



April 19, 2017

Dr. Anthony Shelton
Cornell University, Department of Entomology
416 Barton Laboratories
Geneva, New York

Dear Dr. Shelton

We (Northeast Organic Farming Association – New York, Food & Water Watch, Center for Food Safety, Consumers Union, Friends of the Earth, and GeneWatch UK) write regarding the caged field trials of genetically engineered (GE) diamondback moths conducted at Cornell NYSAES in summer 2015. We are aware of the trials summary published online (<https://shelton.entomology.cornell.edu/2016/10/06/2015-diamondback-moth-field-cage-trials/>), however this leaves many unanswered questions about the findings of these trials. We are particularly interested in the actual data from the caged trials with GE DBM that took place in summer of 2015.

The reported aims of the caged trials were to a) assess mating competitiveness of male GE moths; b) assess longevity of male GE moths; c) assess the reproductive rate of pest moths; and d) test the suppressive effect of male GE moths on the pest DBM (as stated on: <https://shelton.entomology.cornell.edu/2015/06/17/cornell-dbm-project-2015/>). The trials consisted of ten cages with cabbages planted inside (Waltz, 2015). The trials summary states that the results of field cage experiments indicated that:

- GE and non-GE male moths showed similar longevity.
- GE male moth mating competitiveness was lower than that of non-GE males, but still in an acceptable range and higher than the performance of males in past and current mating-based pest management programs.
- Population modeling indicates that, based on performance levels of GE male moths in these field cage experiments, release of GE males during the early season will result in highly effective suppression of diamondback moth populations.

However, no further details are provided. In regard to the trial summary, there are no real data provided, and no indication of future publication of these results.

Following are some of the questions and specific data we are interested in seeing:

- When are the results of the caged trial experiments expected to be published in a peer reviewed journal?

- When is the population modeling referred to on the website expected to be published in a scientific journal?
- How many GE moths were released?
- How many GE moths escaped? (Did you set up traps baited with female pheromone to attract GE males outside of the field cages to detect if any GE moths escaped the field cage?)
- How many female GE larvae of the GE moths survived to adulthood?
- What is the exact longevity of GE and non-GE moths?
- What is the exact value of the GE male moth mating competitiveness?
- How long did any population suppression effect take to be observed? Additional details about timing of the population levels; i.e., in addition to the initial observation of the suppressive effect were there dips and/or resurgences of populations?
- What was the release ratio (of GE males to wild males) during the experiments?
- What damage to the cabbage was observed due to larvae eating them?
- Were the cabbage in the cages replaced at any point during the trials?

Again, please provide the specific data to back up the trial summary.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,



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