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APHIS Virtual Public Meeting 06-27-2013

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

Virtual Public Meeting

Date: June 27, 2013  
Time: 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
Location: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
4700 River Road  
Riverdale, Maryland

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1 Meeting Attendees

2 Moderators

3 Dick George

4 Rebecca Stankiewicz Gabel

5

6 Commenters

7 Genna Reed

8 Robert Wolf

9 Jim Broten

10 Bill Bridgeforth

11 Michael Owen

12 Kip Tom

13 Danny Murphy

14 Barron Brown

15 Bryan Young

16 Damon Palmer

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. GEORGE: Good afternoon. My name is Dick  
3 George. I'm the communications branch chief at  
4 Biotechnology Regulatory Services or BRS, a part of  
5 APHIS, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service,  
6 an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.  
7 Joining me is Dr. Rebecca Stankiewicz Gabel, supervisor  
8 of our BRS Biotechnology Environmental Analysis Branch.

9 Welcome to the first -- welcome to the second  
10 actually of two virtual meetings being held to receive  
11 public comments on corn and soybeans genetically  
12 engineered to be resistant to the herbicide 2, 4-D, and  
13 cotton and soybeans genetically engineered to be  
14 resistant to the herbicide dicamba. Soliciting public  
15 comments is an important part of our process. We value  
16 your input and are pleased that you joined us today  
17 either to make a public comment or to listen to the  
18 comments of others.

19 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: The purpose of this  
20 meeting is to solicit your comments on Notices of  
21 Intent to do two Environmental Impact Statements, or  
22 EIS's, for several petitions for non-regulated status

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1 for herbicide resistant, genetically engineered plants.  
2 The first EIS is for three petitions from Dow  
3 AgroSciences. One is for corn resistant to 2, 4-D and  
4 quizalofop; one is for soybeans resistant to 2, 4-D and  
5 glufosinate; and one is for soybeans resistant to 2, 4-  
6 D, glyphosate, and glufosinate. The second EIS is for  
7 two petitions from

8           Monsanto: one for cotton resistant to dicamba  
9 and glufosinate, and one for soybean resistant to  
10 dicamba.

11           For more information on these petitions, go  
12 to [www.aphisvirtualmeetings.com](http://www.aphisvirtualmeetings.com). This site contains  
13 background information and also links to other  
14 documents and websites. In the past, we've traveled  
15 around the country to conduct meetings where interested  
16 parties can make public comments on our various  
17 regulatory actions.

18           Today, we are holding an online virtual  
19 public meeting to allow more people the opportunity to  
20 comment.

21           MR. GEORGE: We will be taking only spoken  
22 comments today. If you prefer to make a written

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1 comment, you can do so by going to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).  
2 Enter in the search box the docket number APHIS, A-P-H-  
3 I-S, -2013- 0042 for plants resistant to 2, 4-D, and  
4 docket number APHIS-2013-0043 for plants resistant to  
5 dicamba. This will take you to the pages where you can  
6 make your comment.

7           The public comment period ends on July 17th.  
8 You can go to [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov) any time up until that  
9 date to leave a written public comment, which will  
10 become part of the public record, or you can make a  
11 spoken comment here at our meeting, which will go until  
12 6 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.

13           Today, we're here to receive your input only,  
14 not to answer questions about the EIS's. For  
15 background information, please go to  
16 [aphisvirtualmeetings.com](http://aphisvirtualmeetings.com).

17           DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: If you'd like to make  
18 a public comment today, on your telephone keypad,  
19 please hit 1 and then zero. The operator will then  
20 respond to you and let you know when it is your turn to  
21 speak. The automated voice may say that we are "ready  
22 to address your question." Please hear that as meaning

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1 "we are ready to take your comment."

2 MR. GEORGE: We ask that you keep your  
3 comments to five minutes or less. We also ask that  
4 when it's your turn to speak, that you clearly say and  
5 spell your name so that our court reporter has the best  
6 chance of spelling it correctly in the transcript.  
7 Also, please let us know if you are commenting  
8 specifically for docket 42- 2,4-D resistant GE plants,  
9 or docket 43, mostly regarding dicamba resistant GE  
10 plants, or if you are commenting more generally for  
11 both. Written transcripts of this meeting will be  
12 available within three weeks at our website,  
13 [aphisvirtualmeetings.com](http://aphisvirtualmeetings.com).

14 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: The statements  
15 received during the public comment period, whether  
16 spoken today or submitted in writing to  
17 [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov), will be considered in the development  
18 of two Draft Environmental Impact Statements that are  
19 the subjects of this meeting. After we've published a  
20 Draft Environmental Impact Statement, we will solicit  
21 and receive comments on that draft. Those comments  
22 will be considered in the development of the Final

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1 Environmental Impact Statement. After the final EIS's  
2 are published, there will be a decision on the  
3 petitions associated with each EIS.

4 We welcome your comments today because they  
5 will help us to determine what issues to consider as we  
6 prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

7 MR. GEORGE: As Rebecca mentioned, if you  
8 would like to make a public comment today, on your  
9 telephone keypad please hit 1 and then zero. The  
10 operator will then respond to you and let you know when  
11 it is your turn to speak. Again, if the automated  
12 voice says that we are "ready to address your  
13 question," please hear that as meaning "we are ready to  
14 take your comment."

15 With that, we are ready to hear from our  
16 first commenter, so please remember to say your name,  
17 spell your name, let us know if you are commenting on  
18 Docket 42, plants resistant to 2, 4-D, or Docket 43,  
19 plants resistant to dicamba, or both.

20 AUTOMATED VOICE: This conference is being  
21 recorded. Only the main conference is recorded. You  
22 have five questions remaining.

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1 MS. REED: Good afternoon. My name is Genna  
2 G-E-N-N-A, Reed, R-E-E-D. And I'm commenting on both  
3 these dockets on behalf of Food and Water Watch, a  
4 nonprofit consumer advocacy group, for staying  
5 successful for consumers and (indiscernible).

6 Our previously submitted comments outline  
7 issues that must be considered carefully in  
8 (indiscernible).Environmental Impact Statement.

9 The Food and Water Watch analysis of USDA  
10 data revealed that for every 1 million acres of dicamba  
11 tolerant soybean plant, there could be an additional 2  
12 millions of dicamba applied to crop. Even if just a  
13 million dicamba tolerant soybean acres are planted,  
14 that would be 17 times the current dicamba volume used  
15 on soybeans.

16 If 2,4-D corn were adopted as quickly a  
17 Roundup Ready corn, about 1 million acres a year  
18 between 1997 and 2001, 2,4-D application on corn is  
19 easily increased by nearly three (indiscernible), from  
20 3.5 million pounds to 5.5 million pounds in two years  
21 of 2,4-D tolerant corn introduction.

22 USDA must look at the economic cost to

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1 development of 2,4-D and dicamba tolerant weeds could  
2 have on (indiscernible). Farmers face significant  
3 costs from (indiscernible).and increased production  
4 costs. These costs can range from \$12 to \$50 an acre,  
5 or as much as \$12,000 for an average bag of corn or  
6 soybean farm, or \$28,000 for an average cotton farm.

