



April 2019

Dear PCO Grass-Fed Operators,

You received a letter earlier this year introducing the Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program® of the Organic Plus Trust Inc. (OPT). We received accreditation to offer certification to this program on March 6th and have included the following documents here for your review:

- PCO's OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program® Certification Manual
- PCO's OPT Certified Grass-fed Organic Livestock Program Fee Schedule
- PCO's OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program System Plan
- PCO's Grass-Fed Materials List
- PCO's Herd List Form
- PCO's OSP Supplemental – Feed Ration Record (2)
- PCO's OSP Supplemental – Average DMI Calculation Grazing Season
- PCO's OSP Supplemental – Pasture Access Record
- PCO's Guidance – Pasture Management
- OPT's Standards for Dairy Animal Production and Dairy Product Handling Operations
- OPT's Standards for Meat Animal Production and Product Handling Operations
- OPT's Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program Manual

Those of you who supply product to handlers/processors/marketers seeking certification to this program will be required to transition from the PCO 100% Grassfed Program to the OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program prior to the end of 2019. Please check with your handler/processor/marketer for their requirements.

We strongly recommend that those of you who handle/process/market your own products also transition to the OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program as it is highly unlikely that the PCO 100% Grassfed Program will continue beyond 2019.

During the transition period ending December 31, 2019, applicants must demonstrate compliance, or the ability to comply by the end of the transition period to the Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program, which includes both the applicable standard and the OPT Program Manual. At the end of this transition period, it will be prohibited to feed vitamins and minerals not approved under the new OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program.

Verification of compliance, or the ability to comply, with these standards by **December 31, 2019** will occur in place of the annual update process for the PCO 100% Grassfed Program. PCO's OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program® Certification Manual details the steps to certification for this program.

Pennsylvania Certified Organic (PCO)

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For those of you certified organic by PCO, we will combine your inspection for this program with your organic inspection. We will make every attempt to combine inspections for those of you certified organic by another ACA, but cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Applications for certification to the OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program must be sent to the PCO office by **5/1/19**. A complete application includes the following documents:

- PCO's OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program System Plan
- Grass-Fed Herd List
- Maps detailing location, size and individual identification of all pastures plus the locations of permanent fences, shade and water. You may provide a satellite image of each parcel to show the locations and sources of shade and water.
- Pasture Management Plan
- Ration plans for all classes of animals over six months of age for all ration periods

Copies of the applicable portions of an organic system plan may be included with your application as long as they contain all the information requested in the OPT Certified Grass-Fed Organic Livestock Program System Plan.

The basic program fee of \$300 must be submitted with the application. Please return completed application documents via your preferred communication preference (e.g. postal or PCO portal).

PCO is excited to be at the forefront of developments in organic grass-fed agriculture and we hope that you embrace this opportunity to strengthen the meaning of "organic grass-fed" along with us. If you have any questions, please contact one of us or your certification specialist.

Sincerely,



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