

**Genetic engineering for sustainable food and fiber production: Separating the myths from reality**

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Many conversations today about food and agriculture include the topic of genetically modified organisms more correctly known as genetically engineered plants or animals. You have probably heard about GE plants, but are there GE animals in agriculture? Why were they developed and are they really needed? What would be the reason a farmer would want to use a GE plant or animal? Are GE foods safe for people and the environment? Are there negative consequences of feeding GE crops to animals or humans? Can’t we just avoid GE? Should we really be modifying genomes? What about unintended consequences? What developments are on the horizon for genetic engineering? These are but a few of the questions that will be explored in a ~ 50 minute presentation by Dr. Ott on genetic engineering in agriculture.

**At the end of the presentation participants will be able to:**

1. Explain how and why breeding and genetic engineering have been used for animal and plant improvement.

2. Understand the basics of how plants and animals are modified and recent technological developments that will offer new approaches to editing genomes.

3. Describe some of the primary GE and their impact on agricultural production.

4. Discuss positive changes in agricultural practices and future directions for agriculture enabled by modern technologies.