

Is **GMO** Labeling:

Wasted dough or your right to know?



FFA Ag Issues Team Members:

FFA AG ISSUES TEAM

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

1. List course(s) in which instruction occurred.

- Professional Standards in Agribusiness (24 Students) - Studied the economic impact of GMO Labeling, discussed food distribution and sharing of GMO technology with developing countries.
- Principles of Ag Food and Natural Resources (110 Students) - Researched approved genetically modified food crops and the differences between them and their conventional counterparts.
- Advanced Animal Science (43 Students) - Discussed future GM animals which could enter the food supply, evaluated the difference GM crops have had on animal feeding and on resource conservation.
- Advanced Plant Science (23 Students) - Compared and contrasted GM and Non-GM crops. Evaluated the effects on the environment of both types of growth and studied the impacts worldwide with and without genetically modified crops.
- Veterinary Medical Applications (35 Students) - Discussed possible effects of GMO's on livestock through feeds and feeding. Evaluated veterinary stances on the issue of GMO labeling.

2. Why is the issue important now?

In the past three years there has been a dramatic increase in the tension between the two opposing sides of this issue. Recent attempts to legislate labeling in the form of House Resolution 1599, or the Voluntary Labeling Act (H.R. 1599, 2015) and S. 746 have done nothing but fan the flames of an already burning argument (Wenzel, 2016). Previously, 64 foreign countries (Center for Food Safety, 2015) and two U.S. States passed laws requiring some type of labeling of genetically modified foods (Wilson, 2014). Additionally, 28 other states have attempted to pass legislation that requires labeling (Harrington, 2015).

This is a vitally important issue to Canyon, Texas and to the entire Texas Panhandle. The 26 County region of the Texas High Plains is the largest agriculture region in Texas, and the second largest agriculture region in the U.S. Nearly every product in this 26 county region will be affected by GMO labeling. Texas Corn Producers estimates that 95% of all corn grown in Texas is genetically modified (Martin, personal communication, September 2, 2015). Furthermore, Texas Farm Bureau states that 90% of all Texas cotton and soybeans are modified (Texas FFA, 2015). Finally, Texas Cattle Feeders estimates that 98% of all fed beef in the state is consuming a diet consisting of at least one genetically modified ingredient (Heinrich, personal communication, September 3, 2015). The current patchwork of state legislation will make it impossible for producers to label their foods and get each different state's label correct. House resolution 1599 had strong support from industry (Buerkle, personal communication, September 1, 2015) but failed the senate recently. S. 746 passed and requires labeling, but those in favor of the cause say it does not go far enough.

What is the nature of the issue?

This issue is largely divisive. The anti-gmo activists across the nation believe labeling our food will allow them to make healthier choices for their families. Those who produce genetically modified crops contend that they are as safe, if not safer, than their conventional counterparts and that labeling them will cost far too much.

Who is involved in the issue?

Everyone is involved in this issue. Every consumer of food and clothing has a decision to make each day when they select their products. On a more local level, every farmer, rancher, processor, ag marketer, and agribusiness person is heavily involved. The Texas High Plains, a region of 26 counties in the Texas Panhandle, is home to over 51,000 Ag Employees (Ammons et al., 2015) and it is their livelihood that matters in this issue.

AG ISSUES TEAM

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

How can the issue be defined?

This issue fits squarely under the topic areas of “Agriculture Policy” and “Agriculture Technology” as listed in the National FFA Agricultural Issues Forum Instructional Materials (National FFA Organization, n.d.). The issue can be defined simply by asking the question: Should GMO’s be labeled? This simple question has exploded into a plethora of misinformation, pseudo-science, and propaganda which has spurned both sides and left little room for negotiation. Those supporting labels for GMO’s contend they have a right to know what is in their food while those opposed to them argue that it will cost too much and the American consumer will be hardest hit for no reason whatsoever.

What is the historical background of this issue and what caused it?

People have been manipulating the plant and animal genome as long as we can remember in recorded history. The projection of 9 billion people on earth by 2050, producers quickly realized they needed new, faster, and more efficient methods. Below are the dates specifically relevant to labeling of GMO’s.

