



Organic Plus Trust (OPT) Grass-Fed Organic Livestock  
Certification Program System Plan

By submitting this application, you agree to the most current [OPT Livestock Certification Program Manual and Standard](#).

Please **submit the documents** requested below and answer all questions in this application.

- Your most current USDA-National Organic Program (NOP) **Organic Certificate** and any applicable addendum(s).
- If purchasing Organic, Grass-fed animals please submit both the **Organic and OPT Grass-Fed Certificates** of the operation. (Retain purchase documentation & herd list from the seller)
- **First Time Applicants** - A Herd List list of all animals to be transitioned for 90 days per Dairy Standard section II(B)(1)(b) unless you intend to purchase animals certified to this standard. A Herd List should include species, breed, ID number, date of birth if known. Note that a dairy transition cannot begin prior to the date this application was received.

**Operation Name** (must match name on organic certificate): \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Certified Grass-Fed Program Option: (check all that apply)**

- Dairy Animal Production
- Meat Animal Production
- Processing *Only* (*if only processing, skip to section K*)

**B. Livestock species to be certified: (check all that apply)**

- Cattle  Milk  Meat  Heifers
- Sheep  Milk  Meat
- Goats  Milk  Meat
- Bison
- Other, please list \_\_\_\_\_

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**C. Livestock Requested for Certification: Complete the following table for all livestock requested for certification.**

Production Group	Type(s) of Breed(s)	# of Animals	Product(s)

**D. Are you intending to transition dairy animals? Standards section III**

*Certified organic operations may transition any certified organic dairy animal on their operation by successfully completing a 90-day transition period to begin only after this application submitted, or purchase animals from an operation presently certified to this standard. Once certified to this standard, if Certified Grass-Fed Organic animals are not commercially available for purchase an operation may purchase organic animals and complete 90 day transition during which time their milk is not eligible to be sold as grass-fed organic. Attempts regarding commercial availability must be recorded and include cost and welfare implication of transportation of the animal. The OPT Grass Fed Organic Meat Standard does not permit transition of meat animals.*

Yes, date of transition start (xx/xx/xx) \_\_\_\_\_

No, I will be purchasing from a certified OPT operation (submit Organic & OPT Certificate of the operation. Once certified submit purchase documentation and herd list)

N/A meat operation only

**E. What is your plan to replace animals? Check all that apply**

Closed Herd

Purchase OPT Certified replacements

Purchase Organic 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)

**F. Will you be raising any animals not certified to this standard?**

Yes (parallel production not eligible for lactating dairy animals)

No, all animals on farm will be certified OPT

1. If yes please explain your plan to ensure non-lactating livestock will be kept separate and how records will demonstrate this to ensure non-OPT livestock are not sold, labeled or represented as OPT certified.

**G. Livestock Health & Welfare** *standards section VII*

1. Please indicate how you ensure additional welfare practices are met:
  - Third Party Animal Welfare Certification *submit current certificate*
  - FARM Program *submit Animal Care Evaluation and Pledge of Participation*
  - Aggregator Internal Animal Care protocol *submit Aggregator Affirmation (see Appendix B)*
  - Internal Animal Care Protocol *see Program Manual section VII(A)(3)*
  - Exempt *see standards section VII(A)(5)*

**H. Pasture Management, Living Conditions, and Feed** *standards section VII, VIII, and IV*

1. Are you able to provide no less than 150 days per calendar year AND not less than 60 percent of each animals DMI from grazing?  Yes  No
2. Indicate the total number of grazing acres available for your livestock including grazed hayfields. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Describe your plan to prevent overgrazing and allow for rest and regrowth of grazing acres:
4. Describe your emergency grazing season plan to ensure animals will receive 60%DMI from pasture when normal rest and regrowth are insufficient (i.e. dry spells):
5. Does your operation plan to or currently grow, graze, purchase, or feed vegetative stage cereal grain crops (including bedding)? *Standards section V(A)&(B)*
  - Not applicable. I do not grow, graze, purchase, or feed vegetative stage cereal grain crops.
  - Yes, answer the following:
    - a. Does your operation **grow** or plan to grow cereal grain crops that will be grazed or harvested in the vegetative state (i.e. corn in pre-tassel stage, soybeans prior to bloom; small grains at pre-boot stage)?
      - No
      - Yes please verify methods used to document compliance:
        - Documenting graze dates  Reserving harvest samples
        - Planting/harvest records  Photos  other \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Do you plan to purchase harvested vegetative stage cereal grain crops to feed to your animals?
      - No
      - Yes *Be sure to obtain documentation from the seller that crops were harvested in a complaint stage*

c. Describe your bedding & how you ensure that bedding does not include prohibited feedstuffs (grains or grain by-product)?

6. Are you feeding any of the following supplemental feeds? *Please carefully review Table 2 in section V of the standards and check all that apply. All feeding records must be available during your audit:*

- Molasses  Dry Sugar  Sugar beets  Carrot pulp  Citrus Pulp  
 Alfalfa pellets/meal  Kelp  Fodder Sprouts  Concentrated Liquid Lactose  
 Other, please list \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is your plan for assessing and requesting emergency situations for livestock where a temporary health or welfare exception of volume restrictions on supplemental feedstuffs may be needed?

