



GEORGIA COTTON COMMISSION

January 22, 2018

Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8
4700 River Rd.
Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20797-1238
Docket No. APHIS-2017-0097

Comments on Texas A&M Agrilife Research; Petition for Determination of Nonregulated Status
for Ultra-Low Gossypol Levels in the Cottonseed TAM66274

To Whom It May Concern:

The Georgia Cotton Commission is a producer funded organization that represents the over 3,000 family cotton farmers in Georgia through research, promotion, and education. We are writing to urge the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to deregulate cottonseed TAM66274. The United States planted nearly 12 million acres of cotton in 2017, and Georgia averages over 1.25 million of production every year. On average, an acre of cotton will produce just shy of 1,500 pounds of cottonseed. Cotton is an extremely important crop to the engine that is American agriculture and agribusiness, and cotton seed is extremely important to American livestock and the oil and fat sector.

Deregulation of TAM66274 would help fully utilize cottonseed protein, and therefore expand the market share of this seed to the swine and poultry livestock markets and into human consumption. This would give feed millers and processors an additional protein source and would help stabilize feed prices and, consequently, meat prices for American consumers. Research proves that the fiber quality of TAM66274 is equivalent to current cottonseed varieties, and would pose no greater ecological risk than conventional varieties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue. The Georgia Cotton Commission implores you to give the American farmer this tool to continue to feed the growing world by granting this petition.

Sincerely,

Bart Davis, Chairman
Georgia Cotton Commission