

Livestock Certification Tips **CCOF**

Tips for All Organic Livestock Producers



Notify CCOF before changing your operation in any way.

Changes may include: new locations, feed suppliers, feed rations, health care materials, confinement activities, equipment, cleaning protocols, record keeping, etc. Submit Organic System Plan (OSP) updates before inspection, and make a copy for your records. Find OSP forms at: www.ccof.org/osp.php.

(NOP § 205.400)



Always seek approval & update your OSP prior to use of new health care materials.

Use the OMRI and WSDA lists to find pre-reviewed materials for organic production. For non-listed materials, submit a material review request form (MRRF) to CCOF. Follow CCOF's step-by-step instructions at: www.ccof.org/forms.php.

(NOP § 205 Subpart D)



Ensure compliance of all feed, supplements & additives.

All feed, feed supplement and feed additive suppliers must be listed in your OSP, and all agricultural ingredients, including carriers like molasses, must be certified organic. Any land used for grazing must also be certified organic. Make sure you maintain certificates for all pastures, feeds, supplements and additives.



Keep complete records of activities on the farm.

Records may include: feed harvest records, feed purchase records, feeding records, grazing records, health care treatments, vaccination records, confinement records, birth records, cull records, sales and purchase records, production records, cleaning records, etc. Find sample record keeping forms at: www.ccof.org/certificationassistance.php.

(NOP § 205.103)

Other side: Tips for Ruminant Livestock Producers

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Tips for Organic Ruminant Producers



Document Dry Matter Intake using easy electronic forms.

Use the CCOF Dry Matter Intake worksheets, which will auto-calculate the % Dry Matter from Pasture per ration and average over the course of the grazing season if you use the online versions found at www.ccof.org/pasturerule.php. The electronic worksheets will do the math for you! Make sure that you document the seasonal changes in rations for all classes and types of animals.

(NOP § 205.237)



Maximize grazing times for all animals.

To ensure that you are providing your animals with as much pasture as possible, and meeting the minimum 30% Dry Matter Intake from pasture during the grazing season requirement, make sure you provide as many grazing opportunities as possible for your animals. During the grazing season, management on pasture and daily grazing for all animals is required.

(NOP § 205.239(a))



Only confine animals when absolutely necessary.

Allowed reasons for temporary confinement are limited. Be sure that any temporary confinement from the outdoors or from pasture is for an allowed reason listed in your Organic System Plan. Always document the reason for and the duration of the confinement.

(NOP § 205.239(b))



Understand the difference between transitioned and last-third animals.

Only animals that are organic from the last third of gestation, and never treated with Ivermectin, may be sold as organic slaughter animals. If you are planning to sell any of your animals for slaughter, make sure that these animals were not transitioned to organic.

(NOP § 205.236)

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