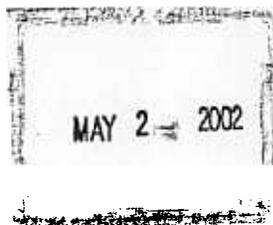


April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001



To the National Organic Standards Board and members of the National Organic Program,

Please allow me this opportunity to comment on the Access to Outdoors for Poultry issue. It is a fundamental mandate of the OFPA and CFR 205 that livestock living conditions include access to the outdoors. To not require such practice with poultry undermines the very foundation and spirit of organic food production. Consumers expect organic poultry to be raised with access to the outdoors. There will be a credibility backlash if this dual standard is allowed. Organic poultry can and must be managed with outdoor access. Avian Influenza fears are unsubstantiated. The Organic Valley Cooperative has never experienced an AI outbreak in their ten year history.

For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

*Please have access to the outdoors with a square foot requirement per bird as part of the National Organic Standards Law. Please do not make it easy for large corporations to produce organically.*  
*Thank you*  
*Mike Jolly*  
*S. 4148 Cuite Rd.*  
*Menomonee, WI 54632*

April 5, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

MAY 2

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

My thoughts on the organic chickens! There is no question the chickens can be raised with outside access which is very important weather permitting for the color of the egg yolk. Plus the health of the bird which the consumers comment on and they expect to be organic. A small family operation won't see any problem to give the chickens access to the outside. And that is what we want to support the family farm and not concern us about mass production.

Sincerely  
Titus Yoder



April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

MAY 2

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully, *Erwin*

Ervin B. Sager  
E. 15408 M. E. L. NE  
HILLSBORO

*We have been farming organically for a number of years. My family depends on the sale of farm products for 80% of our income. We have 900 laying hens, 35 holsteins cattle and a variety of crops.*

*Issues such as requiring poultry to have outdoor access are very important to the small organic family farm. These values are something our consumers expect and require. We cannot sacrifice common sense standards for the sake of factory farms.*

*Erwin*

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

MAY

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION OF  
HAVING ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS FOR POULTRY.  
MY WIFE DANNA AND I HAVE 3 CHILDREN AGES  
8-16-3 AND 2900 LAYING CHICKENS THEY HAVE  
OUTDOOR ACCESS OF 5 SQUARE FOOT PER BIRD - WE  
HAVE BEEN IN THE PROGRAM WITH "CRAP" FOR 3  
YEARS AND HAVE NOT HAD ANY PROBLEMS YET NOR  
HAS ANY OTHER POULTRY FARMS EXPERIENCED ANY  
OUTDOOR ACCESS PROBLEMS. WE DO HAVE A TRUE  
"FAMILY FARM" THE CHICKENS JUST LOVE TO GO OUT  
EVERY DAY. LET US NOT MISLEAD THE CONSUMERS  
THEY PREFER "ORGANIC" AS THE RIGHT THING TO DO FOR  
POULTRY, DAIRY AND HAVE THE IDEA THESE ANIMALS ARE HAPPY  
SINCE 9-11-01 I FELT MORE STRONG ABOUT "FAMILY FARMS"  
THAN I EVER HAVE, FAMILY FARMS ARE HERE THERE EVERYWHERE  
THEY DRIVE LOCAL CITIES, TOWNS. IT ALL BRINGS BACK REVENUE  
INTO THE SYSTEM (THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS). MOST OF ALL  
THE FAMILY FARMS HAVE VALUE'S AND OUTLOOK ON LIFE.  
LARRY MRSKOWSKY  
(Tom's Market)

MAY 3 2002

April 21, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

To the National Organic Standards Board and members of the National Organic Program;

Please allow me this opportunity to comment on the Access to Outdoors for Poultry issue. It is a fundamental mandate of the OFPA and CRF 205 that livestock living conditions include access to outdoors. Access to outdoors is fundamental to the kind of strong humane treatment standard that must be part of any system that worthy of the label organic. To not require such practice with poultry undermines the very foundation and spirit of organic food production.

Organic poultry can and must be managed with outdoor access. Avian influenza fears are unsubstantiated. The Organic Valley Cooperative has never experienced an AI outbreak in their ten-year history. Having access to outdoors allows poultry to exhibit natural behavior and reduces cannibalism and feather picking, both of which are exacerbated in confined conditions. In addition fresh grass in the diet increases CLA (Conjugated Linoleic Acid) and Omega-3 levels in both eggs and meat as well as the Vitamin A/Beta Carotene levels in eggs.

Consumers expect organic poultry to be raised with access to the outdoors. There will be a credibility backlash if a dual standard is allowed. For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry.

Sincerely,



Dane Thompson  
Member / Producer, Organic Valley, CROPP Cooperative  
622 N. Fourth St.  
Readstown, WI 54652

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

MAY 10 2002

To the National Organic Standards Board and members of the National Organic Program,

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

*John Gibbs*

April 15, 2002

MA 0

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
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1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully, *Ed and Linda Markle and family*

*We aren't into eggs but we believe that outdoor access is a very good idea. This is what the organic consumer expects. They deserve, at the price they pay, what they expect.*

*hard copy sent*

April 15, 2002

TEAV 6

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

*Lynn Tschumper*

*Active Farmer, organically certified*

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

Jane Marie Simon 4/20/02

I was shocked to hear that "access to outdoors" was being dropped from organic standards for Poultry. There are 3 essentials to Organic Standards - 1) Feed free of pesticides, herbicides 2) Animals not treated with drugs like penicillin 3) humane practices that allow the animals to be as much in their natural environment as possible - this, of course, means being able to go outside, eat green grass, feel sunshine on their backs + breathe fresh air, run and scratch around. People who pay more for organic want pure food (free of chemical residues) and want food that is from a happy animal - an animal allowed to live with freedom as much as possible.

