



Rural Development



The USDA BioPreferred® Program

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Agenda

- About the BioPreferred Program
- Current Activities and Future Activities
- PFAS
- Questions



The BioPreferred Program

HISTORY

- Managed by U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Established by the 2002 Farm Bill
- Expanded in the 2008, 2014, and 2018 Farm Bills
- Identifies and seeks new markets for biobased products

MISSION

- Spur economic development
- Create new U.S. jobs
- Provide new markets for farm commodities
- Reduce our reliance on petroleum
- Increase the use of renewable agricultural resources
- Reduce adverse environmental and health impacts

The BioPreferred Program

Two major elements, both designed to create and accelerate market activity for biobased products

Preferred Federal Purchasing

- Directs Federal Agencies to give preference to biobased products in categories designated by USDA. There are hundreds of categories and subcategories of products designated for the federal purchasing preference.

Voluntary Labeling

- Provides trusted third-party certification of biobased product content, enabling manufacturers to display the certification label on products and promote their certification to consumers.

The USDA BioPreferred® Program

Key Steps to Certification

Explore Program highlights and key steps to earning approval to display the USDA Certified Biobased Product label on your products.



Every year, we see a wider array of biobased products being manufactured and getting certified!

And research shows, today's buyers look for products that are made of renewable, "greener" materials!

Interesting Program Statistics



- Over 8,890 USDA Certified Biobased Products from 1,990 companies
 - 99 new products certified in Oct '24
- Over 9,636 products eligible for Federal Purchasing Preference from 2,100 companies
 - 127 new products qualified for FP status in Oct '24
- Businesses from 59 countries participate

- Source: BioPreferred Report, Issued October 2024

Interesting Program Statistics

110 products under
“Erosion Control
Materials”

Certified Products Earned Within Calendar Year	
Year	Calendar Year
2011	406
2012	295
2013	62
2014	242
2015	301
2016	266
2017	537
2018	605
2019	758
2020	657
2021	1348
2022	1249
2023	1321
2024	828

Current Activities

Current Activities

- Promote Program through a variety of communication initiatives:
 - BioBuzz and BioBuzzGov newsletters
 - Social Media activity
 - Event and conference participation
- Increase outreach to stakeholders and participants
 - Meet and collaborate with partners to co-promote biobased products
 - Offer more training material for both buyer and sellers of biobased products



Future Activities

Future Activities

- Continue to grow the BioPreferred Catalog and assure that it is the largest and most reliable biobased products database
- Amplify efforts by private sector to capitalize on bioeconomy growth
- Continue to make federal departments and agencies aware that biobased products are available for their needs and uses
- Support 3rd annual National Biobased Products Day – March 8th 2025



Future Activities – Biobased Markets Program*

- Adopt changes from the 2018 Farm Bill
- Merge of the *Guidelines for Designating Biobased Products for Federal Procurement* and the *Voluntary Labeling Program for Biobased Products* into one streamlined regulation.
 - Will facilitate the increased use of Biobased Products in all market sectors.
- Additional technical changes to help simplify the Program:
 - Revise existing definitions of key terms, such as “Renewable Chemicals,” “Applicable Minimum Biobased Content” and “Intermediate Ingredient and Feedstock”
 - Revise the Category Designations including adding new product categories
 - Revisions to determining Biobased Content
 - ASTM D6866 test method still the best method for testing biobased content
 - Adding Proportional Sampling
 - Test exemptions
 - Adding a new section described as “Families”

[*Federal Registration Notice](#)

PFAS

Addressing PFAS

- We are a single attribute program, as mandated by statute
- Products are evaluated based solely on biobased content
- Participants may voluntarily provide information such as whether a product:
 - Uses PFAS
 - Meets standards that disallow PFAS (BPI, Green Seal, Cradle to Cradle, etc.)

Examples in the Catalog

GREENSTRIPE® GOLD CUPS

Product	Company
FP	
Product Name	Green Stripe® Cold Cups
Company Name	Eco-Products, Inc.
Product Website	http://www.ecoproducts.com
Product Description	Showcase your commitment to green with the original Renewable & Compostable GreenStripe® Cold Cups and Lids. Strong and durable, GreenStripe® Cold Cups provide a renewable way for you to enjoy your beverage without compromising quality. Made from PLA, a plant-based plastic, these cups are 100% renewable, BPI certified compostable and ASTM D6400 compliant.
Product Categories	[72%] - Disposable Tableware
Found in Catalog	Food Services/Cafeteria > Serving Ware > Disposable Tableware
Biobased Content	Certified 95%
Product Application	For cold drinks only
Unique Feature	Made from 100% renewable resources.
Industry Standards	ASTM D6400

FIBER CUTLERY

Product	Company
FP	
Product Name	Fiber Cutlery
Company Name	World Centric
Product Website	https://store.worldcentric.com/store/cutlery/custitem_facet_product_material/Plant-Fiber
Product Description	World Centric® fiber cutlery is made from unbleached plant fiber, an annually renewable resource, and contain no added PFAS . Our eco-friendly disposable cutlery is a versatile choice for takeout at restaurants, cafes, and food trucks. These compostable knives are designed to reduce waste and provide a safe, non-toxic alternative to plastic. Great for hot or cold items, these knives are compostable in 2 to 4 months in a commercial composting facility.
Product Categories	[72%] - Disposable Containers [72%] - Disposable Tableware
Found in Catalog	Films and Packaging > Disposable Containers Food Services/Cafeteria > Serving Ware > Disposable Tableware
Biobased Content	Certified 95%
Product Application	container - take-out food
Unique Feature	Certified Compostable in Commercial Composting Facility