7           Since U.S. farmers have found herbicide-  
8 resistant weeds in their fields, they've changed  
9 farming methods to control them, resulting in higher  
10 weed control costs and even tillage and hand tilling.  
11 Additionally, USDA must also look at the impacts that  
12 these resistant and multiple herbicides could have on  
13 farmers and agriculture. Second, increased  
14 applications of 2,4-D and dicamba will lead to elevated  
15 surface water pollution, which will not only affect the  
16 quality of water near agriculture, but will impact  
17 plants and animals, including endangered species.

18           USDA must consider the biological opinion of  
19 the National Marine Fishery Service regarding 2,4-D  
20 registration and specific (indiscernible), and look  
21 carefully at the individual and synergistic effects of  
22 increased volumes that of these chemicals on non-target

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1 organisms, threatened and endangered species.

2 Next, the volatility of 2,4-D and dicamba  
3 will result in more (indiscernible).

4 (Comments are indiscernible).

5 MS. REED: Thank you for your consideration  
6 of these comments.

7 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you for your  
8 comment.

9 Is our next caller ready?

10 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have four questions  
11 remaining.

12 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Caller, would you  
13 please state your name and spell it for our court  
14 reporter?

15 MR. WOLF: Hello. My name is Robert E. Wolf.  
16 That's R-O-B-E-R-T, Wolf, W-O-L-F. And I'm speaking to  
17 Docket Number 43. I'm a recently retired professor  
18 emeritus from Kansas State University, where I was a  
19 professor and extension specialist in application  
20 technology in the biological and agricultural  
21 engineering department. Prior to that, I was in a  
22 similar position at (indiscernible), which included

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1 pesticide applicator trimming. I began my career 42  
2 years ago as a vocational ed teacher.

3 My main responsibility while at Kansas State  
4 was to conduct an extension and research program in our  
5 chemical pesticide application with a particular  
6 emphasis on novel technology. My research focus was  
7 and continues to evaluating novel types for improved  
8 pest control efficacy while minimizing the straight  
9 drift. In retirement, I have formed a consulting  
10 company, Wolf Consulting and Research and continued  
11 working with the application industry as a researcher  
12 and a trainer.

13 As a part of my consulting work, I have had  
14 the opportunity to work with Monsanto's dicamba  
15 tolerant soybean train team and trained Monsanto  
16 employees and others on the topic of spray technology  
17 basics, including the focus on selecting and using  
18 proper novels for the application with dicamba as a  
19 part of a prescribed weed control system as it relates  
20 to the introduction of these dicamba tolerant crops.

21 For the past four years, the focus of this  
22 reach has involved conducting commercial size sprayer-

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1 oriented research trials involving spray nozzles and  
2 drip- producing (indiscernible) to support this  
3 training, with the most recent efforts used in  
4 resistant weed plots (ph). As the USDA considers areas  
5 of study for the plant environmental impact statement,  
6 I would like to offer some thoughts and consideration,  
7 as well as my perspective on the new weed control tool  
8 Current spray technologies for residual off-site  
9 movement and the application practices available to  
10 make herbicide applications accessible.

11 Some forces of concern include off-site  
12 movement caused by particle drift, volatility,  
13 contamination due to improper clean out and making  
14 applications in unfavorable environmental conditions.  
15 Here are some of my key points.

16 Particle drift is controllable through  
17 equipment selection and conditions of use, such as  
18 formulation, spray tips, and other technologies, wind  
19 speed and direction of application considerations and  
20 sprayers feed and (indiscernible). In some of my most  
21 recent research, selecting a proper nozzle type alone  
22 was shown to reduce (indiscernible) as much as 13 and a

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1 half percent, down to as low as half a percent. And in  
2 some cases, with the inclusion of drip control  
3 additives reducing drip even more.

4           Newer dicamba formulations have been  
5 developed to substantially reduce volatility compared  
6 to earlier generations of dicamba products. The  
7 research is supporting this and to further research,  
8 education and training at this point will be stress,  
9 and contamination will be a major concern when  
10 switching between tolerant and non-tolerant crops.  
11 This will be addressed through proper cleanout  
12 procedures that adequately clean out herbicide residues  
13 from the lining tank and inner workings of the sprayer,  
14 including all (indiscernible) 45 builders, crevices,  
15 drain lines, et cetera. Newer spray systems are being  
16 engineered to improve this cleanout process.

17           Monsanto has addressed one concern of the  
18 potential for off-site movement by prohibiting aerial  
19 applications and other concerns by implementing  
20 specific environmental and equipment applications  
21 comments on the draft dicamba label, including wind  
22 directional buffer when sensitive areas are present and

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1 the use of low volatility dicamba formulations.

2           In my opinion, the U.S. farmers and  
3 applicators are capable and experienced after many on-  
4 site movement. Like any other herbicides off-site  
5 movement of dicamba can be prevented through proper  
6 stewardship, including application techniques,  
7 equipment settings, nozzle selection, and consideration  
8 of the environmental conditions during the application.

9           Equipment and other hand-held tools, such as  
10 Smartphone apps that support applications to facilitate  
11 access to weather data, field crop mass, nozzle details  
12 and other information now exist in this technology, and  
13 its capabilities are being used in fields across  
14 America today. Correct label practices are followed  
15 and growers of various crops will co-exist and prosper.  
16 I believe that in combination with approved best  
17 management practices, including the use of proper novel  
18 type, or types, applications using dicamba will have  
19 the potential to reduce the amount of off-target drift.

20           In closing, the use of dicamba does not  
21 (indiscernible) at 2012 pictures indicating its use in  
22 over 32 million acres of farmland in the U.S. The

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1 equipment know-how and ability to successfully apply  
2 dicamba as a part of the new dicamba tolerant soybean  
3 and cotton weed control systems exist today. Putting  
4 these application details on a label is an effective  
5 means of communicating and requiring these strategies  
6 to be followed. Restricting the use or denying access  
7 to these new technologies, based on concerns for off-  
8 site movement because it may not be controlled or  
9 labeled formulations may not be successfully applied  
10 (indiscernible) exaggeration are a huge disservice to  
11 the farmers who I understand the USDA is representing.

12 Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

13 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you for your  
14 comment.

15 MR. GEORGE: Robert, thanks so much for your  
16 comment. We have another commenter who is ready to  
17 come on the line. So we'll pause for that caller.

18 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have three questions  
19 remaining.

20 MR. GEORGE: Please say your name and spell  
21 your name. Let us know if you're commenting on Docket  
22 42 regarding 2,4-D or 43 regarding dicamba. And please

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1 go ahead, caller.

2 MR. BROTEN: My name is Jim Broten, J-I-M, B-  
3 R-O-T-E-N, and I'm calling in on 43. I want to thank  
4 you for a chance to comment today. I'm a third  
5 generational farmer, and my sons, we operate a farm in  
6 (indiscernible), producing corn, soybeans, wheat, as  
7 well as beef, (indiscernible), barley, (indiscernible)  
8 sunflowers and potatoes. I've been involved with  
9 (indiscernible) all my life, and put in my first crop  
10 in 1964. I'm a past chairman of U.S. Grains Council,  
11 past chairman of American (indiscernible) Council, a  
12 member of the (indiscernible) Grain Growers  
13 Association. I'm very active in community affairs.

