level contamination or adventitious presence of GMOs in organic and the best practices for prevention at critical control points in the supply chain.

5. CCOF shall advocate for policies that assign the cost of contamination prevention and market loss to the developers of GMO technology.

6. CCOF recognizes the critical role of seed in the supply chain and shall advocate for policies that secure a seed supply to the organic sector that is free of GMOs. To that end:

- CCOF shall advocate for a seed purity standard
- CCOF shall advocate for more robust germplasm repositories for non-GMO seed
- CCOF shall advocate for re-emphasis of classical plant breeding

7. CCOF shall educate the public and policy makers regarding the environmental and health concerns emerging with GMOs.

- CCOF shall educate the public on the extent to which organic farmers, food, and fiber manufacturers work to prevent GMOs from entering the organic supply chain.

CCOF shall educate policy makers on the challenges to agriculture from trans-gene flow and low-level contamination of organic crops by GMOs as they relate to meeting marketplace and consumer expectations.