- 2000 - EU requires GMO labeling, FDA mandates labeling is voluntary in the U.S. (GLP, 2015)
- 2013 - Connecticut becomes first state to pass a mandatory labeling law (GLP, 2015).
- 2013 - March against Monsanto protests GM foods and calls for labeling (GLP, 2015).
- 2014 - Maine and Vermont pass statewide labeling (GLP, 2015).
- 2015 - March Against Myths about Modification started (GLP, 2015).
- 2015 - H.R. 1599 (Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015) Passes the house, preempts Vermont bill. Prohibits mandatory labeling, gives FDA power to deem foods unsafe for sale, describes language labels can use, forbids words which suggest GM foods are less safe than non-GMO (GLP, 2015).
- 2016 - March, Senate version of 1599 fails 49-48 falling well short of the 60 votes needed (Wenzel, 2016).
- 2016 - Grocery Manufacturers of America attempt to block the Vermont law, the law is upheld by federal court (Wenzel, 2016).
- 2016 - June, Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Ka), and Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mi) propose mandatory labeling bill. Requires labeling in the form of a QR code or a website but not direct verbiage (Wenzel, 2016).

What Caused the Issue?

Labeling of genetically modified food began in the European Union as a way to block imports of GM food and keep competition at bay from foreign countries (Bushak, 2015). In addition, those in the “green revolution” began to look at chemical and seed companies as detrimental to the ideal agrarian way of life. One research study, conducted by Gilles-Eric Seralini in 2012, concluded that GMO’s caused cancer in mice (Bushak, 2015). His research has since been debunked and never passed peer-review, but that is all the anti-gmo community needed to light the fire (GMO Answers, 2015). Even in the face of over 2,000 independent studies, the debate has only increased over the past 4 years. Opponents of GMO technology say if we cannot ban GMO’s altogether, the very least we can do is label them so people can make clear food choices.

What are the risks?

Those opposed to GMO labeling:

- Believe the cost associated with labeling will be detrimental to producers and consumers.
- Argue there is a severe lack of understanding and knowledge by consumers pertaining to GMO’s.
- Contend that mandatory labeling bills will put some farmers out of business
- And feel labeling laws will keep food from people who desperately need it to survive.

What are the benefits?

Those supporting GMO labeling:

- Believe all people have a right to know exactly what their food contains.
- Argue that 64 countries worldwide and 2 U.S. States cannot be wrong.
- Contend that eighty two percent of the population would like to see GMO’s labeled.
- And feel that a consistent approach will make it more fair for all parties involved.



FFA AG ISSUES TEAM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Amosson, S., Ledbetter, K., Jones, M., Dudensing, R., Lu, R., Ellison, J., Buerrero, B., (August, 2015). The impact of agribusiness Texas High Plains. Texas A&M Agrilife Extension. Retrieved from: amarillo.tamu.edu/files/2010/11/2015-Agribusiness-Brochure.pdf
- Bushak, L., (2015). A brief history of genetically modified organisms: From prehistoric breeding to modern biotechnology. Retrieved from: www.medicaldaily.com/brief-history-genetically-modified-organisms-prehistoric-breeding-modern-344076
- Center for Food Safety. (2015). International labeling laws. Retrieved from: <http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/issues/976/ge-food-labeling/international-labeling-laws#>
- Conaway, M., (May, 2015). Country of Origin Labeling: All Cost, No Benefit. Retrieved from: www.rollcall.com/news/country_of_origin_labeling_all_cost_no_benefit_comentary-241873-1.htm.
- Genetic Literacy Project., (August, 2013). GLP Infographic: International science organizations on crop biotech safety. Retrieved from: www.geneticliteracyproject.org/2013/08/27/glp-infographic-international-science-organizations-on-crop-biotechnology-safety/
- Genetic Literacy Project., (February, 2015). Call for action: It's time to March Against the March Against Monsanto. Retrieved from: www.geneticliteracyproject.org/2015/02/01/call-for-action-tis-time-to-march-against-the-march-against-monsanto
- Genetic Literacy Project., (October, 2015). March Against Monsanto: Once grassroots movement now big business, angry moms target GMOs, vaccines, chemicals. Retrieved from: <http://www.geneticliteracyproject.org/glp-facts/march-against-monsanto/>
- GMO Answers., (May, 2015). 8 GMO crops available in the US. Retrieved from: <https://gmoanswers.com/8-gmo-crops-available-us>
- Harrington, G., (June, 2015). 2015 state GE food products labeling legislative scorecard. Retrieved from: <http://www.biotech-now.org/food-and-agriculture/2015/06/2015-state-ge-food-products-labeling-legislative-scorecard>
- Lee, M. (April 6, 2015). Would GMO labeling requirement cost \$500 more in groceries per family a year? Retrieved from: www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2015/04/06/would-gmo-labeling-requirement-cost-500-more-in-groceries-per-family-a-year/
- Lusk, J., Murray, S., (January, 2015). FooDS food demand survey. *Oklahoma State University Department of Agriculture Economics*, 2(9). Retrieved from: <http://www.agecon.okstate.edu/faculty/publications/4975.pdf>
- Pompeo, M., (2015). Safe and accurate food labeling act of 2015, H.R. 1599, 114th Congress.
- Texas FFA Association., (2015). Ag issues and current events briefs. Retrieved from: https://www.texasffa.org/docs/final_2015%20Ag%20Issues%20Briefs.pdf
- Vos, M., (2014). It's labeled organic, but its genes were scrambled with gamma rays... Mutagenesis, the new GMO? Retrieved from: www.theepochtimes.com/n3/500-409-its-labeled-organic-but-its-genes-were-scrambled-with-gamma-rays/
- Wenzel, B., (June 24, 2016). Statements on Stabenow-Roberts compromise on labeling of genetically engineered foods. Retrieved from: <http://www.uspirg.org/news/usp/statement-stabenow-roberts-compromise-labeling-genetically-engineered-foods>
- Whitman, E., (March, 2015). GMO apples and potatoes approved by FDA; Labeling not required. Retrieved from: www.ibtimes.com/gmo-apples-potatoes-approved-fda-labeling-not-required-1854280
- Wilson, R., (January, 2014). Maine becomes second state to require GMO labels. Retrieved from: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/govbeat/wp/2014/01/10/maine-becomes-second-state-to-require-gmo-labels/>



