

GLOSSARY

100 percent organic products – In order for a processed product to be labeled as 100 percent organic, it must only contain 100 percent organic ingredients, excluding water and salt. Processing aids may be used, provided they are composed only of organic agricultural substances. All organic ingredients must be produced without the use of volatile synthetic solvents, genetic engineering, ionizing radiation, or sewage sludge.

AAFCO – Association of American Feed Control Officials.

AAPFCO – Association of American Plant Food Control Officials.

active ingredient – Any substance, as determined by EPA, that will prevent, destroy, repel or mitigate any pest, or that functions as a plant regulator, desiccant, or defoliant within the meaning of FIFRA (see 40 CFR 158.153 Definitions).

adjuvants – (1) A substance added to a fertilizer or pesticide used to increase its effectiveness. (2) A carrier used to release a biologic administered to livestock into the animal's bloodstream.

Advisory Council, OMRI – Body of experts that recommends to the OMRI Board revisions to the *OMRI Standards Manual* and the *OMRI Policy Manual* and interprets policies for product review.

aerobic – In the presence of oxygen.

agar – A dried, hydrophilic, colloidal polysaccharide extracted from one of a number of related species of red algae (Division Rhodophyta) (21 CFR 184.1115).

algae – Photosynthetic organisms belonging to the Kingdom Protista which are typically found in aquatic or shoreline environments. Unlike plants, algae do not have true roots, stems, and leaves. Blue-green algae are photosynthetic bacteria.

algicide – A substance that is toxic to algae.

Allowed – The status of materials that may be used in organic production, processing, or handling without restrictions.

Allowed with Restrictions – The status of materials that may be used in organic production, processing, or handling only under specific conditions, with certain restrictions, or as otherwise annotated.

anthelmintic – A substance used to kill or expel internal parasites.

antibiotics – A class of drug. They are usually synthesized by a living microorganism and in proper concentration inhibit the growth of other microorganisms (AAFCO, 2004).

APHIS – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Agency in the U. S. Department of Agriculture responsible for licensing and regulating animal biologic products.

arsenate treated lumber – Service wood that is impregnated with copper-chromium arsenate (CCA) or another arsenic-based wood treatment.

arsenic – An element (atomic number 33) that has a high acute toxicity.

aquatic plant products – Derivatives from algae and plants that live in water.

ASTM – American Society of Testing and Materials.

bactericides – Substances that are toxic to bacteria.

Biodynamic® – A method of farming consistent with organic agriculture established by Rudolf Steiner and developed by the Demeter organization that takes a holistic approach to management.

biologics – All viruses, serums, toxins, and analogous products of natural or synthetic origin, such as diagnostics, antitoxins, vaccines, live microorganisms, killed microorganisms, and the antigenic or immunizing components of microorganisms intended for use in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases of animals.

blood meal – The collected blood of slaughtered animals after it has been dried.

bone meal – Ground animal bones that have been previously steamed under pressure, heated, or rendered sterile in some otherwise acceptable manner. (AAPFCO, 1997).

Bordeaux mix – The precipitate of the reaction product of copper sulfate and calcium hydroxide.

botanical pesticide – A pesticide derived from plants

breeder stock – Female livestock whose offspring may be incorporated into an organic operation at the time of their birth.

BSE – Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy is a progressive neurological fatal disease of cattle possibly transmitted through the ingestion of feed contaminated by infected animal tissue. Also known as Mad Cow Disease.

carbamates – A family of synthetic pesticides that are salts or esters of carbamic acid.

carrageenan – Refined hydrocolloid used as a food additive and prepared by aqueous extraction from the following red algae species (Division Rhodophyta) in the families Gigartinaeae and Solieriaceae: *Chondrus crispus*, *Chondrus ocellatus*, *Euचेuma cottonii*, *Euचेuma spinosum*, *Gigartina acicularis*, *Gigartina pistillata*, *Gigartina radula*, *Gigartina stellata* (21 CFR 172.620).

carrier – An edible material to which ingredients are added to facilitate uniform incorporation of the latter into feeds. The active particles are absorbed, impregnated, or coated into or onto the edible material in such a way as to physically carry the active ingredient (AAFCO).

CAS number – Chemical Abstracts Service number.

certifier – business or organization that inspects and verifies compliance of farms, handling facilities, processing plants, and retailers with organic standards.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations.

chelates – Compounds that bind polyvalent metals at two or more cation exchange sites.

