| OLP 08: Ruminant Access to Pasture | | | | | | USDA Organic Regulations §§205.237(b-d);205.239; 205.240 | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Livestock producers must demonstrate a functioning management plan for pasture for all ruminant livestock. Pasture must provide a sufficient quantity and quality of forage to supply a minimum of 30% of ruminant dry matter intake, on average, through the grazing season.*  *Pasture must be managed as a crop in compliance with the applicable section of the NOP regulations. Complete the* ***Organic Grower Plan (OGP)*** *to describe your pasture management practices.* | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. **PASTURE MANAGEMENT** 2. Describe the grazing methods used on your organic livestock operation. Check all that apply.   Rotational grazing  Management intensive grazing  Occasional rotation  Continuous grazing (not rotated)  Other (please specify)   1. Are all pastures and other grazing areas included in the Organic Grower Plan (OGP)?   Yes  No. Please explain:   1. How do you ensure that enough pasture of sufficient quality and quantity is available to supply a minimum of 30% of animals’ dry matter intake requirements during the grazing season? Check all that apply.   Pasture re-seeding  Irrigation (if available, must be used to promote pasture growth)  Mowing or other weed control, as needed to control invasive species and promote palatable species growth  Rotational grazing  Maintaining additional pastures for supplemental grazing  Other. Please describe:   1. How does your operation plan for periods of drought or adverse weather, both short and long term, within your pasture management system? 2. What factors do you use to determine how long animals graze in each pasture/paddock? 3. How often do you monitor pasture quality and quantity throughout the grazing season?  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Other. Please specify: |  1. Please complete the table below for all pastures/paddocks used for organic livestock production. Attach additional copies if necessary.  **Attached** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **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 and used to promote pasture growth?** |
|  |  | | |  | | |  | | | 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**   ***Grazing season*** *is defined 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 but must be at least 120 days per year. Ruminant animals must be grazed throughout the entire grazing season for the geographical region.*   1. What resources do you use to determine your grazing season?   NRCS  Cooperative Extension  Other. Please 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. 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. *Skip to Section C*.    1. If yes, what is the reason(s) and duration of pasture exclusion during the grazing season?    2. *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 to will be accounted for and included in your dry matter intake calculations. | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. **DRY MATTER FROM PASTURE**   *Organic ruminant producers must provide their methods for calculating dry matter demand and dry matter intake.*   1. How do you determine the dry matter demand for your ruminant livestock?   Actual feed fed during the non-grazing season  Recommendations from a nutritionist or feed/forage consultant  Percentage of body weight, (for example 3% for a mature dairy animal). Describe:  DMD based on NOP or National Research Council (NRC) nutritional-requirement tables  Additional comments:   1. What method(s) do you use to calculate dry matter intake from pasture during the grazing season to ensure that your ruminant animals graze at least 30% of their dry matter demand from pasture over the grazing season? Check all that apply.   I utilize QCS’ Dry Matter Intake (DMI) Calculation Worksheet for each type and class of livestock  I maintain a spreadsheet of my own making. *Please attach a sample*.  **Attached**  Other. Please describe:   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 – Organic Breeder Stock | | | |  | |
| Dairy – Dry (cow or equivalent) | |  | | | Beef/Meat Animals – Organic Slaughter Stock | | | |  | |
| Dairy – Heifers (or equivalent) | |  | | | Other (specify): | | | |  | |
| Dairy – Weaned Calf (or equivalent) | |  | | | Other (specify): | | | |  | |
| 1. 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 inspection*. 2. Does your operation grain-finish ruminant slaughter stock?  Yes  No   *Ruminant slaughter stock, typically grain finished, must be maintained on pasture for each day that the finishing period corresponds with the grazing season for the geographical location. During the finishing period, ruminant slaughter stock are exempt from the minimum 30% DMI requirement from grazing. Yards, feeding pads, or feedlots may be used to provide finish feeding rations. Continuous total confinement of ruminants in yards, feeding pads, and feedlots is prohibited. The finishing period for ruminant slaughter stock shall not exceed 1/5 of the animal’s total life or 120 days, whichever is shorter.*  If yes, Describe the finishing period in the table below:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Type of livestock** | **Length of finishing period** | **Total days of life** | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | | | | | | | | | | |