

## Questions and Answers: Monsanto's Dicamba-Tolerant Soybean (Event MON 87708)

APHIS received a petition from Monsanto, in July 2010, seeking a determination of nonregulated status for soybean MON 87708 developed for tolerance to the herbicide dicamba (3,6-dichloro-2-methoxybenzoic acid). It offers growers an expanded use of dicamba in soybean production.

**Q: What is Dicamba's role as an herbicide?**

**A:** Dicamba is approved for use by the EPA. It provides effective control of over 95 types of weeds, and suppression of over 100 perennial broadleaf and woody plant species.

**Q: How does MON 87708 soybean differ from traditional soybean?**

**A:** It is comparable to conventional soybean with the exception of its tolerance to dicamba.

**Q: Has MON 87708 Soybean been field tested in the U.S.?**

**A:** Yes, it has been field tested at multiple sites in the major soybean growing regions in the United States. All field tests have been conducted under permits, including strict movement controls, granted by APHIS.

**Q: Has APHIS previously made a determination of nonregulated status for a plant developed to be tolerant to the dicamba herbicide?**

**A:** No, this is the first one.

**Q: Why is APHIS making this petition available to the public?**

**A:** This first comment period provides the public an opportunity to review the petition for nonregulated status and provide input that will be considered by APHIS as it develops its ensuing environmental

assessment and plant pest risk assessment. APHIS will accept written comments regarding the petition for a determination of nonregulated status from interested or affected persons for a period of 60 days from the date of the Agency's notice in the *Federal Register*.

**Q: What is the next step following the comment period?**

**A:** After the comment period closes, APHIS will carefully consider all written comments received during the comment period and any other relevant information; any substantive issues identified by APHIS based on our review of the petition and our evaluation and analysis of comments will be considered in the development of the Agency's environmental assessment and plant pest risk assessment.

**Q: Under APHIS' process, what does the Agency do after it prepares its draft assessments?**

**A:** After the Agency prepares these documents, it makes them publicly available, providing a second 30-day opportunity for public input. The Agency then carefully reviews comments before any determination becomes final.

For more details on the petition process, go to:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/pet\\_proc\\_imp\\_info.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/pet_proc_imp_info.shtml)

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