

GIPSA Verifies Performance Of Neogen Corporation Agri-Screen Cry9c Strip Test To Detect Starlinktm Corn

Washington (December 11, 2001) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) announced today that it has verified that the Neogen Corporation's Agri-Screen Cry9C Strip Test detects the presence of one kernel of StarLinkTM corn in 800 kernels in ten minutes (test development time.) GIPSA's verification of this test was performed on grain only, as opposed to processed foods.

GIPSA began offering official testing service for StarLinkTM on November 15, 2000, after the grain markets expressed the need for government-backed testing, and to ensure that corn export markets to Japan were supplied with corn free of StarLinkTM. StarLinkTM is a variety of corn developed by Aventis Crop Science that incorporates biotechnical modification to control insect damage. StarLinkTM is approved for animal feed and industrial use only and is no longer available as seed for production.

GIPSA Acting Administrator Dave 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 StarLinkTM 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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