

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

[Docket No. APHIS–2025–0021]

Bayer CropScience: Determination of Nonregulated Status of MON 95275 Maize (Corn)

AGENCY: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: We are advising the public of our determination that MON 95275 maize (corn), which was developed using genetic engineering to produce two insecticidal proteins and a double-stranded RNA transcript to provide protection from feeding damage caused by targeted coleopteran (corn rootworm) insect pests, is no longer considered regulated. Our determination is based on our evaluation of information and data Bayer CropScience submitted in its petition for a determination of nonregulated status, available scientific data, the plant pest risk assessment, and public comments received in response to a previous notice announcing the availability of the petition for nonregulated status and a draft plant pest risk assessment. This notice announces the availability of our written determination and supporting documents.

DATES: This change in regulatory status is recognized as of March 19, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may read the petition, our determination referenced in this notice, and supporting documents by any of the following methods:

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov. Enter APHIS–2025–0021 in the Search field.
- *Postal Mail/Commercial Delivery:* Send your comment to Docket No. APHIS–2025–0021, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, 5601

Sunnyside Ave. #AP760, Beltsville, MD 20705.

- Our reading room, located in 1620 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) 799–7039 before coming.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Alan Pearson, Biotechnology Regulatory Services, APHIS, USDA, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, AP100–3–WS–1151, Beltsville, MD 20705; (301) 851–3944; email: alan.pearson@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the authority of the plant pest provisions of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7701–7772, 7781–7786) and the regulations in 7 CFR part 340, “Introduction of Organisms and Products Altered or Produced Through Genetic Engineering Which Are Plant Pests or Which There Is Reason to Believe Are Plant Pests,” APHIS regulates, among other things, the introduction (importation, interstate movement, or release into the environment) of organisms and products altered or produced through genetic engineering that are plant pests or that there is reason to believe are plant pests. Such organisms and products are considered “regulated articles.”

Section 340.6(a) of the regulations provides that any person may submit a petition to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) seeking a determination that an article should not be regulated under 7 CFR part 340.

APHIS received a petition (APHIS Petition Number 25–083–01p) from Bayer CropScience (Bayer) seeking a determination of nonregulated status for MON 95275 maize (corn), which has been developed using genetic engineering to produce two insecticidal proteins and a double-stranded RNA transcript to provide protection from feeding damage caused by targeted coleopteran (corn rootworm) insect pests. The petition provides information in support of petitioners’ position that MON 95275 is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk and therefore should not be regulated under APHIS’ regulations in 7 CFR part 340.

As part of our decision-making process regarding the organism’s regulatory status, APHIS prepared a draft plant pest risk assessment (PPRA)

to assess the plant pest risk of the organism.

APHIS published the petition and draft PPRA in the **Federal Register** [90 FR 30035, APHIS–2025–0021] and accepted public comments from July 8, 2025, through September 8, 2025. APHIS received 11 comments by the close of the comment period. No comments addressed the PPRA. Five comments from individuals stated general opposition to genetic engineering. These comments are non-substantive and will not be addressed further. One comment specifically opposed deregulating the product and also expressed concerns related to deregulation contributing to carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. This comment is addressed in our response to comments. One comment remained neutral regarding the petition, but also expressed concerns related to deregulation contributing to CO₂ emissions. This comment is also addressed in our response to comments. The remaining four comments from non-government organizations expressed support in the deregulation of the corn. We note the support expressed by these commenters to deregulate the corn for the record.

Determination

Based on APHIS’ evaluation in the PPRA of information and data submitted by Bayer in its petition, available scientific data, and public comments received in response to the petition and draft PPRA, APHIS has determined that MON 95275 is unlikely to pose a greater plant pest risk than the unmodified comparator and therefore is no longer subject to the regulations in 7 CFR part 340 governing the introduction of certain organisms developed using genetic engineering.

Copies of the signed determination, PPRA, and response to comments, as well as the previously published petition and supporting documents, are available as indicated in the **ADDRESSES** and **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** sections of this notice.

Authority: 7 U.S.C. 7701–7772 and 7781–7786; 31 U.S.C. 9701; 7 CFR 2.22, 2.80, and 371.3.

Done in Washington, DC, this 25th day of March 2026.

Kelly Moore,

Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. 2026-05978 Filed 3-26-26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. FSIS-2026-0069]

Notice of Request To Renew an Approved Information Collection: Laboratory Assessment Requests

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations, FSIS is announcing its intention to request a renewal of the approved information collection for non-FSIS laboratories (state, local, or private) that test food samples during illness outbreaks and recall investigations. There are no changes to the existing information collection. The approval for this information collection will expire on August 31, 2026.

DATES: Submit comments on or before May 26, 2026.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this **Federal Register** notice. Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- **Federal eRulemaking Portal:** This website provides commenters the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on the web page or to attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

- **Mail:** Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

- **Hand- or courier-delivered submittals:** Deliver to 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 350-E, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2026-0069. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any

personal information, to <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Docket: For access to background documents or comments received, call (202) 286-2255 to schedule a time to visit the FSIS Docket Room at 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Gina Kouba, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-3700; 202-720-5046.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title: Laboratory Assessment Requests.

OMB Number: 0583-0183.

Type of Request: Renewal of an approved information collection.

Abstract: FSIS has been delegated the authority to exercise the functions of the Secretary (7 CFR 2.18 and 2.53), as specified in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031 *et seq.*). These statutes mandate that FSIS protect the public by verifying that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

FSIS is announcing its intention to renew the approved information collection for non-FSIS laboratories (State, local, or private) that test food samples during illness outbreak and recall investigations. There are no changes to the existing information collection. The approval for this information collection will expire on August 31, 2026.

As a public health regulatory agency, FSIS investigates reports of foodborne illness, contamination, and adulteration potentially associated with FSIS-regulated products. During these investigations, non-FSIS laboratories may test FSIS-regulated product and share the results with FSIS. FSIS Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) Microbiological and Chemical Hazards Staff (MCHS) will review the results and associated documentation shared by the non-FSIS laboratory to determine whether FSIS will accept the results. If the MCHS lead investigator determines the non-FSIS laboratory result is acceptable, FSIS may use the result to inform regulatory action (*e.g.*, request a recall or detain product).

As part of the process to determine if the non-FSIS laboratory result is acceptable, the MCHS lead investigator collects information from the non-FSIS laboratory and verifies that the non-FSIS

laboratory can provide the appropriate certifications and documentation of accreditation, such as ISO 17025, or another third-party accreditation entity covering the methods performed. The MCHS lead investigator also verifies that the laboratory has submitted to FSIS all the necessary information, including evidence of chain of custody, and the appropriate laboratory reports with sample identification, final results, and authorization by the responsible official for affirming results. Finally, the MCHS investigator collects and verifies laboratory methods and quality-assurance records documentation from the accredited, non-FSIS laboratory.

FSIS has made the estimates below based on an information collection assessment.

Respondents: Non-FSIS laboratories.
Estimated Number of Respondents: 3.
Estimated Number of Annual Responses per Respondent: 1.
Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 22.5 hours.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record. Copies of this information collection assessment can be obtained from Gina Kouba, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3758, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-3700; 202-720-5046.

Comments are invited on: (a) whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of FSIS' functions, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of FSIS' estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the method and assumptions used; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques, or other forms of information technology. Comments may be sent to both FSIS, at the addresses provided above, and the Desk Officer for Agriculture, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 20253.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, FSIS will announce this **Federal Register** publication on-line through the FSIS