Workshop Overview

Today’s workshop will cover:

✓ Certification Process
✓ Organic System Plan/Application
✓ Recordkeeping
✓ Allowed & Prohibited Substances
✓ Pasture/Land Requirements
✓ Pasture Maps & Barnyard Layouts
✓ Poultry
✓ Swine
✓ Ruminants
✓ Grass Fed
✓ Processing & Marketing
✓ Q & A
Annual Certification Process

1. **Submit complete application and fees.**
2. Initial review of your application.
3. **Initial Review Letter:** Requests clarification, lists the records to have ready for inspection. Inspector assigned.
4. Inspection Day!
5. Inspection Report received back to the office.
6. **Final Review and Certification Decision.**
7. Certificate issued, pending further information, or denied if information not received.
8. **Decision Letter:**
   - Gives reminders, possible questions or items still needed before decision.
   - Identifies any areas of noncompliance, if applicable.

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Cost Share Program

Once you have been approved for organic certification:

• Eligible to receive 75% of annual certification fee per scope back, up to a maximum of $750 per scope per year.
• Scopes are: Crops, Livestock, Handling, Wild Crops.
• USDA funds administered by New York State Department of Ag & Markets for NY producers. Fifteen other states also participate.
• New applicants must be certified and paid in full by September 30 to be eligible to receive the reimbursement.

*It IS affordable to get certified!*
Who can use the term “organic”?

- Organic Certification is a voluntary-mandatory program
  - Agreement to comply to USDA NOP Organic Regulations in order to sell product as organic

- Must be certified operation to use:
  - 100% Organic
  - Organic (at least 95% organic)
  - Made with Organic (70 to 94% organic)

- Exempt:
  - Gross sales under $5,000
  - Must follow NOP Standards
  - Must be willing to be audited

*Civil penalties for false representation*
What is an Organic System Plan (OSP)?

The *living* document(s) of how you will manage your certified organic operation including every aspect of your production.

What is in a complete application?

- OSP Document
- Equipment List
- New Field Documentation
- Field Maps
- Inputs Intended for Use
- Animal List
- Barnyard Layout/Poultry Layout Diagrams

Audit Trail forms (to be maintained throughout year):
- Applied Amendment/Spray Record
- Harvest Records (Certified & Non-Certified if applicable)
- Equipment Cleaning & Purging Log (if dual use equipment)
- Livestock Medication & Health Care Record
- Purchased Feed Log
- Feed Ration & Dry Matter Intake Forms (if ruminants)
Recordkeeping: What is an Audit Trail?

- The ability to track product from origin to sale.
- Records need to be readily available at inspection.
- NOFA-NY will supply all necessary forms.
- Your own system is acceptable if it contains all required information.
- Must be kept for a minimum of 5 years.
Allowed and Prohibited Substances

**Allowed:**

“National List” provides specific substances, based on use

- **Natural/Non-Synthetic**: allowed unless specifically prohibited
- **Synthetic**: prohibited unless specifically allowed
- Separate lists for crop, livestock & processing
- OMRI, CDFA & WSDA Listed Products
- Product Review Fee
- Manure

**Prohibited:**

- Genetic Modification/Cloning
- Ionizing radiation
- Sewage sludge, a.k.a. biosolids

*Any new products MUST be approved prior to use*
Pasture/Land Requirements

• All livestock operations need certified organic pasture or outdoor access areas.

• If purchasing organic animals, land must be certified prior.

• History of all fields - no prohibited substances for past 3 years, including:
  • Treated seed/GMO seed/prohibited fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.

• If not managed by you for past 3 years, a signed affirmation from owner or previous manager is required.

• If not eligible/no info, will transition for 3 years. Crops from non-certified/transitional land must be stored separately from organic.
Pasture/Land Requirements

- Provide map of fields.
- Establish buffer zones to prevent spray drift, etc. from adjoining crops.
- No treated lumber for new fencepost installations (cedar & locust good alternatives).

- Pasture plan in OSP includes:
  - Management practices to ensure sufficient quality and quantity
  - Grazing season
  - Location and size of pastures
  - Grazing methods
  - Location and types of fences
  - Location and source of shade and water
  - Soil fertility and seeding systems
  - Erosion control and protection of natural resources

*Pasture must be managed as a crop!*
Maps

- Directional orientation
- Field IDs with acreage
- Borders with buffer zones
- Adjoining land use
- Natural features (hedgerows, waterways, wildlife habitats, wetlands, etc.)
- Power lines and roads
- Permanent fences, shade and water areas if applicable
Barnyard Layout/
Poultry Diagram
### Poultry

#### Origin of Livestock
- Must be managed organically from second day of life for meat or eggs.
  - Pre-existing flocks not certifiable.
  - Most order conventional day olds from hatchery and manage organic upon arrival.
  - Purchased pullets (typically 16 weeks old) must be certified organic.
  - May hatch your own under approved OSP.
  - Flock IDs/records required.

