

THE 2019 CERTIFIED GRASS-FED ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PROGRAM™

THE OPT—The Organic Plus Trust Inc., (“OPT”) is the developer and holder of the Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program™ and program Seal. OPT is a “public benefit” company that is independent of any certified organic business whose charter dedicates it to the public benefit of improvement in human, farm animal, and environmental health by enlarging upon existing federal organic production and handling standards and verification tools to meet business and consumer preferences.

OPEN-SOURCE PROGRAMS—OPT’s principal activity is the cooperative development of production and handling standards, and supply chain oversight mechanisms, that innovate upon existing requirements for certified organic operations and accredited certifying agents.

- OPT certification programs are open to any qualified entity;
- OPT accreditation is open to any federally accredited certifying agent;
- OPT standards are developed through transparent stakeholder processes;
- OPT program standards are published for no charge under Creative Commons Copyright licenses that ensure they are freely available.

THE TRUST MARK—The 2019 Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program™ is backed by a new Seal that will be easily recognizable and will stand for accurate and enhanced product attributes and advanced oversight mechanisms.

PREMIER PARTNERS—The first program partners are market-leading, Organic Valley, Maple Hill Creamery and Natural by Nature.

KEY PRODUCTION AND HANDLING BENCHMARKS

- **ORGANIC FOUNDATION.** Organic certification is a prerequisite to certification under the new program.
- **NO GRAIN.** Livestock eat a diet of high-quality forages (pasture and hay). Feeding grain or grain byproducts to milking animals is not allowed.
- **FEED IS GRAZED AND HARVESTED FORAGE.** To qualify, an operation must have a grazing season not less than 150 days a year and high-quality seasonal pasture that provides an average of 60 percent of an animal’s dry matter intake. During the non-grazing season feed is composed of harvested forages and vegetative-state cereal crops. Minor feedstuffs necessary to maintain rumen health and nutritional stability may include other plant products that are not grain.
- **STRICT PASTURE MANAGEMENT.** To qualify, an operation must have a pasture management plan to maintain and improve farm bioresources and maintain animal well-being.
- **ANIMAL WELLNESS MANAGEMENT.** To qualify, an operation must undergo mandatory third-party wellness evaluations.
- **END TO END CERTIFICATION.** The OPT Seal means complete supply chain oversight, from livestock sourcing to handling and final packaging. Grass-Fed Organic dairy and meat products are always segregated from non-compliant products to assure a consistent, correct standard of identity.
- **NATIONAL NETWORK OF QUALIFIED CERTIFIERS.** Only federally accredited certifying agents may apply to receive OPT accreditation to conduct certification under the Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program™. This network is the professional, scalable and the preeminent pool of certification expertise in the U.S.

For more information go to www.organicplustrust.com