

 **NEWS RELEASE**

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 734-7799 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

Contact:
R. Andre Bell (301) 734-3853
Lyndsay Cole (970) 494-7410

USDA Extends Comment Period for Corn Genetically Engineered for Herbicide Tolerance

WASHINGTON, Feb 22, 2012--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announced a public comment period extension through April 27 on a petition received from Dow AgroScience LLC seeking a determination of nonregulated status for corn designated as DAS-40278-9.

On December 27, 2011, APHIS published a notice in the *Federal Register* advising the public that we received a petition for corn event DAS-40278-9, which has been genetically engineered to provide tolerance to 2,4-D and aryloxyphenoxypropionate acetyl coenzyme A carboxylase inhibitors, also known as “fop” herbicides.

In addition, APHIS made available for public comment its plant pest risk assessment and draft environmental assessment for DAS-40278-9. These documents can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology/news.shtml.

Notice of this action is published in today's Feb. 22 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before April 27. Interested parties may submit comments by either of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=APHIS-2010-0103-0001>.
- Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery: please send your comment to Docket No. APHIS-2010-0103, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238.

Supporting documents and any comments we receive on this docket may be viewed at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=APHIS-2010-0103> or in our reading room, which is located in room 1141 of the USDA South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC. Normal reading room hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To be sure someone is there to help you, please call (202) 690-2817 before coming.

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