

USDA likely to approve new GM crops that resist two herbicides

U.S. regulators said they are leaning toward approval of a new line of herbicide-tolerant crops developed by Monsanto Co even though they could increase problematic weed resistance for farmers. Under the draft “environmental impact statement” (EIS) by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), the agency said its analysis shows the new genetically modified cotton and soybean plants should be approved.

St. Louis-based Monsanto, said the APHIS move was “a noteworthy sign of progress.”

“It is an important step in the regulatory process and we are encouraging farmers to urge APHIS to complete this action as soon as possible,” Michelle Vigna, Monsanto’s product manager, said in a statement.

APHIS also issued a final EIS for genetically altered corn and soybean plants developed by Dow AgroSciences, a unit of Dow Chemical. That EIS also states that the agency intends to approve the products. APHIS has already said in January that it was leaning toward approval for Dow’s products.

Read the full, original article: [USDA leaning toward approval of Monsanto’s new GMO beans, cotton](#)