



GMO Ban Upheld

By **Julia Moore** May. 29, 2015

JACKSON COUNTY, Ore. -- A Jackson County judge has upheld the decision to keep an ordinance that bans genetically modified organisms in the county.

What do you think?

GMO farmers challenged the ban that was put in place last year to find out if it was a legal ordinance or not.

What do you think?

Today's decision means the ban is legal, but farmers at risk of losing their crops could appeal.

What do you think?

The Jackson County commissioners say they could be liable to pay out at least 4 million dollars to these farmers to compensate for their crops.

What do you think?

Commissioners say they don't know how many other farmers are out there, possibly planning on pursuing their own legal action.

Source: http://www.kdrv.com/news/GMO_Ban_Upheld_.html

New Bill Could Overturn GMO Ban

By **Melissa Cano** Jul. 17, 2015

JACKSON COUNTY, Ore. -- The ban on GMO crops in Jackson County could be overturned by a new piece of federal legislation.

What do you think?

The Safe and Affordable Food Labeling Act would remove the voter-approved ban currently in place.

What do you think?

It would take the control out of local and state hands, and present a uniform labeling system throughout the nation.

What do you think?

However, this uniform system also removes the labeling of GMOs which many people in the Rogue Valley care about.

What do you think?

Elise Higley, a Jackson County farmer, said: "So, it prompted me to leave my farm and go up to D.C. and talk to some representatives to explain to them why we created this ordinance and measure in the first place."

What do you think?

Higley spoke with over 20 members of congress in a day and a half hoping to make a change.

What do you think?

She said there is much more to the bill than just labeling - it also hurts local farmer's ability to continue to grow non-GMO crops.

What do you think?

The legislation heads to the U.S. House for a vote next week.

Source:

Lawsuit Seeks to Block Enforcement of County GMO Crop Ban

By **Julia Moore** Sep. 3, 2015

JOSEPHINE COUNTY, Ore. -- A Josephine County farm family filed a lawsuit Thursday seeking to block county officials from enforcing a GMO crop ban ordinance.

The suit cites a state law that expressly preempts such county crop ban ordinances in asking the court to permanently enjoin the county from enforcing the ban.

Robert A. White, Jr., and his wife Shelly, grew genetically engineered sugar beets on their farm and adjacent leased land.

The Whites, and other Josephine County farm families that grow crops subject to the ban, "face a real and immediate threat and irreparable injury," according to the complaint filed this afternoon in Josephine County circuit court.

"The Josephine County ballot measure is exactly the kind of patchwork policy the legislature intended to prohibit when it enacted SB 863," said John DiLorenzo, the Whites' attorney.

"Lawmakers established that such laws should be made at the state level to avoid the chaos and confusion created when farmers face conflicting restrictions on agricultural practices imposed by local governments that lack expertise in farm practice regulation."

Source: http://www.kdrv.com/news/GMO_Ban_Upheld.html

County Agrees Not to Enforce GMO Crop Ban While Farmers' Lawsuit is Pending

By **Julia Moore** Sep. 11, 2015

JOSEPHINE COUNTY, Ore. -- Josephine County Counsel Wally Hicks informed attorneys for the local farm family that sued to block enforcement of the county's GMO crop ban ordinance that "the County will stay the self-reporting deadline and enforcement of the ordinance while the case is pending."

What do you think?

Robert A. White, Jr., and his wife Shelly filed suit Sept. 3 seeking to block county officials from enforcing the GMO crop ban which had been scheduled to take effect Sept. 4.

What do you think?

"We're grateful for the county's willingness to stay enforcement pending resolution of the White's complaint that the GMO crop ban ordinance violates a state law that expressly preempts local crop bans like Josephine County's," said John DiLorenzo, the Whites' attorney.

What do you think?

The county and plaintiffs have agreed to a schedule of filings and motions that will allow the case to be scheduled for hearing after the first of the year.

Source:

http://www.kdrv.com/news/County_Agrees_Not_to_Enforce_GMO_Crop_Ban_While_Farmers_Lawsuit_is_Pending.html

Farm Companies Defend Ban Against GMO Crops

By **Julia Moore** Sep. 25, 2015

JOSEPHINE COUNTY, Ore. -- More farm companies are joining together to defend a ban against GMO crops in Josephine County.

What do you think?

On Friday, attorneys for Oregonians for Safe Farms and Families and Siskiyou Seeds announced that they filed to intervene on a recent lawsuit against the county's GMO ban.

What do you think?

The lawsuit was filed by a farming couple, Robert and Shelley White, who say the county's voter-imposed ban on genetically modified crops hurts their business.

What do you think?

Attorneys defending the ban say the couple have had 16 months to change over to non-GMO crops and that other family farms have the right to protect their crops from GMO contamination.

Source:

http://www.kdrv.com/news/Farm_Companies_Defend_Ban_Against_GMO_Crops_.html