FFA AG ISSUES TEAM

DOCUMENTATION OF FORUMS

PRE-DISTRICT AND AREA PRESENTATIONS

*Amarillo District LDE	Frank Phillips College	Nov 4th	@ 9:00 AM	8 Members & Guests
WTAMU Ag Dev. Assn.	WTAMU Nance Ranch	Nov. 11th	@ 6:00 PM	30 Members & Guests
Monsanto	Dumas, Tx	Nov. 16th	@ 2:00 PM	25 Members & Guests
Canyon Community Forum	Canyon High School	Nov. 17th	@ 6:00 PM	75 Members & Guests
DNMC	Palace Coffee, Canyon	Nov. 19th	@ 8:00 AM	25 Members & Guests
Sweet Bran, Cargill	Present at DNMC			
Kemin Animal Nutrition	Present at DNMC			
Adisseo Dairy Nutrition	Present at DNMC			
Phibro Animal Health	Present at DNMC			
Prince Agri Products	Present at DNMC			
Elanco Animal Health	Present at DNMC			
Texas Cattle Feeders Assn.	Amarillo Office	Nov. 19th	@ 9:30 AM	14 Members & Guests
Texas Wheat Producers	Amarillo Office	Nov. 19th	@ 10:30 AM	9 Members & Guests
FirstBank SouthWest	Amarillo Office	Nov. 19th	@ 11:30 AM	22 Members & Guests
Plains Land Bank Board	Amarillo Office	Nov. 19th	@ 12:30 PM	25 Members & Guests
Cactus Feeders	Amarillo Office	Nov. 19th	@ 2:00 PM	27 Members & Guests

PRE-STATE PRESENTATIONS

*Area I FFA Contest	Canyon, WTAMU	Nov.21st	@ 9:00 AM	10 Members & Guests
Department of State Health				
Services	Canyon Office	Nov. 25th	@ 8:30 AM	15 Members & Guests
Consolidated Beef Prod.	Canyon Office	Nov. 25th	@ 10:00 AM	20 Members & Guests
Canyon Lions Club	Cole Community Center	Nov. 25th	@12:30 PM	95 Members & Guests
Scott Stedje, Channel Seed	CHS Ag Building	Nov. 29th	@11:30 AM	10 Members & Guests
Texas Farm Bureau	Waco Office	Nov. 30th	@ 4:30 PM	22 Members & Guests
Texas Department of Ag	Austin Office	Dec. 3rd	@ 11:00 AM	16 Members & Guests
Dan Hunter, Tx Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture				
Texas Department of Ag	Austin Office	Dec. 3rd	@11:30 AM	14 Members & Guests
Sid Miller, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture				
* State Semi Finals	SHSU Campus	Dec. 4th	@ 2:00 PM	30 Members & Guests
* State Finals	SHSU Campus	Dec. 5th	@ 8:00 AM	100 Members & Guests

* Denotes District, Area, and State contests per state and national rules.

