

GMO Free Boulder

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GMO Crop Survey Shows Land Use Policy Out of Sync with Public Opinion

County-wide survey continues to see opposition to GMOs on Open Space and calls for Commissioners to keep their promise

BOULDER, Colo. (Feb 29, 2016) — The preference of voters in Boulder County, Colorado on the question of what to do on our Open Space is pretty clear. The overarching conclusion of a poll conducted by Kupersmit Research from February 23-28, 2016, consisting of 400 telephone interviews, is that people are not comfortable with the current Cropland Policy and favor protecting public health and public lands.

5 years apart and voters still favor a ban of GMO crops on Open Space

Today's survey focused on tracking Cropland Policy temperatures with Boulder County voters as a follow up to our 2011 survey on this topic. When asked today whether they approve or disapprove of allowing GMOs on Open Space, 56% disapprove while only 30% approve. In 2011, when asked if there was a ballot election to ban the use of GMO crops on Open Space, 56% said they would vote in favor of a ban and 33% said they would vote against banning GMO crops for use on public lands.

That number of voters who would prohibit GMOs on Open Space jumps to 68% after considering messages we presented concerning the use of GMOs on public land.

Current Attitudes

Similar trends emerge with regards to the current Cropland Policy that allows a 5 year use of GMO corn and sugar beets that are resistant to the pesticide RoundUp. Nearly one-half of voters (47%) want to see an end to the use of GMOs on Open Space, 30% believe the current policy should continue and just 14% believe the policy should be expanded.

After listening to messages that included questions about bees, alfalfa and dairy cows, glyphosate, and local values, the number of voters calling for an end of the use of GMOs jumped to 63%.

Bee Decline

It is noteworthy that Boulder County voters feel very strongly about the fact that GMO seeds are coated with a chemical that is thought to be the leading driver of bee colony collapse, called neonicotinoids, which Home Depot and Lowe's have already called to ban in their stores nation-wide. Boulder's own McGuckin's has also banned sales of those chemicals as well. An overwhelming 86% found this message concerning neonicotinoids to be a convincing reason that GMOs should be banned from Open Space and 64% of those responded Very Convincing to the question.

Other messages gave the following results:

- ❖ Protect area dairy farms from GMO alfalfa (80 percent)

- ❖ GMOs create superweeds requiring glyphosate + 2-4-D (75 percent)
- ❖ Taxpayer Open Space should reflect values of the community (75 percent)

Responding to the recent announcement from the FDA that they would begin testing glyphosate residue on food for the first time in their history, voters supported a moratorium on glyphosate on Open Space at a resounding 67% with only 25% opposing such a moratorium.

Responsibility of Elected Officials

In an election year when voters are holding politicians accountable, it was no less illuminating that a whopping 76% of those surveyed agreed that the two Commissioners, Elise Jones and Deb Gardner, who ran on very public platforms to ban GMOs on Open Space if elected, should keep their campaign promise to vote for that ban. That number shows that some who don't agree with us on GMOs on Open Space, do agree that the Commissioners should keep their promise.

The Cropland Policy has a clear mandate from the voters of Boulder County to ban GMOs, ban neonicotinoids, and to call a moratorium on the probable carcinogen, glyphosate, until such time as the FDA concludes their study.

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GMO Free Boulder

Survey of Boulder County Voters

TOPLINE RESULTS – February 29, 2016
Prepared By Kupersmit Research

This survey was conducted by telephone from voter lists (including both cell phones and landlines) of Boulder County voters who participated in the 2012 or 2010 elections, plus newly registered voters since 2012. The survey consists of 400 interviews, and carries a margin of error of ±4.9% at the 95% confidence level. Interviews were conducted from February 23-28, 2016.

THE FOLLOWING IS A QUESTIONNAIRE FOR A TELEPHONE SURVEY. AN ANSWER WAS REQUIRED FOR EACH QUESTION, UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE. RESPONSES MARKED WITH A (DNR) WERE NOT READ ALOUD TO RESPONDENTS. “NOT SURE” RESPONSES ARE NOT READ ALOUD. ALL RESPONDENTS ARE FROM THE VOTER LIST. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE INTERVIEWER ARE PRESENTED IN CAPS.

Introduction and Screener

Hello, my name is _____ and I am calling on behalf of Standage Research, a public opinion research company. We are not selling anything, I am calling to ask your opinion about some Boulder County community issues that will be facing the County Commission and voters this year.

SCREENER:

1. To begin, are you 18 years of age or older and registered to vote in Boulder County?

Yes	100%
No	TERMINATE INTERVIEW
DK/NA/REFUSED	TERMINATE INTERVIEW

GMOs on Boulder County open space

Today's survey will ask you questions about Boulder County and the Open Space that we fund through local taxes, and the issue of whether the County should allow or ban GMO crops from being farmed on that land.

2. First, how much have you heard about this issue before today? READ LIST

A lot	19%
Some	26
A little bit	23
Nothing	32
Not sure (DNR)	0

3. Would you say that you approve or disapprove of allowing farming on Boulder County open space that uses GMO crops, or crops from seeds that have been genetically engineered? Is that strongly or somewhat (approve/disapprove)?

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	14
Neither approve nor disapprove (DNR)	8
Somewhat disapprove	15
Strongly disapprove	41
Not sure	5

4. Which of the following do you think is the best position for Boulder County open space regarding GMOs:
ROTATE CHOICES

Allow GMO crops on Boulder County open space	31%
Prohibit GMO crops on Boulder County open space	58
None of these (DNR)	2
Not sure	10

In 2011, Boulder County reached an agreement with area farmers called the cropland policy, allowing farms on open space to grow genetically modified sugar beets and corn that are resistant to the pesticide Roundup for five years. These five years have passed, and the cropland policy is up for renewal before the County Commission.

