

Patent For A Pig

The American biotechnology firm Monsanto has applied for a patent for pig breeding in 160 countries. To be more precise, the patent is for specific parts of the genetic material of pigs that Monsanto's genetic researchers have decoded. If this patent is granted, pig breeding would only be possible with the approval of the company. Farmers and breeders are naturally alarmed because these genes have long existed in practically all of their pigs and piglets. Using DNA tests they can prove that there is no new invention in the patent applications but that instead granting this patent would be to allow a part of nature, a quite normal pig, to fall into the hands of one single company. But Monsanto's influence on the patent offices is huge. If the patent is approved, then money will have to be paid to Monsanto for every pig in the world carrying this genetic marker. This has long been the case for certain feedstuffs, such as e.g. genetically modified maize. Many farmers in the USA have already become dependent on the company. It is not merely a question of money however, but also a question of the risks posed to consumers. In America as in Europe, cases of infertility in animals fed with genetically modified maize are becoming increasingly common. No-one yet knows what effects such products are having on humans.



Arme Sau – Das Geschäft mit dem Erbgut

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