Chilean nitrate – Refined sodium nitrate obtained from mined caliche ore from the Atacama desert region of Chile.

chitin – A nitrogenous polysaccharide that appears in the exoskeleton of various invertebrates, particularly arthropods.

clean green – Plant materials that are collected and handled in a way that minimizes contamination from foreign (non-plant) materials.

cleaning agent – A substance used to remove dirt and filth.

compost – The product of a managed process through which microorganisms break down plant and animal materials into more available forms suitable for application to the soil. Compost must be produced through a process that combines plant and animal materials with an initial C:N ratio of between 25:1 and 40:1. Producers using an in-vessel or static aerated pile system must maintain the composting materials at a temperature between 131 °F and 170 °F for 3 days. Producers using a windrow system must maintain the composting materials at a temperature between 131 °F and 170 °F for 15 days, during which time, the materials must be turned a minimum of five times.

compost tea – A water extract of compost produced to transfer microbial biomass, fine particulate organic matter, and soluble chemical components into an aqueous phase, intending to maintain or increase the living, beneficial microorganisms extracted from the compost.

culture – A microorganism, tissue, or organ growing on or in a media.

dairy stock – An animal that produces milk.

dairy stock, organic – Animals producing organic milk products. Must be managed organically at least one year prior to certified organic production. Dairy animals may also be considered breeder stock, but must meet dairy requirements in order for milk products to be considered organic.

detergent – A synthetic substance that is not a soap and is used to change the surface tension of water, and remove oil, grease, and other substances that are relatively insoluble in water.

dormant oils – Narrow-range oils that are applied during a perennial plant's period of physiological inactivity.

EPA – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

EPA List 1 – Inert ingredients of toxicological concern.

EPA List 2 – Potentially toxic inerts, with high priority for testing.

EPA List 3 – Inerts of unknown toxicity.

EPA List 4A – Inerts of minimal concern.

EPA List 4B – Inert ingredients for which EPA has sufficient information to conclude that their current use patterns in pesticide products will not adversely affect public health and the environment.

essential oil – Naturally occurring volatile metabolites found predominantly in aromatic plants.

EU – European Union.

excipients – Any ingredients that are intentionally added to livestock medications but do not exert therapeutic or diagnostic effects at the intended dosage, although they may act to improve product delivery (e.g., enhancing absorption or controlling release of the drug substance). Examples of such ingredients include fillers, extenders, diluents, wetting agents, solvents, emulsifiers, preservatives, flavors, absorption enhancers, sustained-release matrices, and coloring agents.

exempt pesticide – Crop protection material that is not required to be registered with EPA (25b exempt).

FDA – U.S. Food and Drug Administration

feed – Depending on the context, the word 'feed' can mean two different things. 1) Feed refers to edible materials that are consumed by livestock for their nutritional value and may be concentrates (grains, beans, and oilseed meals) or roughages (hay, silage, and fodder). 2) A mixture of agricultural commodities, supplements, and additives is also commonly called feed.

feed additive – A substance added to feed in micro quantities to fulfill a specific nutritional need; i.e., essential nutrients in the form of amino acids, vitamins, and minerals.

feed supplement – A combination of feed nutrients added to livestock feed to improve the nutrient balance or performance of the total ration and intended to be: (i) Diluted with other feeds when fed to livestock; (ii) Offered free choice with other parts of the ration if separately available; or (iii) Further diluted and mixed to produce a complete feed.

FIFRA – Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

filler – Non-essential matter found in a manufactured or mixed feed with little or no nutritional value.

Findings of Fact (FOF) – A summary of the information needed to determine a given product's conformance with OMRI standards.

FOF Recommendation – Findings of Fact Recommendation. The initial status assigned to a product based on the FOF report prepared by OMRI staff for the OMRI Review Panel.

formulation – Quantities and the sources of ingredients used to make a product.

fungicide – A substance that is applied to control plant diseases caused by fungal organisms such as molds and mildews.

GE – See genetically engineered.

generic material – Common name used to describe a nonproprietary substance on the *OMRI Generic Materials List*.

Generic Materials List, OMRI – List published as part of the *OMRI Standards Manual* of general categories of materials used in organic crop production, food processing, and livestock production.

genetically engineered/modified – Refers to a variety of methods used to genetically modify organisms or influence their growth and development by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes and are not considered compatible with organic production. Such methods would include recombinant DNA (rDNA), cell fusion, micro- and macroencapsulation, and the following results when achieved by recombinant techniques: gene deletion and doubling, introducing a foreign gene, and changing the positions of genes. Such methods would not include the use of traditional breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, or tissue culture.

GML – *OMRI Generic Materials List*.

GMO – Genetically Modified Organism.

GRAS – Generally Recognized as Safe.

humates – Stable decomposed organic matter.

humic acid derivatives – Acids extracted from humates.

horticultural oils – See oils, narrow range.

IBS – IFOAM Basic Standards.

