| OLP 8: Ruminant Access to Pasture | | | | | | USDA Organic Regulations 205.237(b-d);205.239; 205.240 | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **PASTURE MANAGEMENT** 2. Describe the grazing methods used on your organic livestock operation:   Rotational grazing  Management intensive grazing  Occasional rotation  Continuous grazing (not rotated)  Other (please specify)   1. Are all pastures and other grazing areas included in your Organic Grower Plan Application?  Yes  No    1. If no, please explain: 2. What factors are used to determine how long animals graze in a given pasture/paddock? 3. Is irrigation available to promote pasture growth?  Yes  No    1. If yes, is irrigation used as needed to promote pasture growth?  Yes  No 4. How does the operation plan for periods of drought, both short and long term, within your pasture management system? 5. How do you monitor pasture management to ensure it can provide sufficient quality and quantity to graze throughout the grazing season and to provide all ruminants under the organic system plan with an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from grazing throughout the grazing season? 6. How often do you monitor pasture quality and quantity throughout the grazing season?  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | daily | weekly | monthly | other, specify: |  1. Please complete the table below for all pastures/paddocks used for organic livestock production (make copies if necessary). | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Pasture Name or ID** (Correspond to map) | **Size of Pasture**  (in acres or square feet) | | | **No. of animals grazed at one time**  (Ages 6 months and over) | | | **Type(s) of forage grown** | | | **Is irrigation available for this pasture?** |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | Yes  No |
| 1. **GRAZING SEASON**   *Ruminant animals must be grazed throughout the entire grazing season for the geographical region, which shall be not less than 120 days per calendar year.* ***Grazing season*** *is defined by the NOP as “the period of time when pasture is available for grazing, due to natural precipitation or irrigation.” Due to weather, season, and/or climate, the grazing season may or may not be continuous.*   1. What resources do you use to determine your grazing season?   NRCS  Cooperative Extension  Other (specify):   1. Complete the following table to show the time periods that typically make up the grazing season for your region. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Typical Start of Grazing Period (Date)** | | | **Typical End of Grazing Period (Date)** | | | | | **Number of Days** | | |
|  | | |  | | | | |  | | |
|  | | |  | | | | |  | | |
| 1. Did the current or most recent grazing season occur during the dates listed above?  Yes  No    1. If no, describe the weather or precipitation events impacting the grazing season and list the dates when grazing occurred. 2. Are ruminant livestock ever denied access to pasture or otherwise restricted from actively obtaining feed grazed from pasture during the grazing season as described above?  Yes  No    1. If yes, what is the reason(s) and duration of pasture exclusion during the grazing season?    2. If yes: *Ruminant animals denied pasture in accordance with §205.239(b)(1) – (8) and §205.239(c)(1) – (3) shall be provided with an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from grazing throughout the periods that they are on pasture during the grazing season.* Please describe how this will be accounted for and include in your dry matter intake calculations. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. **DRY MATTER FROM PASTURE**   *The NOP guidance on determining dry matter demand can be found in the NOP Handbook on the NOP’s website.*   1. Do you provide pasture of a sufficient quality and quantity to graze throughout the entire grazing season and to provide all ruminants under the organic system plan with an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from grazing throughout the entire grazing season?  Yes  No 2. If/when pasture is available for a time outside of the described grazing season (earlier or later), are all ruminants provided an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from grazing for the entire time when pasture is available?  Yes  No    1. If no, why not? 3. Are special measures in place to ensure all ruminant livestock get at least 30 percent of dry matter intake from pasture during short- and long-term drought?  Yes  No  Please describe: 4. How is the dry matter content of feed and forage determined?  Forage Analysis  Assumed Value | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Describe how you determine the Dry Matter Demand for your ruminant livestock:   Actual feed fed during non-grazing season  Recommendations from a nutritionist or feed/forage consultant  Percentage of body weight, (for example 3% for a mature dairy animal). Specify:  DMD based on NOP or National Research Council (NRC) nutritional-requirement tables  Additional comments:   1. For each type and class of organic livestock produced by your operation, list the percentage of dry matter intake that comes from pasture averaged over the entire grazing season in the table below. | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Livestock Type - Class** | | **Percentage of DMI from pasture averaged over the grazing season** | | | **Livestock Type - Class** | | | | **Percentage of DMI from pasture averaged over the grazing season** | |
| Dairy – Lactating/Milking (cow or equivalent) | |  | | | Beef/Meat Animals – Breeder Stock | | | |  | |
| Dairy – Dry (cow or equivalent) | |  | | | Beef/Meat Animals – Slaughter Stock | | | |  | |
| Dairy – Heifers (or equivalent) | |  | | | Other (specify): | | | |  | |
| Dairy – Weaned Calf (or equivalent) | |  | | | Other (specify): | | | |  | |
| 1. **On a separate page**, calculate the estimated percentage of dry matter intake that comes from pasture for each type and class of animal and attach calculations. QCS recommends using the Addendum – Dry Matter Intake (DMI) Calculation Worksheet or the NOP’s DMI Worksheet.  **Attached**   How do you document the amount of each type of feed actually fed to ruminant livestock, including changes to rations that are made throughout the year? Records must be available for review during the inspection.         1. How do you monitor dry matter intake from pasture during the grazing season to ensure all livestock can comply with organic requirements, and how often are you monitoring? | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. **EXEMPTIONS FROM 30 PERCENT DRY MATTER INTAKE FROM PASTURE REQUIREMENTS** 2. Breeding bulls may be exempt from the 30 percent dry matter intake from grazing and the pasture requirement only if they are not sold, labeled, or represented as organic slaughter stock. Are breeding bulls on your operation intended to be represented as organic?  Yes  No  Not applicable (No breeding bulls on the operation). 3. Ruminant slaughter stock may be exempt from the 30 percent dry matter intake from grazing requirement during the finishing period. Is organic ruminant slaughter stock finished on grain on this operation?  Yes  No    1. If yes, are ruminant slaughter stock maintained on pasture for each day that the finishing period corresponds with the grazing season?  Yes  No 4. The finishing period for ruminant slaughter stock shall not exceed 1/5 of the animal’s total life or 120 days, whichever is shorter. Describe the finishing period in the table below:  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Type of livestock** | **Length of finishing period** | **Total days of life** | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | | | | | | | | | | |