

APHIS DEREGULATES GE LOW-LIGNIN ALFALFA

The US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has granted non-regulatory status to event [KK179](#), with commercial name HarvXtra™, a genetically engineered low-lignin [alfalfa](#) variety from Monsanto and Forage Genetics International developed in cooperation with the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation and the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center.

The cells of the [biotech alfalfa](#) were manipulated to reduce the production of lignin, increasing digestibility and widening the harvest window for the alfalfa. The U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center says increased digestibility would mean more beef and milk produced per pound of feed and less manure from those animals. The alfalfa is not currently available for sale and is still pending regulatory approvals from key export markets with functioning regulatory systems.



Read the APHIS Notice of Determination of Nonregulated Status here: <http://1.usa.gov/1xNFJ11>.

Read the HarvXtra white paper

here: http://www.foragegenetics.com/fgi/media/PDFs/HarvXtra%E2%84%A2-Alfalfa_White-Paper.pdf.