Organic Program

Who We Are

• USDA Accredited Organic Certifier
• Input Material Review Organization
• Technical Assistance Provider

Your Partner in Ensuring Organic Integrity!

What do we do?

Provide access to the organic market and ensure the integrity of the organic label through:

• certification of producers and handlers,
• registration of inputs for use in organic production,
• and technical assistance on the USDA organic regulations.

Certification Process


Certification Process

Interested in Organic Certification?

Online resources for new and existing clients:

• Videos – English and Spanish
• Fee Calculator
• Certification Guides
• Factsheets
• Approved input lists
• Recordkeeping templates

Coming Soon – Spanish translated web pages, factsheets, and forms!
Organic Poultry Requirements

Organic System Plan
- describes practices & frequency with which they will be performed.
- agreed to by the operation and the certifier. [205.201]
- Records
  - auditable & adapted to the operation. [205.103]
- Organic management of birds from 2nd day of life [205.236]

Organic Feed Requirements

Allowed in poultry feed:
- All agricultural products in feed must be organic [205.237]
- Vitamins and minerals allowed per FDA and AAFCO
- DL-Methionine (four specific CAS #s)

Not Allowed:
- Slaughter by-products
- Antibiotics
- Ionomophores
- Other synthetics not listed at 205.603(d) such as L-Methionine & Taurine

Methionine – April 2015 NOSB Mtg

Current Rule
(in effect since 10/2/12):
- maximum levels of synthetic methionine per ton of feed:
  - Laying and broiler chickens—2 pounds; turkeys and all other poultry—3 pounds.

Recommendation:
- maximum average pounds per ton of 100% synthetic methionine in the diet over the life of the flock:
  - Laying chickens—2 pounds;
  - Broiler chickens—2.5 pounds;
  - Turkeys and all other poultry—3 pounds.

Federal Rule Making & Guidance

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
- Evaluates materials for inclusion on the National List
- Recommends rule making action for NOP to finalize and administer

National Organic Program (NOP)
- Publishes final rules, issues guidance, ensures adequate enforcement
- Evaluates certifiers through accreditation process

How to get involved

NOSB meets twice a year. Submit written comments or sign up to make oral comments approximately 6 weeks before each meeting. Meetings are free and open to the public.

Farmers appear to be under-represented in the public comment process and the NOSB values farmer's comments very highly.

November 16-18th 2016 in St. Louis
April 19-21st 2017 in Denver
www.ams.usda.gov/nosb
How to get involved

- Livestock Subcommittee’s #1 Research Priority: **Evaluation of Methionine in the Context of a Systems Approach in Organic Poultry Production**
- Bi-monthly meeting notes posted online this year suggested possibly there will be another working group or task force on methionine.

> Your knowledge and expertise is important to share

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Living Conditions – Current Requirements

- Year round access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, clean water and direct sunlight suitable to their stage of life
- Temporary confinement is allowed
- Stage of life
- To protect health, safety and well being
- Continuous confinement indoors is prohibited [205.239](http://www.ams.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media/NOP-PM-11-12-ConfinementofPoultry.pdf)

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**Proposed Indoor Stocking Density**

Maximum indoor stocking density
- Broilers, turkeys and other poultry type breeds –5.0 lbs/ft²
- Pullets –3.0 lbs/ft²
- Layers:
  - Pisciculture systems –4.5 lbs/ft²
  - Aviary systems –4.5 lbs/ft²
  - Slatted/mesh flooring –3.7 lbs/ft²
  - Floor litter systems –3.0 lbs/ft²
- Set to current industry practices based on third party animal welfare certification programs (Per NOP 4/15/16 Webinar)

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**Proposed Outdoor Stocking Density**

Maximum outdoor stocking density
- Broilers, turkeys and other poultry type breeds –5.0 lbs/ft²
- Pullets –3.0 lbs/ft²
- Layers –2.25 lbs/ft²

Roughly equivalent to 2 outdoor footprints per layer house.
(Per NOP 4/15/16 Webinar)
NOSB drafts preliminary details and language for new rules

NOP reviews recommendation.

NOP rejects recommendation

Public Comment sought (ANPR)

Rule change published in Federal Register

From NOP’s 4/15/16 Webinar

Implementation Plan

Final Rule Published

Year 1

All provisions except avian outdoor space must be implemented.

Year 3

New organic operations must comply with all provisions to obtain certification.

Year 5

All certified operations must comply with all provisions.

WSDA Organic Program

Get the most out of your certification & remember that technical assistance is part of our mission.

USDA wants to hear from you!

6,675 comments submitted.

WSDA Organic Program wants to hear from you too!

Sign up for the NOP Insider

How do you contact us?

We work as a team to assist the agency and public.

Contact our main line with questions, complaints, or referrals:

(360) 902 -1805

organic@agr.wa.gov

http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Organic/