#### Feed
- Must receive only certified organic feed with approved feed additives and feed supplements.
  - Food scraps must be organic.
  - Obtain valid organic certificate with feed purchase.
  - Pasture/outdoor areas must be certified organic.

#### Health Care
- Health care products must be allowed per regulations.
  - Vaccines allowed.
  - Naturals (turmeric, cayenne, vinegar, etc.) allowed – must be organic if daily use/feed additive; non-organic ok for occasional health care.
  - FDA approved vitamins & minerals allowed.
  - Minimal beak trimming/wing clipping allowed if needed for welfare.
Poultry – Living Conditions

Must allow for health and natural behavior of species:

• At least 1.5 sq ft of space per bird recommended, indoor and outdoor (3 sq ft per turkey).
• No cages or wire floors allowed.
• Shavings for bedding must be untreated, hay/straw must be certified organic.
• Daily year-round outdoor access required unless temporary exemption applies (such as inclement weather or stage of life).
  • Generally broilers should have outdoor access by 4 weeks old and layers by 16 weeks old.
  • Winter access should be available on nice days.
• Doors should be large/frequent enough so all birds can easily access outdoor areas.
• Direct access to sunlight and fresh air.
• Able to demonstrate natural behaviors – pecking, scratching, dirt baths.
Swine

- Must be managed organically from last 3rd of gestation.
  - Organic management begins when application is received.
  - Pre-existing animals can be breeder stock.
  - Off-spring will qualify as long as total organic management for last 38 days of sows’ pregnancy.
  - Can receive own mother’s milk or certified organic milk until weaned.
  - Animal IDs required.
- Must receive only certified organic feed, including food scraps.
- Pasture/outdoor areas must be certified organic.
- Health care products must be allowed per regs.

- Living conditions must allow for health and natural behavior of the species:
  - Shavings for bedding must be untreated, hay/straw must be certified organic.
  - Daily year-round outdoor access required unless temporary exemption applies (such as inclement weather or stage of life).
  - Able to demonstrate natural behaviors – socialization, rooting, wallowing, nest building.
Ruminants

Origin of Livestock

- Must be managed organically from last 3rd of gestation.
  - Organic management begins when application is received.
  - Pre-existing animals can be breeder stock.
  - Offspring will qualify as long as total organic management for last trimester of dams’ pregnancy after application is received.
  - Can receive own mother’s milk or certified organic milk until weaned.
  - Permanent animal IDs required.

- Dairy only – one-time opportunity to transition conventional dairy herd to organic production.
  - All animals to be transitioned must be on the farm at the beginning of transition.
  - No more conventional animals may be brought to the farm or added to transition.
  - Dairy animals must be managed 100% organically for 1 year to be eligible to produce organic milk.
Ruminants

Feed & Pasture

• Manage continually only on certified land.
  • At least .75 acre of pasture per 1000 lb. animal recommended.
• 100% certified organic feed required with approved additives and supplements.
• NOP Pasture Rule for ruminants:
  • Minimum 30% dry matter intake (DMI) from pasture during grazing season.
  • At least 120 days per year for ruminant animals.
  • Chart & calculations will be provided to figure DMI.

Dairy Transition Feed

• Land should be certifiable or in its third year of transition (T3).
  • Farm raised T3 feed may be fed only during the transition year if included in OSP.
  • T1 and T2 feed are not allowed.
  • All T3 feed must be fed up or removed from the farm before the end of transition.
  • All purchased feed must be certified organic. T3 cannot be purchased.
Dry Matter Intake Calculations

- **Dry Matter Demand:**
  - Reference tables for lactating cows based on size and milk production.
  - Other ruminant groups as percentages of average body weight.

### Dry Matter Intake Calculation Worksheet

The office will calculate your dry matter intake from the information provided on the Feed Ration & Dry Matter Intake Forms. However, if you would like to calculate the dry matter intake for your reference, the calculation is provided below.

