Outline

- Origin of Livestock
- Livestock Feed
- Pasture Requirements
- Livestock Health Care
- Livestock Living Conditions
Origin of Livestock

- Slaughter animals must be managed organically from the last 1/3 of gestation.
- Poultry, or their products, must be organic from the 2nd day after hatching.
- Dairy animals must be fed and managed organically for 1 year prior to production of organic milk.
Prohibited…

- Organic livestock cannot be moved to and from organic and non-organic operations.
- Poor recordkeeping! The producer must be able to preserve the identity of all organically managed animals and their products.
  - The producer must demonstrate, for all ruminant livestock on the operation, a functioning management plan for pasture.
Livestock Feed & Supplements

- 100% certified organic
- Must be in compliance with FDA
- Must provide a nutritional, complete feed ration as preventative health care!
- Records of everything fed
Prohibited feed additives:

- Animal drugs, including hormones, to promote growth
- Plastic pellets for roughage
- Feed formulas containing urea or manure
- Animal slaughter by-products
- Feed with antibiotics added
Pasture. Land used for livestock grazing that is managed to provide feed value and maintain or improve soil, water, and vegetative resources.
Organic Pasture Requirements

- Organic pasture must be managed as an organic crop
  - Buffers - secondary fencing
  - Erosion & water quality
  - Fence material
    - No pressure treated lumber in contact with animals or soil
Producers must manage pasture:

- to minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases and parasites
- to refrain from putting soil or water quality at risk.
During the grazing season...

- Ruminant animals must be able to actively obtain feed grazed from pasture (there are some exceptions)
  - Not less than 120 days/year, may or may not be continuous
  - **Pasture must account for 30% of their DMI on average**
    - Breeding bulls are exempt as long as they are not sold as organic
Pasture Rule Exemptions

- The producer may provide temporary confinement for an animal because of:
  - Inclement weather;
  - The animal's stage of life
  - Conditions under which the health, safety, or well-being of the animal could be jeopardized;
  - Risk to soil or water quality;
  - Preventive healthcare procedures or for the treatment of illness or injury
Organic Livestock Health Care
Preventative Health Care

- Selection of species
  - Suitable to site specific conditions
  - Resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites
Preventative Health Care

- Allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and reduction of stress appropriate to the species;
- Performance of physical alterations as needed to promote the animal's welfare and in a manner that minimizes pain and stress.
Managing Parasites

- Management to minimize diseases and parasites is required!
- Ivermectin is the only allowed FDA internal parasiticide
  - Emergency treatment for dairy and breeder stock (with restrictions)
- Rotation!
  - Breaking parasite life cycle by providing a sufficient host-free period
Rotations for Parasite Management

- Deferred grazing - Long rest period and replanting!
- Alternate grazing - 2+ species ingesting different parts of the forage and ingesting each other’s parasites
- Alternate Use - Intensive grazing rotated to haying or crops
Organic Veterinary Care

- Vaccines are allowed
- Herbal medicine
- Homeopathy
- Acupuncture
- Chiropractic
- Probiotics

Must follow same federal laws and FDA guidelines regarding use

A producer may administer synthetic medications: *Provided, That*, such medications are allowed.
A producer may not:

- Administer any drug in the absence of illness;
- Administer hormones for growth promotion;
- Administer animal drugs in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act; or
- Withhold medical treatment from a sick animal in an effort to preserve its organic status. All appropriate medications must be used to restore an animal to health when methods acceptable to organic production fail. Livestock treated with a prohibited substance must be clearly identified and shall not be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced.
Organic Livestock Living Condition Standard
The producer of an organic livestock operation must establish and maintain year-round livestock living conditions which accommodate the health and natural behavior of animals...
Year-round access for all animals to the outdoors, shade, shelter, exercise areas, fresh air, clean water for drinking, and direct sunlight, suitable to the species, its stage of life, the climate, and the environment.

Continuous total confinement of any animal indoors, or in yards, feeding pads, and feedlots is prohibited.

Standard does not currently say access to soil or give stocking densities.
Yards, feeding pads, and feedlots may be used to provide ruminants with access to the outdoors during the non-grazing season and supplemental feeding during the grazing season.

They shall be well-drained, kept in good condition, and managed to prevent runoff of wastes and contaminated waters to adjoining or nearby surface water and across property boundaries.

They shall be large enough to allow for simultaneous feeding without crowding and without competition for food.
Shelter designed to allow for:

- Natural maintenance, comfort behaviors, and opportunity to exercise
- Temperature level, ventilation, and air circulation suitable to the species
Shelter designed to allow for:

- Reduction of potential for livestock injury
- Appropriate clean, dry bedding.
  - When roughages are used as bedding, they must be organic.
Manure Management

- Manure must be managed in a manner that
  - does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals, or pathogenic organisms
  - optimizes recycling of nutrients
  - does not put soil or water quality at risk.
Questions?

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