



# Animal-Derived Inputs: Frequently Asked Questions

## INTRODUCTION

To evaluate animal-derived products, the Non-GMO Project Standard requires traceability to the animal feed to ensure that animals are fed a non-GMO diet.

Any input to animal feed that is equal to 5% or more of the total feed ration is considered a major input. If a major input is a high-risk crop (high-risk crops typically found in animal rations include corn, soy, alfalfa, and canola), it is subject to testing and must test at or below the 5% action threshold in the Standard.

### What is an animal-derived input?

Animal-derived inputs are livestock, apiculture, and aquaculture products such as dairy, meat, eggs, honey, and seafood.

## FAQS FOR BRAND OWNERS

### How can I source compliant animal-derived inputs?

If your animal-derived input is not Non-GMO Project Verified and is present in your product as a defining ingredient or major input, your supplier must demonstrate that it tests at or below the action threshold.

If your animal-derived inputs is not Non-GMO Project Verified and is present in your product as a minor input (0.5 - 4.9% of the dry weight of your product) or micro input (less than 0.5%), demonstration of organic status is sufficient and those inputs do not need to be evaluated back to the animal feed.

As traceability can be difficult at a larger scale, sourcing ingredients directly from the producer can be helpful.

### What if I source inputs that are grass-fed or pasture-fed and raised?

If you and your farmer/rancher can show that the feed ration is 95.1% grass-based (excluding alfalfa) and any high-risk crops are present only in minor or micro amounts, this is a pathway to compliance that may not involve testing.

### What about seafood products?

Wild-caught seafood does not require an evaluation of the animal's diet. Seafood that is farm raised will require that major ingredients in the feed ration test at or below the action threshold of 5%.

### And bee-derived products like honey?

In order for honey to be compliant, the location of the hives needs to have a 4-mile surrounding radius that is free from the cultivation of GMO crops. This requirement is similar to organic honey, and showing organic compliance is sufficient for our Standard.

## FAQS FOR FARMERS AND RANCHERS

### How long do animals need to be fed non-GMO feed? What are the life-cycle requirements?

Meat animals must be fed a non-GMO diet from birth. Poultry must be fed a non-GMO diet from the second day after hatching. For egg and dairy products, the animals must be fed a non-GMO diet 30 days prior to lactation and continuously thereafter.

### What type of testing can be used to demonstrate compliance?

Technical Administrators must approve your sampling and testing plan prior to implementation. All sampling and testing must be documented and presented to the Technical Administrator annually to demonstrate compliance. Livestock feed must test at or below the action threshold of 5% GMO content. Testing can either be done on site (strip testing) or sent to an approved laboratory (PCR testing) and must include all commercialized genetic modification events.

### How much testing is required and what are the protocols?

Please confirm a sampling and testing plan with your Technical Administrator; in general testing is required at least quarterly.

### Will my farm need to be inspected?

Generally, for non-organic or non-pooled products and feed mills seeking verification of feed, inspections are required annually.

### Can my feed mill get Non-GMO Project Verified?

We do not offer facility verification. However, feed mills can choose to get their products (feed blends) verified for the wholesale market by becoming a participant in our program and demonstrating compliance.

### How will my products be classified?

Meat products are named by cut (i.e., a fillet is a different product than a tri-tip). Live animals and entire herds cannot be Non-GMO Project Verified.

For products such as milk and eggs, products are classified by their unique product formulation, which includes different processing methods (e.g., 1% and 2% fluid milk are considered two different products, as are white and brown eggs).

*This document is an informational flyer that seeks to answer some of the most common questions we receive regarding the verification process. It is not a substitute for the Non-GMO Project Standard. **If you have any specific questions regarding how the verification process may affect your product(s), please contact our Client Services team:***

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