

Appendix One

Excerpts of the Organic Growers and Buyers Assn. Livestock Standards

Revised 2/95

Introduction: The following standards are for the production of certified organic milk and dairy animals. Every dairy operation seeking certified status must have an Organic Farm Plan that addresses the key elements of organic dairy production. These elements are:

- manure management;
- livestock health, care, and breeding practices;
- animal sources;
- feed sources (including contingency plans for feed shortages);
- maintenance of organic feed integrity from field to feeding;
- housing and living conditions;
- milking facilities and practices;
- record keeping and animal identification handling practices;
- pasture and grazing land management;
- minimizing environmental impact by animal production practices; and if applicable,
- ensuring integrity of organic animals and products in a split operation.

Questions about each of these elements are included in the OGBA Livestock Questionnaire and information verified by the annual farm inspection. By providing complete and accurate answers to these questions, a dairy operator provides OGBA with a written Organic Farm Plan and a description of how the plan is being implemented. This information is then used by OGBA to determine if certified organic status is granted.

A major criteria for certification is feeding only 100% certified organic feed and feed supplements. In situations beyond the producer's control (such as flood or drought), certified feed may be temporarily unavailable. It is the responsibility of the operator to include the Organic Farm Plan a contingency plan for acceptable feed sources in case of shortages or emergencies, and to notify OGBA if an emergency feed situation arises requiring use of non-certified feed.

A dairy operation that has both organic and non-organic animals is defined as a split operation. A split operation must have accurate records, clear animal identification, and the management skill required to ensure that all organic and non-organic animals are kept separate, with no possibility of mixing or mislabeling certified and non-certified products.

A. FEED AND FORAGE

The best assurance of a successful dairy operation is to maintain maximum resistance to diseases and pests through proper nutrition. Certified dairy cows must be fed 100% certified organic feed and feed supplements. . . .

To produce certified organic milk, dairy animals must meet the following:

- Shall have consumed 100% certified organic feed (grains, forages, pastures and protein supplements) for 12 months prior to production of certified organic milk.

- For herds seeking certified status for the first time, 80% of the daily ration fed shall be certifiable organic ration for 10 months, followed by 100% certified organic feed for 60 days prior to production of certified organic milk.

APPROVED:

- Weaning without milk replacers.
- Fresh, untreated water with a nitrate nitrogen level less than 10mg/liter.
- Water treated with hydrogen peroxide.
- Feeding of certified organic whole milk such as from goats, etc. or organically formulated milk replacer.

REGULATED:

- Treated water.

PROHIBITED:

- Malnutrition.
- Water contaminated beyond allowable limits.
- Urea or antibiotics as growth promoters.
- Forced manure refeeding.

B. SUPPLEMENTS TO REGULAR FEED

Domesticated cows are often almost totally dependent upon human care. Therefore, proper management may include supplements and additives to meet specific needs.

APPROVED:

- Vitamins from certified organic sprouted grains, brewers yeast or other natural sources.
- Natural occurring vitamin and minerals with the exception of prohibited natural substances.
- Lactobacillus.
- Salt and trace mineral salts without synthetic additives added.
- Calcium/phosphate materials (such as bone meal and marl) and calcium carbonate materials (such as limestone or dolomite, etc.) without synthetic additives added.
- Magnesium oxide, greensand, seaweed (kelp) and other free choice trace elements.
- Selenium, preferably in herbal forms.

REGULATED:

- Manufactured vitamin and mineral supplements (such as dicalcium phosphate and monocalcium phosphate and mono ammonium phosphate).
- EDDI (synthetic iodine).
- Fish liver oils.
- Synthetic or unnatural concentrated additives (e.g., vitamins, minerals, trace elements, and amino acids) for specific feed deficiencies.

PROHIBITED:

- Hormones: growth, breeding, and production (including BST/BGH and Oxytocin).
- Antibiotics as growth promoters.

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- Urea.
- Ionophores (Bovatec, Rumensin).

C. LIVING

Animal habitat should limit stress, promote good health, and allow cows to fulfill all basic physiological needs.

APPROVED

- Housing which allows maximum fresh air, daylight and shelter from inclement weather conditions.
- Seasonal access to pasture, runways, etc.. (preferably rotationally grazed).
- Proper sanitation and ventilation including fresh bedding, clean water, feed containers.
- Enough room so that each animal can comfortably get up, lie down, groom normally, stretch its limbs, etc.
- Facilities conducive to the normal socialization behaviors of dairy animals.
- Manure management to reduce disease and parasites.
- Cleaning agents and disinfectants should be chosen from lists of allowed products. Areas to be disinfected should be empty of livestock, and manure should be physically removed as much as possible.

