

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRANT No. 372
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

February 5, 2004

Peter Turner
President and General Manager
Monsanto Canada
67 Scurfield Blvd.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3Y 1G4
Phone: 204-985-6964
Fax: 204-488-8064

Mr. Turner,

In the past month since Agriculture Canada's January 9th decision to halt further investment in development and commercialization of genetically engineered Roundup Ready Wheat, Monsanto has stated that it would continue to seek regulatory approvals for this product. This, despite the fact that there is ample evidence there is no support for RR wheat which is clearly demonstrated by overwhelming rejection by farmers, farm organizations, millers, importers, civil society organizations and consumers.

For example, the Canadian Wheat Board has asked Monsanto to withdraw its application for regulatory approval, the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities has adopted resolutions opposing the introduction of GM wheat and to stop further field testing, the organic farmers of Saskatchewan are suing Monsanto for an injunction to stop Roundup Ready wheat, and now the Canadian government has backed out of further financial commitment on RR wheat as relates to the 8 year 'Collaborative Research Agreement' with Monsanto Canada, Inc.

Monsanto's Dec 23, 2002 application for regulatory approval of RR wheat is still pending. This application to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for general cultivation (unconfined environmental release) and for livestock feed. Health Canada received a submission from Monsanto Canada on July 31, 2002 for approval for use in human consumption.

Isolation perimeter zones surrounding RR wheat confined field test plots were initially set at only 3 metres, then at 30 metres since 2001; but it is known that wheat pollen can drift much further still and further research is ongoing.

RR wheat research plots managed by ICMS Inc. have been grown on land rented or leased from private land owners such as the 2002 and 2003 plots at Aberdeen, Saskatchewan in the RM of Aberdeen which is adjacent to the RM of Grant. This land owner was not informed that RR wheat was being grown on his land, and furthermore in 2003 consideration seemed not to be taken of the fact that the land owner and renter were to grow other CWRS wheat varieties around the test plot area and therefore jeopardizing the genetic purity of this commercial grain for sale or seed use.

On June 26, 2002 a key study released by AAFC revealed that seed growers producing non-GMO pedigree canola seed for the conventional canola market cannot prevent genetic contamination of their seed by Monsanto's RR Canola. The study was commissioned by the Canadian Seed Growers Association. Monsanto's RR wheat poses a very similar threat to seed stock contamination for all classes of wheat grown in Canada by seed growers or commercial growers.

Canada's wheat markets have been put at risk by Monsanto's RR wheat test plots and by AAFC's involvement as investor, promoter and co-developer of RR wheat; which conflicts with AAFC's role as the regulator for GE wheat and guardian of our food supply.

THE RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF GRANT No. 372
OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

GM wheat threatens our farms, the economy, seed and food supply, public health and the environment as a whole.

Because it is clear that nobody wants RR wheat except for Monsanto, we urge you and your company to put an end to this project and abandon it now.

We, the RM of Grant now call upon Monsanto Canada to abandon its Roundup Ready wheat project by withdrawing its applications to Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for regulatory approvals, to stop any further confined field research test plots, and destroy all existing Roundup Ready wheat seed stocks.

Stopping further growing of RR wheat includes all AAFC test plots, private land plots and Monsanto's own plots on its research land and in facilities. This also necessitates extensive cleanup of these sites and extended monitoring over and above current Canadian Food Inspection Agency's protocol of 2 years post-harvest monitoring, because wheat seed can remain viable in soil for as long as 5 years.

Monsanto has argued that genetically engineered transgenic crops such as RR wheat give farmers choice. The reality is that they appear to give choice to some, but take choice away from everyone else. This is clearly unacceptable.

Respectfully,

Gary Dziadyk, Administrator
for the Council of the RM of Grant #372

Cc: Neil Hardy, President, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Adrian C. Measner, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Wheat Board
Bob Speller, Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
Jim Bole, AAFC Cereal Research Centre
Jerry Roddy, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Area Seed Contact-West
Clay Serby, Minister of Agriculture and Food & Rural Revitalization - Saskatchewan
Rural Municipality of Aberdeen #373
Barry Reisner, President, Canadian Seed Growers Association
Jim Stuart, Canadian Grain Commission
Gord Harrison, President, Canadian National Millers Association
Stewart Wells, President, National Farmers Union
Brent Wright, President, ICMS Inc.
Lori Johnston, ICMS Inc. Regional Manager, Saskatchewan
Mario Therrien, Chair, Prairie Registration Recommending Committee for Grain (PRRCG)
Stephen Fox, Chair, PRRCG Wheat- Rye-Triticale Sub-Committee