



NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC

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Organic Plus Trust, Inc. (OPT) Grass Fed Organic Livestock Certification Program Changes

This information is intended for renewing NOFA-NY Certified Organic Producers currently certified to the existing NOFA-NY 100% Grass-Fed Certification program. The following indicates changes and differences for your operation's practices if choosing to apply to the new OPT grass-fed certification program. Please contact NOFA-NY Certified Organic, LLC for more information.

Please note the following OPT requirements that differ from the NOFA-NY standard:

- ▶ A minimum of 60% Dry Matter Intake from pasture for the grazing season which is defined as 150 days - *see Dairy and Meat standard Section IV. Mandatory Grazing Requirements for Animals Older than 6 months*
- ▶ Replacement animals purchased must be certified to the OPT standard unless commercially unavailable - *see Dairy Standard Section III. Source and Identity of Dairy Animals, Appendix A. Definition of "commercially unavailable" and Program Manual Section XI Governance of the source and identity of Livestock Requirements.*
 - Due to an equivalence arrangement until 12/31/2019, you will be allowed to source animals certified to the NOFA-NY, PCO or VOF grass fed programs.
- ▶ Restricted Feeding of Supplements - *see both dairy and meat Standards Section V. Livestock Diet & Program Manual section XIII.*
 - Supplemental feeding of grain free feedstuffs will be restricted per the chart noted in the program manual section XIII.D. *Note that molasses must not be fed at more than 4# per animal/daily.*
 - Forage grown in fodder sprout systems must be limited to 1.75% of an animal's body weight and not more than 20 lbs. per day.
- ▶ Third Party animal welfare verification requirement - *see dairy standard Section VII Livestock Healthcare requirements and Program Manual Section XV.D. Third Party Welfare Assessment in 2019.*
 - Currently the Farmers Assuring Responsible Management (FARM) program is accepted under OPT.
 - Note that in 2019 there is no third party welfare requirement under the meat standard.
- ▶ Mandatory Use of This Program's Seal - *see both dairy and meat standard Section XIII.*
 - If you are handling grass fed organic products *and* your gross grass fed organic sales are above \$15,000 per year, the use of the seal is required. If you are only certifying livestock products and not further processing them, this will not affect you.
 - A license agreement between you and OPT will need to be arranged in order to use the seal in labeling and marketing. *See program manual XXI Use of Licensed Trademarks.*
- ▶ Slaughter requirements – *see meat standards Section XI Handling of Certified Products*
 - Use of a certified organic and grass fed slaughter facility will be required under the OPT program. We understand there are currently no currently certified grass fed slaughter facilities. If you intend to slaughter animals under this standard please have your certified organic slaughter facilities contact their certifier to learn about becoming certified to the OPT standard.