REGULATED

- Confined housing on partial slat floor above manure pits.

PROHIBITED

- Totally enclosed confinement with 100% slatted floors.

D. HERD HEALTH

Maintenance of a healthy herd is a primary focus of organic animal care. Herd health depends on a prevention program which includes quarantine of incoming stock, sound nutrition, good breeding practices, proper sanitation and manure management, vaccination programs appropriate to the region, reduction of stress, well managed pastures, and other sound health management practices.

In addition, parasite control should include periodic fecal exams and culling seriously infested animals, vector and intermediate host control, and use of biological control measures (such as fly parasites). Producers shall never allow a diseased or severely infected animal to go untreated in order to maintain organic status. Such withholding of treatment which results in avoidable suffering or death may result in decertification. If an animal is dependent on synthetic drugs or certain active materials, it must be removed from the herd. Accurate record of all treatments must be kept, clearly identifying the animal(s) treated, details of and duration of treatment, names of all drugs or products administered, and withholding period observed.

APPROVED

- Holistic, probiotic and homeopathic treatments and herbal preparations.
- Non-toxic pest controls (such as diatomaceous earth, rock powders, and herbal repellents).

- Vaccination programs that stimulate the natural defense mechanisms.
Vaccination of young animals prior to breeding to obtain desired immunities to viruses.
- Vaccinations required by government regulations.

REGULATED

- Use of antibiotics and parasiticides is allowed only in health care emergencies after all appropriate management practices have been utilized and when alternative treatments are not available. The need for their use must be verified by a licensed veterinarian, and all use of antibiotics or parasiticides must be justified in the Organic Livestock Plan, along with an evaluation of plans to reduce or eliminate the need for their use in the future. Milk and milk products from cows which have been treated with antibiotics or parasiticides may not be sold or labeled as organic for 90 days after treatment.

PROHIBITED

- Hormones: growth, breeding and production (including BST/BGH and Oxytocin)
- Routine and subtherapeutic administration of medications.
- Synthetic pesticides.
- Petroleum oils, coals, tars, etc.
- Ivomectin during lactation.

E. REPLACEMENTS

Herd replacements should be purchased from certified organic sources. Purchase of non-organic stock will be permitted if the operator can document to OGBA that organically raised stock of acceptable quality and genetic potential is not available. Such stock must be fed certified organic feed and be raised under organic management practices from the time it is brought to the organic farm and for not less than 12 months prior to the production of certified organic milk.

F. YOUNG STOCK

Dairy calves may be weaned as early as 12-24 hours old, provided they receive colostrum before weaning and receive whole milk until the age of 3 months or are sold out of the herd shortly after weaning. Calves should receive certified milk. Feeding of certified organic whole milk (such as from goats) or organically formulated milk replacers is allowed. Dehorning and castration should be done with minimum trauma to the animal before one month of age.

G. MILK QUALITY

All sanitation requirements for milk handling shall be compiled with and milk shall be tested for bacteria and somatic cell. The annual average somatic cell count shall be 400,000 or local regulation count whichever is less. The maximum bacteria count shall be 100,000 or local regulation count whichever is less. It is recommended that individual cows be tested monthly for somatic cell.

Appendix Two

Excerpts of the 1995 Organic Crop Improvement Association Standards

LIVESTOCK CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Authorized methods and Materials: Meat Production

1. Living conditions:
 - a. Livestock must be provided with living conditions which respect their needs: reasonable liberty, lack of crowding, kindness, etc.
 - b. Livestock should have access, when seasonally appropriate, to sunshine, fresh air, soil, fresh plants, etc.
2. Feed:
 - a. Slaughter animals must be fed OCIA certified organically grown feed.
 - b. Plastic roughage, urea, intentional manure refeeding, and similar practices are prohibited.
 - c. Early weaning (under 4 weeks for piglets, 3 months for beef, and 18 kg or 2 months for sheep and goats) or feeding of milk replacers are prohibited.
 - d. White veal production cannot be considered organic.
 - e. In certain critical years where OCIA forage crops are unavailable or in short supply due to extreme weather conditions, the certification committee can allow a farmer to purchase (non-OCIA) certified organic feed and forage. These inputs must be sufficiently documented and pre-approved by the certification committee.
3. Supplements:
 - a. Any source of feed salt is acceptable.
 - b. Calcium phosphate materials such as bone meal, marl, etc. or calcium carbonate materials such as limestone, dolomite, etc.
 - c. Magnesium oxide, greensand, seaweed, natural minerals, and other free choice trace elements.
 - d. Selenium of whatever form (ingested or injected at recommended doses).
 - e. Vitamins should be provided from sprouted grains, fish liver oils, brewer's yeast or other natural sources. Synthetic vitamins may be permitted in cases of long winter, mountainous zones, or poor forage due to bad weather.
 - f. Synthetic growth promoters (including antibiotics and trace elements used to stimulate growth) implanted, injected, or ingested are prohibited.
4. Purchased animals
 - a. Slaughter stock must be raised on the farm in accordance with OCIA standards or purchased from OCIA Certified organic livestock producers.
 - b. Breeding stock may be bought from whatever source, provided the animal is not in the last third of gestation but it may only be sold as certified organic if raised in compliance with OCIA standards for one year following purchase.
5. Herd health:
 - a. The first line of defense must be control of environmental problems through pasture rotation, disinfection etc.