West Texas A&M University - Ag Development Assn.
November 11, 2015, 6:00pm- Nance Ranch, Canyon, Tx.
Number in Attendance: 30 Members and Guests



Members of the WTAMU Ag Development Association were very interested in our issue. Their biggest questions revolved around the impact of labeling on families in the Texas Panhandle.



Nov. 11, 2016

Dear Canyon FFA Ag Issues Team,

It was indeed an honor for our ag development association to hear from young people such as yourselves on such a vital issue to the Texas Panhandle and agriculture in our nation. Keep up the great work and good luck this year as you travel across the state of Texas spreading this worthy and needed message.

Sincerely,

Kody Bessent, President WTADA *Kody Bessent*



Monsanto - Reña Warren and Chris Gerber
November 16, 2015, 2:00pm - Dumas, Texas Plant
Number in Attendance: 25 Members and Guests



Mrs. Warren and Mr. Gerber were extremely helpful in understanding the science behind genetic modification and we got to go on a tour of their facility as well as speak to their entire management crew!



NOVEMBER 16, 2015

CANYON FFA - AG ISSUES

MONSANTO COMPANY
SORGHUM PRODUCTION
6043 U.S. Hwy 87
P O Box 417
DUMAS, TEXAS 79029
PHONE: (806) 935-5623
FAX: (806) 935-6423

DEAR MR. KLOSE AND TEAM,

WE WERE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU VISIT AND TOUR OUR SITE. MOST IMPORTANT, SHARING YOUR AG ISSUES PRESENTATION WAS A TREMENDOUS EXPERIENCE FOR OUR MANAGEMENT, EMPLOYEES AND VISITORS.

WHAT AN OUTSTANDING TEAM OF YOUTH, THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT TREMENDOUS STUDY AND PREPARATION WENT INTO THIS PRESENTATION. MANY COMMENTS WERE MADE OF HOW WELL YOUR STUDENTS KNEW THE INFORMATION FOR THE ISSUE.

THE MONSANTO SORGHUM TEAM WAS THANKFUL YOU CHOSE US TO SHARE YOUR PRESENTATION. VERY PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS AND A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR OUR TEAM.

WE WISH YOU THE BEST AS YOU ADVANCE TO AREA AND HOPEFULLY ON TO STATE COMPETITION.

THANK YOU,

Chris Gerber

CHRIS GERBER

Canyon Community Forum - All Community Invited
November 17, 2015, 6:00 PM- Canyon, Texas
Number in Attendance: 75 Members and Guests



The entire community of Canyon was invited via newspaper and radio. All but 2 of the 75 people in attendance worked in production agriculture.



DNMC - Dairy Nutritionist, and Guests
November 19, 2015, 8am - Palace Coffee, Canyon, Tx.
Number in Attendance: 25 Members and Guests



Members from 7 different animal nutrition or dairy companies came together in our local coffee shop to listen to our presentation. We even invited patrons of the shop to listen as well!



Dear Canyon FFA team:

On behalf of myself and multiple representatives in the agricultural feed and nutrition community, we thank you for allowing us to listen to your ag issues GMO presentation. We also hope that our questions, discussion and critiques will be helpful as you compete at the Area contest, and hopefully on to the state level.

It is rewarding for us to hear and see such a fine group of young people committed to promoting agriculture and gives us hope for our future as we increasingly fight against many myths in our industry.

Again, thank you all and good luck in future contests!

Sincerely,

Jay Thurman



DAIRY NUTRITION AND
MANAGEMENT CONSULTING, LLC.

Jay Thurman, MS, PAS
 5600 W Dowlen Rd Happy, TX 79042
 806.640.4020
 Jay@DNMCmilk.com

Texas Cattle Feeders Association
November 19, 2015, 9:30am- Amarillo, Texas
Number in Attendance: 14 Members and Guests



Texas Cattle Feeders gave us so much information about the number of cattle on feed in the Texas Panhandle and how many of them consume a diet containing GMO food.



