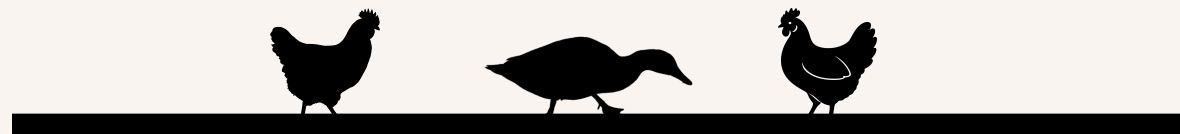


Organic Poultry

A Recordkeeping Checklist



Animal Origin & Identification



- ☐ Flock Identification System - ID, source of animal, organic slaughter eligibility, breeding dates, animals entering or leaving the flock
- ☐ Record hatch date, supplier organic certificate; dates animals were purchased or sold, source/origin, IDs, certification status, breed & sex, and itemized receipts
- ☐ Origin documentation proving continuous organic management from no later than the second day of life - note dates arrived and management started
- ☐ Records showing chicks were under organic management by day 2 of life
- ☐ 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

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; parasiticides prohibited in slaughter stock; emergency use allowed and by veterinary order (§205.238(b))
- ☐ Receipts and labels for healthcare products, supplements, and bedding, including organic certificates when applicable
- ☐ Compliance with meat withdrawal periods for allowed substances (§205.603), 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 (break trimming, toe clipping, etc.) performed for welfare/ID/safety, animals euthanized, and documentation of animals treated with prohibited substances

Housing & Living Conditions



- ☐ 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
- ☐ Documentation showing animals have continuous access to outdoors, exercise areas, fresh air, direct sunlight, shade, shelter, and clean drinking water; exit areas provide 1 linear foot per 360 birds
- ☐ Records showing 6 inches of perch space per layer; documentation that all layers can perch simultaneously
- ☐ Bedding type and source records; organic certification required when bedding is edible/roughage
- ☐ Routine cleaning, maintenance, and sanitation records for animal housing and facilities
- ☐ Weekly ammonia monitoring records at bird head height; documentation of ammonia levels and actions taken when levels exceed 10 ppm
- ☐ Documentation of vegetative cover maintenance on outdoor soil areas; records showing access to scratching and dust bathing areas with dry litter
- ☐ For slatted/mesh floor, documentation of 30% minimum solid floor with dust for bath
- ☐ 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 of outdoor space calculations meeting stocking density requirements for layers and broilers
- ☐ 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; records showing birds are not transported if non-ambulatory
 - ☐ Transporter identity
- ☐ Labeled as organic for the duration of transport
- ☐ Emergency transport plans for animal welfare incidents
- ☐ Slaughter records, if applicable; records demonstrate FSIS humane standards followed

Sales



- ☐ Keep sales records for all poultry products (live animal, meat, eggs sales)
- ☐ 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

