



# Biotechnology

Through the Biotechnology Regulatory Services (BRS) program, APHIS protects against risks to U.S. plant health by overseeing the safe import, interstate movement, and environmental release/field testing of certain genetically engineered (GE) organisms. APHIS coordinates these responsibilities along with the other designated Federal agencies as part of the Federal Coordinated Framework for the Regulation of Biotechnology.



**\$19M**  
BUDGET

**82**  
EMPLOYEES



## WHERE WE WORK

- Riverdale, MD (APHIS Headquarters)
- Fort Collins, CO
- Raleigh, NC

## 2019 Highlights



Published a proposed rule for the **first-ever** major revision of USDA's biotechnology regulations, generating broad public interest with over **6,100** comments on the rule and projecting an estimated **\$9 million** in annual cost savings with the rule's implementation



Launched a pilot version of eFile, APHIS' new online permitting system, to BRS customers—with **25** stakeholders participating and giving valuable feedback on the system's development



Provided **\$870,000** in cooperative funding to universities and other partners for critical biotechnology work, including State inspections, risk assessments, and protecting natural plant heritage



Held **3** meetings or workshops for our stakeholders and regulated community to share information and guidance helping them understand how to follow our regulatory processes



With PPQ and States, conducted more than **600** safety inspections of authorized GE field trials to protect other crops



Completed **53** virtual inspections of GE field trials



Completed **3** petitions for deregulation within time targets, bringing the total number of deregulated products to **132**



Delivered presentations to over **100** visitors representing **12** countries to offer technical information and build capacity abroad for regulating biotechnology



Processed **1,486** permits and notifications for the import, interstate movement, or environmental release of regulated GE products



Authorized **10,027** locations and **3,283** sites in **51** U.S. States and territories for the movement or field testing of GE products



Converted **670,000** pages of notification and permit records from paper to electronic versions, allowing faster response to requests for FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) and administrative records

[www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/biotechnology)

