

## Oregon has no authority over federally approved GM crops, state officials say

Oregon agriculture officials say the state has no authority over genetically modified crops once federal regulators deem them safe for commercial use.

In a letter to Gov. John Kitzhaber, the Oregon Department of Agriculture said state law allows it to create “control areas” for genetically engineered crops to deal with pests and disease. But it can create such areas only for GE — or genetically engineered — crops that are in the trial phase. Officials say once a GE crop is “deregulated” by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, it is deemed not to be a carrier of pests or disease — and the state loses authority over the crop.

In October, Kitzhaber directed the state Agriculture Department to use its authority to deal with conflicts between GE and non-GE crops, including by creating a statewide mapping system for GMO field locations, establishing buffer zones and exclusion areas.

But the department’s letter to Kitzhaber shows its authority for dealing with GE issues is limited.

**Read the full, original article:** [Oregon agriculture officials say they have no say over GMO food approved by federal regulators](#)