**Around the Country, Organic Farmers Are Pushing for “GE-Free” Zones**

*Read and annotate* [*the article*](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/01/04/around-the-country-organic-farmers-are-pushing-for-ge-free-zones/)*. Then complete the tasks that follow to support your understanding of ideas and language from the text.*

**Vocabulary**

With a partner, define the following key terms.

 advocacy coexistence concern contamination cultivation

 export impact labeling ordinance pollen

proponent restriction skeptical stance transparent

**Comprehension**

With a partner, answer the following questions.

1. Why do scientists often modify GM crops?
2. Why are some worried about GMOs?
3. Why are GE-free zones desired?
4. How are non-GE crops contaminated by GE crops?
5. What are some unintended consequences of GE contamination?
6. Who bears most of the “economic burden” for GE contamination?
7. Why may GE-free zones be necessary?

**Discussion**

In a small group, discuss the following questions.

1. In your view, what are the pros and the cons of GE-free zones?
2. To what degree are GE-free zones realistic? Explain.
3. According to the article, shortly after passing a GE-free zone ordinance in Jackson County, “the state of Oregon passed an emergency bill barring any other counties from regulating GE agriculture” (page 3). What are some reasons why Oregon may have passed this measure?
4. At the end of the article, Kuzma says “...I think it’s time we had a kind of national, more public conversation about how we want to approach genetic engineering from a societal context, and to have more open and transparent discussion about the issue in which many types of people can participate” (page 4). How, where, and with whom might these discussions take place?

**Grammatical Analysis: *In, On, At***

In small groups, review the sentences from “[Around the Country, Organic Farmers Are Pushing for “GE-Free” Zones](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2016/01/04/around-the-country-organic-farmers-are-pushing-for-ge-free-zones/?utm_term=.c32ed2099934).” Then, fill in each blank with either *in*, *on*,or *at.* Choose the best preposition for each blank. When you finish, check with the original text.

1. It’s at least the eighth county \_\_\_ the country to create such an ordinance, and efforts are springing up to pass similar measures \_\_\_\_ other places (paragraph 1).
2. The Jackson County designation was made final \_\_\_\_ Dec. 22… (paragraph 2)
3. The ordinance was originally passed \_\_\_\_ May 2014 by the voters of Jackson County... (paragraph 2)
4. The challenge was rejected by a federal judge \_\_\_\_ May, and a court settlement – which upholds the GE-free zone, but allows the alfalfa farmers to keep their crop for the remainder of its useful life – was finally approved \_\_\_\_ December” (paragraph 2).
5. Transgenic contamination is “the mixing of unwanted, unintentional GE content with traditional and/or organic crops or wild plants,” according to George Kimbrell, senior attorney \_\_\_\_ the Center for Food Safety… (paragraph 5)
6. A 2008 report from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements noted that contamination via cross-pollination has resulted in losses for organic farmers \_\_\_\_ Europe, Canada, the U.S., Korea, Brazil and elsewhere… (paragraph 10).
7. In general, however, there have been few large-scale studies of economic losses due to this type of contamination, said Jennifer Kuzma, professor and director of the [Genetic Engineering and Society Center](https://research.ncsu.edu/ges/) \_\_\_\_ North Carolina State University. (paragraph 11)
8. In addition to Jackson County, five counties \_\_\_\_ California, and at least one \_\_\_\_ Washington, Hawaii and another \_\_\_\_ Oregon, have enacted similar ordinances… (paragraph 17).

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| **IN** | **ON** | **AT** |
| When to use: | When to use:  | When to use:  |