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This stuff is dangerous

OPPOSING VIEW Consumers need to be aware of troubling health and safety concerns.

Consumers need to be alerted that this genetically engineered hormone is a serious potential health threat to themselves and their families. The industry claims milk from hormone-treated cows is identical to other milk. Don't believe it. Hormone-derived milk is *not* the same; many scientists point out that it is likely to contain more antibiotic residues, bacteria and somatic cell count (pus).

Congress' General Accounting Office has warned that the hormone could lead to "an increase in milk antibiotic levels." Thus, children could consume potentially hazardous amounts of antibiotics just by drinking such milk. The GAO was so concerned it asked the Food and Drug Administration not to approve it.



By Jeremy Rifkin,
president, Pure
Food Campaign.

Richard Kessel, executive director of the New York State Consumer Protection Board, wrote the FDA demanding that the agency "immediately suspend approval" of the hormone because of "significant health and safety concerns."

"It is more likely that milk from treated cows will be of lower quality — containing more pus and bacteria," warned Consumers Union, publisher of *Consumer Reports*. "The milk may also contain more antibiotic residues."

Even the FDA, on its label advising farmers on use of the hormone, admits that it could cause an increase in "visibly abnormal milk" and also could lead to more antibiotics in milk.

We believe consumers should have a choice between normal milk and this potentially contaminated milk. Fortunately, the FDA has allowed companies to voluntarily label their products so consumers can know whether they are from treated cows. Demand from your supermarket written certification that its milk and dairy products are free of this genetically engineered hormone. And purchase only dairy products that are labeled as free of this synthetic hormone.