

Docket No: 98P-1194
Commissioner Jane Henney
Food and Drug Administration
5360 Fishers Lane
Room 1061 (HFA-305)
Rockville, MD 20852

3964 '00 MAR 13 A11:41

March 1, 2000

RE: recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone

I am requesting that the FDA remove the recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone from the market due to insufficient long-term studies as well as possible biased and contradictory statement from the manufacturers of rBGH – Monsanto.

Monsanto stated that the Insulin-Like Growth Factor 1 levels in rBGH treated milk may be five times higher than in untreated milk. A year later around the time of FDA approval in 1993, Monsanto claimed that there was no hormonal difference between rBGH milk and rBGH free milk.¹ These two statements don't jive. I would like to know what the FDA has researched into the differences of IGF-1 levels in rBGH-treated milk and rBGH-free milk.

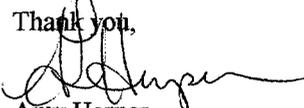
Two British researchers, Resnoff and Baserga (1994) found evidence that certain amounts of IGF-1 both increased cell division and facilitated the growth of cancerous cells in laboratory animals². I would like to know if the FDA reviews studies that have been performed in other countries such as England and Canada.

Professor Samuel Epstein of the University of Illinois, Chicago has done extensive research into rBGH and cancer. He is quoted as saying, "The FDA should immediately withdraw its approval of rBGH milk." His statement is based on a peer-reviewed study in which milk that came from rBGH-treated cows could lead to cancer³. Is the FDA concerned about possible cancer risks associated with an unbeneficial synthetic hormone that is virtually in all of the United States milk supply?

The only benefit gained through the use of rBGH is the increased profits at Monsanto Company. Through all the public outcry against rBGH, the scientific studies linking rBGH to unhealthy consequences and known negative side effects to cows and humans worth the risk to make one company happy. I cannot risk the potential hazards of such hormones onto my family. I have switched to organic milk – free from rBGH. I support Ben and Jerry's food fight against rBGH⁴. I am in the process of contacting my local grocery outlets to request more dairy products from dairy farms that do not use rBGH.

I want to see more action performed on part of the FDA to protect my food. Until you figure out the human consequences of rBGH-tainted milk **I request that a national policy be enforced to require the labeling of rBGH. I urge you to adopt definitive national guidelines regarding rBGH labeling adhered to in all fifty states.** Please respond to update me on your progress to remove or require labeling of rBGH.

Thank you,


Amy Harper
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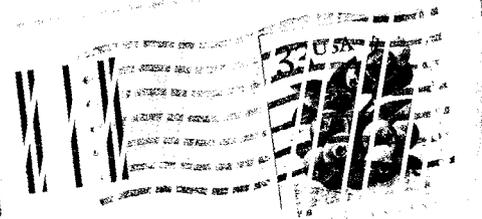
¹ Kingsnorth, P. (1998, September/October) Bovine Growth Hormones. *The Ecologist* 28(5).

² Baserga, R., & Resnicoff, M. (1995, June 1) The Insulin-Like Growth Factor 1 Receptor Protects Tumour Cells from Apoptosis. *Cancer Research*, 55, pp. 2463-2469.

³ For further information contact Samuel S Epstein, MD Professor of Environmental Medicine at the University of Illinois School of Public Health, Chicago, and Chairman of the Cancer Prevention Coalition.

⁴ Visit Ben & Jerry's website at <http://euphoria.benjerry.com/bgh/index.html> for further information on their food fight.

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