

Jonathan
Schafner/R5/FWS/DOI
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To Jonathan Schafner/R5/FWS/DOI@FWS
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Subject Small follow through on GMO use

The GMO issue has bothered me for some time and we actually moved on it today in a lengthy conference call today, so your timing is good.

Two years ago I informed our farmers that based on the new Biological Integrity Policy that we would not allow GMO crops the following growing season. Sometime later that year Casey Stemler from the Director's Office paid a visit to the refuge and met with a local landowner (and 32 year FWS former employee at Prime Hook). This landowner had been writing everyone he could fighting our reforestation and management of the Delmarva Fox Squirrel. For some reason, after the Regional Chief, the then Regional Director, the Delaware Congressional delegation and several others had all heard this landowner and agreed with the refuge, Casey decided that he would have a face to face with this landowner to "see the issue". That afternoon Casey came to the Refuge and informed us that we would continue the current practice of using GMO's and that additional guidance would be forthcoming concerning GMO use. An interim guidance came out 11/04 stating that GMO's could be used if certain criteria were met. That interim guidance was never finalized and we heard no more.

Knowing the Acting Director's opinion, as stated by Casey