



For Meat Production:

Brood cows must be under organic management from **the last third of gestation** (NOP 205.236) then offspring may qualify as organic meat production. Once the brood cow is transitioned into organic production, they must be under continuous organic management.

Feed requirements for meat production:

NOP 205.237 (a) : States that “ The producer of an organic livestock operation must provide livestock with a total feed ration composed of agricultural products, including pasture and forage that are organically produced and if applicable organically handled:.....

What does that mean?

This means that the feedstuffs have to be certified organic.

For Dairy Operations:

Animals must be under continuous organic management for no less than 12 months prior to the production of milk and milk products being sold, labeled, or represented as organic with the following exception:

- Crops and forage from the producer’s land only, included in the producer’s organic system plan, that is in the 3rd year of organic management, may be consumed on this farm by this producer’s animals, during the 12 months just prior to the sale of organic milk.

Once an entire, distinct herd has been converted to organic production, all future dairy animals shall be organic from the last third of gestation.

For Breeder Stock:

Livestock used as breeder stock may be brought from a non organic operation onto an organic operation at any time provided livestock are gestating and the offspring are to be raised as organic livestock. The breeder stock must be brought onto the facility no later than the last third of gestation (NOP 205.236 a 3). Once the brood cow is transitioned into organic production, they must be under continuous organic management.

In addition to the above, the operation must meet NOP Requirements 205.238 (livestock health care practices, and 205.239 (livestock living conditions). (See back)



- Have you selected species and types of livestock with regard to suitability for site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites?
- Do you provide a feed ration sufficient to meet nutritional requirements (including vitamins, minerals, protein and/or amino acids, fatty acids, energy sources, and fiber)?
- Do you provide appropriate housing, pasture conditions, and sanitation practices to minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites?
- Do you provide conditions which allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress appropriate to the species?
- Do you perform physical alterations as needed to promote the animal's welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress?
- Do you administer vaccines and other veterinary biologics as a means of disease prevention? [See *guidelines in the NOP Final Rule, § 205.238 (a) (6)*]
- Do you administer animal drugs in accordance with the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act?
- When livestock become sick, do you take actions and administer necessary medications regardless of the consequences to the animal's organic status?
- Do you provide access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, and direct sunlight suitable to the species, its stage of production, the climate, and the environment?
- Do you provide access to pasture for ruminant livestock?
- Do you provide livestock with appropriate clean, dry bedding?
- Are your livestock shelter facilities designed to allow for natural maintenance, comfort behaviors, and opportunity to exercise?
- Do your livestock shelter facilities provide adequate temperature level, ventilation, and air circulation suitable to the species?
- Are you providing safe shelter facilities that reduce the potential for livestock injury?
- When necessary to confine livestock, is it being done on a temporary basis? [See *guidelines in the NOP Final Rule, § 205.239 (b)*]
- Do you manage manure in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water?

Please note: These questions are based on the USDA NOP Requirements and are intended to be used as a guideline. Refer to Requirements 205.238 and 205.239 for further information and clarification on each question.