

SUSTAINABILITY CLAIMS & WHAT THEY MEAN

Food Labels give you information about a food product, including preparation instructions, best by date, nutrition facts, ingredients and allergens. Certain claims on a food label can give you additional information about how the food was grown or how the animal was raised and fed. The terms below define common food label claims.

USDA Label Claims

USDA Organic

USDA certified organic foods are grown and processed according to federal guidelines addressing, among many factors, soil quality, animal raising practices, pest and weed control, and use of additives. Organic producers rely on natural substances and physical, mechanical, or biologically based farming methods to the fullest extent possible.

Organic

Contains no less than 95 percent of certified organic ingredients (excluding salt and water). The remaining five percent of ingredients must be organically produced, unless commercially unavailable or allowed on the National List.

Cage free

Applies to eggs laid by hens that are allowed to roam in a room or open area, which is typically a barn or poultry house.

Raised Without Antibiotics

Animals cannot be administered antibiotics in their feed, water or by injections at any point in the production process.

100 Percent Organic

Contains only ingredients that are certified organic, including any processing aids.

“Made With” Organic

Contains at least 70 percent certified organic ingredients (excluding salt and water). Any remaining agricultural products are not required to be organically produced, but must be produced without excluded methods – for example, genetic engineering.

Free range

Eggs laid by hens raised outdoors or with access to outdoors. In addition the hens may also eat wild plants and insects.

Organic (eggs)

Eggs laid by uncaged hens that are free to roam in their houses and have access to the outdoors. The hens are fed an organic diet of feed produced without conventional pesticides or fertilizers.



In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; (3) or email: program.intake@usda.gov.



Pasture raised

Cattle or poultry food that had continuous, free access to the outdoors for a significant portion of their lives. Feedlot-raised livestock or livestock that were confined and fed for a portion of their lives do not qualify as pasture raised.



No Hormones Administered (beef*)

No hormones have been used in raising the animals. **Hormones are not allowed in raising hogs or poultry.*



Local

Foods produced and sold within a certain distance or geographic boundary to consumers. Currently USDA has no singular definition of local foods.



Grass Fed or 100% Grass Fed

Only applies to meat and meat product labels derived from cattle that were only (100%) fed grass (forage) after being weaned from their mother's milk. The diet must be derived solely from forage, and animals cannot be fed grain or grain by-products and must have continuous access to pasture during the growing season until slaughter.



Natural

No artificial ingredient or added color and is only minimally processed. The label must include a statement explaining the meaning of the term natural (such as "no artificial ingredients; minimally processed").

Non-USDA Label Claims



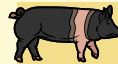
Non-GMO Project Verified

Products are evaluated to ensure they meet the requirements of the Non-GMO Project Standard, a third party certification program.



Fair Trade Certified

products that support safe working conditions, environmental protection, sustainable livelihoods and community development funds determined by Fair Trade USA, a third party certification program.



Certified Humane Raised and Handled

Animals are never kept in cages, crates, or tie stalls and are free to do what comes naturally. Animals must be fed a diet of quality feed, without antibiotics or growth hormones. Compliance with the North American Meat Institute Standards (NAMI). Standards are verified by Certified Humane, a third party certification program.

