

Organic Poultry: just the facts

This guide shows the basics from the National Organic Program (NOP) Rule.

Need more details? Have specific questions about how these rules apply to your farm?

Reach out to MOSA for expert guidance on your certification journey!

Stocking density may be calculated by maximum pounds per square foot OR minimum square feet per bird.



Stocking Density Requirements*

	broilers	pullets	layers
OUTdoors	5 lbs/sq ft OR 2 sq ft per bird	3 lbs/sq ft OR 1.7 sq ft per bird	2.25 lbs/sq ft OR 3 sq ft per bird
INdoors	5 lbs/sq ft OR 2 sq ft per bird	3 lbs/sq ft OR 1.7 sq ft per bird	varies by housing



	Healthcare Inputs	Prevention is key! Many natural healthcare inputs are allowed
	Complete Feeds	Must be certified organic; restricted rates for synthetic methionine
	Physical Alterations	Prohibited, except for specific allowances at §205.238(a)(5)(ii)
	Wood Bedding	Must be naturally produced and free from prohibited additives

Layer Stocking Densities

Mobile housing :
4.5 lbs/sq ft or 1.5 sq ft/bird

Aviary housing:
4.5 lbs/sq ft or 1.5 sq ft/bird

Slatted/mesh floor:
3.75 lbs/sq ft or 1.8 sq ft/bird

Floor litter housing:
3 lbs/sq ft or 2.2 sq ft/bird

Other housing:
2.25 lbs/sq ft or 3 sq ft/bird

Confinement Allowances

	Pullets: First 16 weeks of life		Broilers: First 4 weeks of life
	Non-chicken poultry: Until fully feathered		Mature birds: No continuous confinement
	Temporary confinement is allowed for additional conditions, specified at §205.241(d) . Confinement must be recorded.		

Ammonia Monitoring

- measured weekly indoors at birds' head level
- mitigate levels > 20 ppm
- must not exceed 25 ppm

Origin of Livestock

Birds must be organically managed from **2nd day of life**



MOSA Certified Organic
call: 844-637-2526
email: mosa@mosaorganic.org
web: mosaorganic.org

Reference: [§205.236-§205.242](#)
*If you were certified before 2 Jan 2025, ask us about your implementation deadlines!
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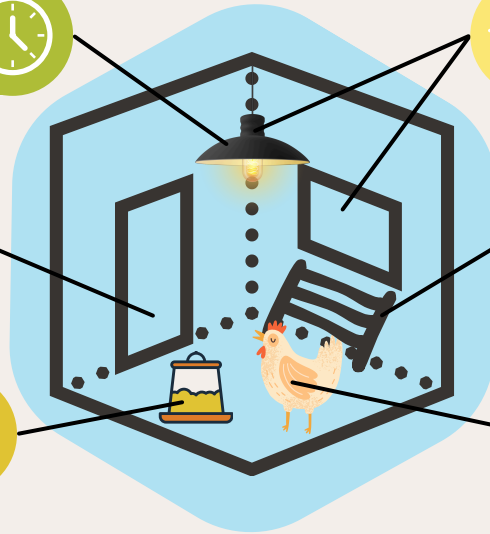
Indoor Living Conditions

8 continuous hours of darkness;
Light intensity lowered gradually



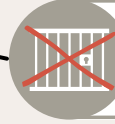
Up to 16 hours
of light per day

1 linear foot of exit door
opening per 360 birds;
Accessible to all birds



At least 6
inches of perch
space per hen

Feed and agricultural bedding
must be certified organic



No cages

Minimum 15% solid floor space is
required in non-mobile housing



Litter and areas for scratch and
dust bathing are required

Outdoor Living Conditions

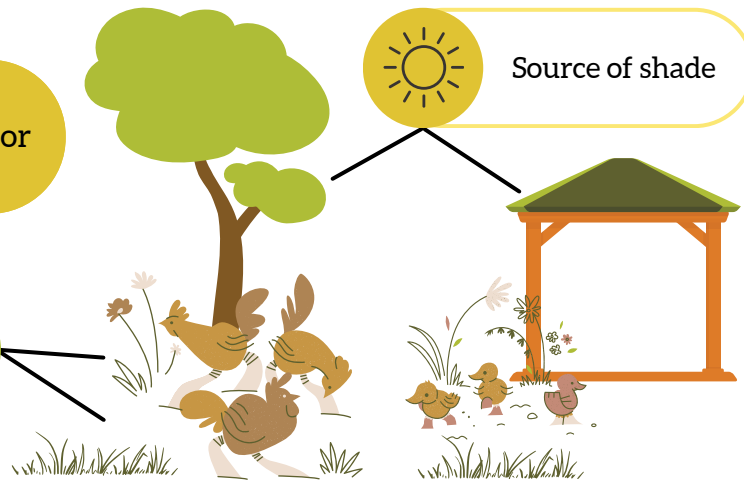


Outdoor access must be
provided year-round, except for
specific, allowed confinement



Source of shade

Must be at least 75% soil with
appropriate vegetation



Humane transportation
and slaughter required

Additional information:
[7 CFR Part 205: NOP Rule](#)



Questions? Want help navigating the organic requirements?
Call or email the MOSA Client Services Team!
844-637-2526 | customerservice@mosaorganic.org