



## **Cottonseed Meal & Pesticide Residue:**

### **Does Cottonseed Meal contain pesticide residues?**

99.9% of the time it does not, if there is any trace of residue it is miniscule and far below levels to harm anyone. A cottonseed oil mill in AZ several years ago was selling CSM on a regular basis as a fertilizer. They tested every 100 ton lot for pesticides and never detected any.

Essentially the only crop protection products used on cotton are used **before** boll opening. Only harvest aid products are applied **after** boll opening and these products are contact leaf defoliants, not systemic. In addition, cotton fiber and cottonseed hulls would cover and protect the cottonseed meal ("CSM") from any crop protection product exposure.

From a residue-free standpoint, there is essentially no difference between conventionally grown cotton and organic cotton:

- In response to numerous inquiries concerning agricultural chemical residues on cotton, the Bremen Cotton Exchange, since 1991, has tested for pesticides residues (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides) on USA and other cottons. The results showed that all cotton, including USA cottons, satisfy the Eco- Label standard and easily pass the regulations for foodstuffs, 'Thus cotton under German law theoretically can be used as a foodstuff'. (*Bremen Cotton Report, 1993*).
- USA cotton and cottons grown in some other countries meet the requirements for the current EU Eco-label for textile products without testing. This is because none of the pesticides that have to be tested for are registered by US EPA for use on USA cotton as well as registered for use on many other countries cotton. So, if these pesticides are used, they are being used in violation of regulations.
- 'The customer demand for organically grown cotton is not a residue-free issue' (Fox, 1994), since there is no difference between organic and conventionally grown cotton from a residue standpoint.

## **What about “gene altered” cotton?**

### **Biotech cotton – DNA and protein from the transgene**

[see G.P. Fitt, P.J. Wakelyn, J.M Stewart et al. ***Report of the Second Expert Panel on Biotechnology of Cotton***. International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), Washington, DC, USA, Nov. 2004.]

Rigorous assessments have identified no human health risks from biotech cotton varieties or the products generated from them. A review of all safety information indicates that current biotech cottons do not pose any different risks to human or animal health than conventional cotton (Gustafson *et al.*, 2001; Nida *et al.*, 1996, 1996a). DNA is considered a generally recognized as safe (GRAS) substance by U.S. FDA and is readily degraded by the human digestive system. Each of the pesticidal proteins introduced into commercialized biotech cottons has been exempted from a tolerance by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which means these proteins are considered safe (based on digestibility, lack of toxicity, and lack of allergenic potential) for human or animal consumption (Matten, 2000). Regulatory approvals for the use in food and feed of products derived from biotech cotton varieties have been obtained following scientific review in the USA, Japan, Australia, Argentina, South Africa, Mexico, Canada and China (Mainland). In addition, there is no evidence for indirect effects on beneficial species through consumption of Bt intoxicated prey.