



Suggested Environmental Considerations for Dairy Products

Use one or more of the suggested environmental disclosure questions in your RFI/RFP to help inform your purchasing decisions.

#	Environmental Questions	Preferred Answer	Definition	Rationale
1.	Is this product or any product ingredients USDA certified organic or Food Alliance Certified? (Yes/No)	Yes	<p>Certified USDA Organic - Product must meet the federal organic standards as determined by a USDA-approved certifying agency. Organic products are produced without synthetic pesticides, fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics or added hormones.</p> <p>Food Alliance certification ensures that farmers/producers use safe and fair working conditions, humane livestock handling practices, cannot use hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics, cannot use or produce GMOs, reduce pesticide use, implement water and soil conservation and habitat protection practices</p>	<p>Cows may have consumed feed produced with synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, or genetically modified organisms, and had antibiotics, or added hormones administered to them (organic certification avoids this).</p> <p>Grains/legumes, meat, dairy, eggs, and produce may have been produced utilizing unfair labor/working conditions. Animal welfare may not have been taken into consideration and high levels of toxic pesticides and fertilizers may have been used to produce these foods or feed crops. Products with grains, corn, soy and canola may be genetically engineered. Farming practices may be wasteful or harmful to water, soil and habitat health (Food Alliance certification avoids this).</p> <p>These two certifications are slightly different yet we did not want one to cancel the other by asking two separate questions. Few producers have both certifications in part because they do have some overlap in what they cover.</p>
2	Is this dairy product produced without the use of rBGH/rBST? (Yes/No)	Yes	Recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH) or recombinant bovine somatotropin (rBST) refers to bovine growth hormone that is genetically engineered in a lab. rBGH or rBST is a synthetic hormone given to dairy cows to increase milk production. After a cow calves, she produces milk for about twelve weeks, after which milk	rBGH or rBST has the potential to cause illness in the cows increasing the need for antibiotics potentially contributing to antibiotic resistance in humans. Additionally, some concerns have been raised about the potential for use of rBGH to increase rates of cancer in humans. Its use is not permitted in the European Union, Canada, and some other countries.

			production tapers down, feed intake catches up, and her body rebuilds. By injecting with rBGH, a producer can postpone that crossover point for another 8 to 12 weeks and keep milk production at a high level for a longer period of time. ⁱ	
3	Does this product contain ingredients that are certified for humane animal welfare? (Yes/No)	Yes	<p>There are two programs that certify products for humane animal welfare.</p> <p>Certified Humane Raised and Handled® - Meat and dairy products are raised humanely. No growth hormones or non-therapeutic antibiotics used. Food, living, environmental, and slaughter standards in place.</p> <p>The Animal Welfare Approved program audits and certifies family farms raising their animals humanely, outdoors on pasture or range. Animals must be able to behave naturally and be in a state of physical and psychological well-being. Requires animals to be raised on range or pasture, prohibits dual production (i.e. raising animals under both an industrialized, factory-farm system as well as an alternative, higher-welfare system), certifies only family farmers, high standards for animal welfare.</p>	Dairy products may have been produced with added hormones and non-therapeutic antibiotics (e.g., antibiotics used to prevent disease and promote growth) and raised in a setting that does not address humane living and slaughter standards.
4	Does this product contain ingredients that were produced without antibiotics? (Yes/No)	Yes	"Produced without the use of antibiotics" – Is a FDA label claim indicating that the animal was never treated with antibiotics.	According to the FDA 80% of all antibiotics used in the United States are used in food animal production. Most of these are used not to treat disease but to prevent disease caused by poor living condition and/or promote growth. Injudicious use of antibiotics in animal agriculture can result in antibiotic resistance in humans

Packaging Questions

Include the following questions for packaged products

#	Environmental Questions	Preferred Answer	Definition	Rationale
1.	Is this product's package recyclable? (Yes/No)	Yes	Any claims of recyclability indicates the supplier can demonstrate that at least 60% of the hospitals in the U.S., or in the product distribution area, have access to an established recycling program for this item, or there is an existing take-back program by the vendor of the manufacturer that has been in operation at least one year and covers the indicated percentage of hospitals and will recycle the product.	Recyclable products, those that are recyclable in communities in the U.S., reduce materials going to the waste stream and their associated costs. Although FTC has not finalized definitions to prove this claim, we are utilizing the FTC draft definition for 'substantial majority' to mean at least 60% and adding what it means to the health care community to ensure the needs of facilities who strive to divert materials from their waste stream.
3.	Is this product packaged in a container free of intentionally added Bisphenol A? (Yes/No)	Yes	Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, or Bisphenol A (BPA), is an organic compound used to make polycarbonate plastic, epoxy resins and for other applications. Polycarbonate plastic is derived from BPA. Resin derived from BPA is used to line metal food containers and in thermal paper for impact printing purposes. Intentionally added means a substance is deliberately added in the production of the product.	People can be exposed through the use of products containing these chemicals. BPA is one of the highest volume chemicals produced worldwide. Laboratory studies have shown widespread health effects, at least in part through endocrine disruption mechanisms. The National Toxicology Program has some concern for the effects on the brain, behavior, and prostate gland in fetuses, infants, and children at current human exposures to Bisphenol A.

This resource was created by Health Care Without Harm's [Healthy Food in Health Care Program](#) and [Practice Greenhealth](#).

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ⁱ Meadows, Donella, RBGH - Not The Only Choice Comparing the full effects of chemically-generated increases in milk production—with a non-chemical alternative *The Ecology Of Justice* (IC#38) Spring 1994, Page 8 Copyright (c)1994, 1997 by Context Institute