

# Questions and Answers: Bayer CropScience's (BCS) Insect-Resistant, Glufosinate Ammonium-Tolerant Cotton (Event T303-3)

In a notice published in the Federal Register on October 12, 2011 APHIS announced its determination of nonregulated status of TwinLink ® cotton (genetic events T304-40 and GHB119). In February 2012, APHIS received a request from Bayer Crop Sciences for an extension of the previous determination of nonregulated status of TwinLink ® cotton event T304-40 to its cotton designated as event T303-3. APHIS regulations state that a person may request to extend a determination of nonregulated status to other organisms based on the similarity of that organism to an antecedent organism. In its request, BCS stated that this cotton is similar to TwinLink ® cotton (event T304-40) and, therefore, should not be a regulated article under APHIS' regulations.

In response, APHIS evaluated Bayer Crop Science's request and the supporting data submitted and agreed that the two events are similar. APHIS completed an environmental assessment (EA) and finding of no significant impact (FONSI) for the extension of the determination of nonregulated status to Bayer's TwinLink ® cotton T303-3.

**Q: Is this APHIS' first granting of an extension of a determination of nonregulated status?**

**A:** No, APHIS has granted extensions of nonregulated status before. The last extension for a determination of nonregulated status was in 2006 for Bayer CropScience's LLRICE601, a rice genetically engineered for tolerance to the herbicide glufosinate.

**Q: How is cotton T303-3 similar to TwinLink® cotton (events T304-40 and GHB119)?**

**A:** Both cotton events were generated through *Agrobacterium*-mediated transformation. Both events produce the same insecticidal proteins.

**Q: What is glufosinate?**

**A:** Glufosinate is an herbicide that controls perennial grasses and weeds. It has been used by farmers in the United States since 1993.

**Q: Cotton T303-3 been field tested in the U.S.?**

**A:** Yes, it has been field tested in the major soybean growing regions of the continental United States. All field tests were conducted under permits, including strict movement controls, granted by USDA APHIS.

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