



# Factsheet

## USDA Coexistence Fact Sheets Identity Preserved

### Identity Preservation Defined

Identity Preservation (IP) is the process of differentiating commodities, requiring that strict separation, which typically involves containerized shipping, be maintained at all times.

IP is often used to market commodities like food-grade corn and soybeans, but there are IP contracts for conventional, organic and biotech seeds alike. The vast majority of IP crops are grown conventionally.

### The Benefits of IP

For specific end-use markets that require certain chemical or nutritional characteristics, IP is a useful tool to ensure what is grown in the field is what the buyer receives. While no segregation system can guarantee 100 percent purity, an IP system is an efficient and effective way to separate IP crops from the broader commodities.

For farmers who invest in the higher management requirements of growing an IP crop, they are often rewarded with premium prices.

### The Markets for IP Crops

Often, food-grade commodities are grown under an IP system. For markets that have sensitivities to genetically engineered food, such as the European Union, non-GE crops are specified and grown for that market. Domestically, some food manufacturers wanting to label their product as “non-GMO” will also demand an IP, non-GE crop to be grown and delivered.

For several years, a specific soybean has been grown for the food industry under the IP system. This soybean has a low content of linolenic oil, which does not require hydrogenation and thereby eliminating trans fats.

Additionally, pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies may contract for specific varieties of crops that have a unique chemical make-up suitable for their products. Those varieties are also grown using IP.