14 I just want to comment that in spite of the,  
15 problems with weeds (indiscernible), including  
16 (indiscernible). These weeds compete with our crops  
17 for (indiscernible), water, and (indiscernible), and  
18 they hurt our fields. If left without effective  
19 control, these weeds can decrease our (indiscernible).

20 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Caller, thank you for  
21 your comments.

22 MR. BROTEN: Thank you.

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1 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: We have another  
2 caller on the line.

3 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have two questions  
4 remaining.

5 MR. GEORGE: Next caller, you can please go  
6 ahead and give us your name. Spell your name, please,  
7 and let us know which docket you're commenting on.  
8 Please go ahead.

9 MR. BRIDGEFORTH: My name is Bill  
10 Bridgeforth, B-I-L-L, B-R-I-D-G-E-F-O-R-T-H. I'm from  
11 Tanner, Alabama. I'm a fifth generation cotton, corn  
12 and soybean farmer. And I'm calling to talk about the  
13 dicamba for cotton and soybeans. And also in addition  
14 to being a farmer, I'm chairman of the National Black  
15 Growers Council. The Growers Council consist of four  
16 fine African American farms, some of the best farms in  
17 the country, in my opinion. The mission of the  
18 National Black Growers Council is to improve the  
19 efficiency and profitability of the existing  
20 (indiscernible) farms.

21 I was saying, we produce cotton and soybeans  
22 on our farm. And the pigweed problem has become a very

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1 serious issue for us. This year, pigweed threatens our  
2 profitability. It could take the whole farm, just that  
3 one weed alone. We do have -- each year, we'll have  
4 some areas of our farm where the technologies that  
5 we're using now and the chemicals we're using, they  
6 just do not work. And we'll have to abandon those  
7 crops. It's not a large percentage of the acres, but  
8 we do have it. It does happen.

9           Without another mode of action on the  
10 pigweed, we're going to see more and more of this --  
11 we're just going to have to start -- we're going to  
12 start seeing more acres that will have to be amended  
13 because the pigweed is just taking over.

14           And so I believe that the dicamba technology  
15 in cotton and soybeans on our farm is going to be very  
16 important. We're already using all the technology and  
17 precision. All the tools out there that can help us be  
18 better farmers, we're using them. And we just think  
19 that the approval of dicamba cotton and soybeans will  
20 keep us on track to being good farmers with a high  
21 level of productivity.

22           Thank you for the opportunity to offer these

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1 comments.

2 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you very much  
3 for your comment. I believe we have another caller on  
4 the line.

5 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have two questions  
6 remaining.

7 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Caller, if you could  
8 state your name and spell your name for the court  
9 reporter.

10 DR. OWEN: This is Michael Owen, M-I-C-H-A-E-  
11 L, O-W-E-N. I am an extension weed scientist and  
12 university professor at Iowa State University with  
13 responsibilities in weed management. I have been an  
14 extension or associated with weed management for about  
15 45 years. I would like to suggest a couple of things.  
16 First of all, that as the previous speaker indicated,  
17 growers not just in the south or the Delta, or in the  
18 Midwest, need as many tools to manage weeds as possible  
19 Weeds represent the most important, most prolific and  
20 most consistent pest complex that causes reductions in  
21 yields and profitability throughout the world. And  
22 having new tools to help manage those pests are

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1   incredibly important.

2           A comment was made earlier that the de-  
3 registration or deregulation of these traits -- and I  
4 am speaking both to Docket 42 and to Docket 43. The  
5 statement was made that there will be an increased use  
6 of these two herbicides, dicamba and 2,4-D. I would  
7 look back not that far in history where 2,4-D/dicamba  
8 was the most prevalent herbicide treatment used in corn  
9 production across the United States. And thus, I do  
10 not see that this change in the technology is going to  
11 dramatically change how over the history these two  
12 herbicides have been used.

13           Importantly, I would also point out that the  
14 concern for the EIS reflects the concern for evolved  
15 resistance to these herbicides. The fact is that these  
16 herbicides represent no more greater risk than any  
17 other herbicide in whether or not they will select for  
18 herbicide resistant weed biophyte. It is the decision  
19 on how those herbicides are used and the management  
20 practices that dictate the level of selection pressure  
21 and the likelihood of herbicide resistant weeds.

22           The truth is that there are already some

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1 leaves that evolve resistance to dicamba and some  
2 leaves that evolve resistant to 2,4D. The manner by  
3 which the companies are prescribing the use of these  
4 new technologies and the concomitant use of these  
5 herbicides to such that selection pressure by their  
6 rules will be reduced significantly; and thus in my  
7 opinion, reduce the probability that new leaves will  
8 indeed be selected and have the training for resistance  
9 to either 2,4-D or dicamba.

10           The other point is that we talk about these  
11 concerns about volatilization. And again, the new  
12 formulations of the 2,4-D and of the dicamba are such  
13 that volatilization potential is minimized. It's not  
14 eliminated but if you significantly minimize -- and  
15 once again, it is the decision as to how these  
16 herbicides are applied, as Dr. Wolf explained, will  
17 determine the risk of all target movement, based on the  
18 stewardship programs that the companies are placing in  
19 effect in anticipation of deregulation. My sense is  
20 that the potential for off- target movement of these  
21 herbicides has been managed very effectively.

22           The other comment that was made is that if

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1 these trades were deregulated, that we will lose  
2 opportunities for conservation tillage. The fact  
3 remains that these products specifically do support the  
4 success of conservation tillage in all row crops that  
5 form the soybean and the cotton, where these new  
6 genetically-engineered traits will be sold and these  
7 herbicides will be used.

8           The final point that I want to make is that  
9 it was suggested that. But the final point that I want  
10 to make is that it was suggested that herbicides are  
11 now a major problem with regard to how widely they are  
12 used and how other alternative strategies have been  
13 compromised as a result of the ubiquitous use of  
14 herbicides. This is not new. This has been an  
15 agricultural fact over 40 years. And so, I do not see  
16 where the deregulation of the corn, cotton and  
17 soybeans, with traits for either 2,4-D or dicamba is  
18 dramatically going to change. The amount of herbicides  
19 or the acres of herbicides treated crops, will occur.

20           I think that in fact, the industry has  
21 learned from their historical efforts with developing  
22 products and having them cause selection pressure

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1 resulting in herbicide resistance. There's historical  
2 knowledge, and they're putting this into practice with  
3 the stewardship programs that they now are beginning to  
4 up into place. I think this will change grower  
5 behavior. And by changing grower behavior the  
6 potential negative consequences of these new  
7 genetically engineered crops or the use of either 2,4-D  
8 or dicamba will be minimized. Thank you.

9 MR. GEORGE: Michael, thank you so much for  
10 your comment. And I see that we have another commenter  
11 ready to comment.

12 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have three questions  
13 remaining.

14 MR. GEORGE: Caller, would you please give us  
15 your name. Spell your name, let us know if you're  
16 commenting Docket 42 for plants resistant to 2,4-D or  
17 Docket 43, plants resistant to dicamba. Please go  
18 ahead.

