

**Organic = Non-GMO,  
and a whole lot more!**



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# Concerns About GMO Labeling

## *Does organic mean non-GMO?*

### Non-GMO label claims in the marketplace:

- **Increasing use of non-GMO claims** on product labels
- **USDA organic seal AND a “non-GMO”** or “GMO free” is frequently used on packaging
- **Lack of federal oversight** on label claims except for USDA NOP certified products
- **FDA’s GMO labeling position**
  - FDA Guidance of 2001
  - Final Guidance expected in 2015



# OTA Convenes Task Force

## *Organic = Non-GMO PLUS*

In December 2013, OTA convened a task force to focus on protecting and promoting **organic products as a gold standard of non-GMO choices**. Two-part mandate:



Develop **comments to FDA** on its draft guidance on voluntary claims indicating whether foods have been produced without the use of “bioengineering.”



Ensure that **organic certification** and corresponding labels remain the gold standard for non-GMO verification.

# OTA Convenes Task Force

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 Comments were submitted to FDA on preferred “non-GMO” terminology and a **retailer/consumer education toolkit** was created.

 OTA’s Board of Directors adopted a position on the Labeling of USDA NOP certified Products.

- Supports the position that **USDA organic certification is sufficient** and organic products do not need additional third-party verification to support claims regarding the absence of GMOs.
- Also recognizes that each **company may choose to seek out additional voluntary** 3rd party non-GMO verification.
- Recommends “non-GMO” terminology = process based

 Comments were submitted to the Non-GMO Project Standard with the goal of **reducing duplicative efforts**.

# USDA organic regulations prohibit the use of GMO's



**Organic certification verifies that ALL organic and non-organic ingredients and processing aids were produced without the use of genetic engineering**



**Organic certification prohibits farmers from using GM seed and requires practices that prevent contact of organic crops with GMOs**



**The prohibition on GMOs extends to all organic label categories (“100% Organic,” “Organic,” and “Made with Organic”) and all organic and non-organic ingredients contained in the products, including minor ingredients such as flavors, yeast and cornstarch.**



**The use of GMOs is prohibited during the production (farming) AND handling (processing) of certified organic products.**

# USDA organic regulations prohibit the use of GMO's

## TESTING & VERIFICATION

Annual onsite inspections verify these practices and **include periodic residue testing** for pesticides, GMOs, and other prohibited substances



Testing is used to determine whether certified operators have adequate GMO avoidance measures in place. Certifiers must issue non-compliance notices to organic operations that fail to take adequate measures to avoid contact with GMOs. **Failure to correct non-compliances may result in loss of certification.**

# Organic = Non-GMO



GMOs are **prohibited during the production (farming) AND handling (processing)** of certified organic products.



Certified organic farmers **must not use genetically modified seed**, and they must have procedures in place that prevent GMO drift from adjacent farms.



Certified handlers (processors) must have practices in place to **separate organic ingredients and products from non-organic** (potentially GMO) forms during receiving, processing, storage and shipping.

## ...and **ORGANIC** also means so much more:

Organic food and farming supports the health of people and our planet in so many meaningful ways. Choose organic to avoid toxic pesticides and other harmful chemicals and to steer clear of artificial colors, flavors, and preservatives. Organic farming practices support animal health and welfare with practices like cage-free living and antibiotic avoidance.

# Organic = Non-GMO PLUS

## *Check out OTA's Resources!*



PDF

OTA'S FACT SHEET  
ON NON-GMO  
VERIFICATION  
UNDER NOP  
ORGANIC  
CERTIFICATION



PDF

OTA'S Q & A ON  
NON-GMO  
VERIFICATION  
UNDER NOP  
ORGANIC  
CERTIFICATION



PDF

QUICK TIPS:  
ORGANIC IS THE  
CHOICE TO AVOID  
GMOS



PDF

OTA POSITION OF  
LABELING  
ORGANIC  
PRODUCTS NON-  
GMO



**VISIT**

[ota.com/GMOs](http://ota.com/GMOs)  
for resource  
downloads + more  
information

# Thank You!



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