

GMO labeling could be top line on Sonny Perdue's menu once confirmed as secretary of agriculture

Should Sonny Perdue be confirmed as the next secretary of Agriculture, it will fall to him to end the biggest food fight of the past several years: GMO labeling. Congress passed a law last summer [2016] instructing USDA to finalize a federal disclosure standard for the presence of what it dubbed bioengineered ingredients, and gave the department until July 2018 to get it done. Lawmakers gave a definition of genetically modified ingredients and instructed USDA to allow companies to use a symbol, label or electronic disclosure to identify them. But Congress punted to USDA on a slew of issues, including what the symbol on the package denoting GMO ingredients should look like and the amount of genetically engineered contents a product must contain to trigger labeling — all of which will be left to Perdue to decide.

Screen Shot at PM
Sonny Perdue

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But Perdue will have just 15 months to issue a proposal, take what are likely to be lengthy comments and put a rule in place. "They are being very cautious about waiting for the boss to get confirmed," a pro-labeling advocate said. "This will be one of the things he spends a lot of time on, more than he should."

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: [Perdue's genetically modified rulemaking](#)

For more background on the Genetic Literacy Project, read [GLP on Wikipedia](#)