

**Dale Sullivan**

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**From:** "Terry Schaunaman" <terry@drcinfo.com>  
**To:** "Terry Schaunaman" <terry@drcinfo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 29, 2005 11:20 AM  
**Subject:** FYI -- USDA approves Roundup Ready Alfalfa

TO: WORC Food Safety Campaign Team

Yesterday, USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) deregulated Roundup Ready alfalfa (i.e. approved it for sale and planting). The notice from APHIS is pasted below. You can read the decision, including response to comments submitted earlier this year, at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs2/04\\_11001p\\_com.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/brs/aphisdocs2/04_11001p_com.pdf).

APHIS rejected our request that an EIS be prepared before a deregulation decision is made, in order to assess the potential economic impacts of releasing this new, perennial crop. APHIS response to producers of organic alfalfa, beef, honey, and milk, natural beef producers, and others concerned about potential contamination of non-GM alfalfa by GM alfalfa is, essentially, to say that the burden of keeping their production GM-free and the liability for failure to do so falls on them, and to say that it is not APHIS' problem.

Last Friday and Saturday, the Food Safety Campaign Team met in Billings to discuss RR alfalfa, among other issues. Several WORC member groups will be considering whether to take on RR alfalfa as a campaign issue during the next 30 days. We will send out notes and materials from our meeting to participants later today by e-mail, and then in a mailing to the full Food Safety Campaign Team tomorrow or Friday.

We will keep you posted as we learn more about what other groups around the country are doing and as we follow-up on our meetings last weekend.

-- John Smillie, Program Director  
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