



OEFFA Organic Certification Fact Sheet

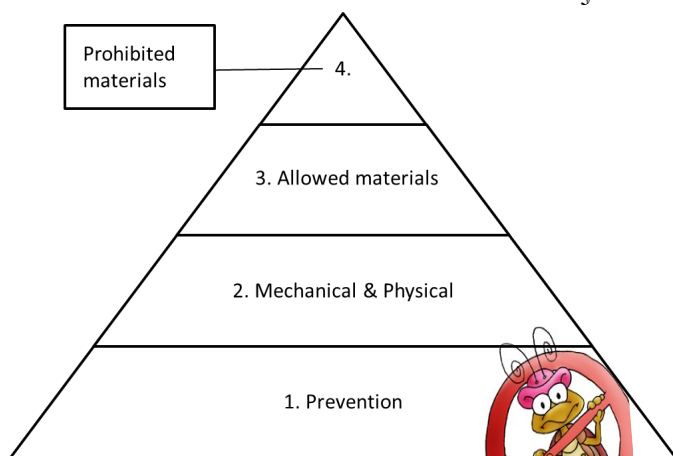
www.oeffa.org • 41 Crowell Road, Columbus, OH 43214 • (614) 262-2022 • organic@oeffa.org

Facility Pest Management

Preventing and Controlling Pests in Storage and Processing Facilities

Pests can cause serious problems for those who manage organic facilities. Complications range from economic hardship to health concerns. It is important to practice pest management strategies in order to maintain pest populations below economically damaging levels, as well as minimize the harmful effects that come with pest control on human health and environmental resources. Under organic management, facilities must use a tiered approach, exhausting certain methods of pest management prior to using others. All pest management activities should be described in the Organic System Plan (OSP) and documented on an on-going basis.

NOP Citation: §205.271



1. Prevention

Pest management for organic producers and handlers who have storage and/or processing facilities is a multi-tiered system. The first step is using management practices to prevent problems before they occur. Keeping facilities sanitary, removing exterior habitat and food sources, mowing, sealing doors and windows, and creating physical barriers to prevent pests from entering are some examples of pest prevention practices.

2. Mechanical & Physical Controls

If problems persist in spite of the operator's best prevention efforts, pest controls such as sticky, mechanical, or pheromone traps may be used. However, rodent snap traps may NOT be used in the production area of a processing facility. Lures and repellents using nonsynthetic or synthetic substances consistent with the National List may also be used.

3. Allowed Materials –

Pesticide Controls Consistent with The National List

When prevention and mechanical/physical control methods are not enough, nonsynthetic and synthetic pest control materials that are consistent with the National List may be used. To determine if a substance is consistent with the National List, check with OEFFA or consider exploring the resources at the bottom of this sheet. Even though a substance is allowed, it may not be approved to come into direct contact with certified organic products, land, or livestock. It is therefore important that the operator discuss their plan and methods of using these substances with OEFFA ahead of time. OEFFA allows the use of bait boxes outside the facility, if there is no risk of contamination of organic products.

4. Prohibited Materials –

Pesticide Controls *Not* Consistent with The National List

If steps 1-3 are not effective in preventing or controlling pests, a synthetic substance *not* on the National List may be used, provided that the certified operator and OEFFA agree on the substance, method of application, and measures to be taken to prevent contamination of certified products. **Prior to using a pest management substance not on the National List, you must first:**

- Document the need to use that substance. Include the specific preventative measures you have taken, any relevant pest monitoring results, allowed materials you have tried, etc.
- Document your plan to protect organic integrity while using the substance, including the substance's name, where the substance will be applied, for how long, method of application, how organic product will be protected, and other important details.

OTHER REGULATIONS

If NOP or OEFFA requirements conflict with any Federal, State, or Local health or safety regulations in any way, the operator should contact OEFFA to resolve the issue. For details regarding Federal and State emergency pest and disease treatment programs, see NOP §205.672.

RESOURCES

- <https://attra.ncat.org/pest.html>*
- <http://www.beyondpesticides.org/alternatives/factsheets/index.php>*

- <http://www.pesticide.org/get-the-facts/pesticide-factsheets>*
- <http://www.omri.org/about-products-list>
- <http://www.pctonline.com/pct0312-pesticides-use-organic-facilities.aspx>

*May not necessarily be consistent with organic standards