

More information about rBGH...

We all know our kids could be eating better, but one important first change we'd like to see is in the milk our public schools serve. Currently, the milk that our kids get in school is not free of antibiotics and artificial growth hormones. As consumers, most of us are able to choose whether the milk we buy is organic or artificial hormone and antibiotic-free, but our children are not. The only way to see that our kids have healthier milk is to make our voices heard among people that can make this simple change. Even if you pack your little ones lunch and don't let them drink the milk, there are over 800,000 New York City public school children that drink milk laced with hormones and antibiotics each day.

rBST (recombinant bovine somatotropin) is the synthetic hormone known as rBGH (recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone) that was first approved by the FDA in 1993 and manufactured by Monsanto. It is sold to dairy farmers under the trade name Posilac and injected into cows to increase their milk production. As a result of this hormone, the cows often develop mastitis, which is an infection of their udder, and must be given antibiotics to treat this. Over-exposure to antibiotics decreases their effectiveness when we really need them and leads to drug-resistant bacteria. The hormone has been linked (but not proven) to an increase in certain cancers. It is also illegal in all 27 countries in the European Union, Japan, Canada, Australia and several other nations.

Many business, colleges and hospitals have already chosen rBGH-free products to meet consumer demand. Even Starbucks, Chipotle Restaurants, Walmart, Dannon, WaWa, Kroger, Safeway and Kraft Foods have all made commitments to selling artificial hormone-free milk. Milk produced without this hormone is typically the same price or only marginally more expensive.

To get more information about rBST or rBGH milk, you can go to the following Web sites:

<http://www.organicconsumers.org/rbghlink.cfm>

http://www.psr.org/site/DocServer/Brochure2007_Final.pdf?docID=4521

<http://www.noharm.org/us/nurses/rbgh>

<http://www.gmwatch.eu/archives/23-Not-Even-Monsanto-Wants-GM-hormone.html>

http://www.consumersunion.org/pub/core_food_safety/005456.html

<http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org/rbgh2.cfm>

www.foodandwaterwatch.org

www.foodqualitynews.com