Joseph Hakim Humanities 10 Argument Essay 2/2/17

Genetically Modified Organisms, or GMO's, are the end result of artificially forcing genes from one organism to another. Most processed foods sold in the United States contain GMO's or are Genetically Modified. On the contrary, In the supermarket, there is a majority of dry foods that have a label that are marked indicating the product is non-GMO.

GMOs are proven to be very toxic to animals. Foods that are genetically modified (GM) have linked damage to animals organs, causing allergic reactions, sterile and sicknesses (Institute for Responsible Technology). There hasn't been a study on humans with the amount of combinations present. According to Dr. Judy Carmen, "GM-fed females had on average a 25% heavier uterus than non-GM-fed females, a possible indicator of disease that requires further investigation. Also, the level of severe inflammation in stomachs was markedly higher in pigs fed on the GM diet." She says this can also pose a threat to humans because all of the world eats pigs, and if they have a health problem, they can pass it to humans.

Genetically Modified crops are bad for the crops in the environment. Crops that have been genetically modified produce pollen, that is able to contaminate growing crops nearby. The NLM states, "The genetic alterations can cause harm and that modified organisms could be inbred with natural organisms, leading to the possible extinction of the original organism." Most plants create toxic substances to humans, but fortunately, the levels of toxicity are low enough not to be harmful to humans. We are scared that inserting a foreign gene into a plant could cause it to make higher toxicity levels that could be harmful to humans.

On the contrary, Marc Lallanilla claims that GMOs are beneficial to agriculture. He says, "By far the biggest use of GMO technology has been in large-scale agricultural crop: At least 90 percent of the soy, cotton, canola, corn and sugar beets sold in the United States have been genetically engineered."

Another way that GMOs are used beneficially are by harvesting silk. A spider has a gene that helps the arachnid produce silk, so they took that gene, and put into a goat. Then the goats produce silk proteins in their milk. The silk protein from the milk is taken and used for a variety of uses, because of the lightweight, and ultra-strong properties.

Although there are beneficial outcomes to using GMO technology for certain products, the negatives outweigh the positives. Many organizations do not consider GMOs to be safe for consumers. Non-GMO project says that, "In more than 60 countries around the world, including Australia, Japan and all of the countries in the European Union, there are significant restrictions or outright bans on the production and sale of GMOs." Marc Lallanilla says, "In 2012, voters in California were asked if food made from GMOs should be labeled as such. The initiative was defeated — but only after GMO proponents like Monsanto, General Mills, Pepsico, DuPont, Hershey, Cargill, Kellogg, Hormel, Kraft, Mars, Goya, Ocean Spray, Nestle and other industrial food marketers spent millions on advertising to convince voters to vote against the measure.

Overall, there are plenty of reasons for GMOs to be beneficial and harmful. GMOs are used to make cottonn, soy and corn. They are also used to make food taste better, and make apples not turn as brown. On the contrary, they are harmful to animals, such as pigs, that humans eat. GMOs are harmful to plants and crops, and the future growth of those species. Before buying a product in the store that doesn't have the Non-GMO label, consider the facts and dangers of eating those products.