



Forbes Advocate

Thursday 3/09/2009

Page: 11
Section: General News
Region: Forbes NSW, AU
Circulation: 2240
Type: Regional
Size: 80.86 sq.cms.



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No GM food concern

Results from the latest (Aug 2009) UK consumer attitude survey on food issues, which interviewed 2,100 adults, have found that UK consumers are not concerned about genetically modified (GM) food.

The results were published in the newest tracker survey in the UK to address consumer attitudes towards food safety, food concerns and other major Food Standards Agency (FSA) issues.

In keeping with a general trend, a fall of three per cent in expression of overall concern about food safety issues was observed in the latest result of 61 per cent.

Within this sector, food poisoning occupied 47 per cent, followed by concern about the quantities of fat, salt, sugar and saturated fat present in food (41 per cent, 40 per cent, 36 per cent

and 36 per cent respectively).

Concern about the conditions in which animals are kept and food prices were both recorded at 33 per cent.

Only four per cent of interviewees cited GM foods spontaneously when requested to identify food issues of concern.

This represents a reduction of two percentage points with respect to the previous quarter.

A similar consumer attitudes survey conducted in Australia by the independent food regulator, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), found that of the 1200 Australians surveyed, only a very small number are concerned about the safety of GM foods and that people are much more interested in the fat, sugar and salt content of their food than whether it has any GM content.