What is ORGANIC?

Unlike other eco-labels, only ORGANIC guarantees:

- NO toxic and synthetic pesticides or fertilizers
- NO GMO ingredients
- NO antibiotics or synthetic growth hormones
- NO toxic chemical processing inputs
- NO sewage sludge or irradiation

Federal production and processing standards provide traceability from the farm to the consumer.

What is organic CERTIFICATION?

From the land on which the fiber is grown, to the post-harvest facilities preparing the fiber, to the processing and handling facilities transforming the fiber into finished textiles, certifiers are responsible for making sure that USDA organic fiber and finished products meet all organic standards. Once an operation is certified, organic producers and handlers go through annual reviews and inspections. Every certifier also operates under the oversight of USDA.

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ORGANIC by the numbers

How is organic fiber GROWN or RAISED?

Organic farmers and ranchers rely on crop rotation, cover crops and dense planting rather than toxic and persistent pesticides and synthetic nitrogen fertilizers to enrich the soil in which they grow their crops. Fiber from animals must be grown and processed without any chemical treatments of any kind. To earn organic certification, land must be managed without prohibited materials for at least three years.

THE BENEFITS & BASICS OF ORGANIC FIBER & TEXTILES

Learn more at OTA.com/organic101

What about ANIMAL health and welfare?

Organic farmers and ranchers are required to raise animals without the use of antibiotics or synthetic growth hormones. Animals must have 100% organic feed and safe, healthy and natural living conditions. Organic farmers and ranchers must provide their animals with access to the outdoors and pasture so that they can freely roam about. In fact, the organic standards require that cows and sheep graze on grass for a minimum of one third of their lives.

American consumers spend nearly $62 Billion on organic products

$2 Billion of which was organic textiles

ORGANIC FARMERS are not exposed to toxic agricultural chemicals

100% organic feed and roam outdoors

Organic WOOL

comes from sheep who eat

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How do I KNOW if the product is actually organic?

Don’t accept self-certification claims or marks! Check to see that the product is 3rd party certified to the USDA Organic standard, the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS) or to the Textile Exchange Organic Content Standard (OCS). GOTS is the worldwide leading textile processing standard for organic fiber. The OCS Standard is a content standard and guarantees traceability of the raw-organic material during all manufacturing stages — it does not address processing restrictions. In all cases, read the label carefully and look for the reference to a 3rd-party certifier!

What about organic and GMOs?

ALL ORGANIC PRODUCTS ARE NON-GMO, AND A WHOLE LOT MORE! Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are prohibited in organic products. This means an organic farmer can’t plant GMO seeds, organic cows or sheep can’t eat GMO alfalfa, corn or cottonseed, and an organic manufacturer can’t use any GMO ingredients. Organic farmers and manufacturers must show they aren’t using GMOs, and that they are protecting their products from contact with prohibited substances from farm to finished product.

How is organic good for people and the ENVIRONMENT?

Organic is based on practices that build soil health and biodiversity and protect the health of workers and the environment. By prohibiting the use of toxic and synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, and processing materials, organic helps to build the soil (thereby combating climate change), reduce water contamination from processing, and protect environmental and worker health.

What standards are there for making ORGANIC clothes, mattresses & linens?

In the US, raw agricultural fiber (e.g. cotton, silk, wool labeled as “organic” must be certified to the USDA Organic standards. In order to make a claim that a processed fiber product is “certified organic,” the product must be certified to the USDA organic food standards, or to the Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). GOTS certification is designed specifically for textiles and verifies its organic status from harvesting of the USDA organic raw materials through environmentally and socially responsible manufacturing and labeling.

Does SCIENCE show organic is better?

YES! While many labels promise undefined and unverified benefits, science continues to prove why choosing organic is so important. Dozens of studies have associated exposures to agricultural pesticides banned in organic with many serious health concerns.

Organic farming increases species diversity by about 50%
Total global warming potential of organic cotton is 46% lower than that of conventional cotton
Organic farms sequester 44% more carbon into long-term soil reserves than conventional soil

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Increasing consumer awareness and the growing knowledge that what we put on our body is as important as what we put in it is driving growth in the organic textiles and fiber market.

#LiveOrganic