

ALLOWED INGREDIENTS IN ORGANIC LIVESTOCK FEED

There are only a few types of ingredients that can be included in organic livestock feed and many ingredients that are specifically prohibited. The table below groups the materials that are allowed in organic feed by type, providing examples, and the main things your certifier will look at for each type.

Allowed Ingredients

Ingredient Type	Common Examples	Review Considerations
Organic agricultural products	• Grains, such as shelled corn, soybean meal, wheat, and oats • Meals, such as alfalfa and kelp • Soybean oil • Molasses • Yucca schidigera extract • Insects, larvae, and mealworms	• Must be certified organic, and the feed must contain at least one organic agricultural ingredient • Insects and kelp are agricultural, so they must be organic • Aquatic animals such as fish meal, shrimp, and crab are nonagricultural and are not required to be organic
Nonsynthetic substances	• Salt, free of prohibited additives such as Yellow Prussiate of Soda • Reed sedge peat • Zeolites • Enzymes • Probiotics and other microorganisms • Selenium yeast • Brewers dried yeast, which may be nonorganic	• Microorganisms, enzymes, and fermentation products may need non-GMO verification • Mined nonsynthetic substances may need verification of the mining process
Synthetic substances	• DL-Methionine • Trace minerals • Vitamins	• Must appear in <u>§205.603</u> of the National List • DL-Methionine, vitamins, and minerals each carry extra conditions

Prohibited ingredients include:

- Hormones
- Antibiotics
- Urea or manure
- Slaughter by-products
- Plastic pellets for roughage
- Supplements or additives in amounts above those needed for adequate nutrition and health maintenance

SOURCES CITED

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Marketing Service. (2013, March 4). *NOP 5027: The Use of Kelp in Organic Livestock Feed*. Retrieved from <https://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/5027.pdf>

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.2 (Agricultural product).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.2 (Livestock).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.237(a).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.237(b).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.603(d).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.603(d)(1) (DL-Methionine).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.603(d)(2) (Trace minerals).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.603(d)(3) (Vitamins).

USDA National Organic Program, 7 CFR §205.604.