

Livestock Recommendations -- 1994

**NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS BOARD
FINAL BOARD RECOMMENDATION
ORGANIC LIVESTOCK HEALTHCARE, RECORD-KEEPING, & TRANSPORTATION
PRACTICES**

Adopted: June 2, 1994
Location: Santa Fe, New Mexico

Statutory Requirements

The following practices are prohibited under Section 2110(d)(1) of the OFPA:

- (1) Use of "subtherapeutic doses of antibiotics";
- (2) Use of "synthetic internal parasiticides on a routine basis";
- (3) Administration of "medication, other than vaccinations, in the absence of illness"

Section 2110(d)(2) sets forth the responsibility of the Board to "recommend to the Secretary standards in addition to those in [Section 2110(D)(1)] for the care of livestock to ensure that such livestock is organically produced."

Given the authority set forth under Section 2110(d)(2), the NOSB proposes that the following standards be established:

- (1) Livestock which are treated with or fed prohibited materials for healthcare purposes shall not contaminate organic livestock remaining in the farming operation. Use of prohibited materials on individual livestock shall not result in a change of status for the remaining organic livestock.
- (2) The action of a producer to withhold treatment to maintain the organic status of an individual livestock animal which results in the otherwise avoidable suffering or death of the animal shall be grounds for decertification.
- (3) A production environment which limits livestock stress and promotes livestock health shall be provided; it must include the following factors:
 - (a) access to shade, shelter, fresh air, and daylight suitable to the species, the stage of production, the climate, and the environment;
 - (b) appropriate clean and dry bedding, appropriate to the husbandry system, provided that if the bedding is typically consumed by the animal species, the certifying agency shall make an express determination that the feed standard set forth in these regulations is not violated.
 - (c) a housing design which provides for:
 - (i) natural maintenance, comfort behaviors,

and the opportunity to exercise;

(ii) temperature level, ventilation, and air

circulation suitable to the species; and

(iii) the reduction of potential for livestock injury.

(d) a proper manure management system to reduce disease and

parasite recycling and which also optimizes nutrient recycling and minimizes soil and water degradation.

(4) Livestock confinement standards to be developed later.

RECORDKEEPING FOR ORGANIC LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

1. ANIMAL SOURCE AND LIFE CYCLE RECORDS

Statutory Requirements

Section 2110(f)(1) sets forth the requirement that producers must "maintain a detailed, verifiable audit trail so that each animal (or in the case of poultry, each flock) can be traced back to [the] farm."

In addition to statutory requirements, the NOSB proposes that the following standards be established:

(1) An identification system must ensure the identity of organic livestock.

(2) Each slaughter animal/poultry flock/fish lot must be traceable through the life-cycle.

(3) A producer shall document all livestock sales and purchases.

2. HEALTHCARE RECORDS

Statutory Requirements

Section 2110(f)(2)(A) sets forth the requirement that producers must "keep accurate records" pertaining to "amounts and sources of all medications administered" to "each animal (or in the case of poultry, each flock)."

In addition to statutory requirements, the NOSB proposes that the following standards be established:

(1) Producers must document the rationale for use of all synthetic health care inputs appearing on the National List.

3. FEED, FEED SUPPLEMENT, AND FEED ADDITIVE RECORDS

Statutory Requirements

Section 2110(f)(2)(B) sets forth the requirement that producers must "keep accurate records" pertaining to all feeds and feed supplements bought and fed" for and to "each animal" (or in the case of poultry, each flock).

The NOSB proposes no standards in addition to the above statutory requirements.

TRANSPORTATION

In addition to statutory requirements, the NOSB Livestock Committee proposes that the following standards be established:

- (1) Audit trail must remain verifiable throughout transportation.
- (2) Contamination by prohibited materials shall not occur during transport.