Roundup Ready Alfalfa: Current Regulatory Status and Required Production Practices

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Outline

- Regulatory history of Roundup Ready (RR) alfalfa
- Status of RR alfalfa Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- RR alfalfa production
- Location of RR alfalfa fields
Regulatory History at APHIS

RR Alfalfa

- 2003 – Petition for deregulation submitted for RR alfalfa
- 2005 - APHIS comes to a FONSI and deregulates RR alfalfa
- 2007 - Lawsuit ruling disagreed with FONSI and reversed deregulation
- 2007 – EIS process initiated
RR Alfalfa

- 2003 – Petition for deregulation submitted for RR alfalfa
- 2005 – APHIS reached a FONSI and deregulates RR alfalfa
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EIS Process

7 CFR part 340

Plant Pest Risk Assessment

Notice of Intent

Public Scoping

Draft EIS

Public Comment

Decision

Yes

No

EIS
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- Contractor selected and detailed work plan completed
- BRS has started writing sections of EIS
- Notice of Intent (NOI)
  - Under review
- APHIS indicated to the judge that the EIS could take 2 years to complete
Under the permanent injunction, no RR alfalfa may be planted after March 30, 2007, except pursuant to an approved permit as per 7 CFR § 340.4.

July 12, 2007 Administrative Order will remain in effect for as long as RR alfalfa is a regulated article under 7 CFR part 340.

No APHIS-mandated changes for growing RR alfalfa

Stewardship plans
  ➢ http://www.foragegenetics.com

Labeling
Location Information

- State and county list of RR alfalfa:

- Call 1-866-724-6408 for more details on RR alfalfa locations
  - For use by conventional and organic alfalfa farmers and prospective alfalfa farmers to inquire about the proximity of their farms or fields to RR alfalfa.

Callers must comply with the following two requirements:

- Callers must be a person who either currently plants conventional or organic alfalfa or plans to do so.
- Callers must be ready to provide the operator with either
  - Latitude and longitude coordinates or
  - Mailing address of their farm or field where the alfalfa is or will be grown.
  » Other types of location information cannot be accepted
  » Only one location from each caller per phone call will be accepted.

An operator will be available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. eastern time, Monday through Friday (except holidays).
For More Information:

- **BRS Alfalfa:**

- **To submit scoping comments on the NOI for RR Alfalfa EIS:**
  http://www.regulations.gov

- **BRS website:**
  http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/brs_main.shtml