19 MR. TOM: Good afternoon.

20 MR. GEORGE: Good afternoon. Please go  
21 ahead.

22 MR. TOM: Good afternoon. Can you hear me?

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1 MR. GEORGE: Yes, we sure can.

2 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Yes, we can.

3 MR. TOM: Okay. I'm sorry. I didn't get the  
4 prompt on this end to speak, so I apologize for the  
5 delay. My name is Kip Tom from Tom Farms in Leesburg,  
6 Indiana. I care to comment on Docket 42 and 43 this  
7 afternoon.

8 MR. GEORGE: Kip, could you please say and  
9 spell your name for us, please.

10 MR. TOM: My name is Kip Tom, spelled K-I-P,  
11 last name Tom, T-O-M.

12 MR. GEORGE: Thank you. Go ahead.

13 MR. TOM: Well, I'd like to comment on Docket  
14 42 and 43. But before I do that, I want to qualify who  
15 I am and who I represent. I am one of the members of a  
16 family farm, in an eighth generation operating in the  
17 soils of northern Indiana, farming today with three of  
18 my children and my sister, and my two parents who are  
19 in their eighties. Our family fell here in 1837, 175  
20 years ago, farming on those same soils. Today, we're  
21 operating about 20,000 acres here in the U.S. and  
22 another 4,000 in Argentina.

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1           This is nothing new to us. We've experienced  
2 a lot of -- in Argentina as well, so we're not  
3 surprised we're seeing some of it here. And when I say  
4 that, I'm talking about the (indiscernible). Well,  
5 I've got to tell you that on May 10th of this year,  
6 USDA took an action-oriented step by delaying the  
7 regulatory approval of the dicamba tolerant  
8 technologies for corn and soybeans and the 2,4-D  
9 tolerant technologies for soybeans and corn from Dow,  
10 requiring an environmental impact statement.

11           This move threaten, though, severe delays to  
12 the Farmers Act, that's multiple weed control  
13 technology across three major U.S. crops: corn,  
14 cotton, and soybeans. These technologies have been  
15 under USDA for approximately three years, a timeline  
16 that is already much longer than expected. And now the  
17 USDA is initiating a process that's taken as long as  
18 four years, when I think about Roundup Ready alfalfa in  
19 the past. Unacceptable.

20           USDA's stated purposes for the EIS revolves  
21 around stewardship of chemistry herbicide-resistant  
22 weed and (indiscernible), which is EPA's goal as

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1 determined by Congress decades ago and upheld in  
2 federal courts as recent as last month, the Ninth  
3 Circuit Court of Appeals ruling on Roundup Ready  
4 alfalfa. USDA has no legal authority to regulate these  
5 matters, and it's hurting farmers with delays, while it  
6 takes this overreaching step.

7           These traits already have been approved by  
8 the Canadian government for the Canadian soybean  
9 farmer. This is bad enough, but further delays may  
10 result in Argentina and South American governments also  
11 close to approving these technologies. If it delays  
12 another three years, it's going to put the U.S. way  
13 behind most other countries and access to these  
14 technologies to address an issue that we have today.

15           Continued delays and lack of predictability  
16 in USDA's process hinders innovation and creates  
17 insurmountable barriers to entry for a variety of new  
18 tools and competitive product choices that would  
19 benefit all of us in U.S. agriculture and our consumers  
20 globally. The impact of U.S. delays are potentially not  
21 deregulating these technologies on our farm and our  
22 communities, and the U.S. farmer's ability to compete

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1 for supplies and growing global markets. We all know  
2 the numbers. Today we're feeding 7 billion people, and  
3 we're on the pathway to feed 9 billion people by the  
4 year 2050, a big job to do, especially when we have to  
5 face some of the challenges we do in these regulatory  
6 processes.

7           This technology is critical to allow  
8 successful over-the-top control broadleaf weeds, crops  
9 and soybeans, cotton and corn. Several broadleaf weed  
10 species, such as palmer amaranth, waterhemp, and  
11 (indiscernible) must be controlled with a limited set  
12 of tools, including tillage and other less effective  
13 chemistries that also face the same resistant issues,  
14 and (indiscernible), and farmers are forced to  
15 (indiscernible).

16           The weeds are only on USA (indiscernible),  
17 but will continue to get worse as a great cost to  
18 farmers and consumers who benefit from the  
19 productivity. Failure to deploy multiple tools for the  
20 sake of diversifying management by farmers result in  
21 the development of resistance to one herbicides at a  
22 time, which can lead to multiple herbicide resistance

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1 evolving. When a new tool finally gets approved, all  
2 the pressure's on it.

3           If major global competitors have access to  
4 this technology and U.S. farmers do not, it will hurt  
5 global competitors, exports, and economic value. This  
6 is very important in all American agriculture to see if  
7 this gets moved forward. If U.S. gives up leadership  
8 in these important technologies, it will be a major  
9 setback in reaching the critical goal of growing  
10 production to meet the demand of a growing and hungry  
11 population on planet earth.

12           U.S. farmers already manage these tools and  
13 many others responsibly. Although it is EPA's job to  
14 regulate matters related to chemistry, USDA should know  
15 that farmers use herbicides responsibly and understand  
16 the risk of careless misuse. Farmers and applicators  
17 who use these tools are highly sophisticated. These  
18 have to be in order to stay in business. Awareness and  
19 compliance with labels is higher than ever as the  
20 applicator training and experience. The sophistication  
21 of application equipment, safety features, and GIS  
22 systems is far beyond what most of the public,

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1 including regulators, ever experienced in their  
2 vehicles, offices, or Smartphone apps. As it relates  
3 to herbicide resistance, farmers have rapidly adopted  
4 diverse weed management programs that put more weight  
5 on multiple herbicides, tillage and cultural practices  
6 and one herbicide. This has been the (indiscernible)  
7 neglect of safe resistance.

8           These new tools are critical of broadleaf  
9 control that do not provide the full strength and  
10 control of (indiscernible) or even the same timing  
11 flexibility, not effective in all tall weeds. It is  
12 impossible for a farmer to rely exclusively on them the  
13 way glyphosate (indiscernible) was often used for many  
14 years, which leads to resistant weeds. After decades  
15 of use on hundreds of millions of acres over time,  
16 there are very few weed resistance to these  
17 chemistries.

18           As it relates to drip and off-site movement,  
19 these chemistries are very familiar to farmers who have  
20 used them over the last several decades. In 2012, over  
21 30 million acres of U.S. crop (indiscernible) was  
22 treated with dicamba. A large crop market was done.

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1 Farmers and applicators are eager to use the new  
2 formulation and technologies to reduce any drip on off-  
3 site movement. This is motivated by a good neighbor  
4 stewardship, inherent to agriculture as well as  
5 financial motives that (indiscernible) costly damage.

6 In conclusion, many farmers who grow  
7 sensitive crops and specialty crops also grow row  
8 crops, and benefit from the use of herbicide tolerant  
9 technologies. This is more mutual need to understanding  
10 and stewardship than (indiscernible) between different  
11 crop types, as most farmers produce a variety of crops  
12 for economic and agronomic reasons. This is not about  
13 a soybean farmer and a vegetable farmer, or a cotton  
14 farmer and a soybean farmer. It's about farmers and  
15 farmers.