5501 I-40 W.
 Amarillo, TX 79106-4617
 (806) 358-3681
 FAX (806) 352-6026
 info@tcfa.org
 www.tcfa.org

David S. Baumann
 Chairman

Jim Lovell
 Chairman-Elect

Jason Peeler
 Vice Chairman

Ross Wilson
 President & CEO

DIRECTORS

Joel Bassinger
 Jody Bellah
 Michael Bentley
 Levi Berry
 William Bransgrove
 Roger Clift
 Paul J. Defoor
 Blain Ferris
 Ben Fort
 Jason Hitch
 Tyler Keeling
 Stacy McCasland
 Tom McDonald
 Jimmy Schwerther
 Brad Stout
 Kylan Sturgess, DVM



Canyon FFA
 Ag Issues Team
 1701 23rd Street
 Canyon, TX 79015

Canyon FFA Ag Issues Team:

Thank you for taking the time to present your Agricultural Issue to the Texas Cattle Feeders Association staff. We enjoyed having you in our office very much.

GMO labeling has been a hot topic of debate throughout various sectors of agricultural production, which continuously search for better ways of producing more food for a growing global population. Your take on the issue was quite interesting to watch. Most representatives in agriculture and governmental policy will take a side on this issue, and it was nice to see those stances portrayed throughout your presentation.

Your team should be proud of time and research you put into this presentation. It was well balanced, highly informative and fun to watch. Good luck at your competition. We wish you the best.

Sincerely,

Jayce Winters
 Communications Manager

Texas Wheat Producers, Director of Leg. Affairs
November 19, 2015, 10:30 AM - Amarillo Office
Number in Attendance: 9 Members and Guests



Ms. Heinrich-Allen was so very helpful in understanding the legislative workings involved with these bills. Though wheat is not modified in the US, she was very well versed in these bills.



Producers Board and Association

5405 W. Interstate 40 • Amarillo, TX 79106 • 1.888.60.WHEAT
 www.texaswheat.org • info@texaswheat.org

November 10, 2015

ATTN: Area I FFA
 Agricultural Issues Judges

It was with pleasure that the Texas Wheat Producers Board and Association staff were given the opportunity to listen to the Canyon FFA Agricultural Issues team present the pros and cons over labeling of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) and current legislation, H.R. 1599, involving this issue.

It was of particular interest to the staff that the presentation would tie in this issue locally to our area, which is so rich with production agriculture of many forms, when GMOs seem to be more of a national and consumer-based issue. We believe it is a local issue, thus sought value in seeing that correlation.

The students were well prepared in speech and appearance, and we appreciated the student's answers to our questions, both on the pro and con side, as well as their questions on how the wheat industry views the issue at hand.

Thank you,

Katie Heinrich
 Texas Wheat Producers Board and Association

First Bank Southwest - Management
November 19, 2015, 11:30am - Amarillo Office
Number in Attendance: 22 Members and Guests



Members from 7 different animal nutrition or dairy companies came together in our local coffee shop to listen to our presentation. We even invited patrons of the shop to listen as well!



November 19, 2015

Dear Mr. Klose and the Ag Issues Team,

Thank you for visiting us today and sharing your teams' presentation on the labeling of GMO food products. At our bank, staff wellness is a priority and we strive to provide our employees with information and tools to make better decisions related to their health and well-being. The FFA Ag Issues team presented us with very useful information and cleared up some myths about GMOs. I heard several employees talk about how informative and enjoyable the presentation was. Their hard work and hours of preparation was evident.

Congratulations to these impressive and hard working FFA leaders. They exude excitement and confidence. There is no question that the future holds GREAT promise for each of these young men and women.

On behalf of FirstBank Southwest and me personally, I wish you continued success as you compete. Thank you for visiting us today and please come back any time.

Sincerely, 
Wendy Curry

Wendy L. Curry
 Sr. Vice President

Plains Land Bank - Staff and Board of Directors
November 19, 2015, 12:30pm- Amarillo, Texas
Number in Attendance: 25 Members and Guests



The plains land bank board of directors is comprised of 20 individuals who are all involved in production farming and feed yard operation.



