

## Media gets it wrong: There are no GMO peanuts

OLé peanut, a new Spanish peanut variety released earlier this year by the USDA Agricultural Research Service and the Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, is not a genetically modified organism.

“There are no GMO peanut varieties,” says Ron Sholar, executive director, Oklahoma Peanut Commission.

Sholar, in a recent email to *Southwest Farm Press*, said an article released by The American Society of Agronomy announcing release of the new variety was picked up by several “non-agricultural media outlets.” Some of those added another spin, implying that OLé could be a genetically modified organism. “The worst was in [Men’s Fitness](#).”

The article, after detailing the advantages of a high oleic Spanish peanut, added this caveat: “If you’re concerned about eating GM food, you’ll need to be extra-aware when these changes come into affect (sic). Most peanut butter on the market now is made from natural Spanish peanuts, but research is ongoing for several new brands.” *[Editor’s note: Spanish peanuts are not used in peanut butter.]*

“OLé was developed using traditional plant breeding methods,” said Kelly Chamberlin, the USDA peanut breeder who developed OLé.

The new variety offers benefits to consumers and producers. OLé is heart-healthier and has longer shelf life. These benefits result from the enhanced level of oleic acid, a beneficial oil component and monounsaturated fat associated with reduced HDL cholesterol and blood pressure.

OLé will be good for the industry, Sholar says, and the kind of misinformation readily accepted by the non-agricultural media and, subsequently, by uninformed consumers, creates a damaging and erroneous perception that may destroy trust in a food product that offers exceptional nutritional value.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [No GMO peanut varieties exist, despite media speculation](#)**