FAPC-241



New Food Labeling Standards Bioengineered Foods

March 2022

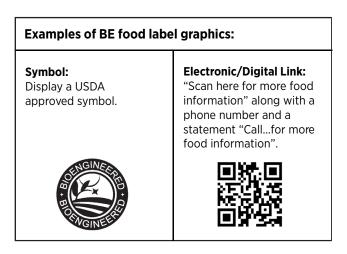
Renee' Albers-Nelson Robert M. Kerr Food & Ag Products Center

Dr. Darren Scott Robert M. Kerr Food & Ag Products Center

Food transparency is of great importance to modern U.S. consumers, especially when it comes to making a purchase decision. To help consumers locate geneticallyaltered foods in the market place, Congress passed The National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law in July 2016. Beginning January 2022, it is mandatory to identify food that is bioengineered (BE) or contains BE ingredients.

The National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Law amended the United States Department of Agriculture's, Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, to establish a "national mandatory standard" for labeling foods that are or may be bioengineered to some degree. The law utilized the word "bioengineered", instead of genetically modified organism (GMO). [Improved science methods now allow for "precise" gene editing of only sections of DNA, versus GMO technology, which utilizes "imprecise" methods of genetic modification of an organism.] In the law, "bioengineered" (BE) was defined as a food that has been genetically modified in a way that could not be obtained through conventional breeding or found in nature. In 2018, the United States Department of Agriculture, Agriculture Marketing Service, (USDA-AMS) announced the new food labeling standard, intended to bring a uniform methodology in displaying if a food is bioengineered or contains bioengineered ingrediOklahoma Cooperative Extension Fact Sheets are also available on our website at: extension.okstate.edu

ents. The Standard requires food manufacturers, importers and certain retailers to disclose on their label if a food or ingredients are BE. This can be done in the form of text, a pre-designed graphic, an electronic/digital link or a phone number consumers can text. The location of the information must be displayed on the food label information panel, adjacent to the manufacturer or distributor information or on the principal display panel.



Examples of BE food label text:

"Bioengineered food":

Used for single ingredient item or food that contains all bioengineered ingredients.

"Contains a bioengineered food ingredient" or

"Contains bioengineered food ingredients":

Used for foods that contain combination of bioengineered and non-bioengineered ingredients.

"Derived from bioengineering":

Used on highly refined products on a voluntary basis where the food is derived from BE ingredients but the food has non-detectable amounts of genetic material, basically no DNA not normally associated with that particular food.

Text Message Disclosure:

"Text [command word] to [number] for bioengineered food information".

Conclusion

Exemptions exist in the National Bioengineered Food Disclosure Standard. Under the following conditions, BE foods do not need to be labeled: (1) foods served in a restaurant (2) food manufacturers with annual receipts of less than \$2.5 million (3) food certified under the USDA National Organic Program (4) a food that contains 5% or less of each bioengineered ingredient.

An official "List of Bioengineered Foods" is available through the USDA-AMS at the following website: https://www. ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/be/bioengineered-foods-list Foods/crops on the list: Alfalfa; Apple (Arctic varieties); Canola; Corn; Cotton; Eggplant (BARI Bt Begun varieties); Papaya (ringspot virus-resistant varieties); Pineapple (pink flesh varieties); Potato; Salmon (AquAdvantage^{*}); Soybean; Squash (summer); Sugarbeet. The List is updated annually. It is important for the consumer to understand non-bioengineered forms of all foods/crops are additionally available in the marketplace, just not BE forms.

Information sourced from the USDA-AMS



Oklahoma State University, as an equal opportunity employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination and affirmative action. Oklahoma State University is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all individuals and does not discriminate based on race, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, disability, or veteran status with regard to employment, educational programs and activities, and/or admissions. For more information, wish they informatic edu.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director of Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma. This publication is printed and issued by Oklahoma State University as authorized by the Vice President for Agricultural Programs and has been prepared and distributed at a cost of 20 cents per copy. March 2022 KG.