5. Which of the following positions would you like to see the County Commissioners take: READ LIST,
ROTATE UP/DOWN

Expand the use of GMO crops on Boulder County Open Space, including allowing Roundup resistant alfalfa and drought resistant corn to be farmed	14%
Keep the current policy in place as is for another five years	30
End the use of GMOs on Boulder County open space	47
None of these/Other SPECIFY RESPONSE	2
Not sure	6

Messages from GMO Opponents

Now, I am going to read you some statements made by opponents of GMOs who say that the experience of the last five years, as well as new research about GMO crops, have proven that we should end the use of GMOs on Boulder County open space. For each of these statements, please tell me how convincing you find it as a reason to end the use of GMO crops on Boulder County open space.

RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Not very convincing	Not at all convincing	Not sure (NR)
Is this a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not very convincing or not at all convincing reason to end the use of GMO crops on Boulder County open space?					
6. Taxpayer funded open space should be for local use that reflects the values of the community. Do we want big corporate agribusiness with patented seeds and pesticides on our open space, or do we want to support localized agriculture that is diverse and sustainable here in our community?	52%	23	10	11	3
7. GMOs have already led to new superweeds that are stronger and more resistant, and despite the promises made when GMOs were first launched, are directly leading to the use of stronger and more dangerous pesticides such as two four “D”, the ingredient in Agent Orange, on our farms and open spaces.	51%	28	7	11	3
8. GMO plants are used in conjunction with a chemical called glyphosate (<i>glai-fuh-sate</i>), which the World Health Organization recently upgraded to the status of a probable human carcinogen, and which France has called for a ban on in just the past few weeks.	52%	27	8	10	2
9. Alfalfa is the crop that dairy cows eat, and USDA scientists have reported that over one-quarter of wild alfalfa is already positive for the Roundup Ready gene because of cross-pollination from GMO alfalfa farms. Current cropland policy prohibits GMO alfalfa on open space, and we should continue to protect Boulder County’s organic dairy farms from this threat.	55%	25	10	8	2
10. Almost all GMO seeds are treated with neonicotinoids (<i>nee-OH-nicotine-oids</i>), a pesticide which Home Depot and Lowe's no longer carry, because numerous studies have shown these chemicals destroy bees, damage the soil, and contaminate our groundwater.	64%	22	6	6	1

11. Thinking about what you have heard, which of the following do you think is the best position for Boulder County open space regarding GMOs? READ LIST, ROTATE CHOICES

Allow GMO crops on Boulder County open space	26%
Prohibit GMO crops on Boulder County open space	68
None of these (DNR)	6
Not sure	0

12. Which of the following positions would you like to see the County Commission take regarding the renewal of the cropland policy? READ LIST, ROTATE UP/DOWN

Expand the use of GMO crops on Boulder County Open Space, including allowing Roundup resistant alfalfa and drought resistant corn to be farmed	11%
Keep the current policy in place as is for another five years	22
End the use of GMOs on Boulder County open space	63
None of these (DNR)	1
Not sure	3

13. If there was a ballot election to ban the use of GMO crops on Boulder County Open Space, would you definitely vote in favor of banning GMOs on Boulder County Open Space, probably vote in favor, probably vote against or definitely vote against banning the use of GMO crops on Boulder County Open Space?

Definitely vote in favor of banning GMOs	50%
Probably vote in favor	13
Probably vote against	14
Definitely vote against banning GMOs	18
Refused to say (DNR)	0
Undecided/Not sure yet	5

14. Two of the Commissioners who will be voting on the use of GMOs on open space, ran in 2012 on a platform that clearly stated they would vote against allowing GMOs on Boulder County open space when the time came. Do you agree or disagree that the Commissioners should vote against allowing GMOs on open space as they promised in their campaigns, now that the time has come to renew the cropland policy? (Is that strongly/somewhat?)

Strongly agree	64%
Somewhat agree	12
Neither agree nor disagree (DNR)	4
Somewhat disagree	6
Strongly disagree	11
Not sure	3

15. The FDA has announced it will begin testing for glyphosate residue, the chemical used in Roundup resistant GMO crops, for the first time in history. Some have suggested there should be a moratorium on the use of GMO crops on open space until the FDA has released its results. Would you support or oppose such a moratorium? (Is that strongly/somewhat?)

Strongly support	51%
Somewhat support	16
Neither agree nor disagree (DNR)	4
Somewhat oppose	11
Strongly oppose	14
Not sure	4

Demographics

Before we finish, I have some last questions that are used for statistical purposes only.

16. In which Boulder County City do you live? If you live in an unincorporated area of Boulder County, like Gunbarrel or other unincorporated areas, just say so?

Boulder	44%
Erie	3
Gunbarrel	1
Lafayette	9
Longmont	25
Louisville	5
Superior	3
Unincorporated/Other small town	9
Not sure	0

17. Do you generally consider yourself to be liberal, moderate or conservative?

Liberal	46%
Moderate	30
Conservative	18
Not sure	6

18. Which of the following best describes your age?

18-24	12%
25-34	14
35-49	18
50-64	28
65+	25
Not sure	2

19. Do you have any children under the age of 18?

Yes	21%
No	79
Not sure	0

20. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Some high school	0%
High school graduate/equivalent	9
Some college	13
College graduate	38
Graduate school/Post-graduate	37
Vocational/technical college or program	2
Other (DO NOT READ)	0
Not sure	0

21. Are we reaching you by landline or by cellphone?

Landline	47%
Cellphone	52
Not sure	1

Thank you for your time.

AFTER THE CALL:

22. CODE GENDER

Female	52%
Male	48