


Organic Livestock and Poultry Standard Fact Sheet

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PURPOSE OF THE RULE

The Organic Livestock and Poultry Standard (OLPS) is designed to enhance the existing National Organic Program (NOP) livestock living condition, medical care, and slaughter regulations.

INDOOR/OUTDOOR SPACE REQUIREMENTS: POULTRY

- Poultry must have year-round outdoor access
- Porches are prohibited as "outdoor spaces"
- Indoor stocking density requirements
- Ammonia levels must be monitored weekly

PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND CARE STANDARDS

- Several physical alterations are prohibited included teeth clipping and induced molting
- Other physical alterations are only allowed for safety or identification
- Producers must document all sick or injured animals and all treatments administered

LAMENESS MONITORING AND TREATMENT

- Lameness must be monitored and documented along with all treatment measures taken.

COMPLIANCE DATE

Currently certified livestock operations and any livestock operations seeking certification must be compliant with the rule by January 2, 2025. See below compliance timeline for currently certified poultry operations.

NON-AVIAN PRODUCTION PRACTICES

- Animals must be able to move, stretch, and exhibit normal behaviors over a 24-hour period
- Animals must have unrestricted outdoor access year-round
- Specific requirements for swine, included rooting and group housing

TRANSPORT AND SLAUGHTER

- Animals in transport must be healthy and identifiable
- Transportation must be suitable to climate and protect animals
- FSIS human slaughter standards must be followed
- New QCS Document: OSP 8 - Livestock Transport and Slaughter

PARASITE MANAGEMENT PLANS

- All livestock operations must have a comprehensive parasite management plans described in the OLP.

Compliance Timeline



***Poultry Operations ONLY**
Compliance Date:
January 2, 2029

Poultry operations currently certified or certified before January 2, 2025 have an **additional four years** to comply with the following avian requirements:

- Outdoor spacing requirements for layers
- Indoor and outdoor stocking density requirements for broilers
- Exit area requirements for layers and broilers

All other requirements of this rule must be met by January 2, 2025 by poultry operations.

Indoor Stocking Density



Pullets:

Indoor stocking density must not exceed 3.0 pounds of bird per square foot; or, alternatively, a rate of at least 1.7 square feet per bird will comply with the requirement. The stocking density for pullets is dependent on housing type.



Broilers:

Indoor stocking density must not exceed 5.0 pounds of bird per square foot; or, alternatively, a rate of at least 2.0 square feet per bird will comply with the requirement