8. If animals were to be treated with or fed prohibited or restricted materials, describe your plan to communicate this to the certifier and to identify and/or segregate those animals.

9. Do you board grass-fed certified livestock at other certified operations?  No  Yes  
If Yes, you must fill out an Off-Farm Boarding Supplement prior to moving livestock.  
Contact PCO to request the form.

#### I. Livestock Record Keeping *standards section IX*

1. List the records you maintain for OPT Grass-Fed livestock (check all that apply):

Feed and Feed Supplements:

- Harvest Records (including stage of growth for cereal grains)  
 Purchase records (e.g. receipts, shipping documents, stage of growth at harvest for cereal grains)  
 Records of feed and supplement amounts as fed  
 Feed Labels  
 Records of bedding and purchased bedding  
 Other (specify):

Grazing and Pasture Management:

- Grazing/rotation records (including stage of growth for cereal grains)  
 Pasture quality evaluations  
 Soil test documentation  
 Current ration records

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Other (specify):

**Animal Origin and Health:**

- Birth Records
- Purchase Records (e.g. receipts, shipping documents, OPT grass-fed certificates, organic certificates, etc.)
- Commercial availability documentation
- Animal Welfare Certification documentation
- Treatment records
- Other (specify):

**Production, Sales and Transportation:**

- Production records (quantity of product produced)
- Sales Records
- Product transport or shipping records
- Other (specify):

**J. Labeling standards section XI**

1. Do you intend to label your own dairy or meat products?

- Yes
- No, my products are sent to a processor who will handle the labeling/marketing of my certified products.

*If Yes, please submit a copy of any **approved organic labels** you intend to use to represent your OPT certified products. An **approved organic label** is a label that is already approved by your organic certifier. We will then further review any additional grass-fed claims for OPT approval per standards section XI. Likewise you may submit your full label with both organic and grass-fed claims and we will work with your certifier to verify the organic claims made are approved to the NOP regulations. Labels must not be used until you are OPT certified and you received approval.*

*OPT will follow up with you to enter into 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 on all consumer facing labels.*

**K. Processing standards section IX**

1. What products will you be labeling? *check all that apply*

- Meat  Dairy

2. List each product requested for OPT Grass-Fed certification:

Product Name	Brand	Package Type	Package Size
<i>Ex: Whole Milk</i>	<i>PCO Brand</i>	<i>Bottle</i>	<i>1/2 Gallon</i>

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3. If you co-pack OPT Grass-Fed certified products for others, list the co-packing clients who contract your processing services:

Client / Brand Name	Address	Phone	Certified by

4. If you use co-packers to process your OPT Grass-Fed certified products, list the co-packer names and their certifiers:

Co-Packer Name	Address	Phone	Certified by

5. If you process or handle non-OPT Grass-Fed products identical to OPT Grass-Fed products, list the applicable products:

6. Please explain your plan to ensure that products certified to this standard are properly segregated from processed products not certified to this standard (if you have an OPT Grass-Fed Control Point program, please submit it with your application):

F

7. If you are responsible for storage of OPT Grass-Fed products, provide the following storage area information:

Use	Location	Type / Capacity	Identification	Dedicated OPT Grass-Fed?
Ingredient Storage				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Packing Material Storage				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In-Process				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Finished Product Storage				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Off-Site Storage				<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

8. List the records you maintain for OPT Grass-Fed products (check all that apply):

Incoming:

- Purchase orders
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Receipts
- Bills of lading
- Customs forms
- Scale tickets
- Quality test results
- Certificates of Analysis
- Transaction Certificates
- OPT Grass-Fed Certificates
- Receiving records
- Receiving summary log
- Other (specify):

In process:

- Ingredient inspection forms
- Blending reports
- Production reports
- Equipment cleanout logs
- Sanitation logs
- Packaging reports
- Quality Assurance reports
- Production summary records (12 months)

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Other (specify):

Storage:

- Ingredient inventory reports
- Finished product inventory reports
- Other (specify):

Outgoing:

- Shipping logs
- Sales invoices
- Other (specify):

9. Describe your lot coding system:

10. Describe how your record keeping system allows for traceability from a sale of OPT-certified finished product back to the ingredients purchased and their associated OPT Grass-Fed certificates:

11. Describe how your record keeping system allows for the quantity of ingredients purchased to be balanced against the quantity of finished product produced and sold:

12. Please submit the following as applicable:

- Flow Chart (schematic or written description) that details where and how each OPT Grass-Fed product is received, stored, processed, packaged, and warehoused. Identify all equipment, storage areas and where ingredients are added or processing aids used.
- Organic Product Profile for each product requested for OPT Grass-Fed certification.
- Current OPT Grass-Fed product certificates for all ingredients to be used in your processed products.
- A copy of any approved organic labels you intend to use to represent your OPT certified products. An approved organic label is a label that is already approved by your

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