

Organic Meats & Fiber

A Recordkeeping Checklist (Beef, Lamb, Goat, & Pork)



Animal Origin & Identification



- Keep a list of each of your animals – these are identification records for each animal using ear tags, digital IDs, ear tags, tattoos, breed & sex, etc
- Record breeding dates, births with Dam and Sire information; dates animals were purchased or sold, source/origin, IDs, certification status, breed & sex, and itemized receipts
- Origin documentation proving continuous organic management from last third of gestation - note dates arrived and management started
- Records demonstrating continuous organic management
- Records showing breeder stock arrived before last third of gestation if offspring are sold as organic
- Records identifying any animals treated with prohibited substances and documentation proving they and their products are not sold as organic

Feed & Nutrition



- Purchase records for all feed, labels, including organic certification of suppliers
- Pasture and forage production & Inventory records
- Feed additive and supplement documentation (must be on National List §205.603)
- Records showing 100% organic feed ration, seasonal ration changes, including grazing
- Document the total feed ration for each type and class of animal - calculate dry matter demand & intake

Healthcare & Welfare



- Animal ID, symptoms/diagnosis, date of treatment, product name and active ingredients, dosage and route, vaccination records (preventive and allowed), veterinary prescription/authorization (if required), treatment administrator, and documented vet visits with reasons
- Preventive practices, fecal monitoring, emergency protocols, and documentation showing acceptable methods were tried before any allowed treatments; emergency use only for parasiticides (prohibited in slaughter stock per §205.603)
- Receipts and labels for healthcare products, supplements, and bedding, including organic certificates when applicable
- Compliance with meat withdrawal periods for allowed substances (§205.603), records showing milk from treated animals not sold as organic or fed to organic livestock, and clear identification of animals/products permanently removed from organic status due to prohibited substances (e.g., antibiotics, non-allowed synthetics)
- Temporary confinement records (start/end dates and reason), physical alterations performed for welfare/ID/safety, animals euthanized, and documentation of animals treated with prohibited substances

Housing & Living Conditions



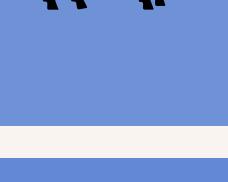
- Documentation showing animals have continuous access to outdoors, exercise areas, fresh air, direct sunlight, shade, shelter, and clean drinking water
- Records demonstrating adequate space and appropriate indoor and outdoor design to meet animal health and welfare needs, including temperature, ventilation, and air circulation monitoring records for housing facilities
- Bedding type and source records; organic certification required when bedding is edible/roughage
- Routine cleaning, maintenance, and sanitation records for animal housing and facilities
- Documentation of vegetative cover maintenance on outdoor soil areas
- Record of temporary confinement with dates, animals affected, and reason of any periods of temporary confinement

Pasture Practices & Crop Field Activity



- Pasture management plan demonstrating pasture as a managed crop
- Pasture rotation schedules and maps - location, name, size, fences, shade, water access
- Records showing minimum 30% dry matter intake (DMI) from pasture during grazing season
- Grazing season dates and duration, movement, including daily grazing records throughout grazing season
- Documentation of pasture management compliance (§§205.240)
- Pasture soil amendments and fertility records within organic compliance (§§205.203)
- Keep field activity logs (planting, inputs, cultivating, harvesting, etc.) (§§205.203)
- Order and document any seed purchase and search for pasture and field crops (must be organic or documented unavailability) (§§205.204)
- Buffer zone documentation, if applicable
- Record amount of feed harvested, amount, and from which fields
- Pest management records for pasture

Transport & Slaughter



- Transport logs including:
 - Departure and arrival times
 - Condition of animals
 - Transporter identity
- Labeled as organic for the duration of transport
- Emergency transport plans for animal welfare incidents
- Records showing hides are tanned at a certified organic Tannery for certified organic sales
- Records showing wool is processed at a GOTS facility for certified organic sales
- Slaughter records, if applicable

Sales

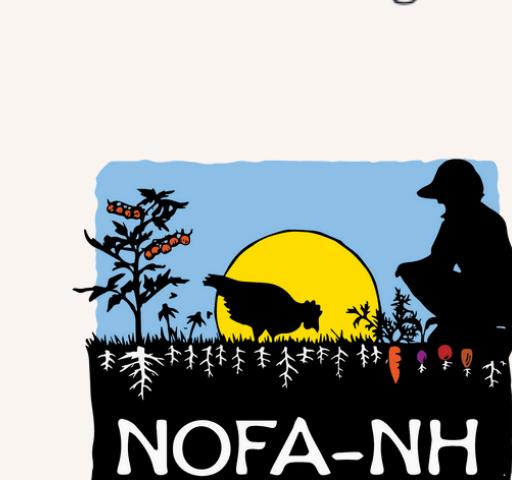


- Keep sales records for all livestock products (live animal, meat sales, hides & fiber products)
- Sales invoices describing product as "organic"
- Records linking each animal/product to its organic management and origin
- Buyer certifications or verification of organic status
- Keep records for traceability and mass balance inspection audits

Organic System Plan & Inspection



- Update the Organic System Plan by due date, annually
- Complete the certification fee reimbursement application (usually through FSA or Dept of Ag)
- Gather all records for your annual organic inspection ahead of time
- 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

