

# "ORGANIC" ?

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Products labeled as **"100 percent organic"** must contain (excluding water and salt) only organically produced ingredients.

Products labeled **"organic"** must consist of at least 95 percent organically produced ingredients (excluding water and salt). Any remaining product ingredients must consist of nonagricultural substances approved on the National List or non-organically produced agricultural products that are not commercially available in organic form.

Products meeting the requirements for "100 percent organic" and "organic" may display these terms and the percentage of organic content on their principal display panel. The USDA seal and the seal or mark of involved certifying agents may appear on product packages and in advertisements. Foods labeled "100 percent organic" and "organic" cannot be produced using excluded methods, sewage sludge, or ionizing radiation.

Processed products that contain at least 70 percent organic ingredients can use the phrase **"made with organic ingredients"** and list up to three of the organic ingredients or food groups on the principal display panel. For example, soup made with at least 70 percent organic ingredients and only organic vegetables may be labeled either "soup made with organic peas, potatoes, and carrots," or "soup made with organic vegetables."

Processed products labeled "made with organic ingredients" cannot be produced using excluded methods, sewage sludge, or ionizing radiation. The percentage of organic content and the certifying agent seal or mark may be used on the principal display panel. However, the USDA seal cannot be used anywhere on the package.

**Processed products that contain less than 70 percent organic ingredients** cannot use the term organic anywhere on the principal display panel. However, they may identify the specific ingredients that are organically produced on the ingredients statement on the information panel.

## Other labeling provisions

Any product labeled as organic must identify each organically produced ingredient in the ingredient statement on the information panel.

**"Raised Without Antibiotics"**: The government does not double-check this claim.

**"No Hormones Administered"**: This label is really only relevant to beef (even though it may appear on other animal products), as giving hormones to pigs, bison/buffalo and chickens is banned anyway. However, no on-site USDA inspections are mandated.

**"Free Range"**: This label is permitted on farms where the coop door is open a mere five (yes, 5) minutes a day.

**"Fresh"**: If this is a reference to fruits and vegetables, the label means that the product has not been frozen (USDA standard). If the product is chicken, then the label means that it has not been stored below 24°F. That 8° below freezing! (USDA standard).



### Radura Symbol

A circular symbol that must appear on all irradiated food unless the food is used as an ingredient in a processed food or is served in a restaurant.



The National Cattlemen's Beef Association supports prominent labeling and suggested that the radura logo appear with a statement such as "treated by ionizing-pasteurization" or "treated by electron-pasteurization" on the package label. The NCBA suggested that label statements could be phased out after consumers become familiar with irradiation technology and labeling. "Eventually, it may be possible to use the radura as the sole symbol for irradiated products," a spokesman for the association said.

Logo of The Environmental Protection Agency = lower figure

## Unique Radiolytic Products (URPs)

Chemicals produced in food when the food is irradiated that are different from chemicals produced during cooking.