



**Grass-Fed Organic System Plan**

Any certified organic dairy or meat livestock production operation or certified organic handling operation is eligible to apply for certification under the Organic Plus Trust (OPT) Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program. Use this form to describe your grass-fed operation. Please complete all questions. If a question does not apply, please indicate "not applicable" or "N/A."

**Status:**  
**Contact:**  
**Subject:**  
**Date:**  
**Type:** 2023

**Comments**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Is your operation certified organic according to the USDA National Organic Program Regulations?  
*If you are not currently certified organic by MOSA, submit a copy of your organic certificate.*

2. If yes, provide the name of your certification agency

3. Have you ever been certified to the OPT Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program?  
 Yes  No

4. If yes, provide the year and name of your certification agency:

5. Is your operation currently grass-fed organic certified to the OPT Grass-Fed Livestock Production and Handling Standards with another agency?  
 Yes  No

6. If yes, provide the name of your certification agency:  
*Please submit a copy of your grass-fed organic certificate.*

7. List the number of each type of livestock requested for grass-fed organic dairy certification. *Complete all that apply.*

Dairy cows for milk:

8. Dairy replacements:

9. Cattle for beef:

10. Other:

11. If "other," explain:

**Question(s) not listed are for office use only.**

13. *A list of all animals in your organic grass-fed herd is required. The list should include animal ID or name, date of birth, organic and Grass-Fed slaughter eligibility, Organic and Grass-Fed transitioned status, and any pertinent notes (purchase information, etc.). This list will need to be updated annually.*

Have you submitted a Livestock List form?  
 Yes  No

14. *Eligibility for this grass-fed organic certification program requires additional animal welfare compliance or exemption.*  
 Indicate the OPT approved animal welfare verified program in which you participate.

- Check all that apply. Animal welfare program records will be verified annually during your inspection.*
- Global Animal Partnership (GAP)  Certified Humane  American Humane Certified
  - FARM program for lactating milking animals (heifers / replacements need additional welfare verification to another program)
  - I have an OPT approved animal care protocol by my livestock product aggregator I am under contract with. *Submit a completed Aggregator Affirmation.*
  - I have an OPT approved internal animal care protocol which is verified by a qualified veterinarian. *Submit your OPT approved protocol and a completed Veterinarian Affidavit.*
  - I only sell direct to consumer and gross less than \$350,000 total annual farm sales. *Animal welfare practices are still required. Submit an Exemption to Animal Welfare Compliance Affidavit.*

**Question(s) not listed are for office use only.**

16. *Eligibility for this grass-fed organic certification program requires all products produced on your farm to comply with the Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program Standards for Livestock Production and Handling Operations. Lactating dairy animals of the same species are not eligible for a Split Operation.*

Are all lactating dairy animals at the operation, or at any single site of a multi-site operation, solely grass-fed organic?  
*If yes, your operation must qualify as a split operation. Contact MOSA with questions.*  
 Yes  No

17. **SOURCE OF LIVESTOCK**  
*In order to be eligible for grass-fed organic meat certification, all animals must have been managed according to the Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program standards from birth.*

Have all ruminant animals born on your operation been managed according to the Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program standards from birth?  
 Yes  No

18. Do you plan to purchase any livestock?  
*Purchased livestock must be certified to the Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program standard for meat production.*  
 Yes  No

19. If you plan to purchase a certified grass-fed organic herd, list the planned purchase date.  
*Submit a copy of the Grass-Fed Organic certificate for meat production. Animals transitioned for grass-fed organic dairy production are not eligible.*

**LIVESTOCK PURCHASES**

Complete this table if you purchased any animals. Use the additional comments box below to describe any information that does not fit into the table.

After initial Grass-Fed Organic Dairy certification is granted, all dairy ruminants brought onto the operation must be a) born grass-fed organic; b) transitioned and currently certified as grass-fed organic; c) be certified organic and transitioned for 90 days only when either a) or b) are documented as commercially unavailable. All animals for meat production must be born grass-fed organic.

Please verify the lines below. Use the table to add new items. If there isn't enough room, attach a separate list with the same column layout.

**Grass-Fed Livestock Purchases**

Type of livestock	Number of animals	Date obtained	Source and phone number	Certifier	Grass-Fed Certifier	Sale Facility name	Sale Facility Certifier

Additional Comments

**LIVING CONDITIONS**

21. What type of bedding is used for livestock? *Check all that apply.*  
 none  sand  sawdust/shavings  hay  other (such as straw or corn stalks)

22. If hay bedding is used, list crop types:

23. If other, list bedding type: *Note: If straw or corn stalks are used, explain how you verify that livestock do not consume any incidental mature grain.*

24. Is bedding purchased or homegrown?  
 purchased  homegrown  both

**PASTURE MANAGEMENT**

25. Eligibility for grass-fed organic livestock certification requires that all animals over six months of age must graze throughout the grazing season, which shall not be less than a minimum of 150 days annually, and must receive a minimum average of 60% dry matter from pasture during the grazing season.

On what dates does your grazing season begin and end?

