



NOP ANNOUNCES ORGANIC PASTURE RULE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PASTURE ACCESS RULE

Livestock
Producers
MUST READ

On February 12, 2010 the National Organic Program (NOP) published a final rule that establishes pasture standards for organic livestock. The Access to Pasture rule specifies that organic milk and meat products come from organically-raised ruminants that are actively grazing on pasture. In other words, “livestock must actively graze on a daily basis during the grazing season, have access to the outdoors, and not be confined during the non-grazing season.”

What this means to you:

- Access to pasture for at least 120 days throughout the grazing season (days do not need to be consecutive);
- Diet consisting of at least 30% dry matter intake (DMI) from pasture grazed during grazing season totaling at least 120 days;
- Limits Dry Matter Demand (DMD) from dry matter fed to no more than an average of 70%;
- Clarifies the outdoor access requirement for non-ruminant animals;
- Exceptions to this rule include: calves up to 6 months; slaughter stock exempt from 30% DMI during

finishing period and breeding bulls that are not sold as organic;

- Each certified operation must include a functioning pasture management plan into their OSP which includes records of rations, feeding and grazing schedule and a method for calculating DMI and DMD;
- Plans will be verified annually during the on-site inspection.

The effective date of this rule is June 17, 2010 for new livestock producers seeking first time certification. Renewing applicants have until June 17, 2011 to fully comply with this rule. Please plan for extra time during your inspection to address this new rule.

IDALS is currently working on the development of forms for you to include in your Organic System Plan (OSP). You will be notified when these forms are available.

A great comprehensive resource for the new organic pasture rule can be found at:

http://www.nodpa.com/pasture_rule.shtml
[pasture_rule.shtml](http://www.nodpa.com/pasture_rule.shtml)

March 23, 2010

Issue 13

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * NOP Announces new PASTURE RULE
- * Check Before You Use—input requirements

DATES TO

REMEMBER!

- * May 1, 2010 Final Application Deadline
- * Cost-share deadline 9/30



CHECK BEFORE YOU USE

When completing your application for renewal each year, you are required to submit labels for any new products you are considering using in the coming year. Please make sure the labels you submit are legible and show ALL of the ingredients clearly. If you are not able to provide a label, we will need a list of all the ingredients as well as supplier information so if needed we can contact the supplier. When decisions are made regarding new products, the product is entered on a database. We also associate producer and product

so that as changes occur to a product status we are able to notify each producer listed in conjunction with said product. It is very possible when you are interested in using a product that the decision has already been made as to its usability and a simple answer can be provided. If a determination has not been made, please allow for adequate time for our staff to investigate the product and make a decision. **DO NOT** use a product before approval has been given as it may impact your organic certification.



WE ASKED, AND YOU ANSWERED!

This year we offered applicants the opportunity to obtain their application on-line for a \$25 savings and we are happy to report that the number of you agreeing to go "electronic" took us by surprise. By printing the forms and mailing them in to us we were able to save precious time and money. We will utilize email more this year as it is an easier way to correspond and requires less staff time in composing and sending letters as well as

postage and paper. This is one small step we can take to lower our costs and aid to our efficiency and timeliness in corresponding with you. If you are interested in receiving notifications, newsletters and updates electronically, and have not already responded to us, please contact Tammy Stotts at: tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov



NOT RENEWING? PLEASE NOTIFY US

As with everything in life, change is imminent. If your situation has changed and you are no longer seeking renewal from IDALS, please notify us as soon as possible. We will send you a "Notice of Surrender" form. You will still be allowed to sell your organic product that was raised while your certification was active. By notifying us as soon as possible, we will avoid scheduling your annual inspection and avoid

having to issue a notice of suspension. Any Notice of Suspension issued is also reported to the NOP and may complicate future certification. Contact Mary Nieland at 515-281-7656 if you have questions regarding this matter.

