

Oregon county's fears over cross-pollination between GM and organic crops unnecessary

The unexpected discussion of genetically modified food in the Oregon Legislature's [special session](#) this year renewed Oregon's debate over GMOs. While most local efforts to ban GMOs were stopped, one in Jackson County will continue with a bill that will appear on the ballot next May. Jackson County's reasoning is that organic farmers face threats of cross-pollination from GMOs. The issue of cross-pollination is not unique to organic food or even to genetically modified food—cross-pollination was a potential conflict well before GM variants came along. There are both state and federal groups that have developed systems to minimize cross-pollination between all types of farms, including between organic and GM. A pro-biotech group, Oregonians for Food and Shelter, says that it will sue Jackson County, whose proposed ban may violate state right-to-farm laws. Governor John Kitzhaber has said that he “recognizes that these issues are complex,” and that they deserve careful consideration.

Read the full, original story here: [Governor's GMO-crop process will recognize complexity: Editorial](#)