



**DEL MONTE FOODS**

DEL MONTE BRANDS

**Steven S. Balling, Ph.D.**  
Director  
Agricultural Services  
Del Monte Technology Center  
205 North Wiget Lane  
Walnut Creek, CA 94598-2458  
925-944-7377

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Thank you for your interest in Del Monte Foods' policy regarding food biotechnology and its products (sometimes referred to as genetically modified organisms or GMOs).

Currently the main ingredients in our consumer food products (fruits, vegetables, tomatoes, and tuna) are not sourced from materials grown through the use of food biotechnology. However, due to the wide range of products that we produce, and the many hundreds of different ingredients used in our recipes, some minor ingredients may be derived from or combined with other ingredients that do make use of biotechnology.

The use of biotechnology is very common among certain crops in the U.S., such as soybeans and corn, because it improves crop productivity and enables the grower to use fewer chemicals, and to conserve land and water. As a result, ingredients made from soy or corn, such as soybean oil, corn starches, etc. may contain ingredients derived through biotechnology. Similarly, our pet products, which generally contain soy and/or corn, may contain ingredients derived from biotechnology.

Years of testing and scientific consensus by such organizations as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the American Medical Association have demonstrated the safety of genetically modified foods. In fact, the FDA has concluded that foods derived through food biotechnology are the same and, therefore, as safe as other foods in their nutrition, composition and use. The FDA has also concluded that foods from biotechnology do not require a special labeling statement or declaration because these foods are basically the same as those produced by traditional methods.

The American Dietetic Association (ADA) has recently published a position paper in support of food biotechnology which says in part *"The ADA encourages the government, food manufacturers, food commodity groups, and qualified food and nutrition professionals to work together to inform consumers about this new technology and encourage availability of these products in the marketplace."* To read the entire paper, visit the ADA website at [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org) and select "Position Papers"

Food safety has always been, and will continue to be, Del Monte's primary concern. We appreciate the opportunity to respond and assure you that Del Monte will continue to closely monitor this complex issue.

Steven S. Balling, Ph.D.  
Director  
Agricultural and Analytical Services