

La Crosse Milling Company issues the following statement concerning the use of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO).

Background:

There are approximately 60 plant species of GM foods according to the CDC. These species are among eight crops: Tomatoes, Potatoes, Corn, Rice, Canola, Soybeans, Sugar beets and Popcorn.

Transgenic modifications are those by which genes and/or genetic material are physically manipulated and transferred across the genus (or Kingdom, phylum, Class...) boundaries. These modifications can not occur through traditional crossbreeding and therefore, must be physically manipulated (by man) to achieve the desired result.

CORN: Of the above stated crops, Corn is the only commodity where the potential of receiving a transgenic crop exists within this facility. Corn, milled at La Crosse Milling, is processed in our South plant and used for animal feed only. GMO corn is approved for use in animal feeds. The South Plant facility is a separate processing building where the occurrence of cross contamination with food products is impossible.

Food Products:

With regards to human-consumption, there are no food products manufactured at La Crosse Milling that utilizes genetically modified crops.

WHEAT: Concerns have been raised about genetically modified, food-grade, wheat products. The currently marketed wheat, sometimes referred to as 'modified', is the result of traditional crossbreeding (through pollination) techniques. These crossbred varieties are not indicated as public health concerns, as these techniques do not introduce new, "non-wheat" characteristics. To date, there are no transgenic wheat crops yet available in the market. Transgenic wheat crops are however, currently being investigated. They are not expected to be ready for public use within the next three years. At that time, La Crosse Milling will take appropriate steps to maintain compliance with regulatory, customer and consumer requirements.

OATS: Concerns raised about genetically modified oats are unsupported. There are no oats available that contain transgenic materials. Information on projects in which oats are being studied for genetic enhancement, could not be verified. Research has indicated that oats are not scheduled, if ever, for study in the near future.