FARM • RANCH • RECREATIONAL FINANCING

November 18, 2015

Mr. Jeff Klose, AST
 Canyon High School FFA

Dear Mr. Klose:

I wanted to thank you and your Ag Issues Team for coming to our office this afternoon and making your presentation to our Board of Directors and staff. Working in the production agriculture industry, we thought your topic of "The labeling of GMO produced food products" is a very thought provoking issue. Your team did an outstanding presentation. There is no doubt the students have been working very hard and have really done their research on this topic.

Please pass along to your students that our entire board and staff thought they did a great job, and good luck in future contests. Also pass along our appreciation for their interest in Agriculture and the current issues that affect our industry, our producers and our customers.

Sincerely, 
 Trent K. Tyson
 Sr. Loan Officer, Amarillo Office

Cactus Feeders, Mike Engler and Staff
November 19, 2015, 2:00 PM - Amarillo Office
Number in Attendance: 27 Members and Guests



Meeting with Mr. Engler, the CEO of the largest feed yard chain in the world, was fascinating as he and his staff had so much information on the GMO labeling efforts of our country and other countries as well.



CACTUS OPERATING, LTD.
 2209 W. 7TH
 AMARILLO, TEXAS 79106

(806) 373-2333

BOX 3050
 AMARILLO, TEXAS 79116-3050
www.cactusfeeders.com

November 20, 2015

On November 19, 2015, we had the privilege of having the Ag students from Canyon High School come and give us a presentation on the pros and cons of GMO's. Everyone here at Cactus Feeders was very impressed with their presentation and debate between the two groups.

We greatly appreciate our local FFA and what they advocate for. Best of wishes to the group in their regional debate.



Department of State Health Services
November 25th, 2015, 8:30am - Canyon Office
Number in Attendance: 15 Members and Guests



The members of the Department of State Health services in Canyon helped us understand the public concern with GMO's and how labeling could either ease fears or create panic among consumers.



Consolidated Beef Producers - Bruce Cobb, GM
November 25, 2015, 10:00am - Canyon Office
Number in Attendance: 20 Members and Guests



CBP is the largest marketer of fed beef in the United States. Their Canyon based company helped our students understand the market aspects to food labels and thier history.



Mr. Klose:

The agriculture industry is full of challenging issues. However, all of them can be overcome with great leadership and minds as demonstrated by the members of the Canyon FFA Ag Issues team.

It was a joy and an honor to host the team at our office. The team's presentation on GMO labeling was quite compelling and educational.

Thank you for the opportunity to host you and the team.

Take care,
Bruce Cobb 
General Manager
Consolidated Beef Producers

Canyon Lions Club - John Barnhart, 1st VP
November 25, 2015, 12:30 PM - Canyon Chamber
Number in Attendance: 95 Members and Guests



Meeting with Mr. Engler, the CEO of the largest feed yard chain in the world, was fascinating as he and his staff had so much information on the GMO labeling efforts of our country and other countries as well.



Nov 30, 2015

Mr. Klose,
This note is to let you know how much we appreciated the Agriculture Issues team coming to our Lion Club on Nov. 25 to give their presentation before our group. The young men and ladies were impressive in their dress as well as in their presenting the two sides of the issue of Agriculture Labeling. We hope to hear more about the tremendous program that the student, you, and your associates, have going at Canyon High School.

Yours truly,
John Barnhart
1st Vice President
Canyon Noon Lions Club

Channel Seed - Scott Stedje
November 29th, 2015, 11:30am - Canyon Office
Number in Attendance: 9 Members and Guests



Mr. Stedje is a seed salesman for Channel Seed. We were fortunate to present our issue from him and learn more about GMO seed technology and yields in the panhandle.



Nov. 30th, 2015



Mr. Klose and the Ag Issues Team

It was so refreshing to hear your presentation yesterday. We need more young people willing to discuss tough issues such as this one so we can solidify our position in technology and the world. Best of luck to all of you in this competition and in life.

Sincerely,
Scott Stedje

Texas Farm Bureau - Coleburn Davis
November 30, 2015, 4:30 PM- Waco Office
Number in Attendance: 22 Members and Guests



Texas Farm Bureau is a great partner with Texas Team AgEd and their expertise on issues relating to agriculture proved for a tough audience and exactly what we needed as we prepared for state.



