

SECTION SIX – GENERAL STANDARDS FOR ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

6.1 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Organic livestock husbandry is based on the harmonious relationship between land, water, plants and livestock, respect for the physiological and behavioural needs of livestock and the feeding of good quality, organically grown feedstuffs.

Pastures are managed for biodiversity and soil conservation as well as animal production.

Organic animal management is based on the principles of balanced nutrition and feeding for prevention of disease and resistance to infection, parasitic attack and metabolic disorders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Producers should maintain conditions that enhance, as much as possible, the animals' lives, physiological needs and behavioural needs.

Animal breeding and selection should consider breeds and genetic characteristics, which are naturally suited to the individual farm.

Maintenance of ground cover is important for soil conservation which may require farmers to adjust stocking rates when required.

Grazing practices should lead to the fostering of biodiversity. Grazing and pasture management should be based on minimisation of nutrient application and subdivision of areas to land class and should incorporate responsive grazing in contrast to set stocking.

Artificial insemination is not recommended.

STANDARDS

6.1.1 Animals shall be allowed to practise their normal behaviours without interference to normal growth patterns. In particular animals must be capable of natural copulation and birth.

6.1.2 Embryo transfer is prohibited.

6.1.3 The use of genetically engineered species or breeds is not allowed.

6.1.4 Hormonal heat treatment and induced birth are not allowed.

DEROGATION

Unless applied to individual animals for medical reasons and under veterinary supervision.

6.1.5 Synthetic growth promotants are prohibited in all livestock production systems.

6.1.6 The operator must make provision for both animal welfare and soil protection through adequate ground cover that considers all extremities in climatic conditions.

6.1.7 Stocking rates for livestock must be appropriate for the region, taking into consideration feed production capacity, health, nutrient balance, and environmental impact.

6.1.8 Grazing animals shall be subject to control which includes the capacity to remove animals from a given area as part of a rotation.

6.1.9 Animals shall be provided with adequate diet, nutrition and water supply so as to maintain them in fat score 2 or better (sheep and cattle).

6.1.10 Meat, wool, eggs, milk and honey will be subject to a NATA approved laboratory testing of tissue for residues by NASAA prior to application of the label.

6.1.11 Land and animals may move from precertification to organic simultaneously subject to the requirements for all other land and animal conversion periods. Where existing animals are converted separately to land the following management time frames apply:

| ANIMALS | MINIMUM ORGANIC MANAGEMENT PERIOD |
|----------------------------|--|
| Cows for milk production | 6 months |
| Fowl for egg production | Not permitted |
| Fowl for meat production | Not permitted |
| Ruminants and Monogastrics | Not permitted |
| Aquaculture species | Not permitted |

Table 2 Minimum Organic Management Periods for Existing Livestock

6.2 ANIMAL SOURCES

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Organic animals are born and raised on organic holdings.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Wherever possible, sources of livestock should be from certified organic farms.

Amendment to NASAA Organic Standard (Dec 2004) – Dairy Management. Notification date 1st April 2006

Animals should not be sourced from properties suspected to be carrying infectious diseases.

STANDARDS

- 6.2.1 Only animals born, raised and gestated on an organic farm from the last trimester are eligible for full organic certification. Exceptions are listed in Table 3 "Maximum Age for Brought in Livestock Products" below.

| ANIMALS | MAXIMUM AGE OF BROUGHT IN LIVESTOCK |
|----------------------------|---|
| Cows for milk production | Dairy calves up to 4 weeks old that have received colostrum and are fed a diet consisting mainly of full milk |
| Fowl for egg production | From 2 day old chicks |
| Fowl for meat production | From 2 day old chicks |
| Ruminants and Monogastrics | From last trimester of pregnancy |
| Aquaculture species | In a fingerling form |

Table 3 - Maximum Age For Brought In Livestock Products

- 6.2.2 Regardless of the certification status of animals on the organic farm, no more than 10% of a herd may be replaced annually from conventional sources in accordance with the requirements outlined in Table 3 "Maximum Age for Brought in Livestock Products" above.

DEROGATION

Exceptions to this may be sought based on the following

- Drought or other natural disaster
- Herd/flock replacement incorporating upgrade of genetic material incorporated into a complete organic livestock management program

- 6.2.3 Brought in animals from non organic sources and their products may be converted to organic with the minimum time frames as set out in Table 3 "Maximum Age for Brought in Livestock Products" above.

- 6.2.4 Certification of animals as organic will require that the relevant pasture and feed is also certified organic.