

## **GIPSA Verifies Performance of StarLink Test Kits**

Washington, DC (February 21, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced today that it evaluated two test kits for determination of StarLink corn in corn grain. GIPSA performed its evaluations on the EnviroLogix Cry9C ELISA Plate Kit and the Neogen Corporation Agri-Screen Qualitative Cry9C Test. GIPSA concluded that the performance of both kits meets the manufacturer's claims of identification of StarLink corn as follows:

- EnviroLogix Cry9C ELISA Plate Kit detection sensitivity of 1 StarLink kernel in 2,400 kernels of corn following the Rapid Protocol and 1 StarLink kernel in 10,000 kernels of corn following the High Sensitivity Protocol.
- Neogen Agri-Screen Qualitative CRY9C Test detection sensitivity of 1 StarLink kernel in 800 kernels of corn.

GIPSA's verification of tests is performed on grain only as opposed to processed foods.

GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government backed testing and to ensure that corn export markets that have specific restrictions on the import of corn containing StarLink are fulfilled. StarLink is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLink is approved for animal feed and industrial use only and is no longer available as seed for production.

GIPSA acting administrator David Shipman stated that GIPSA's evaluation of rapid test kits helps grain markets make more informed decisions about the grain being bought and sold.

For more information on StarLink testing services, see GIPSA's web site at <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/starlink/starlink.htm>. For information on test kit performance evaluation and laboratory accreditation services, visit <http://www.usda.gov/gipsa/biotech/evalaccredit.htm>.

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