

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,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION OF
HAVING ACCESS TO THE OUTDOORS FOR POULTRY.
MY WIFE BONNA AND I HAVE 3 CHICKENS 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 "CRALL" FOR 3
YEARS AND HAVE NOT HAD ANY PROBLEMS YET NOR
HAS ANY OTHER POULTRY FARM'S 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 CONSUMER'S
THEY PERCEIVE "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 REVENE REVENUE
INTO THE SYSTEM (THIS GREAT COUNTRY OF OURS). MUST BE IT'S
THE FAMILY FARMS HAVE VALUE'S AND OUTLOOK ON LIFE.
LARRY MIRSTOWSKY
Tom Miskin

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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 Tully
5,4148 Anti Rd.
Genoa, VT 54632*