

CCOF

Certification Services, LLC

IMPORTANT!

**Organic livestock certification changes enclosed.
Including: Antibiotic Use and Organic Dairy
Conversion Updates.**

Please read carefully.

**Your organic practices and certification may be
affected.**

**Thank you for your support of organic production and
CCOF.**

Please contact us if you have any questions.

**CCOF
1115 Mission St.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3526**



CCOF

Certification Services, LLC

CCOF Policy Position Statement on Dairy Livestock Conversion **Effective June 23, 2006**

Introduction

Recently, the Harvey v. Johans lawsuit forced the USDA to re-write portions of the standard relating to conversion of animals to organic production. Critically, this lawsuit invalidated sections of the NOP that allowed the "80/20 herd conversion". Under this rule, dairies could convert animals to organic production for 9 months with 80 percent organic feed and 100% organic feed for three months. As required by the Harvey lawsuit, on June 5, 2006 the USDA National Organic Program (NOP) issued a final rule change to section 205.236 regarding dairy livestock conversion, including elimination of the 80/20 conversion exemption. The new Final Rule may be found at: www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

Rule changes precipitated several rounds of comments, proposed rules, more comments, a final ruling effective June 5, 2006, a clarification document, questions, more comments, and finally additional clarification from the USDA National Organic Program. This can all be seen by visiting the National Organic Program online at www.ams.usda.gov/nop and visiting the today's news section.

Notably, there is considerable discussion of what constitutes an "entire distinct herd". Throughout the process, CCOF has attempted to interpret the regulations accurately and in ways that are consistent with our commitment to the quality and integrity of organics as a whole. CCOF will continue to keep you informed of any changes of modification to these policies.

On June 16, 2006 the USDA NOP issued "Notice: Additional Clarification, Harvey Final Regulation". This notice included a number of questions and answers about how the new rule is to be implemented. What follows is CCOF's current policy position on conversion of dairy animals to organic production based the new livestock regulations and clarifications from the NOP.

The revised rule reads as follows:

NOP 205.236 Origin of Livestock

(a) ***

(2) Dairy Animals. Milk or milk products must be from animals that have been under continuous organic management beginning no later than 1 year prior to the production of the milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic,

Except,

- (i) That, crops and forage from land, included in the organic system plan of a dairy farm, that is in the third year of organic management may be consumed by the dairy animals of the farm during the 12-month period immediately prior to the sale of organic milk and milk products; and
- (ii) That, when an entire, distinct herd is converted to organic production, the producer may, provided no milk produced under this subparagraph enters the stream of commerce labeled as organic after June 9 2007: (a) for the first nine months of the year, provide a minimum of 80-percent feed that is either organic or raised from land included in the organic system plan and managed in compliance with Section 205.237 for the final 3 months.
- (iii) Once an entire, distinct herd has been converted to organic production all dairy animals shall be under organic management from the last third of gestation.



CCOF

Certification Services, LLC

What does this mean for dairies currently certified by CCOF or applying for certification? Based on review of the new rule change and the Notice of Clarification, CCOF Certification Services (CCOF CS) staff has developed the following Policy Position Statement:

1. CCOF CS is no longer accepting applications under the 80/20 conversion exemption. Dairy producers that submitted an application for certification to CCOF CS on or before June 7, 2006 will be allowed to complete the conversion process under the 80/20 conversion exemption as long as they are fully converted by June 9, 2007. All new applications submitted as of June 8, 2006 will be accepted under the new final rule as published June 5, 2006 (above).
2. CCOF CS has determined that for the purposes of certification under the NOP a “herd” will be defined as the animals that are within the operation’s Organic System Plan as of **October 31, 2006**. This applies to both currently certified operations and new applicants. The final rule and the Notice of Clarification both refer to a “herd” and interpretation of the rule relies on good understanding of what defines a “herd.”

