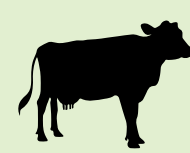


Organic Dairy

A Recordkeeping Checklist



Animal Origin & Identification



- ☐ Keep a list of your animals – these are identification records for each animal using ear tags, digital IDs, etc. (dam/source of animal, organic slaughter eligibility, breeding dates, animals entering or leaving the herd, etc.)
- ☐ Record births
- ☐ Record purchased/sold animals (itemized receipt)
- ☐ Documentation proving each dairy animal was under continuous organic management since the last third of gestation
- ☐ Records showing breeder stock arrived before last third of gestation if offspring are sold as organic
- ☐ Records showing 12-month transition period for transitioned dairy animals, including:
 - Start date of transition
 - List of animals in transition
 - Records demonstrating continuous organic management
- ☐ Records identifying any animals treated with prohibited substances and documentation proving they and their products are not sold as organic

Feed & Nutrition



- ☐ Receipts for purchased organic feed - keep labels and organic certificates
- ☐ Records of any on-farm produced feed
- ☐ Keep records of current inventory of harvested feed
- ☐ Records documenting use of third-year transitional crops when applicable
- ☐ Document any seasonal ration changes due to grazing (as fed ration records)
- ☐ Document the total feed ration for each type and class of animal - calculate dry matter demand and intake

Healthcare & Welfare



- ☐ Herd/flock health plan and documentation of preventive care
- ☐ Receipts for healthcare products, supplements, and bedding - keep labels and organic certificates
- ☐ Document any vet visits and reason
- ☐ Records of all health treatments, including:
 - Date
 - Diagnosis
 - Medication used
 - Veterinarian orders when required
 - Withdrawal times followed
- ☐ Parasite control plans and fecal monitoring documentation
- ☐ Records showing prohibited practices were avoided (e.g., hormones for growth, routine antibiotics, routine parasiticides)
- ☐ Identification of animals treated with prohibited substances
- ☐ Written plan for prompt, humane euthanasia
- ☐ Record culled animals

Housing & Living Conditions



- ☐ Documentation of year-round outdoor access – records showing access to shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, clean water, and sunlight
- ☐ Record temporary confinement – note the date, amount of time, animals, and reason of any periods of temporary confinement
- ☐ Bedding source records proving bedding is organically produced when required
- ☐ Housing maintenance and cleaning logs
- ☐ Records showing adequate space and design for welfare needs

Pasture Practices & Crop Field Activity



- ☐ Create or update pasture & field maps – location, name, size, fences, shade, water
- ☐ Record the day the animals go out to pasture
- ☐ Document pasture moves for all animal groups
- ☐ Records demonstrating minimum 30% DMI from grazing during grazing season
- ☐ Record the day the grazing season ends (grazing season length) and the winter ration begins
- ☐ Record any manure (with source documentation) or other soil fertility applications
- ☐ Monitoring records of pasture condition and regrowth
- ☐ Order and document any seed purchase and search for pasture and field crops (must be organic or documented unavailability)
- ☐ Keep field activity logs (planting, inputs, cultivating, harvesting, etc.)
- ☐ Record amount of feed harvested, amount, and from which fields
- ☐ Land use and field history records, if applicable
- ☐ Buffer zone documentation, if applicable

Transport & Slaughter



- ☐ Transportation logs including:
 - Departure and arrival times
 - Condition of animals
 - Transporter identity
- ☐ Label as organic for the duration of transport
- ☐ Emergency transport plans for animal welfare incidents
- ☐ Slaughter records, if applicable

Sales



- ☐ Keep sales records for all livestock products (milk shipping, live animal, and meat sales)
 - Sales invoices describing product as “organic”
 - Records linking each animal/product to its organic management and origin
- ☐ File milk slips
- ☐ Buyer certifications or verification of organic status

Organic System Plan & Inspection



- ☐ Update your Organic System Plan by due date, annually
- ☐ Complete the certification fee reimbursement application
- ☐ Gather all records for your annual organic inspection
- ☐ Be sure you have a comprehensive audit trail linking animal origin → management → feed → health care → sale
- ☐ Retain all records for at least 5 years
- ☐ Documentation preventing commingling with nonorganic animals/products
- ☐ Training records for staff responsible for organic livestock



United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
Transition to Organic Partnership Program

