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Gonzales-based fertilizer company caught in 'organic' labeling scandal

A Gonzales-based manufacturer of "organic" liquid fertilizer mislabeled their product for years earlier this decade, while using nitrogen from non-organic sources.

In a prepared statement, Carmel Valley-based Earthbound Farms says they were "defrauded" by California Liquid Fertilizer, the maker of Biolizer XN, the mislabeled fertilizer, and pledged a more rigorous oversight.

"To protect the organic integrity of our crops and our farms from being victimized again, we have instituted a stringent organic verification process for all liquid fertilizers," said Samantha Cabaluna, director of communications for Earthbound Farms. "Any of our farmers using any kind of liquid fertilizer must subject it to nitrogen testing and process validation by an independent, third-party lab, to ensure that any product marketed as organic is legitimately organic."

The California Department of Food and Agriculture started to investigate the source of the nitrogen in January of 2005. The fertilizer was finally pulled from the market in January 2007.

California Liquid Fertilizer and its parent company, United Organic Products, were purchased by the Boston-based Converted Organics in January 2008.

Read more in tomorrow's Salinas Californian.

→ BIOLIZER PRODUCT LINE (MAINLY GRAIN/PLANT BASED PROTEIN)
+ PACIFIC CHOICE - FISH HYDROLYSATE - still not on market?