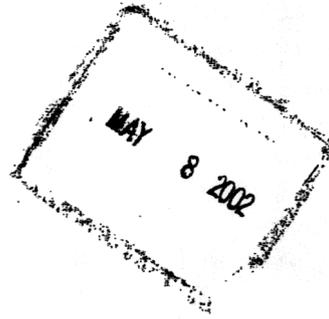


Date April 29, 2002

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



National Organic Standards Board,

I am writing to express my support for outdoor access in organic poultry production. As a consumer of organic products, I fully expect that all poultry are allowed access to fresh air, sunlight and green forage, weather permitting. Just as ruminant animals like cattle should be allowed access to pasture, poultry need to exhibit their natural behavior and forage and scratch outdoors. Here are some good reasons to make outdoor access mandatory:

- Allows the birds to exhibit natural behaviors.
- Reduces cannibalism and feather picking.
- Consumption of fresh grass can increase CLA (Conjugated Linoleic Acid) and Omega-3 levels in both eggs and meat.
- Eating fresh grass can increase Vitamin A/Beta Carotene levels in eggs.
- Sets the humane treatment standard that consumers expect.

Eliminating outdoor access for organic poultry, or weakening the standard to the point it is meaningless, seems to be largely an effort by the conventional industry to enter organic production without changing their management style. Raising poultry without outdoor access may be easier, but it is not in the best interest of either the birds or the consumer who buys organic poultry products.

Organic farmers have been successfully raising poultry with outdoor access for many years. Please consider the success and experience of these established organic farmers. At a time when acceptance and respect are necessary, the removal of a long-established standard of organic production would be a great blow to the credibility of the new USDA National Organic Standards.

Please keep the outdoor access standard for poultry in the National Organic Standards.

Respectfully submitted,

Name: Jean W. Barry
Jean W. Barry

Address: 9 Columbus St.
Lexington, MA 02421

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, *James Christensen*

We feel that being organic ~~with~~ with birds means that they have access to grass and not be locked in pens or cages.

Hard Copy has been sent.

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,

Mark A. Stoltz
1865 East End Mt. Rd.
Mill Hill, PA, 17751

I strongly support this letter!

April 15, 2002

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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,

Suey + Ronda Paris

S 2283 Paris Rd

La Farge, WI 54639

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,

Kristine H. Klish - Kristine H. Klish

*As an organic dairy farmer through
Organic Valley.*

*We only raise chickens for ourselves
as a family, but would not even consider
not allowing our chickens Free Range - not
to mention outdoor access.*

*To confine chickens per any animal
is against the very nature of life period.
It has been proven that this can be
done both successfully and profitably.*

April 5, 2002

MAY 8 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, *James R. Quinn*

*I now operate a 45 cow organic dairy farm.
For many years I also raised poultry. They had
access to outdoors. They were much healthier than poultry
that were confined indoors. They are allowed to exhibit
their natural behavior.*

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,

Larry A. Filburn

Organic poultry must include outside access!
Anything else is just a factory chicken farm
raised in small cages just like most of
conventional systems.

To say outside access is not necessary
supports large factory style operations, defeats
organic principles, quality of meat development,
and any type of humane treatment.

Only the fast buck operators would favor
no outside access.

Larry A. Filburn

9234 County B

Marshfield, WI

5/4/02

Apr 20 2007

National Organic Standards Board
C/o Katherine Benham
Room 4003 South Building
100 Independence Ave SW
Washington DC 20250-0000

To the National Organic Standards Board and member
of the National Organic Program

I wish to comment on the Access to Outdoors to
poultry

I am far from an expert but I have had poultry
for the last nine years. In those 9 years of poultry
raising, I have seen that doors are the main
cause of some flock outdoor and on pasture. Much a possible
that I keep pasture signs to a healthier than
kept indoors. The death loss is always a lot less on
pasture than in doors. In my observation, cannibalism
and feather pecking is almost non-existent in poultry
outdoors. Here as indoors it is a constant problem.
Research shows that fresh grass in the diet increases
(LA conjugated linoleic acid) and Omega 3 levels
in both egg and meat and increases Vitamin A/Beta
Carotene levels in egg.

In my opinion it is a must that poultry producers
access but pasture grass access be required for a
Organic poultry production.

Furthermore this is what organic consumers want.
They pay a higher price for organic eggs and poultry meat.

and they expect to receive a superior product, that is more nutritious, tastier, higher in CLA, Omega-3 and vitamin A/beta Carotene.

As you work on this issue and other Organic Standard issues please keep in mind that the term ("Organic") in the minds of consumers means, top quality, superior, higher in nutrition, the best food you can buy.

By lowering the organic standard you would be doing a disservice to organic consumers and farmers.

Please consider these recommendations and keep the standards high!

thank you

Lester S. Martin

LESTER & SUSAN MARTIN
#16263 CTY HWY F
WITHEE WI 54498
715-229-4555

April 15, 2002

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

MAY 8 2002

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Respectfully,

Lester S. Marsh