

Opinion: We deserve to know what's in our food

By Andrew Kimbrell, Wall Street Journal

One of the biggest arguments in the food world these days involves products that have been genetically modified.

Consumer advocates have been pushing for rules requiring companies to label foods that contain ingredients that have been modified for any number of purposes, such as making them resistant to herbicides. Recently, voters in Oregon and Colorado voted down measures to require labeling. Other states, though, have approved labeling, and the Food and Drug Administration's website says it has received petitions to mandate labeling nationwide but hasn't made a call on the idea.

The argument for labeling comes down to the right to know: Consumers, the advocates say, should be well informed of what's in their food. Further, they argue, genetically modifying food carries risks while providing few nutritional benefits.

Opponents say that the fears about GMO foods are overblown, and that in fact the foods are safe and bring benefits. So, labeling foods would give the wrong impression that there's something dangerous about GMOs, when there isn't, opponents say.

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