IFOAM – International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements.

inert ingredient – Any substance, other than an active ingredient, as determined by EPA, which is intentionally included in a pesticide product (see 40 CFR 158.153 Definitions).

ingredient – Component of a formulation or product. For processing, any substance used in the preparation of an agricultural product that is still present in the final commercial product as consumed. [For the purpose of product review, OMRI considers a component to be any substance that is added in the creation of a formulation or product, including: a) plant or animal material, or any substance produced by a metabolic process (e.g. manure or microbes); b) a mined mineral or any element, molecular species, or chemical mixture that possesses a distinct identity (i.e. having a separate Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) number, Codex International Numbering System (INS) number, FDA, or other legal or commonly accepted standard of identity); or c) any currently OMRI Listed product.]

JAS – Japanese Agricultural Standard. See www.maff.go.jp/soshiki/syokuhin/hinshitu/organic/eng_yuki_59.pdf.

kelp – (1) (Crop production) The dried marine algae of the botanical divisions of Rhodophyta (red algae), Phaeophyta (brown algae) and Chlorophyta (green algae) (AAPFCO). (2) (Livestock production) Seaweed of the families Laminariaceae and Fucaceae (AAFCCO). (3) (Processing and handling) The dehydrated, ground product prepared from the brown algae species *Macrocystis pyrifera*, *Laminaria digitata*, *Laminaria saccharina*, and *Laminaria cloustoni* (21 CFR 172.365).

listed material – Generic substance that appears on the *OMRI Generic Materials List*.

listed product – Commercial formulation that appears on the most current *OMRI Products List*.

listed supplier – Manufacturer and/or distributor of a product that appears on the *OMRI Products List*.

livestock – Any cattle, sheep, goat, swine, poultry, or equine animals used for food or in the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer products; wild or domesticated game; or other nonplant life, except such term shall not include aquatic animals or bees for the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer products.

“Made with Organic” products – Products eligible to be labeled as “made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))” because they comply with the product composition requirements for such products in NOP Rule §205.301(c).

manure – Feces, urine, other excrement, and bedding produced by livestock that has not been composted.

material – (1) Any generic input, fertilizer, pesticide, feed additive, health care product, ingredient, processing aid, or other substance used to produce or process agricultural products. (2) Substance.

media – The substance in which an organism, tissue, or organ exists.

microbial products – Formulations that have single-celled organism(s) as the active ingredient(s).

mineral oil – A mixture of liquid hydrocarbons, essentially paraffinic and naphthenic in nature obtained from petroleum (21 CFR 172.878) and refined to meet U.S. Pharmacopoeia specifications.

MSDS – Material Safety Data Sheet.

multi-ingredient product – Any formulation that contains more than one ingredient.

National List – A published list of synthetic materials allowed and natural materials prohibited in organic production, as well as nonorganic ingredients allowed in organic processing, under the provisions of OFPA.

negative list – 1. A list of excluded items. 2. In the case of organic food standards, items that are prohibited for production, handling, or processing. 3. A list of exceptions to a general rule.

neem and components – Derivatives from the fruit, leaves, and other constituent parts of the tree species *Azadirachta indica*, which belongs to the family Meliaceae.

nonsynthetic – Not synthetic. See definition for “synthetic”.

NOP – U.S. National Organic Program, the section of the USDA that regulates organic production, handling, processing, and labeling.

Nori – Dried laver seaweed pressed into thin sheets and used especially as a seasoning or as a wrapper for sushi.

NOSB – National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). A board established by the Secretary under 7 U.S.C. 6518 to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of the National Organic Program.

nutrient claims – Guarantees of plant or animal food values made on the label or supporting literature.

OFPA – Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, the “Act,” the U.S. federal law that defines the term ‘organic.’

oils, narrow range – Petroleum derivatives, predominately of paraffinic and naphthenic fractions with 50 percent boiling point (10 mm Hg) between 415 °F and 440 °F.

OMRI Listed – See “listed product.”

OMRI standards – the various criteria contained in the *OMRI Standards Manual*.

open list – A list of items that is not comprehensive and is subject to interpretation based on criteria or guidelines.

organic certification – Process by which agricultural operations, retailers, distributors, and food processors are inspected and reviewed to verify compliance with organic standards.

organic system plan – A plan of management of an organic production or handling operation that has been agreed to by the producer or handler and the certifying agent and that includes written plans concerning all aspects of agricultural production or handling described in the Act and the regulations in subpart C of this part.

“Organic” Products – According to the NOP Rule, in order for a processed product to be labeled as “Organic” it must contain at least 95 percent organic ingredients, excluding water and salt.

OTA – Organic Trade Association.

parasiticide – An agent that kills parasitic organisms that live in or on livestock.

pesticide – 1. A substance used to control insects, fungi, rodents, weeds, or other organisms that are considered pests. 2. Any substance which alone, in chemical combination, or in any formulation with one or more substances is defined as a pesticide in the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136(u)).