Unique Feature	Proven to remove allergens & irritants such as mold, cat allergen, and dust. HOST is 100% biobased, Green Seal certified, and minimum of 25% recycled content.
Industry Standards	GS-37 Woolsafe Approved Primary Eye Irritation Study Primary Skin Irritation Study VOCs: California Air Resources Board Method 310 Acute Dermal Toxicity Acute Oral Toxicity LEED ASTM D92 GS-8

PFAS – 2023 Catalog Updates

- Participants are asked if their products contain intentionally added PFAS
- Currently, providing this information is voluntary
- Yes/No responses are displayed in the product's catalog listing

The screenshot shows a product detail page with a dark blue sidebar on the left and a light gray main content area on the right. The sidebar contains the following labels: Product, Company, Product Name, Company Name, Product Description, Product Categories, Found in Catalog, Biobased Content, Product Application, PFAS Content, and Product Variations. The main content area displays the following information:

- Product Name:** everspring™ Laundry Detergent Sheets
- Company Name:** Target Corporation
- Product Description:** The product is a laundry detergent in sheet form, meant to replace other formats of laundry detergent like liquids or pacs.
- Product Categories:** [34%] - Laundry Products - General Purpose
- Found in Catalog:** Custodial Services > Soaps and Laundry > Laundry Detergent
Household Supplies > Soaps and Laundry > Laundry Detergent
- Biobased Content:** Certified 55%
- Product Application:** Toss sheet directly into laundry machine drum, then add laundry.
- PFAS Content:** This product does not contain intentionally added PFAS, as reported by Target Corporation
- Product Variations:** A table with columns: Variation, National Stock No., UPC, Manufacture No., Model No. The first row shows 'Lavender &' under the Variation column.

Future Considerations

- More participants are noting whether their products are free of PFAS or fluorinated compounds
- Increasing interest in adding an attribute to the Program which measures and certifies environmental impact of products
- How best to comply with new federal regulations as they are released

Questions and Comments



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Warren Thoma & Associates, LLC



Representing the **Green Industry** since 1991



BEG Group LLC



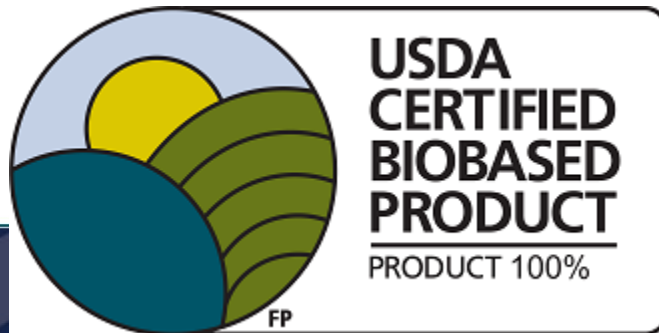
What are Biopreferred Erosion/Filtration Controls?

Biobased products derived from plants & other renewable agricultural materials



BEG Group's USDA nationally certified biopreferred switchgrass product was established in January, 2017 for the categories for construction and grounds maintenance as part of the USDA Biopreferred Program.

Managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the goal of the BioPreferred Program is to increase the purchase and use of biobased products. The BioPreferred Program was created by the [2002 Farm Bill](#) and reauthorized and expanded as part of the [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#) (2018 Farm Bill). The Program's purpose is to spur economic development, create new jobs and provide new markets for farm commodities. The increased development, purchase, and use of biobased products reduces our nation's reliance on petroleum, increases the use of renewable agricultural resources, and contributes to reducing adverse environmental and health impacts.



March 8th- National Biobased Products Day

- “By designating March 8th as National Biobased Products Day, we honor the 20 years of progress the BioPreferred Program has achieved,” USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Xochitl Torres Small said. “As we look to the future, rural communities are at the forefront of addressing climate change by using biobased innovations to convert feedstocks, such as commodities and agricultural waste, into a multitude of products that will create sustainability, promote job growth and revitalize our rural economies.”



Biopreferred switchgrass controls are made of a sturdy polypropylene geotextile (woven) fabric with 100% biobased content, i.e., Switchgrass Filter, that has been engineered specifically for controlling erosion, plus containing and/or retaining sediment in disturbed areas.

These controls are a mesh tube filled with switchgrass material that is placed perpendicular to sheet-flow runoff and are oval to round in cross section providing a three-dimensional filter that retains sediment and other pollutants (e.g., suspended solids, tannic acid, nitrates and phosphates, to name a few, while allowing the cleaned water to flow through.

These biopreferred switchgrass controls can be used in place of traditional sediment and erosion control tools such as a silt fence, straw bale barrier and mulch socks.

This is an ever growing market joining the quest to offer green landscapes.



Environmental manufactures protecting our natural



Such controls are generally placed along the perimeter of a site, or at intervals along a slope, to capture and treat stormwater that runs off as sheet flow. They are flexible and can be filled and easily moved into position, making them especially useful on steep or rocky slopes where installation of other erosion control tools is not feasible.

With Biopreferred Erosion/Filtration Controls there is greater surface area contact with soil than typical sediment control devices, thereby reducing the potential for runoff to create rills under the device and/or create channels carrying unfiltered sediment.



Plus, biodegradable erosion/filtration controls are applicable to construction sites or other disturbed areas where storm water runoff occurs as sheet flow. Common industry practice for erosion/filtration devices is that drainage areas do not exceed 0.25 acre per 100 feet of device length and flow does not exceed one cubic foot per second.



Environmentally Friendly



Stream Filtration



Additionally, these controls can be laid adjacent to each other and perpendicular to storm water flow, to reduce flow velocity and soil erosion.

Switchgrass Filters can also be used for nutrient management protection to filter water flow into highly qualified/exceptionally values watershed areas..

BEG Group's **The Big Switch & Big Switch** erosion/filtration controls come in 4, 8, 12, 18, 24 and 32 inches in diameter.



Questions?

