

# Allergen Bureau

Agricultural Allergen Co-mingling  
What is it? What tools can help you  
determine the impact to your  
business?

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Free From Food Asia Virtual Summit, March 2021



# Allergen Bureau

## Global Members



## Full Members



ALDI Stores  
BFF Hull Limited  
Cargill Protein Europe  
Lindt & Sprüngli Australia  
SoFine Foods



# Our Vision

A trusted food supply for  
allergen sensitive consumers  
around the world

**Allergen**  
Bureau

Informing the  
food industry



## Our Mission

Lead the global food industry in best practice allergen management, sharing information that builds trust and transparency that supports allergen sensitive consumers to make informed choices

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# What is Agricultural Co-mingling?



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When different commodity crops (grains, seeds or pulses) are co-mingled together during:

- Cultivation
- Primary processing
- Storage
- Transportation



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Processes contributing include:

- different crops being grown in close proximity with each other
- sharing the same fields due to crop rotation;
- and/or sharing the same equipment/facilities for harvesting, transport and storage



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# Are these agricultural issues new?

NO!!

More aware of  
the risk

Learning to ask  
the right question

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# How common are practices which impact this?

- Crop rotation is common practice
- Collective/Cooperative farming is widely used
- Allergen risks are not always commonly considered in agricultural sector



# Agricultural Allergen Cross Contact Working Group

- Commenced in 2019
- Industry requested guidance
- Project to deliver resources to assist with risk review



**UNEXPECTED  
ALLERGENS IN  
FOOD**

Revised & updated  
January 2021

*Informing the food industry*

[allergenbureau.net](http://allergenbureau.net)



# NEW - Agricultural Co-mingling Section

- Agricultural sectors explored
  - Vegetables
  - Grains
  - Pulses
  - Seeds
  - Nuts
  - Spices
  - Herbs
- Practice contributing to co-mingling
- Controls mitigating co-mingling



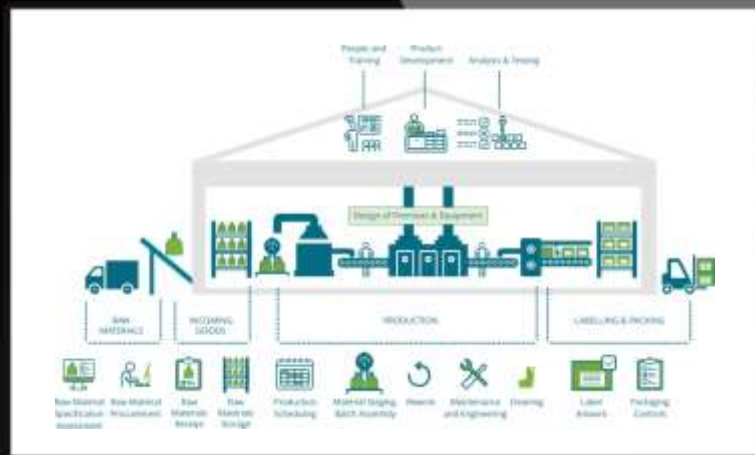
Table 2: Allergens associated with agricultural co-mingling

Food	Details
<p>Herbs (e.g. oregano, marjoram, rosemary, thyme, parsley, etc.)</p>	<p>Are any <b>wheat</b> crops grown in the same geographical region?</p> <p>What other crops are being (or can be) grown nearby? This includes cereals containing gluten including <b>wheat, wild wheat, barley</b>.</p> <p>What seasons are the crops harvested in? This provides information about other plants nearby and shared storage.</p> <p>What crop measures are in place to effectively remove physical remains of other crops?</p> <p>What effective measures are in place to prevent or minimise potential allergen cross contact from maintenance machinery, harvesting equipment?</p> <p>What effective measures are in place to prevent or minimise potential allergen cross contact from shared storage equipment and facilities and/or transportation?</p> <p>Are storage silo's and harvest equipment shared across farms and all seasons?</p> <p>What measures are in place to minimise potential allergen cross contact from storage facilities (e.g. silos)?</p> <p>Is the allergen similar, in size and colour, to the herb (i.e. difficult to clean and separate)? What is the form of the cross contact (e.g. readily dispersible - powder/dust, or particulate - split, whole, seed, leaf, pod, grit, hull, pearl, kernel, coarse ground)? What is the form of the herb?</p> <p>How are the herbs traded/sourced (e.g. through general markets with lesser known controls; contracted farms; controlled Backward Integration programs)?</p> <p>Does the primary and secondary herb processor have allergen controls within their facility?</p> <p>Examples of known cross contact: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oregano with <b>wheat</b> cross contact.</li> <li>• Marjoram with <b>wheat</b> cross contact.</li> </ul>





# Allergen Risk Review website



[www.allergenbureau.net/risk-review](http://www.allergenbureau.net/risk-review)

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# Contact Us:

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[www.allergenbureau.net](http://www.allergenbureau.net)

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