16 I hope that my comments paint a clear picture  
17 for our needs here in rural agriculture. But we need  
18 this technology today because the problem is becoming  
19 more evident each and every year we wait. Thank you.

20 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you for your  
21 comment. I believe we have another commenter on the  
22 line.

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1           AUTOMATED VOICE: You have two questions  
2 remaining.

3           MR. MURPHY: Good afternoon. This is Danny  
4 Murphy. I'm the president of the American Soybean  
5 Association this year, and I'd like to comment on both  
6 products.

7           DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Would you please  
8 spell your name for the court reporter?

9           MR. MURPHY: Danny Murphy, D-A-N-N-Y,  
10 M-U-R-P-H-Y.

11          DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you. You can  
12 go ahead with your comment now, please.

13          MR. MURPHY: Okay. Thank you. As I've  
14 traveled around the country speaking to the soybean  
15 farmers this year, I continually hear the story of  
16 farmers having to deal with resistance to mainly palmer  
17 amaranth, and their frustration and desire for these  
18 new chemicals to be able to help combat that  
19 resistance. Many of those farmers have adopted no-till  
20 practices. They're comfortable with those, but their  
21 only alternative at this point is for many years to go  
22 back to tillage, which results in soil erosion and more

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1 expensive reduction costs.

2           So it was really disappointing to see the  
3 additional delay in both the dicamba and 2,4-D  
4 products. I really feel like the farmers really need  
5 these tools to be able to combat this resistance. I  
6 think it's critical for us -- for USDA and APHIS to  
7 move these products alone and give farmers the  
8 opportunity to use them. Both of these products have  
9 been used, probably 2,4-D over 50 years and dicamba  
10 over 40 years, that they've used. So farmers are  
11 familiar with those products, and I think they  
12 understand how to use them. They understand the labels  
13 that we operate under today, and they're used to  
14 dealing with off-target movement and drift and  
15 understand what they need to do to correct that.

16           I also would like to respond as a farmer in  
17 Mississippi that grows cotton and corn and soybeans.  
18 I'm fortunate in this area that I do not have resistant  
19 palmer amaranth today. My field's more isolated, but  
20 I'm really concerned that the next time I spray, that  
21 it may show up. So these tools, both dicamba and 2,4-  
22 D, would really provide me an alternative to an

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1 alternate chemistry to make sure that I don't develop  
2 resistant palmer, or glyphosate resistant palmer. And  
3 it would really be a great benefit to me if I was able  
4 to insert one of those products in my application and  
5 be able to make sure that I don't develop that  
6 resistance in the future.

7 I've begun to adopt no-till (indiscernible)  
8 farming just as those farmers across the nation have,  
9 and super savings in soil erosion and reduced reduction  
10 cost, reduced inputs for diesel and labor and  
11 equipment. We really need to be able to continue to  
12 use these practices. I can say that we really need the  
13 availability of the best technology. And to delay the  
14 vote for 2,4-D and the dicamba -- and there are a  
15 number of products that are coming down the line as  
16 that will also be available and help to combat this  
17 resistance.

18 So I think it's critical for U.S. agriculture  
19 and U.S. farmers that we have these products available.  
20 Thank you.

21 MR. GEORGE: Thanks so much for your comment.  
22 I see that we have another commenter ready to give

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1 their comment.

2 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have one question  
3 remaining.

4 MR. GEORGE: So caller, if you would please  
5 give your name.

6 MR. BROWN: My name is Barron Brown, B-A-R-R-  
7 O-N, B-R-O-W-N. And I'll be commenting on the Docket  
8 Number 43, the dicamba resistant soybean.

9 MR. GEORGE: Please go ahead.

10 MR. BROWN: Like I said, my name is Barron  
11 Brown. I'm the soybean (indiscernible) production  
12 grower. I also grow cotton and corn. I was on the  
13 first (indiscernible) Environmental Impact Study for  
14 the dicamba tolerant soybean and dicamba tolerant  
15 cotton (indiscernible).

16 This technology is really made for the  
17 (indiscernible). I am fortunate enough that I was in  
18 the -- been a part of the Roundup Ready  
19 (indiscernible). And I had several acres of the  
20 dicamba resistant soybeans.

21 (Comments are indiscernible.)

22 MR. BROWN: Soybeans are not always

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1 important. From my logic, they're also important to  
2 crop in the United States. They're found on over more  
3 than 55 million acres. We've got to have this  
4 technology. That's basically all I really have to say.  
5 We've got to have this technology. Thank you.

6 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you for your  
7 comment. We're going to take a momentary break, and  
8 we'll be back in just a minute. Thank you.

9 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

10 MR. GEORGE: Okay. We're back. If you're  
11 listening to this call and would like to make a public  
12 comment, please hit 1, and then zero on your telephone  
13 keypad. And I see that we do have a caller that is  
14 ready to make a comment.

15 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have one question  
16 remaining.

17 MR. GEORGE: Caller please say your name,  
18 spell your name, and let us know if you're commenting  
19 on Docket 42, having to do with GE plants resistant to  
20 2,4-D or Docket 43, dicamba.

21 DR. YOUNG: Yes, good afternoon. My name is  
22 Bryan Young. That's B-R-Y-A-N, Y-O-U-N-G, and I'm

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1 commenting on both dockets, 42 and 43. So I'm a  
2 faculty member at Southern Illinois University. I've  
3 been conducting wheat science research for the past 23  
4 years, and the last 15 years at Southern Illinois  
5 University as a professor of wheat science, where my  
6 responsibilities include research and teaching in the  
7 area of wheat management.

8           Ultimately, the responsibility that I have  
9 with the university is to develop solid recommendations  
10 for growers to implement in their field, primary corn  
11 and soybeans, as well as some wheat, to be successful  
12 and profitable in managing weeds and productivity.

13           So in terms of experience with herbicide-  
14 resistant crops, obviously, I've been involved with the  
15 use of herbicide-resistant crops with both corn and  
16 soybean to date, and I have been involved with testing  
17 both the dicamba tolerant soybean system, as well as  
18 the 2,4-D tolerant soybean system, the Roundup Ready,  
19 and then corn and beans (indiscernible).

20           I think I first want to comment on what  
21 brought you to this point. So there's a need for the  
22 technology because we have seen a rapid decline in

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1 recent years in the robust weed control that we can  
2 achieve with glyphosate in some geographies because of  
3 resistance. But it's not just resistance to glyphosate,  
4 it's resistance to the other herbicides that we have  
5 used in the past, such as the inhibiting herbicides,  
6 the triazine herbicides, the PTO-inhibiting herbicides.

7           And so, it's been a culmination that's been  
8 building for years were you selected for herbicides as  
9 to weed biotypes that have been extremely problematic,  
10 and now it's represented within the (indiscernible)  
11 complex, as well as amaranth and pigweed family, both  
12 waterhemp and palmer amaranth. And so, there's a  
13 definite need.