If you do not know the exact dry matter percentages for your feed, you may use the following assumptions:
- **Dry Hay = 90% dry matter**
- **Haylage / Balage = 40 – 60% dry matter**
- **Fodder Sprouts = 12 – 18% dry matter**
- **Corn Silage = 30 - 35% dry matter**
- **Grain = 89% dry matter**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>DM Assumption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>90% DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haylage/Balage</td>
<td>40 – 60% DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder Sprouts</td>
<td>12 – 18% DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn Silage</td>
<td>30 - 35% DM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grain</td>
<td>89% DM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\text{Total Lbs. DM} = \frac{\text{Haylage/Balage} \times \% \text{ DM (use .50 if unknown)}}{\text{Dry Hay} \times \% \text{ DM (use .90 if unknown)}} + \frac{\text{Corn Silage} \times \% \text{ DM (use .32 if unknown)}}{\text{Grain} \times \% \text{ DM (use .89 if unknown)}}
\]

\[
\frac{\text{Total lbs DM}}{\text{(DMD from chart)}} = \frac{\% \text{ DMI from feed}}{100} = \% \text{ DMI from feed}
\]

\[
100\% - \% \text{ from feed} = \% \text{ DMI from pasture}
\]
**Ruminants**

*Health Care Practices*

**Prohibited:**
- Antibiotics, hormones, most synthetic medications, animal by-products
- Parasiticides for slaughter stock
- Tail docking in cattle
  - Regulated in sheep
- Milk replacer w/ synthetics
- Synthetic amino acids
- Dehorning paste
  - Dehorning must be done humanely and as young as possible

**Allowed:**
- Vaccines (non-GMO)
- Mineral and salt formulations
  - No prohibited ingredients (mineral oil, artificial colors, yellow prussiate of soda)
  - Agricultural ingredients must be organic
- Homeopathy & herbs
- FDA approved vitamins & minerals
  - Get approval before use
- Parasiticides (Ivermectin, Moxidectin, Fenbendazole)
  - *Allowed for dairy only* - 90-day withhold of milk
  - With vet recommendation after preventative practices & natural products proven ineffective
  - Ivermectin to be removed

*Treatment cannot be withheld to preserve animal’s organic status.*
Ruminants

Livestock Living Conditions

• Must allow for health and natural behavior for the species.
  • Direct access to sunlight, fresh air
  • Year-round outdoor access all animals 6 months and older
• Total confinement is prohibited.
• Ruminants must be on pasture throughout the grazing season.
• Must have daily outdoor access in the non-grazing season.
• Temporary confinement only for specific exemptions, including:
  • Inclement weather
  • Stage of life
  • Risk to soil or water quality
  • Jeopardy to health, safety or wellbeing
  • Birth and dry off, and more
• Housing must be appropriate to the species.
• Clean, dry bedding is required.
  • Straw, hay, cornstalks, etc. used as bedding must be organic
  • Wood shavings and sand pure/no additives
• No treated wood where animals have contact.
NOFA-NY
100% Grass Fed Certification

This program is open to all ruminant livestock operations that are certified organic with NOFA-NY.

- Only one inspection visit needed to verify both your organic and grass fed certifications.
- Meat animals are required to be grass fed for their entire life.
  - No grain from birth.
- Dairy animals must go through a 90 day transition.
- Grass Fed logo and 100% grass fed claim may still be used on meat products if an organic butcher is not available.
100% Grass Fed Certification

**Allowed Feeds**
- Grass, pasture, hay, haylage, baleage, silage without grain
- Grain plants can be harvested/grazed prior to grain set/tassel
- Organic kelp, molasses, cider vinegar
- Milk for youngstock prior to weaning
- Fodder sprouts with roots removed
- Vitamins/minerals – no grain carrier

**Prohibited Feeds**
- Pelleted feed including alfalfa pellets
- Concentrates/meals
- Grains and grain byproducts
- Vitamins/minerals WITH grain carriers

*Pastures must be managed to allow rest and regrowth. Management should not degrade soil or pasture quality. A plan for improving forage quality & correcting mineral imbalances in soil is needed.*
Processing & Marketing

Marketing:

• Cull animals may be sold for organic meat as long as managed organically from last 3rd (or 2nd day of life for poultry).
  • Transitioned dairy animals will never qualify for organic slaughter.
• Animals may be sold live as organic whole, half or quarters.
  • Can be butchered conventionally as long as not represented as organic after processing.
• Retail cuts may be sold as organic only if processed in a certified organic slaughter facility.
  • Meat may not be labeled or sold as organic if processed at non-organic facility.
  • List of organic slaughter facilities available.
• Labels MUST be approved prior to use by certifier and USDA FSIS.
Thank you for coming to our workshop!

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USDA/NOP WEBSITE
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Contact us with any questions!