

## **GIPSA Verifies Performance of StarLink™ Test Kit**

Washington, DC (April 11, 2001)--The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced today that it evaluated Strategic Diagnostics, Inc. GMOQuick 4™ Bt9 Test Kit and found that the kit's performance meets the manufacturer's claims of the identification of one StarLink™ corn kernel in 800 corn kernels. GIPSA's verification of tests is performed on grain only, not processed foods.

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.

GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLink™ on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government backed testing 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.

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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