The October 31, 2006 implementation date allows CCOF dairy producers to make required changes to their management systems in order to comply with the regulation requiring that all replacement animals be organic from the last third of gestation. The 10/31/06 date applies to the Organic System Plan as it is on file with CCOF CS.

3. All CCOF CS producers must ensure that replacement animals are raised organically from the last third of gestation. The USDA NOP has made it clear in the regulation and the Q and A in the Notice of Clarification that the intent of the rule is for organic dairy production to not rely on continual conversion of animals. Once a herd is converted, replacement animals must be raised organically from the last third of gestation.
4. Grazing of pasture included in the organic system plan in the third year of transition. If the CCOF client is able to provide sufficient land history documentation to show that the pasture in their Organic System Plan has been free of prohibited materials for at least two years, and is in the third year transition to organic, CCOF CS will allow pasture consumed from that land to comprise the 80 percent organic feed under 205.236(a)(2)(i) and (ii).
5. Pasture, stored hay or silage as “Organically Produced Feed”. CCOF CS will consider pasture or forage to qualify as “organically produced feed” as required by 205.237(a) (i.e., to be certified organic) only after CCOF CS completes an on site inspection of the production area or parcel. Thus, hay or silage that is cut prior to an inspection will not qualify as certified organic feed after the one year transition has been completed or during the last three months of an 80/20 conversion.
6. Stored hay or silage during 80/20 transition. Under 205.236(a)(2)(i), CCOF CS will allow hay or silage that is on the farm at the time of inspection to be included as part of the 80% organic feed during the first 9 months of the conversion if the client can provide complete documentation of the following:
 - That the hay or silage is from the parcels within the Organic System Plan submitted to CCOF.
 - That the hay or silage was not treated with or produced using any prohibited materials, including seed, production, handling and storage.Hay or silage cut prior to inspection will not count towards the 100% organic feed required in the last three months of the 80/20 conversion.



CCOF

Certification Services, LLC

The following Questions and Answers are provided to help producers understand how the above policy affects their operations:

Q: Once I am certified, or if I am already certified, how can I replace animals or grow my herd?

A: For dairies currently certified by CCOF CS: As of October 31, 2006, all animals in the CCOF program are considered an “entire, distinct herd” for the purposes of organic certification under the NOP (see #2 of the policy statement above). Any new or replacement animals must be organic from the last third of gestation. For dairies applying to CCOF CS in the future: Upon application, CCOF CS will consider the animals included in the Organic System Plan to be an “entire, distinct herd.”

Once an “entire distinct herd” has been transitioned, all animals must be organic from the last third of gestation.

All CCOF CS certified dairy operations should immediately begin to plan for the process of ensuring that replacement animals are managed organically from the last third of gestation.

CCOF CS dairy clients may bring other “entire, distinct herds” into organic production through a 12 month conversion under NOP 205.236(a)(2), but each herd must be submitted to CCOF CS with a new application and identified as a distinct herd. CCOF CS may develop a “new herd application” to streamline the process of transitioning new herds, but the fee will not be less than \$275 for an application to transition a herd.

Q: I have not yet applied for certification with CCOF. How can I transition my animals?

A: National Organic Program regulations require that the herd be managed organically for one year before you can take organic milk. This includes being managed according to an approved organic system plan, being fed all organic feed and treated only with allowed health care products. However, there is an exception under the new rule section 205.236 (a)(2)(1) that allows you to graze your transitioning animals on pasture that is in the third year of transition. Please see Policy Statement #4 & #5 above.

Q: When should I apply for certification of my dairy herd?

A: As soon as possible! Applicants should apply one year prior to the date they expect to take organic milk. While it is possible that an operation *may* comply with organic standards prior to application, such applications are more difficult to process and require greater scrutiny. Remember, as of June 9, 2007, animals must be fed all organic feed for one year prior to taking milk. While feed from land in the application may qualify for the first year of transition most operations still buy in some portion of the feed ration.

The application should be submitted before you start the organic feed ration. Submit the application early and state a date that you intend to start the all organic feed ration. This way you can have some assurance that you are on the right path for conversion and the money spent on organic feed is going to good use.