AND, THE WINNER IS



Okay, so it's not Iowa, but we are holding our own. In our newsletter last April we informed you about the organic production survey and asked that you participate. Well, the tally is in and it would stand to reason that California, with one of the longest growing seasons, led the Nation in organic production.

Make no mistake, we are on the move. Prior to this census, USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) ranked Iowa 4th in the number of organic producers at 453 and 10th in the number of acres in organic production at 64,158 acres. The latest results show Iowa 9th in the number of U.S. farms at 518 comprising 94,568 total acres.

According to a News Release by the National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with IDALS, the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Kathleen Merrigan said, "This was USDA's first wide-scale survey of organic producers, and it was undertaken in direct response to the growing interest in organics among consumers, farmers, business, policymakers and others." The information being released will be an important building for future program and policy development."

Some notable results include:

- Most organic producers sold their products locally (within 100 miles from the farm)
- 83% of organic sales were to wholesale channels including processors, millers and packers

- Production expense of organic farms averaged \$171,978 compared with the nationwide conventional costs of \$140,075
- Organic operations had an average of \$217,675 in sales, compared with \$134,807 for all farms
- Nationwide, 2008 organic sales totaled \$3.16 billion, including \$1.94 billion in crops sales and \$1.22 billion in sales of livestock, poultry and their products
- Challenges cited by survey respondents include regulatory, production, management and marketing issues. Despite these obstacles 78% indicated they plan to maintain or increase their organic production over the next five years.

What does all this mean for Iowa?

- Comparing both data sets (NASS and ERS), Iowa has had an approximate growth of 64% in the number of organic farms and a 37% growth in the number of dedicated cropland acres since 2000;
- In Iowa, 2008 organic sales totaled 71.5 million, making Iowa's contribution 2% of the U.S. Sales
- Average sales from organic farms in Iowa were \$138,118 with average production expenses per farm in Iowa totaling \$107,667

To see the complete results of the 2008 Organic Production Survey go to: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Online_Highlights/Organics/



MAY 1 2010

DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING!!!!

The early deadline for certification was March 15 and a record number of more than 140 of you took advantage of the discount being offered.

Remember if you haven't sent your application in the deadline has been changed to May 1. Applications postmarked after this date will **not** be accepted.

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Finally?

ORGANIC BUY/SELL SPOT

Wanted

No listings.

For Sale

No listings

Send us your e-mail request
and we will post the information

here. The role of IDALS will be to forward your e-mail information to interested parties, so please include all contact information in your e-mail. It's free; and you have an interested audience. You may contact Tammy Stotts by e-mail: tammy.stotts@iowaagriculture.gov.

COST-SHARE STILL AVAILABLE , WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

While the cost-share program has been around for a while now, there are still questions. The following list of items is being offered to help you obtain the most benefit from this program:

1. **Don't procrastinate**
Submit your application as soon as you get your certificate. The deadline is September 30th (or until funding runs out).
2. **Certificate date—not inspection date**
Be mindful that the date the certificate is issued determines eligibility, not when the inspection occurred.

3. **User Fees are eligible**
While IDALS does not charge a user fee, some certifiers do and this is a reimbursable cost.
4. **Open your Mail**
Cost-share applications are sent in the same envelope that your organic certificate comes in so be sure to open it.

At this time we do not know how long this program will last or if it will be renewed for 2011. We encourage you to take advantage of the program while it is available.

For additional assistance or questions regarding the cost-share program, contact Mary Nieland.

FARM TO SCHOOL DIRECTORY INFORMATION



CALLING ALL ORGANIC HORT FARMERS — IDALS is seeking you. If you have not already completed a fruit and vegetable directory application, please do so now. We are in the process of putting together a directory that school procurement staff can use to identify

local farmers and the products they have. If you have completed the survey and have indicated a willingness to sell to schools, we will be contacting you soon. If you haven't considered this opportunity, you may want to. Visit our website for more!