



Parks and Open Space

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TO: Parks and Open Space Advisory Committee + Food and Agriculture Policy Council

DATE: Thursday May 28, 2009

LOCATION: Commissioners Hearing Room, 3rd floor Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

AGENDA TITLE: Study Session to consider Growers' Request to Allow Use of Roundup Ready Sugarbeets

PRESENTER: Tina Nielsen, Special Projects Manager

NO ACTION REQUESTED

Background

Last December, a group of six Boulder County agricultural tenants submitted a letter to the County Commissioners requesting permission to use Roundup Ready Technology for sugarbeets, a genetically modified organism, in 2009 and future years. The County's GMO Protocols, adopted in 2003, apply exclusively to selected corn products, and state that no other genetically modified organism can be planted without permission from the County Commissioners.

The purpose of this joint study session is to provide you with information about this technology and our open space farmers' needs. There is no action being taken at the study session. By the end of the study session the goal is for the two boards to identify further questions and information needed in order for you to make recommendations to the County Commissioners at your respective June hearings. The FAPC will hold a public hearing on June 18, and POSAC will hold a public hearing on June 25. Both hearings will be held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Parks and Open Space staff has created a white paper that gives background information, point- by-point analysis of the growers' request, discussion, and staff recommendation in favor of the request.

The Food and Agriculture Policy Committee Research Subcommittee took the initiative to compile research that represents views opposing the use of genetically modified organisms. This information does not reflect opinions or prejudgments of the question at hand, but rather is meant to help the Boards understand the full range of issues pertaining to the Roundup Ready technology.

In addition to the white paper and FAPC research compilation, we will show a short video at the hearing. We have invited several experts to join us at the study session; these individuals will be available to answer questions in their technical fields of expertise.

Attachments (available at <http://www.bouldercounty.org/openspace/advisory/posac.htm>)

I: Parks and Open Space Staff White Paper on Roundup Ready Sugarbeets, with attachments

II: Food and Agriculture Policy Council Research Subcommittee Compilation of Research

NOTE: These two attachments contain a large amount of information. The packet information is posted on the Parks and Open Space website—address above. In addition, the Sugar Biotech Industry Council submitted a letter and 19 documents that may be of interest. We have posted these documents on the web site as well.

