

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, Aaron L Hoover

We raise about 250 head of Poultry per year. When they are out on the grass. When they are dressed they look nice and yellow on the skin and not blue or white like factory farm birds.

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Respectfully,

Marta + Loretha P

22891 6th Ave -

Boston, MA 02135

507-834-6270

Organic Farmer for 12 years



GRACE PUBLIC FUND

May 6, 2002

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Board Chair

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Douglas Roche
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Emily Squires
Theodore B. Taylor
Grace Thorpe
Stanley Weithorn
Alan Woltz

Richard Mathews
Program Manager
National Organic Program
USDA-AMS-TMP-NOP
Room 4008-South Building
1400 and Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-0020

Via Fax: (202) 205-7808

Dear Mr. Mathews:

We wish to comment on the issue of "access to the outdoors" that is being discussed at the National Organic Standards Board this week in Austin, Texas. The NOSB Livestock Committee has proposed that organically-raised poultry be allowed access to the outdoors in order to fulfill natural behavior, and we agree with this proposal.

The organic foods market provides an important alternative for consumers who oppose the inhumane and unsound conditions of the industrial, factory-style of poultry production. To allow chickens raised in confinement to be labeled as organic would severely degrade organic standards and principles in addition to damaging consumers' views on the benefits of organic foods.

GRACE Public Fund supports the farmers who strive to produce the best products with the least impact on the environment and the highest regard for the well-being of the animals they raise. These farmers deserve recognition for their work to preserve sustainable agriculture and must have a label that distinguishes them from industrialized farming.

Sincerely,



Christina Salvi
Program Associate

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Respectfully,

Samuel M Peacher

Some producers don't want outdoor access. act?

*A true producer at heart wants no less than the best
for himself, his livestock, poultry and*

the consumer.

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Respectfully,

I DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE
THE POULTRY BUSINESS, ^{OR STANDARDS} BUT IT MAKES
SENSE TO KEEP THEM PASTURED. I HOPE YOU
CAN STAND YOUR GROUND!

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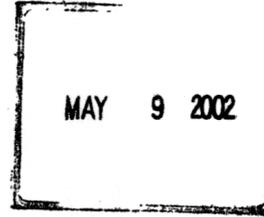
Respectfully,

I feel we need outdoor access to Poultry.
#1 Consumer want to see the birds on grass.
#2 The birds are more healthy.
On My own farm. We have 300 laying hens and they have access to go outside in day time as they please. When we open the door they cannot get out fast enough. They like exercise just like human like exercise.

Benuel M Stoltzfus
648 Cambridge Rd.
Honey Brook P.A. 19344

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Respectfully, *Ralph Zerbe* *Ralph Zerbe*

5. Stinson Rd Houston MN 55943

*We have been certified organic for beef and
grass crops for 7 years. We raise enough chickens
for our own egg and meat consumption. Our chickens
display much more natural behavior when outside
and there is less pecking and cannibalism. It is
a joy to us to see them in their natural outdoor
environment. Organic needs a strong humane treatment
standard. We observe the benefits daily in our
organic beef herd.*

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excess outdoors for Poultry

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Respectfully,

*I feel we need outdoor Access to Poultry
We do have some Eggs layer the yolks are more
yellow & healthy looking if on grass.
You can see the birds like outdoors when its
nice just like you & I do.*

*Aaron E. Stoltefus
5809 Linneville Rd.
Gap Pa. 17527
(717) 442-8745*