RUSSELL W. BOENING
President

DAVE EDMISTON
Vice President

ROBERT GORDON
Secretary-Treasurer

ROBERT GORDON
Dalhart

DAN B. SMITH
Lockney

MICHAEL WHITE
Vernon

BEN F. WISLE
Sherman

MARK R. CHAMBLEE
Tyler

VAL STEPHENS
Lamesa

DAVE EDMISTON
Brady

NEIL F. WALTER
Oglesby

LARRY W. JOINER
Huntington

RONNIE MUENNINK
Hondo

BOB REED
Bay City

ZACHARY X. YANTA
Runge

DALE MURDEN
Harlingen

November 30, 2015

Canyon FFA Ag Issues Team
1701 23rd St
Canyon, TX 79015

Dear Ag Issues Team:

On behalf of the several staff members present, I would like to commend the work of your team on your presentation about GMO labelling. This is a topic that is very much at the forefront of agricultural issues, and I want to commend you for choosing such an important topic. We all enjoyed your presentation regarding this timely and important issue.

Many staff members of the Texas Farm Bureau hold the Texas FFA in high regard. Many of our staff have served as area and state officers, or have previous experience as agriculture science teachers. I know that the leadership skills that are obtained through your FFA experience will last a lifetime, and that this contest will provide you with some of those skills.

I really appreciate that you considered the Texas Farm Bureau as a worthwhile training ground for your team. If I, or other members of the Texas Farm Bureau staff can help in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks again and good luck!

Sincerely

Coleburn Davis
Director of Organization Programs

CD:cjg

Texas Department of Agriculture - Dan Hunter
Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture and Staff
December 3, 2015, 11:00am - Austin Office
Number in Attendance: 16 Members and Guests



Mr. Hunter and the Staff at TDA were very helpful and we enjoyed presenting to them tremendously! As former FFA members, their input and knowledge in this contest was great!



December 3, 2015

Mr. Jeff Klose
 Canyon High School FFA

Dear Mr. Klose,

I wanted to take this time to thank you for giving me the opportunity to listen to your Ag Issues Team present their "GMO" presentation to members of our staff on December 3, 2015. These students showed great knowledge in their issues for both the pro and con sides. I was impressed by their ability to advocate on or against such a controversial issue present in our industry.

For your records, Texas Department of Agriculture Staff included:

Dan Hunter- Assistant Commissioner
 Ilissa Nolan- Government Relations Director
 Lyndi Thomas- Consumer Protection Coordinator
 Megan Howard- Marketing Coordinator
 Lindsey Bearwald- Marketing Coordinator
 Rachel Pierce- Communications Editor

Please, wish your Agriculture Issues Team the best of luck in future competitions from the entire staff at the Texas Department of Agriculture. I appreciate their passion for issues affecting the agriculture industry across the nation and our state. The future is in good hands with this next generation of agriculture leaders.

Sincerely,

Dan Hunter
 Assistant Commissioner

Texas Department of Agriculture - Sid Miller
Texas Commissioner of Agriculture and Staff
December 3, 2015, 11:30am- Austin Office
Number in Attendance: 22 Members and Guests



Texas Farm Bureau is a great partner with Texas Team AgEd and their expertise on issues relating to agriculture proved for a tough audience and exactly what we needed as we prepared for state.



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

December 3, 2015

Mr. Jeff Klose
 Canyon High School FFA

Dear Mr. Klose,

I wanted to take this time to thank you for giving me the opportunity to listen to your Ag Issues Team present their "GMO" presentation to members of our staff on December 3, 2015. These students showed great knowledge in their issues for both the pro and con sides. I was impressed by their ability to advocate on or against such a controversial issue present in our industry.

For your records, Texas Department of Agriculture Staff included:

Sid Miller, Commissioner
 Patrick Dudley- Special Assistant to Commissioner
 Jessica Escobar- Attorney
 Tracey Fontenot- Special Events Coordinator
 Linda Ryan- Communications Officer

Please, wish your Agriculture Issues Team the best of luck in future competitions from the entire staff at the Texas Department of Agriculture. I appreciate their passion for issues affecting the agriculture industry across the nation and our state. The future is in good hands with this next generation of agriculture leaders.

Sincerely,

Sid Miller
 Commissioner

