

NON-GMO PROJECT ANIMAL PRODUCTS FAQ

What type of testing is required? Can I use strip tests?

- Testing is required for feed consumed by the producing animals and can either be PCR (laboratory) or done onsite using a strip testing methodology (e.g. Envirologix Quick Scan System) that gives quantitative results.
- Testing is only needed for Major, High-Risk feed ingredients (ingredients that comprise more than 5% of the feed blend that are derived from corn, soy, canola, etc.).

What is the threshold?

The “Action Threshold” for animal feed is 5%.

Are the requirements different for organic products?

Certified organic products that are pooled (milk, ground meat, egg mixtures, etc.) have different requirements than products that are NOT organic OR products that are organic but are not pooled (shell eggs, whole chickens, etc.).

How much testing is required?

Testing is required quarterly.

- For organic pooled products, a representative sample of farms is tested.
- For non-organic, or non-pooled even if organic, testing is done on a composite sample of all feed purchased by each farmer in the operation.

What is the sample size for testing?

- Sample size and protocols must be in accordance with industry standards (e.g. GIPSA).
- For example, a standard semi-truckload of corn needs a sample size of 800 – 1200 kernels (approximately 6 or 7 probes of material from the load).

What happens if test results come back over the threshold?

- For organic pooled products, average quarterly results over the threshold requires root cause analysis and corrective action to address the source of contamination.
- For non-organic and non-pooled products, annual averages of over 5% are a major non-conformity and could lead to loss of verification.

What are the life cycle requirements?

For non-organic, or non-pooled products, testing must be in place as follows:

- Meat animals (other than Poultry): Starting at birth
- Poultry Meat: Starting from 2nd day after hatching
- Dairy animals and laying hens: 30 days prior to verification and continuously thereafter

Is seed testing required?

- Seed used to grow feed onsite must be the product of a system designed to avoid GMOs.
- From time of enrollment, Participants have a 5-year transition period to reach compliance with testing requirements, which include PCR testing for commercially purchased seed, and strip testing for saved seed.

How often are inspections done?

For non-organic, or non-pooled products, and for feed mills seeking verification of feed, inspections are required annually and may be partly done via the producer’s existing internal control system (ICS).

Review the complete standard at www.nongmoproject.org/standard