As a poultry producer - I have laying hens producing organic eggs - I want the organic standards to require "access to outdoors" for organic poultry. I also want them to require the feed to be organically grown except the small % that is amino acids which help the chickens to be healthy.

Thank you for considering my letter. I have had organic hens for 25 years.

Jane Marie Simon





April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

*David S. Bartberger*

*This only common sense, although not in  
the very cold season.*

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

(4) 6

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

*Melvin A. Yoder's Certified Organic  
farmers since 192000*

*P.S. Please reconsider the loss  
of our future livestock-poultry  
farms to health related issues.*

*Access to Outdoors is HUMANE TREATMENT*

*Our farmers who understand the  
natural behaviors of animals and poultry  
do ~~not~~ want access to outdoors to stay  
as strict standards.*

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,



Paul E. Shelby Fuenger  
E3604 Johnson Ln.  
Genoa, WI 54632-8768

P.S. WE SHOULD KEEP THESE STANDARDS  
TRUELY ORGANIC AND NOT LET BIG BUSINESS  
AGRICULTURE PRESSURE YOU TO DROP THESE  
REQUIREMENTS.





April 15, 2002

MAY 6

National Organic Standards Board  
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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully, *Jeff & Wendy Lockington*

*Dear Ms Benham,*

*My husband and I have been raising organic (4,000 hens) laying hens for eggs for 2 years now. We believe that it is vital to organic farming that humane animal practices be made a rule. Outside access that is about 5ft/square bird should be required during permittable weather conditions. Also, if the chickens are not fed only fully organically grown feed, they should not be allowed to be organically labeled. Organic farming with no artificial & harmful chemicals is the only way to stop farm pollution. At least let "Organic" be synonymous with environmentally beneficial. The consumer of organic products is valiantly trying to conserve our world. Please don't let their efforts be in vain. Keep Organic Farming Pure & Simple.*

*Sincerely,  
Jeff & Wendy Lockington*

April 15, 2002

MAY 6

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

HAVE OUT DOOR, AFTER 5 weeks of Bird  
Delivered to farmer not when BORN.

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

Dear Katherine,

4-23-02

All animals need Outdoor access - including chickens. As a consumer & farmer I want to know the animals I eventually eat had a quality life and were not part of a confinement system.

Please require All Poultry to have outdoor access. Corporate farms must meet strict guidelines if they want in on the premium prices.

Please Consider All,

Chris Kew Winkler  
W 6754 Simpson LN  
Durand, WI 54734  
715-672-8555

e-mail: Winkler@nelson-tele.net

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

4-22-02

Respectfully,

Dear Katherine,

99% of all the food that comes in our kitchen does come in Certified Organic. We buy it because of what it was fed with through the soil or through self consumption. We don't want a bunch of pecked-to-death chickens that have not been allowed to exhibit natural & normal behavior. Socially, culturally & environmentally this is required. OUTDOOR ACCESS MEANS OUTDOOR ACCESS. CONSUMERS ARE SMART!! Don't allow greenwashing.

Happy Good Week!  
Hard  
by u

Delon Kasa  
16754 Simpson Lane  
Durand, WI 54736

April 15, 2002

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
1400 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington DC 20250-0001

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,

*Please keep the organic industry truly  
organic. You can't fool the consumer.*

*Respectfully,  
Robert Kees  
Durand, WI.  
tel # 715-672-4197*

April 15, 2002

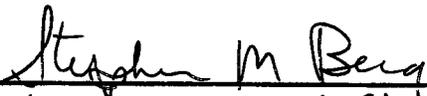
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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully,



1130 18 688th St

Ridgeland WI 54763

April 15, 2002

MAY 3 - 2002

N/A 28 L

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Katherine Benham  
Room 4008-South Building  
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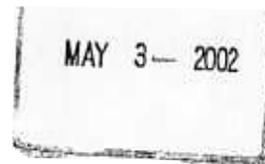
Respectfully,

*Harvey E. Miller*

*Allows animals to natural things  
Reduces ~~health~~ cannibalism & pecking  
fresh grass increases CLA & omega 3 in eggs & meat  
fresh grass increases vitamin H in eggs  
Makes healthier chickens  
helps combat disease  
It's the law under OFPA and the NOP Rule*

April 15, 2002

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For the sake of organic integrity and for the good of the organic industry use a strict interpretation when applying Outdoor Access to Poultry

Respectfully, *Elma Beech*

*I think the above words are very well written and I agree 100%*

*We have now been organic poultry for 5 years we started off with 1,500 layers and now are up to 5,700 and grow our own replacement layers also we grow 6,000 plus organic broilers each year*

*Several things outside access does that I feel is really good for the animal #1 allow animals to exhibit natural behavior #2 Reduces cannibalism and feather picking and #3 sets a strong Humane standard*

*I appreciate your consideration in these matters*

*Respectfully*

*Elma Beech*

MAY 6 2002

April 15, 2002

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Respectfully,

*David S. Dunsmore - organic milke  
and hay producer*

*2764 Kellogg Rd.  
SWANTON, VT 05488*





April 15, 2002

MAY 6 2002

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Respectfully,

*Randy Stein*  
Randy Stein

N22175 Cty. Rd. D  
Ettrick, WI 54627

This is truly the position that organic needs to hold.

