

# What does “GMO-free” really mean?



## Ask a scientist!



### Chipotle’s claims about their new GMO-free policy as presented on their website:

(<http://chipotle.com/gmo>. Accessed: May 4, 2015)

- **Claim:** *Most research on GMO safety is done by seed companies.*
- **Fact:** There have been almost 2,000 peer-reviewed studies on GMOs in the last 10 years by independent scientists from a vast variety of institutions all over the world. (<http://informahealthcare.com/doi/abs/10.3109/07388551.2013.823595>)
- **Claim:** *Scientists have not reached a consensus on GMOs.*
- **Fact:** 88% of scientists in the American Academy for the Advancement of Science agree GM foods are safe to eat (<http://www.pewinternet.org/2015/01/29/public-and-scientists-views-on-science-and-society/>)
- **Claim:** *Chipotle stopped using oil from soybeans genetically modified for herbicide resistance, because the herbicides used with these soybeans generate “superweeds”.*
- **Fact:** They now use oil from “naturally” herbicide resistant sunflowers. Use of herbicides in this system has led to far more resistance problems. (<http://www.npr.org/blogs/thesalt/2015/04/30/403249551/why-we-cant-take-chipotles-gmo-announcement-all-that-seriously>)
- **Claim:** *GMO cultivation hurts the environment.*
- **Fact:** GMOs have led to decreased soil erosion, decreased insecticide use, and increased yields per acre. Without GMOs it is estimated that agriculture’s global footprint would be substantially larger. (statements from scientists at <http://www.bestfoodfacts.org/food-for-thought/gmcropsbadforenvironment>)

“G-M-Over it?” Beverages, meat, and cheese at Chipotle are all still produced using genetically modified ingredients or feed.

Quotes by researchers:



How GMOs are made:

