May 29, 1999

Dr. Jane Henney Commissioner
U.S. Food & Drug Administration
Rockville, MD

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Dear Dr. Henney,

As one who is always concerned about our environment the item below is disturbing. I hope you agree. Can the FDA act? Will it?

Sincerely,
Don Williams

PS: As for me, I want no part of this type of corn in my diet.

Killing Fields

Scientists have discovered that pollen from genetically altered corn could be killing monarch butterflies in the American Midwest. Researchers at Cornell University found that windborne pollen from corn infused with the bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) kills butterflies and caterpillars. The so-called Bt corn was genetically engineered to protect itself against pests. Caterpillars that were fed the Bt pollen in the laboratory studies died within four days, while those that were fed normal pollen did not. The corn's gene was designed to produce a toxin in its tissues to fight pests that try to eat the plant. Bt toxin may affect more insects than butterflies, particularly those that live on plants found around cornfields that are dusted with the Bt pollen.

San Francisco Chronicle's weekly environmental status report. appeared 05-29-99

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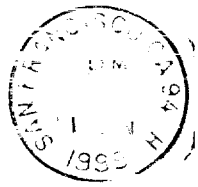

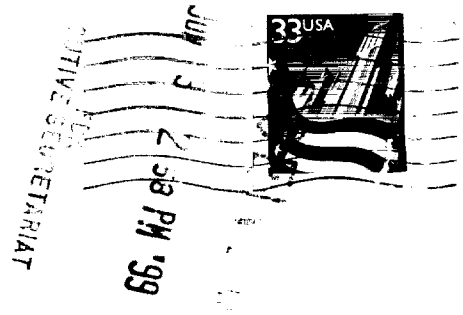

Dr. Jane Henney, Commissioner
U.S. Food & Drug Administration
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