

WSU Policy on Planting Transgenic Crops

It has come to the attention of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS) and WSU Extension that not all faculty members, staff and students are aware of University policies concerning genetically modified organisms, in particular, the planting of transgenic (GMO) crops. In addition to other specific materials, all transgenic plants, vertebrates, invertebrates and microorganisms come under the purview of the WSU Institutional Biosafety Committee.

The purpose of this memorandum is to emphasize that all plantings of transgenic plants by WSU faculty, staff, and students at any location (including fields, greenhouses and laboratories) or elsewhere (off WSU properties) must be approved by the WSU Institutional Biosafety Committee. Others (such as USDA-ARS scientists and staff) who wish to place transgenic plants on WSU property will also need the approval of the WSU Institutional Biosafety Committee. Compliance with this policy is critical for the protection of both our organization and its employees.

The term “transgenic plant” includes not only those organisms that have been produced by experiments in WSU laboratories and greenhouses and elsewhere, but also includes those transgenic plants which have been officially approved for commercial use (e.g. Roundup Ready canola).

The Institutional Biosafety Policy is available at: <http://www.wsu.edu/president/committees/institutional-biosafety.html> and in Section 80.05 of the WSU Safety Policies and Procedures Manual http://www.wsu.edu/manuals_forms/HTML/SPPM/S80_Occupational_Health/S80.05_Biological_Safety_Policy.htm. The Biosafety Policy requires that the Biosafety Approval Form (BAF) must be filled out by the principal investigator (or responsible faculty member for teaching or extension activities), approved by his/her department chair/district director and approved by the Institutional Biosafety Committee before a project is allowed to begin. This policy covers all types of plantings including extension demonstrations, research projects, projects sponsored by a commodity commission, grant funded projects, and contract research sponsored by a company or other outside entity. Non-extramurally funded projects and teaching activities utilizing transgenic plants also fall under these rules.

The BAF with instructions may be found at the WSU Office of Grant and Research Development (OGRD) website: <http://www.ogrd.wsu.edu/forms.asp>. The form is found at the bottom of the page in either .pdf or .rtf format and is entitled: BAF for the Conduct of Recombinant DNA Experiments and/or Use of Infectious Agents.

BAF forms completed in compliance with this memorandum must be submitted to

the ARC office (403 Hulbert Hall, zip 6240). This office will ensure the proper forwarding of the submitted BAFs through relevant administrators (Extension, Academic Programs, etc.) prior to submission to the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Effective: August 23, 2005