CCOF welcomes the opportunity to serve your organic certification needs. Please call us with other questions and please share this with you friends and neighbors that may be interested in converting their dairy to organic.



CCOF

Certification Services, LLC

IMPORTANT ANTIBIOTIC POLICY CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

To: All CCOF Organic Dairy producers
From: CCOF Certification Services
Dated: July 7, 2006 Effective Immediately

Re: Change in CCOF policy regarding use of antibiotics on organic livestock.

CCOF Certification Services has been directed by Ray Green, Manager of the California Department of Food and Agriculture State Organic Program, to amend our policy regarding to the use of antibiotics in organic dairy production. Based on direction from Mr. Green, the following is CCOF's policy on antibiotics, effective immediately:

1. Any animal, including calves, treated with antibiotics will lose its organic status and can never return to organic production.
2. You may not withhold treatment from a sick animal in order to preserve its organic status, per NOP section 205.238(c)(7).
3. You must ensure that animals treated with prohibited materials, including antibiotics, are clearly identified as separate from the organic animals. All meat, milk or milk products from treated animals must be segregated from organic products and there must be clear documentation of the separation.

CCOF CS will no longer allow an animal treated with antibiotics to return to the milking herd, even if the animal is managed organically and remains on the organic farm. CCOF CS producers must cease and desist the transition of any animal treated with an antibiotic immediately.

CCOF's change in policy on this issue is based on recent changes in the NOP standards that are posted on the [USDA website](#), under "Today's News" dated June 5th and June 16th, 2006. You may link to the USDA website via CCOF's site at www.ccof.org or at www.ams.usda.gov/nop.

We appreciate your efforts and thank you for using CCOF for your certification needs. Please contact us at 831-423-2263 if you have any questions regarding this change in policy.



CCOF

Organic Certification Trade Association Education & Outreach Political Advocacy

Organic Livestock - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I store organic and conventional hay in the same barn?

A: Yes, ONLY if there is clear identification and labeling in each section of the barn and that you ensure there is no risk of commingling.

Q: Can I pasture my young calves on my transitional parcels (that won't be part of my certified land upon initial certification)?

A: If you are converting by feeding 100% organic feed for one year, you may only graze your animals on land that is in *the third year of organic management* during the 12-month period immediately prior to the sale of organic milk and milk products. Once your animals are certified organic, they may not graze on transitional land. Clear animal identification and grazing records are required.

For operations converting animals under the 80/20 exception, grazing animals on transitional land can count towards the 20% non-organic feed. You may not graze animals on transitional land during the final three months of an 80/20 conversion. Clear feed ration analysis showing the percentage of feed from transitional land is required.

Q: If I've called 3 different suppliers for organic hay/alfalfa/grain and can't find any, or organic feed is too expensive, can I use a non-organic feed?

A: No, you must use 100% certified organic feed unless you are transitioning under the 80/20 exception, and have applied for CCOF certification prior to June 3, 2006, and it counts toward the 20% non-organic portion of the feed ration.

Q: Can I use hay from my buffer zones as feed for my organic herd?

A: No. Buffer zone areas must be harvested and sold separately from the certified organic production areas. You must keep records of separate harvest and sales.

Q: Do feed supplements and additives need to be organic?

A: Yes and No. Unfortunately, the standards regulating internally used products are complex. Please see NOP section 205.237 in CCOF Manual Two at www.ccof.org/standards.php for the regulations regarding feed, supplements and additives. However, one thing is always true, determination of whether or not a product is allowed will require a review of the complete list of ingredients in the product.

For a detailed explanation of what is required, please see the document "To Feed or Not to Feed" by CCOF under "updates and resources" within the "Certification" section of www.ccof.org.

