Quality Certification Services (QCS)
5700 SW 34th Street, Suite 349, Gainesville FL 32608
phone 352.377.0133 / fax 352.377.8363
www.qcsinfo.org

ORGANIC PLUS TRUST (OPT) CERTIFIED GRASS-FED ORGANIC PROGRAM™
UNIVERSAL OPT GRASS-FED SYSTEM PLAN FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

By submitting this application, you agree to the most current OPT Grass-Fed Certification Program Manual and Standard.

You must be able to affirm the information below and answer all questions in this application.

- Current and in good standing Livestock certification to the USDA-National Organic Program (NOP).
- If purchasing OPT Certified Organic, Grass-fed animals provide both the **Organic and OPT Grass-Fed Certificates** of the OPT certified source farm. (Retain purchase documentation & herd list from the seller)
- **First Time Dairy Applicants -** A Herd List of all animals that will undergo a transition for 90 days in accordance with section II(B)(1)(b) if applicable.
- **First Time Meat Applicants –** A Herd List of all animals on farm that will be under OPT Grass-Fed Organic management. Grass-fed slaughter eligibility begins from birth after management to the OPT Grass-fed standards began.
- Herd List shall include species, breed, ID number, date of birth, if known.

OPERATION INFORMATION

1. Operation Name (must match exact name on organic certificate)

2. Main Contact
   Title _____
   Name _____
   Phone _____
   Email _____
   Preferred Method of Contact: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Postal Mail

3. Additional Contact
   Title _____
   Name _____
   Phone _____
   Email _____
   Preferred Method of Contact: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Postal Mail

4. Mailing Address
   Street _____
   City _____
   State _____
   Zip Code _____

5. Main Physical Address ☐ Same as mailing
   Street _____
   City _____
   State _____
   Zip Code _____

6. Additional Location A:
   Street _____
   City _____
   State _____
   Zip Code _____

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7. Additional Location B:
   Street _____
   City _____
   State _____
   Zip Code _____

8. Have you previously been certified to the OPT Grass-Fed Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   If Yes, list previous certifier and reason for leaving the program.

9. Estimated date you need to be OPT certified by:

10. What type of Products will you be producing? check all that apply
   ☐ Livestock - Meat ☐ Handling/Processing
   ☐ Livestock – Dairy
   list milk company/aggregator:
   ☐ N/A, I process my own milk

11. Livestock Species and Production type to be certified: *check all that apply*

Animal	Production Type	Approximate amount in herd
☐ Cattle		
	☐ Milk	
	☐ Meat	
	☐ Heifers/replacement animals	
☐ Sheep		
	☐ Milk	
	☐ Meat	
	☐ Replacement animals	
☐ Goats		
	☐ Milk	
	☐ Meat	
	☐ Replacement animals	
☐ Bison		
	☐ Meat	
	☐ Replacement animals	
☐ Other	Specify:	
	☐ Milk	
	☐ Meat	
	☐ Replacement animals	

SOURCE OF ANIMALS

Standards section III Source & Identity of Animals[1]

12. Will you Transition dairy animals to OPT Grass-fed?
   ☐ Yes. Document the dairy transition start date (MM/DD/YY)
   ☐ N/A, meat operation only

[1]Any ruminant animal placed at an Operation Certified under this Standard shall be: (1) Born at that Operation or an Operation Certified to this Standard and maintained under this Standard throughout its life at that Operation; or (2) Purchased from an Operation presently Certified to this Standard; or (3) If a Dairy animal compliant with paragraphs III (1) or (2) of this section is Commercially Unavailable, according to the definition in Appendix A, an Organic ruminant animal may be purchased from an ACA-certified Organic Operation provided it then completes a 90-day Transition period under this Standard. During this Transition period, the milk of this animal is not eligible to be sold as "Grass- Fed Organic". Meat animals are not eligible to be considered Commercially Unavailable.

