

Questions and Answers: Syngenta's Rootworm-Resistant Corn (Event SYN 5307)

APHIS received a petition from Syngenta (SYN), in December 2010, seeking a determination of nonregulated status for corn SYN 5307 developed for resistance to corn rootworm, an insect pest of corn. These pests cause significant damage to the U.S. corn crop annually.

APHIS is making available for public comment the Syngenta petition for nonregulated status, the Agency's draft plant pest risk assessment, and draft environmental assessment for the proposed determination of nonregulated status.

Q: How does corn SYN 5307 resist rootworm?

A: SYN 5307 corn contains the protein *ecry3.1Ab* that targets rootworm pests of corn and is very effective in controlling them.

Q: Is corn SYN 5307 the only GE plant developed for rootworm control?

A: No. GE corn developed for rootworm control has been available in the U.S. since 2003.

Q: Has soybean Corn SYN 5307 been field tested in the U.S.?

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

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 as the Agency finalizes its environmental

assessment and plant pest risk assessment and makes its regulatory determination in response to the petition for nonregulated status.

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