14           I'll just share that on Friday, I had a phone  
15 call from somebody who is involved with the industry  
16 giving recommendations to growers. And they wanted me  
17 to provide them, what criteria do I give to the grower  
18 to determine if they just dig up the entire soybean  
19 field and try again because they applied all available  
20 herbicides to date this year, and they still have  
21 waterhemp that they were not able to control. And so  
22 they obviously need additional tools.

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1           So we've gotten to this point where the  
2 previous herbicides that we've utilized are not working  
3 out, (indiscernible) herbicides resistance, and we need  
4 additional tools, and in some cases more herbicides,  
5 which sounds like more fuel on the fire, but I would  
6 contend that is probably the best solution we have to  
7 date until another alternative presents itself. But  
8 none have as of yet.

9           So we've gotten to this point in some ways  
10 because of our efforts to be more sustainable in crop  
11 productivity and crop production. I was part of an  
12 analysis looking at the sustainability of U.S. soybean  
13 production. That was a publication by CAS (ph),  
14 Council for Cultural Science and Technology (ph), and I  
15 was the author for the part of weed management side.  
16 And that publication spoke towards the greatest  
17 component, at least towards sustainability, of soybean  
18 production in the U.S., its conservation tillage  
19 practices. And because we are reducing the amount of  
20 tillage that we use pre-plant or in the fall, or even  
21 row cultivation, that means we rely more heavily on  
22 herbicides today that we ever have. And so, it would

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1 be logical to expect that an outcome of that would be  
2 greater selection pressure for herbicide-resistant  
3 weeds. So it's not a surprise that in our efforts to  
4 be more sustainable in soil conservation practices,  
5 that we have greater challenges in how we utilize our  
6 herbicides.

7           Now, how do these two technologies fit, the  
8 2,4- D and dicamba technology? Well, actually we've  
9 used these herbicides for decades. That has been  
10 mentioned by some of the growers as well as Mike Owen  
11 and Bob Wolf, who participated thus far. So we're  
12 really expanding their use window, so it allows greater  
13 flexibility utilizing the herbicides to provide a  
14 greater benefit in overall weed management, and I would  
15 say the sustainability or stability, if you will, of  
16 our weed management practices.

17           So I think they're a key component, and right  
18 now they're the only component that we have available  
19 because the discovery of new herbicides active  
20 ingredients, like that have come in the past 50 years,  
21 that pipeline of new active ingredients has dried up  
22 temporarily possibly. But we don't have any

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1 alternatives, so we're going back to the older  
2 herbicides that growers have decided that didn't  
3 provide as much benefit. And so these two  
4 technologies, 2,4-D and dicamba, provide another --  
5 some other options that I would suggest might be  
6 favored than some of the other alternatives that we  
7 might be considering, especially when it comes to  
8 conservation practices and some of the deep tillage  
9 that might be occurring in some areas because of these  
10 resisting weeds.

11           So the other thing I want to comment about is  
12 I have tested both the technologies that have been  
13 listed on ready to extend, and in the program, if you  
14 will, the herbicide program concept. Now, how we  
15 achieve weed control with these technologies in the  
16 future, as stated before, it's not just a 2,4-D or a  
17 dicamba, and that's all you need like we did with squat  
18 (indiscernible), and soon won't develop resistance.

19           I think in most cases I've seen residual  
20 herbicides, which represent different herbicide modes  
21 of action that are utilized prior to planting and then  
22 after planting. And then other herbicides, that all

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1 provide solar (ph) activity. It might be glufosinate  
2 or glyphosates, around the liberty involved in the  
3 mixtures as well.

4           So what I have tested in my research on  
5 glyphosate-resistant waterhemp (indiscernible) and  
6 glyphosate-resistant marestail, with these technologies  
7 has been multiple herbicide modes of action to develop  
8 a more sustainable weed management program. So it's  
9 not just based on a single herbicide active ingredient.  
10 It's more robust, so I think that it is a more  
11 sustainable approach to achieving a well-rounded IPM  
12 approach for how we manage our weeds. And those are  
13 the things I think are important because, as stated  
14 before, 2,4-D or dicamba will not control all of our  
15 weeds. It's going to be required to involve other  
16 herbicides. And I think that is the part that's  
17 different than where we went through with the Roundup  
18 Ready system back in 1996 when it was released.

19           So moving forward over the next ten years,  
20 obviously weed management is going to get a lot more  
21 difficult because if we don't have other alternatives  
22 to glyphosate that are viable or another older

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1 herbicide like the PPO-inhibiting herbicides, we're  
2 going to continue to use those herbicides, and we're  
3 going to continue to get more resistance to those  
4 herbicides and create an even larger problems than what  
5 we have today.

6           So it's going to be a challenge to manage  
7 these until we get these tools that tell us as  
8 scientists be more -- that are able to develop these  
9 solutions. And as growers or crop consultants to  
10 devise a program on a field-by-field basis to be  
11 sustainable as much as possible, as well as being  
12 effective and profitable in wheat management and crop  
13 production.

14           So I think that captures my comments for  
15 today, and I'd like to thank you for your time.

16           MR. GEORGE: Thanks so much for your comments

17           AUTOMATED VOICE: You have zero questions  
18 remaining.

19           DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: At this time, there's  
20 no one else that's on the line waiting to make a  
21 comment. If you would like to make a comment, please  
22 press 1 and then zero on your telephone key pad, and we

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1 will key you up for your comment.

2 (No response.)

3 MR. GEORGE: Seeing that we have no one  
4 queued up at the moment, we will take a short break.  
5 We'll be back in a couple minutes. In the meantime,  
6 anyone who would like to make a comment, please hit 1  
7 then zero, and we'll come immediately back on the line  
8 in that case. So seeing that we have none at the  
9 moment, we'll take short break and be back in a few  
10 minutes. Thanks.

11 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you.

12 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

13 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Welcome back. We  
14 have another caller on the line. Commenter, when you  
15 are given the clear to speak, please state your name,  
16 spell your name for the court reporter, and please  
17 indicate whether your commenting on Docket Number 42,  
18 43, or both dockets.

19 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have one question  
20 remaining.

21 MR. BROTEN: This is Jim Broten again, J-I-M,  
22 B-R-O-T-E-N. And this is just a comment to both 42 and

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1 43. As you can see, the farmers across the nation all  
2 emphasize the importance of our needed to use both 2,4-  
3 D and dicamba. And to use it with glyphosate tolerance  
4 would just be fantastic. We are in a world market. We  
5 need it to feed the world, but we also need to be  
6 competitive. And we need all the advantages that we  
7 can have, and we need to encourage USDA to pass this  
8 quickly as they can.

9 Thank you very much. Thanks for your time  
10 and consideration.

11 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you for your  
12 comment.

13 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have zero questions  
14 remaining.

15 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: At this time, there's  
16 no one else that has dialed in to comment. If you  
17 would like to make a comment, please press 1 and then  
18 zero on your telephone keypad. if you've previously  
19 made a comment and you would like to add anything  
20 additional to your comment, you may do so at this time  
21 by pressing 1 and then zero on your telephone key pad.

22 (No response.)

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1 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: We currently don't  
2 have any request from anyone to comment, so again,  
3 we're going to take a short break. If anyone dials in  
4 to comment, we will come right back.