Permitted – The status of a material that is not Prohibited, and is either Allowed or Allowed with Restrictions.

petroleum oils – Liquid hydrocarbons obtained by extraction from the earth’s crust and refining.

plant – A photosynthetic organism that has roots, stems, and leaves.

plant extract – A substance obtained from a plant by means of a solvent without undergoing a synthetic reaction.

plant preparation – A substance that is made from a plant or its constituent parts without undergoing a synthetic reaction.

Policy Manual, OMRI – Document that outlines the requirements of the OMRI review program and serves as a contract between OMRI and OMRI applicants or OMRI Listed suppliers.

preservative – 1. (Livestock) A substance added to protect, prevent, or retard decay, discoloration, or spoilage under conditions of use or storage. (AAFCO). 2. (Processing) Any chemical that, when added to food, tends to prevent or retard deterioration thereof, but does not include common salt, sugars, vinegars, spices, or oils extracted from spices, substances added to food by direct exposure thereof to wood smoke, or chemicals applied for their insecticidal or herbicidal properties (chemical preservative, 21 CFR 101.22).

probiotics – Cultures of beneficial microorganisms fed to livestock to improve digestion and improve health. Also known as “direct-fed microorganisms.”

processed manure – Manures that have been treated by heating and drying to reduce pathogenic organisms.

processing – Cooking, baking, curing, heating, drying, mixing, grinding, churning, separating, extracting, slaughtering, cutting, fermenting, distilling, eviscerating, preserving, dehydrating, freezing, chilling, or otherwise manufacturing and includes the packaging, canning, jarring, or otherwise enclosing of food in a container.

processing aid – Includes: (a) substances that are added to a food during the processing of such food but are removed in some manner from the food before it is packaged in its finished form; (b) substances that are added to a food during processing, are converted into constituents normally present in the food, and do not significantly increase the amount of the constituents naturally found in the food; and (c) substances that are added to a food for their technical or functional effect in the processing but are present in the finished food at insignificant levels and do not have any technical or functional effect in that food (from 21 CFR §101.100, U.S. FDA).

product – Commercial formulation of material(s) sold for farming, livestock, or processing.

product review – The process of evaluating a product for conformance with OMRI’s standards. The review process begins when OMRI receives the appropriate fees and forms.

Products List, OMRI – Directory of commercial products that OMRI has determined to be suitable for use in organic production, handling, and processing including company contact information. Published annually and updated quarterly.

Prohibited – The status of materials that may not be used in organic production, processing, or handling.

registered pesticide – Substance that is required to be registered with EPA under FIFRA.

required analysis – Chemical, physical, or biological test that determines the constituents and/or contaminants of a given product and/or its ingredients.

review – see “product review.”

rodenticide – A substance that is toxic to rodents.

seaweed – Macroscopic marine algae, mostly of the Classes Phaeophyceae or Rhodophyceae.

sewage sludge – A solid, semisolid, or liquid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works. Sewage sludge includes but is not limited to: domestic septage; scum or solids removed in primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes; and a material derived from sewage sludge. Sewage sludge does not include ash generated during the firing of sewage sludge in a sewage sludge incinerator or grit and screenings generated during preliminary treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.”

slaughter stock, organic – Any animal that is intended to be slaughtered for consumption by humans or other animals and is managed organically.”

soap – Alkaline salts of fatty acids.

status – (1) The designation given to a material or product indicating it is allowed, allowed with restrictions, or prohibited by organic standards. (2) The position of a given product in the review process.

substance – (1) A material of definite chemical composition. (2) Material.

substrate – Portion of a media intended to be metabolized by an organism.

supplier – Basic producer, formulator, manufacturer and/or distributor of a product.

synthetic – A substance that is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources, except that such term shall not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes.”

technical sheets – Documents that specify the biological, chemical, physical, and other properties of a given material or product. Also known as “Technical Data Sheets” or “Technical Specification Sheets.”

TGAI – Technical Grade Active Ingredient. This term is generally used with EPA registered pesticides.

trait – Phenotypic attribute that includes external or physiological characteristics of an organism as determined by its inherited genes, by genetic modification, or as modified by its environment.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

vaccine – A substance derived from one or more pathogenic organisms that is treated to lose its virulence and administered to animals to stimulate the immune system and protect against infection from these and related pathogenic organisms.

vermicomposting – A managed process of worms digesting organic matter to transform the material into a beneficial soil amendment.

volatile solvent – A substance that changes readily from liquid to vapor phase at standard temperature and pressure, and is used to extract or dissolve another substance.

water softener – An agent that precipitates or otherwise removes metal ions from water.

weed oil – A pesticide, the label of which states that the product may be used, by itself, to control weeds, and which contains 70 percent or more of the following active ingredients: petroleum hydrocarbons, mineral oil, petroleum oil, petroleum distillates, and/or aromatic petroleum distillates. (3 California Code of Regulations 6000).

