



Use of Baler Twine in Organic Crop & Livestock Production

Guidance

Baler twine is commonly used in organic production to bind crops together into a more compact and often more easily stacked form. Baler twine can be natural or synthetic, and it can be treated or untreated.

NOP REGULATIONS AND PCO POLICY

If you **are not** incorporating baling twine into feed, bedding, or soil, you may use any twine without restriction.

If you **are** incorporating baling twine into feed, bedding, or soil, the baler twine must be non-synthetic (natural) and not be treated with a prohibited material. If baler twine is synthetic (such as plastic) or treated with a prohibited material (such as a fungicide or preservative), the twine must be removed before chopping so that it is not incorporated into feed, bedding, or soil.

Every year at inspection, PCO will verify whether or not your operation is incorporating baling twine into feed, bedding, or soil. If **yes**, PCO will collect information about the specific twine used by your operation. Please have this information, including the brand name of twine, the manufacturer, and/or where it was purchased, ready for your inspector. If you are using a custom baling company, make sure you request that they use non-synthetic, untreated twine and ask for documentation. If we cannot confirm that your twine is untreated, you will not be able to incorporate it into feed, bedding, or soil, and you will need to find a new source of untreated twine.

PCO may issue non-compliances to operations that are incorporating synthetic twine or twine treated with a prohibited material into feed, bedding, or soil.

APPROVED INPUTS

All inputs must be reviewed and approved by PCO prior to use, so be sure to check with us or consult a current PCO Approved Materials List, OMRI, or WSDA list prior to purchasing or using a product. PCO does not endorse any of the products listed in this guidance document. This is not an all-inclusive list and other inputs may be allowed. Please contact PCO if you have any questions on materials or restrictions.

- **Tyrite Sisal Baler Twine Untreated** by Sicobrasil, Lda-Brazil is allowed as baler twine and can be incorporated into feed, bedding, or soil.
- **Dutch Harvest Baler Twine 16000 Untreated** and **Dutch Harvest Heavy Duty Binder Twine 20000 Untreated** by Apaeb Brazile for Benco Poly Film is allowed as baler twine and can be incorporated into feed, bedding, or soil.
- **Baler Twine, Untreated**, by Suplee Hollow Machine is allowed as baler twine and can be incorporated into feed, bedding, or soil.