

# Judaism Case Study - Kashrut & Genetically Modified Food

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- Are genetically modified foods *kosher*? Leviticus and Deuteronomy don't say because genetically modified foods weren't invented at the time
  - GM foods are made from organisms whose DNA has been modified by scientists
  - Most Jews don't care, but Orthodox Jews think that GM crops are *kilayim*, or the mixing of certain plant/animal species. Therefore, eating GM crops is illegal in Jewish law. This issue is magnified by the fact that some of the mixtures come from actually forbidden animals like eels.
  - Some people also think that GM crops are an attempt to alter God's creation
- Most certification agencies/rabbis say that GM foods are kosher since the mixture is microscopic
- However, this issue has prompted Jews to advocate to spread *kashrut* to other issues as well like safety/environment/animal rights
  - Many people disagree because it believes that these new environments should not be decided from them and that the government should be in charge of this