- b. Cleaning agents and disinfectants should be chosen from among soaps, biodegradable detergents, iodine 5%, 1% potassium permanganate solutions, lye, alkali carbonates, caustic potash, lime, and bleach.
 - c. Areas to be disinfected should be empty of livestock, and manure should be physically removed as much as possible.
 - d. Biotherapies such as plant concoctions and homeopathic remedies.
 - e. Vaccinations (including vaccination to stimulate production of maternal antibodies), probiotics, and similar preventive techniques are permitted.
 - f. When recourse to certain active materials is deemed necessary slaughter animals may not be sold as certified organic.
 - g. If an animal is dependent on active intervention, it should be removed from the herd.
6. Breeding
- a. Natural service is the ideal.
 - b. Since breeding methods have minimal effect on the quality of meat produced, various other methods are tolerated, provided they do not unduly restrict the gene pool.
7. Slaughter
- a. Animals must be treated humanely during loading, unloading, shipping, holding and slaughter.
 - b. Slaughter must be effected under sanitary conditions which shall usually mean government approved slaughterhouses.
 - c. Animals must be clearly identified in such manner as to preclude confusion with non-certified meat. Ideally, certified meat should be slaughtered as a separate batch or hung apart from non-certified meat.
8. Audit trail:
- a. An audit trail must be maintained which will permit tracing the sources and amounts of all feeds, supplements, medication, etc.
 - b. With the exception of poultry, if animals are not individually identified by numbered tags, each animal that is treated with an active material must be clearly identified with a tag specifying the material and date of treatment.
 - c. Each animal must be traced from birth to slaughter.

STANDARDS FOR DAIRY PRODUCTION

The standards are the same as for meat production, with the following additions.

1. Dairy calves may be weaned as young as 12-24 hours old, provided they receive colostrum before weaning and receive whole milk until the age of 3 months, or are sold out of the herd shortly after weaning.
2. Hormones to increase milk production are prohibited.
3. All sanitation requirements for milk handling equipment shall be observed, and milk shall be tested for bacteria, somatic cells, etc., with a maximum somatic cell count of an annual average of 400,000 or local regulations, whichever is lower. Maximum bacteria count is not to exceed 100,000 or local regulations, whichever is lower. Individual cows are recommended to be tested monthly for somatic cell.

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4. Milk equipment sanitizers and udder washes are two potential sources of contamination. If possible, sanitary standards should be met using OCIA approved materials, however, if due to local regulations unapproved materials must be used all equipment must be rinsed at least two times more than usually required for the material used.
5. All withdrawal periods are 12 days, or twice the label specification, whichever is longer. Treated cows are to be milked at the end of the string.
6. Certified organic milk shall be from milk cows that meet the following:
 - a. Be fed 100% OCIA Certified feed for at least 1 year during and prior to certification.
7. In the case of new and certifiable herds:
 - a. Be fed a minimum of 80% of daily ration OCIA recognized certifiable organically grown feed for 10 months followed by being fed 100% OCIA Certified feed 60 days prior to certifiable status.
8. Purchased production stock into OCIA Certified herd:
 - a. Should be from OCIA certified sources.
 - b. Can be sources which qualify under transitional herd provision.
 - c. As a last resort, conventional sources given the cows are fed OCIA Certified feeds 60 days prior to certifiable status and that such production represent less than 5% of total OCIA Certified production.
9. Withdrawal periods:
 - a. OCIA approved active intervention products should be considered only after acceptable practices have failed. If used a 12 day withholding of milk should be observed, or twice the labeled withdrawal whichever is longer. In the case of dry cow treatment this means 12 days after first milking.
 - b. In the case of antibiotic use, the milk must be tested before entering certifiable status. Written verification on non-contamination must be kept on file.
 - c. Treated cows are to be milked at the end of the string.
10. Water Quality:
 - a. Milk cows must drink water with nitrate levels below 10 mg nitrate, nitrogen/liter.
 - b. Water is to satisfy all state requirements concerning bacteria and other microlife.