5 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

6 MR. GEORGE: Hi, and we're back with our  
7 virtual public meeting to take public comments on the  
8 two dockets. We still have no one in the queue to make  
9 a comment, but we want to let you know that we're here.  
10 And if anybody's on the call who would like to make a  
11 comment, please hit 1 and then zero on your telephone  
12 keypad. We'll be glad to take your comment.

13 Also, if you've already commented and you'd  
14 like to say more or elaborate on what you've said  
15 already, you're welcome to do that as well, All you  
16 have to do is hit 1 and then zero on your keypad.  
17 We'll be glad to take your comment. So we're going to  
18 take another pause. In the meantime, if we see that  
19 someone has indicated their desire to say a few things,  
20 will break back in and take those comments. Thanks for  
21 your patience, and we'll be back in a few minutes.

22 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

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1 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Welcome back to our  
2 public meeting. This is a public meeting on APHIS  
3 dockets, APHIS 2013-0042 and 2013-0043. That's for  
4 EIS's for GE plants that are resistant to either 2,4-D  
5 or GE plants that are resistant to dicamba.

6 We are taking public comments, and at this  
7 time, we have no one that's one the line, but we'd like  
8 to remind you that if you'd like to make a public  
9 comment, please press 1, then zero on your telephone.  
10 And we'll take your comment.

11 (No response.)

12 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: At this time, no one  
13 is lined up to speak. If you've made a comment already  
14 this evening, or you've made a comment yesterday and  
15 you'd like to add anything to your comment, you may do  
16 so at this time by pressing 1 and then zero on your  
17 telephone.

18 (No response.)

19 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Seeing that no one is  
20 waiting to make a comment, we're going to go back to  
21 our break, and we'll return in a few minutes to check  
22 in and see if anyone wants to make a comment. If

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1 during the break, you decide that you'd like to make a  
2 comment, press 1 and zero on your telephone keypad, and  
3 we'll come right back on to receive your comment.

4 Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

6 MR. GEORGE: Hello, and welcome back to our  
7 virtual public meeting. We're taking comments at this  
8 meeting on two EIS's, one for plants that are resistant  
9 to 2,4-D and the other for GE plants resistant to  
10 dicamba. If you'd like to make a comment, we'd love to  
11 hear from you. Please hit number 1 and then zero on  
12 your telephone keypad. We'll be glad to take your  
13 comment. If you've already commented, and you'd like to  
14 say something else or add to your comments, we're glad  
15 to take those comments as well.

16 (No response.)

17 MR. GEORGE: So seeing that we have no one  
18 else in the queue at the moment, we're going to take  
19 another break. We will be here until 6 p.m. Eastern  
20 time. So if you change your mind and would like to  
21 make a comment, hit 1 then zero at any time, and we'll  
22 come back on and be very glad to take your comment. So

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1 seeing that no one else is in the queue, we're going to  
2 take another pause, and we'll be back in a few minutes.  
3 Thanks so much.

4 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thanks.

5 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

6 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Hi. And welcome back  
7 to our virtual public meeting. We have a caller on the  
8 line who wishes to make a comment. Caller, if you  
9 would please state your name and spell your name for  
10 the court reporter, and then state whether you're  
11 commenting on Docket Number 42, 43, or both.

12 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have one question  
13 remaining.

14 MR. PALMER: Hi. I'm Damon Palmer, D-A-M-O-  
15 N, P-A-L-M-E-R. I'm a U.S. commercial leader for  
16 Enlist with Dow AgroSciences located in Indianapolis,  
17 Indiana. I'm commenting on Docket Number 42, on 2,4-D  
18 tolerant corn and soybeans.

19 In my role, I speak to and more importantly  
20 listen to hundreds of people throughout the  
21 agricultural industry each year, including many  
22 farmers. They have made several points very clear to

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1 me that are relevant to the subject of this meeting and  
2 this comment period, and to the regulatory process  
3 ahead for Enlist weed control system or 2,4-D tolerant-  
4 boron soybeans.

5           First, the challenge farmers are facing from  
6 weeds, which threaten their yields, their efforts to  
7 maintain conservation farming systems, and their  
8 economic sustainability is both real and continuing to  
9 increase in both intensity and geographic spread. They  
10 tell me this is not just a weed problem. It is an  
11 emergency. Based on farmer reports, they have seen  
12 nearly a 90 percent increase in tough weeds since 2010.  
13 Farmers need a solution as soon as possible. Twenty-  
14 five states are now affected, and the number of new  
15 acres infested in 2012 increased by 50 percent over the  
16 previous year. And this trend is showing no signs of  
17 slowing and will continue.

18           To the individual farmer, these effects are  
19 pronounced. These weed challenges can cause yield drag  
20 of 20 percent or greater. In an attempt to hold off  
21 these yield losses, farmers can spend in excess of \$100  
22 or more on every acre as they are forced to alternative

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1 control methods such as tillage or even hand  
2 cultivation. Availability of an alternative tool such  
3 as Enlist or 2,4-D tolerant crops would help farmers  
4 maintain those higher yields and put more of that money  
5 back into their pockets.

6           Next, farmers worry that continued  
7 delays in making new technologies hurts America's  
8 global leadership in agriculture and their own ability  
9 to compete in global markets, which is critical to  
10 their success and sustainability. While they see the  
11 U.S. regulatory process taking longer and longer, they  
12 see Brazil timelines being shorter. In their eyes,  
13 they see regulators approving new biotech tools, and  
14 only two growing seasons or fewer in Brazil while they  
15 have already been waiting for growing seasons so far in  
16 the U.S.

17           Farmers ask why our regulatory system adds in  
18 more time for review of Enlist for 2,4-D tolerant  
19 crops, while just north, across the border, Canada has  
20 already approved Enlist corn and soybean traits as well  
21 as the herbicide solution. And Canadian farmers can  
22 now use Enlist to help prevent weed resistance and

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1 dramatically reduce (indiscernible) on them.

2 Farmers tell me they've looked to industry  
3 and the regulatory agencies to work to bring forward  
4 new innovations for American agriculture and put these  
5 technologies in our hands as fast as possible.

6 Biotechnology was highlighted in President Obama's  
7 national bioeconomy blueprint, yet we are putting  
8 innovation behind other countries by keeping this  
9 critical technology out of the hands of borrowers.

10 Further, President Obama's administration has  
11 taken steps to position itself as a champion of biotech  
12 industry and research investment. In the 2011 and 2012  
13 State of the Union speeches, President Obama references  
14 the opportunities that biotechnology offers. In the  
15 2013 address, he is credited for reminding the nation  
16 that biotechnology is the most crucial science of the  
17 21st century.

18 I meet with farmers regularly, and they  
19 express their wish that everyone, including both  
20 industry and the regulatory agencies such as USDA,  
21 should do everything possible to put critical  
22 technology such as Enlist for 2,4-D tolerant crops into

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1 the hands of the U.S. farmer. They ask for a system  
2 that is science-based, predictable in terms of timing,  
3 and works to meet their critical needs. Thank you for  
4 your time.

5 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: Thank you for your  
6 comment. At this time, we have no one else on the line  
7 wishing to make a comment. If anyone else would like  
8 to make a comment, please press 1 then zero on your  
9 telephone.