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13. Will you purchase livestock from a certified OPT operation?
☐ Yes. *Retain OPT Certificate, purchase documentation and add animals to herd list.*
☐ No, all animals will be born from farm breeder stock. *Retain herd list documenting all livestock.*

14. What is your plan to replace animals once certified? Check all that apply.
☐ Closed Herd.
☐ Purchase OPT Certified Replacements.
☐ Purchase Certified Organic dairy animals for an additional 90-day transition. *Documentation of Commercial Unavailability must be maintained per standards section III(3) and milk must be withheld during the 90-day transition per dairy standards Section VI(B).*

15. Are you re-entering certification after surrendering due to substandard animal health?[2]
☐ Yes ☐ No, *continue to question 16*
Explain the specific substandard health/welfare concern that caused removal:

Explain the practices and/or treatments used to correct the substandard health/welfare concern:

Has the issue been corrected? ☐ Yes ☐ No If No, please explain:

16. Will you send replacement animals to another farm for custom grazing?[3]
☐ Yes. *Complete a Custom Grazing Form*[4] ☐ No

GRAZING AND PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Standards Section IV Mandatory Requirements for Animals Older than 6 months & Standards Section VIII Pasture Management Plan

17. Approximately how many days is your grazing season each year?

18. Do you provide not less than 150 days of pasture per calendar year to livestock over 6 months of age?
☐ Yes ☐ No

19. Do you provide not less than 60 percent of each animal's Dry Matter Intake ("DMI") from grazing, averaged throughout the Grazing Season? ☐ Yes ☐ No

20. What is your approximate DMI each season per class of animal?

Dairy Animals	Meat Animals
Lactating:	Breeding Stock:
Dry:	Slaughter Stock:
Bred/Yearlings:	
Youngstock:	

21. Provide the total number of grazing acres available for your certified livestock including grazed hayfields:

22. How long are grazing areas allowed to rest before animals are returned for grazing?

[2] Section III(A)(5) If Dairy Livestock are removed from OPT Grass-fed Management due to substandard health the following shall occur:
a. The Certified Operation must document the date the animals were removed from management under these standards and surrender their certification as of that date.
b. If the operation intends to re-enter certification, they must submit a plan indicating the following:
i. The specific health/welfare concern causing removal from certification; ii. A detailed plan addressing the practices and/or treatments needed to correct the indicated health/welfare concern and approximate time frame for implementation; iii. Submit the above plan for review and approval to the Accredited Certifier; iv. Once the issue has been corrected the Operation may undergo a 90- day transition per standards section II(2)(b)(1)(b)(i).

[3] Section III(B)(1) An animal Certified or Transitioning to this standard may be placed at a certified organic operation not certified to this standard under the following circumstances:
1. Custom grazing of heifers, provided the activity is limited to grazing only, the Certified Operation shall document this occurrence in the Operation's Application and the custom grazer completes a Custom Grazing Affidavit.

[4] A Custom Grazing Form can be provided to you by your Accredited OPT Certifier.

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23. Explain your plan to prevent overgrazing and allow for rest and regrowth of grazing acres:

LIVESTOCK DIET AND FEED

Standards section V Livestock Diet – Allowed Restricted and Prohibited Feedstuffs

24. Are you feeding Grains and Grain by-products (including but not limited to corn, soybean, Small Grains, and distiller's Grain), concentrates, meals, Pelleted feed, and any other non-Forage-based feedstuff not expressly allowed under this Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

25. Do you plan to or grow, graze, or purchase, vegetative stage Cereal and/or Grain crops (including bedding)?[5] ☐ No ☐ Yes, *check all that apply*
- ☐ Growing. List the method used to document compliance.
- ☐ Grazing. List the method used to document compliance.
- ☐ Purchase. *Retain documentation from the seller that crops were harvested at a complaint stage.*

26. Are you feeding any Allowed but Restricted Supplemental Grain Free feedstuffs?[6]

Restricted Feedstuff	Amount/Day/Animal
☐ Bypass Fat	
☐ Molasses	
☐ Dry Sugar	
☐ Sugar beets, Whole/pulp	
☐ Carrot Pulp	
☐ Citrus Pulp	
☐ Concentrated Liquid Lactose/Delactosed Permeate	
☐ Fodder Sprouts[7]	
☐ Alfalfa and/or forage pellets/meal[8]	
☐ Other, please list	

27. Do you provide Vitamin and Mineral Supplements?[9] ☐ Yes ☐ No

LIVESTOCK WELFARE AND LIVING CONDITIONS

Standards section VII - Livestock Welfare, Healthcare and Living Conditions Requirement

