

The Organic Trade Association, OTA, recommends a definition of origin of livestock specifically for production livestock, which are raised differently than slaughter stock. Production livestock animals are those that provide wool, milk, etc. and will never be sold, labeled, or represented as organic meat.

OTA recommends that during the last third of gestation regulations for production stock fully incorporate the Rule in it's requirement for 100% organic feed and organic compliant living conditions. For therapeutic reasons, in case of illness or injury, production stock may be treated with medications necessary for the animal's health and survival 12 months prior to products produced by that production livestock being sold, labeled, or represented as organic. Treatments must be recorded in the organic farm system management plan and the entity's certifying agent must be informed.

This is fully in keeping with OFPA which prohibits "growth promoters and hormones on such livestock, whether implanted, ingested, or injected, including antibiotics and synthetic trace elements used to stimulate growth or production of such livestock." OFPA further says "producers on such farm shall not (A) use subtherapeutic doses of antibiotics; (B) use synthetic internal paraciticides on a routine basis; or (C) administer medication, other than vaccinations, in the absence of illness. (Also see NOP Final Rule section 205.238(c)(2) and 205.236(a)(2)(iii))

OTA recommends that this definition be revisited no later than October 21, 2007.

