



# StarLink Genetically Engineered Corn in the Food Supply

*Friends of  
the Earth – February  
2005*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
18 Sep. 2000	StarLink corn discovered in Kraft Foods "Taco Bell" brand taco shells. Approved only for animal consumption in April 1998, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) refused to approve StarLink for human consumption due to scientific concerns that it could trigger food allergies ( <i>Washington Post</i> )
22 Sep. 2000	Kraft Foods recalls millions of boxes of StarLink-contaminated taco shells ( <i>Washington Post</i> )
12 Oct. 2000	Safeway Inc., one of America's largest supermarkets, recalls Safeway brand taco shells contaminated with StarLink corn ( <i>Washington Post</i> )
21 Oct. 2000	Kellogg USA, maker of "Kellogg's Corn Flakes," shuts down factory due to StarLink contamination ( <i>Washington Post</i> )
30 Oct. 2000	Japan's Agriculture Ministry asks U.S. government to ensure Japanese corn imports free of StarLink contamination ( <i>Wall Street Journal</i> )
03 Nov. 2000	300 varieties of StarLink-contaminated taco shells, tortillas and snack chips made by Mission Foods recalled ( <i>Washington Post</i> )
10 Nov. 2000	The Korean Food and Drug Administration (KFDA) recalls 14,528 kilogrammes of tortillas contaminated by StarLink corn and asks U.S. to stop shipping contaminated corn ( <i>Reuters</i> )
18 Mar. 2001	Aventis CropScience – developer of StarLink corn – announces that 430 million bushels of U.S. corn are contaminated with StarLink ( <i>Washington Post</i> )
04 Apr. 2001	100 groups worldwide call on President Bush to stop exporting GMO-contaminated food. "The U.S. should not be exporting genetically contaminated food to other countries," said Ricardo Navarro, Chair of Friends of the Earth International and a resident of El Salvador. "If it is not approved for people to eat in the U.S. then it should not be sent elsewhere."
04 July 2001	StarLink detected for first time in product made from white corn (tortilla chips); previously, it had been thought that only yellow corn was contaminated ( <i>Washington Post</i> )
09 July 2001	EPA warns doctor who believes he experienced allergic reactions to StarLink not to eat the corn at a hearing on the matter, citing concern for his safety ( <i>Wall Street Journal</i> )
28 July 2001	Allergy experts tell the U.S. government that tests for allergies to StarLink were deeply flawed, and that StarLink corn is still a potential cause of allergic reactions ( <i>New York Times</i> )
07 Mar. 2002	U.S. judge says he will approve a \$9 million settlement of a lawsuit against major U.S. food companies that sold products contaminated with StarLink corn ( <i>Wall Street Journal</i> )
12 June 2002	A Bolivian group – el Foro Boliviano para el Desarrollo y el Medio Ambiente – criticizes the U.S. Agency for International Development for shipping food aid contaminated with StarLink to Bolivia ( <i>El Diario</i> , La Paz, Bolivia).
27 Dec. 2002	Japan once again detects StarLink corn in shipment bound for Tokyo's food supply ( <i>Reuters</i> )
01 Dec. 2003	Three years after StarLink corn was banned for human consumption, U.S. government still finds small amounts of StarLink in more than 1% of samples tested ( <i>San Jose Mercury News</i> )
16 Feb. 2005	70 groups announce discovery of unauthorized GMOs, including banned StarLink corn, in food aid sent to Central America by the World Food Program as well as commercial corn and soy imports ( <i>Reuters</i> & <a href="http://www.humboldt.org.ni/transgenicos/denuncia_englishfeb16.htm">http://www.humboldt.org.ni/transgenicos/denuncia_englishfeb16.htm</a> )