10 AUTOMATED VOICE: You have zero questions  
11 remaining.

12 MR. GEORGE: Seeing that we have no other  
13 comments, we're going to take a quick pause, and we  
14 will stick around for a couple more minutes. So we'll  
15 be right back.

16 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

17 MR. GEORGE: We'd like to thank everyone who  
18 participated today in our virtual meeting. The  
19 PowerPoint of this meeting will be available at our  
20 website, [aphisvirtualmeetings.com](http://aphisvirtualmeetings.com) within a couple of  
21 days. You'll receive an email survey shortly after the  
22 meeting. Please complete it. It will help us make

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1 these meetings better in the future.

2 DR. STANKIEWICZ GABEL: We'll be posting  
3 information, including dates and times of future  
4 virtual public meetings at [aphisvirtualmeetings.com](http://aphisvirtualmeetings.com).  
5 Thanks again for attending this virtual public comment  
6 meeting. Good night.

7 MR. GEORGE: Good night.

8 (Whereupon, at 6:00 p.m., the meeting was  
9 adjourned.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 I, Linda D. Metcalf, the officer before whom  
3 the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify  
4 that the proceedings were taken by me in stenotype and  
5 thereafter reduced to typewriting under my direction;  
6 that said proceedings are a true record; that I am  
7 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of  
8 the parties to the action in these proceedings were  
9 taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or  
10 employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the  
11 parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested  
12 in the outcome of this action.

13

14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda D. Metcalf  
15 Notary Public in and for the  
State of Maryland

16 My commission expires: July 26, 2014

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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTION

2 I, JANET EVANS-WATKINS, hereby certify that I  
3 am not the Court Reporter who reported the following  
4 proceeding and that I have typed the transcript of this  
5 proceeding using the Court Reporter's notes and  
6 recordings. The foregoing/attached transcript is a  
7 true, correct and complete transcription of said  
8 proceeding.

9

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11 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
JANET EVANS-WATKINS  
Transcriptionist

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<p><u>        </u> \$ <u>        </u></p> <p><b>\$100</b> 49:21</p> <p><b>\$12</b> 9:4</p> <p><b>\$12,000</b> 9:5</p> <p><b>\$28,000</b> 9:6</p> <p><b>\$50</b> 9:4</p> <p><u>        </u> 0 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>0042</b> 5:3</p> <p><u>        </u> 1 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>1</b> 5:19 7:9 8:10,17 35:12 42:22 43:6 44:17,21 45:11,16 46:9,16 47:2,11,21 52:8</p> <p><b>10th</b> 25:5</p> <p><b>13</b> 12:22</p> <p><b>15</b> 36:4</p> <p><b>17</b> 8:14</p> <p><b>175</b> 24:19</p> <p><b>17th</b> 5:7</p> <p><b>1837</b> 24:19</p> <p><b>1964</b> 16:10</p> <p><b>1996</b> 41:18</p> <p><b>1997</b> 8:18</p> <p><u>        </u> 2 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>2</b> 3:12 4:3,4,5 5:3 7:18 8:11</p> <p><b>2,4</b> 32:21 39:8 44:2</p> <p><b>2,4D</b> 21:2</p> <p><b>2,4-D</b> 6:8 8:16,18,21 9:1,14,19 10:2 15:22 20:6 21:9,12 22:17 23:7,16 25:8</p>	<p>32:3,9 33:14 35:20 36:18 40:4,16 41:14 46:4 47:9 48:17 49:3 50:3,18 51:22</p> <p><b>2,4-D/dicamba</b> 20:7</p> <p><b>20</b> 49:20</p> <p><b>20,000</b> 24:21</p> <p><b>2001</b> 8:18</p> <p><b>2010</b> 49:12</p> <p><b>2011</b> 51:12</p> <p><b>2012</b> 14:21 29:20 49:15 51:12</p> <p><b>2013</b> 1:12 5:3 51:15</p> <p><b>2013-0042</b> 46:3</p> <p><b>2013-0043</b> 46:3</p> <p><b>2014</b> 54:16</p> <p><b>2050</b> 27:4</p> <p><b>21st</b> 51:17</p> <p><b>23</b> 36:3</p> <p><b>26</b> 54:16</p> <p><b>27</b> 1:12</p> <p><u>        </u> 3 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>3.5</b> 8:20</p> <p><b>30</b> 29:21</p> <p><b>32</b> 14:22</p> <p><u>        </u> 4 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>4</b> 4:5</p> <p><b>4,000</b> 24:22</p> <p><b>4:00</b> 1:13</p> <p><b>40</b> 22:15 32:10</p>	<p><b>42</b> 6:8 7:18 11:1 15:22 20:4 23:16 24:6,14 35:19 36:1 43:17,22 48:11,17</p> <p><b>43</b> 6:9 7:18 10:17 15:22 16:3 20:4 23:17 24:6,14 34:8 35:20 36:1 43:18 44:1 48:11</p> <p><b>45</b> 13:14 19:15</p> <p><b>4700</b> 1:15</p> <p><b>4-D</b> 3:12 4:3,4 5:3 7:18</p> <p><u>        </u> 5 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>5.5</b> 8:20</p> <p><b>50</b> 32:9 39:20 49:15</p> <p><b>55</b> 35:3</p> <p><u>        </u> 6 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>6</b> 5:12 47:19</p> <p><b>6:00</b> 1:13 53:8</p> <p><u>        </u> 7 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>7</b> 27:2</p> <p><u>        </u> 9 <u>        </u></p> <p><b>9</b> 27:3</p> <p><b>90</b> 49:12</p> <p><u>        </u> A <u>        </u></p> <p><b>abandon</b> 18:6</p> <p><b>ability</b> 15:1 26:22 50:8</p> <p><b>able</b> 31:18 32:5 33:3,5,11 37:21 42:8</p>	<p><b>access</b> 14:11 15:6 26:13 28:3</p> <p><b>accessible</b> 12:10</p> <p><b>achieve</b> 37:2 40:15</p> <p><b>achieving</b> 41:11</p> <p><b>acre</b> 9:4 49:22</p> <p><b>acres</b> 8:10,13,17 14:22 18:7,12 22:19 24:21 29:15,21 34:19 35:3 49:15</p> <p><b>across</b> 14:13 20:9 25:13 33:8 44:1 50:19</p> <p><b>Act</b> 25:12</p> <p><b>action</b> 18:9 40:21 41:7 54:8,12</p> <p><b>action-oriented</b> 25:6</p> <p><b>actions</b> 4:17</p> <p><b>active</b> 16:13 39:19,21 41:9</p> <p><b>activity</b> 41:1</p> <p><b>actually</b> 3:10 39:8</p> <p><b>add</b> 44:19 46:15 47:14</p> <p><b>addition</b> 17:13</p> <p><b>additional</b> 8:11 32:3 37:22 38:4 44:20</p> <p><b>Additionally</b> 9:11</p> <p><b>additives</b> 13:3</p> <p><b>address</b> 5:22 7:12 26:14 51:15</p> <p><b>addressed</b> 13:11,17</p> <p><b>adds</b> 50:17</p>
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