[5] Standards section V(A) Allowed Feedstuffs include: 1. Grazed Forages comprised of annual and perennial Grasses, Legumes, Forbs, Brassicas, and Browse; and 2. Grazed vegetative-stage Cereal Grain plants (corn in a pre-tassel stage, soybeans prior to bloom; small and Cereal Grains at or prior to Late Boot Stage); and 3. Harvested Forages and harvested vegetative-stage Cereal Grain crops (corn in a pre- tassel stage, soybeans prior to bloom; small and Cereal Grains at or prior to Late Boot Stage).
[6] Must be fed accordingly to Table 2 of the current Grass-fed Standard, Feeding records must verify compliance.
[7] See Table 2. May only be fed if ≤ 1.75% of the animal's body weight not to exceed 20lb; roots must be removed; may not be fed during the Grazing Season.
[8] See Table 2. May only be fed 6 lb or ≤ 0.5% of the animal's body weight, whichever is less.
[9] See Table 2. Vitamin and Mineral Supplements classified as Livestock Feed Ingredients must be fed accordingly to feeding guidelines and label instructions.

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28. How do you meet the additional welfare requirements? *Check one*
- ☐ Third Party Animal Welfare Certification.[10] List and provide current certificate
- ☐ FARM Program.[11] *Provide Certificate OR Animal Care Evaluation and Pledge of Participation*
- ☐ My milk is purchased by an approved Aggregator.[12] Submit signed Aggregator Affirmation.
- ☐ I have an approved Internal Animal Care Protocol.[13] Submit signed Veterinarian Affidavit.
- ☐ Exempt.[14] Submit the Exemption to Animal Welfare Compliance Affidavit.

RECORDKEEPING AND SEGREGATION

Standards section IX - Production and Handling Operations

29. Do you maintain and possess current records demonstrating the Production and Handling of products that are intended to be sold, Labeled, or represented as "Certified Grass-Fed Organic" are in full compliance with this Standard? ☐ Yes ☐ No

30. Will you be raising animals not certified to this standard?

☐ Yes *Parallel Production[15] is not eligible for lactating dairy animals at the same Production site.*
List non-certified Livestock and production type:

Explain your plan to ensure how non-certified livestock and prohibited feed will be segregated from OPT Certified Livestock and prevent non-certified Livestock from being sold, Labeled or represented as OPT Certified.

☐ No, all animals on farm will be certified OPT Grass-Fed.

COMPOSITION AND LABELING OF OPT GRASS-FED CERTIFIED PRODUCTS

Section XI – Labeling & Section XII – Mandatory Use of this Program's Seal

31. Do you intend to label any meat or dairy products?
- ☐ Yes[16] *Attach all label drafts for review and approval and complete the next question.*
- ☐ No, I do not apply labels to my products.
- ☐ No, my products are sent to a processor who will handle the labeling/marketing of my certified products. List Processor name

32. What products will you be labeling?

Product Name	Brand Name	Retail or Nonretail?	List OPT Certified Ingredients

[10] Section VII(A)(1) Approved third party animal welfare programs include Global Animal Partnership (G.A.P.), Certified Humane, or American Humane Certified.
[11] Section VII(A)(2) This option is only available to operations raising lactating dairy cattle.
[12] Section VII(A)(3) The current approved Aggregators include Organic Valley/CROPP, Maple Hill Creamery and Family Farmstead Creamery.
[13] Section VII(A)(4) Carefully review this section of the Standard and Program Manual for the detailed requirements to obtain approval.
[14] Section VII(A)(5) Certified Operations marketing OPT certified products Direct To Consumer only and receiving less than $350,000[14] annual gross sales revenue from sales of total farm products may be exempt.
[15] ***Parallel Production*** means **"**The simultaneous production, preparation, or handling of OPT Grass-fed and non-OPT Grass-fed livestock and/or products of the same or similar visually indistinguishable commodities."
[16] Section XII Mandatory use of this program's seal. Agricultural products in packages described in the NOP at 7 C.F.R. §205.301 and §205.307 shall bear the seal of this Program ("OPT Grass-Fed Organic Seal") OPT will follow up with a License agreement for the use of the OPT Grass-Fed Organic Seal. Use of the seal and a License Agreement with OPT is required for use on all consumer facing labels.