If you still have questions after reviewing the regulations and the CCOF guidelines, please contact CCOF staff for clarification. If you wish to use a supplement or additive that is not OMRI or WSDA approved, please submit a CCOF Material Review Request form for the product. This form is available online at www.ccof.org/forms.php or in the Spring 2006 issue of *Certified Organic*.

Q: Can I use natural botanicals or homeopathic treatments for my animal's internal health care needs?

A: Yes and No... Again, the standards regulating internally used products are complex.

Please see the answer to question #5 above.

Q: Can I use natural botanicals or homeopathic treatments for my animal's external health care needs (i.e. udder or foot care)?

A: Yes. Herbal and homeopathic treatments are allowed. Please refer to the NOP section 205.600 (the National List) for allowed and prohibited substances. You must make certain that any treatment does not contain prohibited substances. For any treatment that is not OMRI or WSDA approved, please submit a CCOF Material Review Request form for the product.

Q: Once I am certified, can my replacement fence posts be made of treated wood?

A: No. Treated wood must not be in contact with production areas, including pasture. Please see the ATTRA publication regarding alternatives to treated lumber at www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/lumber.html.

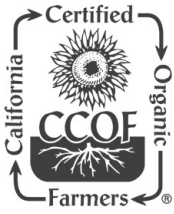
Q: Can I sell an organic dairy animal as slaughter stock?

A: It depends. A dairy animal that has been under continuous organic management since the last third of gestation may be sold as organic slaughter stock ONLY IF it has never been treated with antibiotics or Ivermectin; all of which must be clearly documented. Please note that if you intend to sell animals as slaughter stock, you should indicate this in your OSP and have slaughter stock included among your certified products.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: Visit these websites:

- CCOF: www.ccof.org
- ATTRA: www.attra.ncat.org/organic.html
- NOP: www.ams.usda.gov/nop



CCOF

Certification Services, LLC

To Feed or Not to Feed What you need to know about additives and supplements

We all know that livestock feed must be 100% organic; but what about additives and supplements? Vitamins and minerals? Section 205.237 of the National Organic Program standard (NOP) requires that the total feed ration be composed of organically produced agricultural products; *except* that *nonsynthetic* substances and the few synthetic substances that are specifically allowed under section 205.603(c)&(d) may be used as feed additives and supplements. This limits synthetic substances as feed additives to vitamins and trace minerals that are FDA approved, including those forms listed by the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO). This limits synthetic substances as feed supplements to milk replacers for emergency use only; also, the milk replacers must not contain antibiotics, must not be nonmilk products, and must not be products from BST treated animals. Those are the only synthetic substances allowed as feed additives and supplements.

So, what's the difference between a feed additive and a feed supplement?

The NOP defines a feed additive as: "a substance added to feed in micro quantities to *fulfill a specific nutritional need*; i.e., essential nutrients in the form of amino acids, vitamins and minerals."

A Feed supplement is defined as: "a combination of feed nutrients added to livestock feed to improve the nutrient balance or performance of the total feed ration and intended to be:

- (1) Diluted with other feeds when fed to livestock;
- (2) Offered free choice with other parts of the ration if separately available; or
- (3) Further diluted and mixed to produce a complete feed."

Feed additives and supplements do not include agricultural commodities used in feed, forage or formulated rations – these must be certified organic. Both feed additives and supplements must not contain genetically modified organisms or mammalian or poultry slaughter by-products.

If you would like to use a feed additive or supplement that is not already listed as approved (or restricted) on the OMRI or WSDA lists, we must review the ingredients before you use it – see the Material Review Request Form. In order to approve a product for your use, we must know the following:

- That all vitamins and minerals are FDA approved;
- That there are no genetically modified organisms in the product;
- That there are no mammalian or poultry slaughter byproducts in the product;
- How the product will be fed – free choice?; and,
- The amount and role of any non-organic agricultural ingredient.

Please refer to NOP sections 205.237 and the OMRI Generic Materials List for more information on specific ingredients. Most importantly, if a product is not listed as approved on OMRI or WSDA, please contact CCOF before feeding it to your animals. We're here to help!