26. Is grazing continuous throughout this time?

Yes  No

27. If no, list reasons and indicate the length of time (in days) that livestock are confined from pasture:

28. What is the overall length (in days) of your grazing season?

29. What type of pasture do you graze? Check all that apply.

native  improved  land is also cropped (residual)  wooded  permanent

30. What grazing method do you use? Check all that apply.

continuous  rotational  both

Use the following table to describe your pasture management. List pasture access for all ruminant grazing groups in the table below. Include hay and other crops that are also grazed. Use the additional comments box below to describe any information that does not fit into the table.

For **Type of livestock**, list by group (example: dairy cows, dry cows, bred heifers, unbred heifers).

For **Grazing period and Rest period**, list the typical number of days for each.

For **Pasture composition**, list the dominant forage species.

Please verify the lines below. Use the table to add new items. If there isn't enough room, attach a separate list with the same column layout.

**Grass-Fed Pasture Management**

Field ID#	Acres	Type of livestock	Number of animals	Grazing period	Rest period	Pasture composition

Additional Comments

32. How do you prevent overgrazing?

33. Are food-bearing trees or bushes (apples, berries, etc.) present in your pastures?

Yes  No

34. If yes, list types and describe how you plan to prevent the consumption of prohibited feedstuff in more than "de minimus" amounts? (De Minimis: An amount or action that is below the threshold of programmatic concern.)

35. A map of your pastures is required. Have you submitted a map of your pastures, including field ID and acreage?

Yes  No

**LIVESTOCK FEED**

36. *Grass-fed organic livestock certification requires a minimum average of 60% dry matter intake from pasture over the course of the grazing season. The MOSA Livestock Winter & Summer Rations form is required.*

Have you submitted the MOSA Livestock Winter & Summer Ration Form?

Yes  No

37. What forage types do you graze? *Check all that apply.*

annual grasses  perennial grasses  legumes  forbs  brassicas  browse  other

38. If other, list crop type(s):

39. *Cereal grain plants must be grazed in the vegetative-stage.*

Do you graze vegetative-stage small or cereal grain plants?

Yes  No

40. If yes, indicate crop types. *Check all that apply.*

corn in pre-tassel stage  soybeans prior to bloom  small grains at boot stage  other

41. If other, list crop type(s):

42. How do you ensure that small and cereal grain crops do not overmature?

43. Do you feed harvested forages or vegetative-stage small or cereal grains? *Check all that apply.*

hay  haylage  baleage  silage  corn in pre-tassel stage  soybeans prior to bloom  small and cereal grains prior to boot stage  other

44. If other, list crop type(s):

45. *A weaned animal's diet may be supplemented with approved materials when necessary to maintain adequate nutrition and rumen health. List all feed supplements on the MOSA **Input Inventory** form. Submit labels of new inputs for review. Reference Table 1 and Table 2 in the Standards for Livestock Production and Handling Operations.*

Do your rations include any unrestricted grain-free feed additives and supplements? Reference Table 1 of the Standards.

Yes  No

46. Do your rations include any of the following grain-free restricted supplemental feedstuffs? *Check all that apply.* . Restricted energy feedstuffs are strictly limited to a maximum combined total of 5lbs/day/animal for cattle. Energy supplements are prohibited for sheep and goats. Vitamin and mineral supplements must be grain free or only contain minimal grain carriers. Supplements containing grain are not intended to circumvent the prohibition for feeding grain.

Energy: certified organic carrots, sugar beet or citrus pulp  Energy: whole sugar beets  Energy: certified organic sugar cane dry sugar  Energy: sugar cane molasses

Energy: concentrated liquid lactose  Stored Forage: alfalfa pellets or forage in cube or pellet form. Daily limit of 6lb or  $\leq 0.5\%$  of body weight, whichever is less.

Stored Forage: fodder sprout system (roots removed) during the non-grazing season. Daily limit of no more than 1.75% of body weight not to exceed 20 lb per day.

Vitamins and minerals. Submit a label with mixing or feeding instructions.

47. Are animals under six months of age fed grain?

Yes  No

48. If yes, provide your plan for completely removing grain from your rations by December 31, 2020:

**GRASS FED DAIRY HERD TRANSITION**

49. *In order to be eligible for grass-fed organic dairy certification, animals must have successfully completed a consecutive 90-day transition period.*

Do you plan to transition a dairy herd to grass-fed management?

Yes  No

50. If yes, provide the date on which you plan to begin your transition

51. If you plan to purchase a certified grass-fed organic dairy herd, list the planned purchase date.

*Submit a copy of the grass-fed organic dairy certificate.*

**RECORDKEEPING**

52. Who is responsible for keeping grass-fed management records?

53. What kinds of records are kept?

feed rations  grazing records  animal ID  health  temporary confinement  exclusion of milk, meat or other livestock products from disqualified animals  sales  
 other

54. If other, describe:

55. **COMPLETE:** Is your Grass-Fed Organic Dairy System Plan complete?

*You may leave this blank or answer "no" if you wish to continue working on this form.*

Yes  No