



Your Operation and NEW Organic Regulations

How will your operation be affected? Use this assessment to find out!

The **Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS)** rule made changes to the USDA organic regulations, with staggered implementation dates (see below). These changes aim to reduce confusion about organic livestock production practices and standards, establish species-specific standards for avian species, clarify indoor and outdoor space requirements and strengthen and clarify animal health care regulations. All organic livestock producers and livestock handling operations are affected.

PCO is working with partners across the organic industry on implementing the new requirements. Updated forms and requests for additional information will be communicated later this year but don't wait until then to prepare.

This assessment is intended to help you prepare for compliance by implementation dates as applicable. It is not a comprehensive list of all the new requirements. **Some of the revised requirements may not apply to your operation based on your practices. Review the following items to check if they apply to your operation.** This form is for your records and does not need to be submitted to PCO.

Implementation Dates: All organic operations must comply with the requirements of this rule **by January 2, 2025**, except:

- (1) Organic layer operations, including pullets (currently certified and those certified before January 2, 2025), must comply with the outdoor stocking density requirements and soil and vegetation requirements, by **January 2, 2029**.
- (2) Organic broiler operations (currently certified and those certified before January 2, 2025), must comply with indoor and outdoor stocking density requirements and soil and vegetation requirements, by **January 2, 2029**.
- (3) Organic poultry operations (currently certified and those certified before January 2, 2025) must comply with poultry house exit area requirements, by **January 2, 2029**.

Requirements for all Organic Livestock and Livestock Handling

Operations:

The below sections may or may not be applicable to livestock handling operations (e.g. slaughter or auction facilities).

Physical Alterations:

N/A - I do not perform ANY physical alterations on my livestock.

- 1. Physical alterations may be performed for identification purposes or the safety of the animal. Physical alterations must be performed: at a young age for the species, in a manner that minimizes stress and pain and by a person that is capable of performing the physical alteration in a manner that minimizes stress and pain.**

Yes, my physical alterations practices meet these requirements

No, my physical alterations practices do not meet these requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 2. The following physical alteration practices are prohibited: de-beaking, de-snooding, caponization, dubbing, toe clipping of chickens, toe clipping of turkeys unless with infra-red at hatchery, beak trimming after 10 days of age.**

Yes, I comply with these requirements and do not perform the above physical alterations on my organic animals

No, I do not comply with these requirements because I do perform the above physical alterations on my organic animals

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025) - e.g. cease performing these prohibited physical alterations by January 2, 2025.

Surgical Procedures and Lameness

- 1. All surgical procedures necessary to treat an illness or injury shall be undertaken in a manner that employs best management practices to promote the animal's wellbeing and to minimize pain, stress, and suffering, with the use of allowed anesthetics, analgesics, and sedatives, as appropriate.**

Yes, my surgical procedures meet these requirements

No, my surgical procedures do not meet these requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 2. Operations must monitor lameness; treat lameness timely and appropriate for**

the species; and mitigate the causes of lameness.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Medications

1. Operations must not administer synthetic medications unless the animal is ill or to alleviate pain and suffering and the medication must be allowed on the National List at §205.603.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

2. Operations must not withhold individual treatments designed to minimize pain and suffering for injured, diseased, or sick animals, which may include forms of euthanasia as recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

3. Operations must not neglect to identify and record treatment of sick and injured animals in animal health records.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

4. Operations must not practice induced molting. Induced molting includes all artificially initiated practices outside of natural molting which stresses the birds through activities such as feed withdrawal or restriction, altered lighting, and removal of outdoor access.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Parasite Control Plans

- 1. Operations must have comprehensive plans to minimize internal parasite problems in livestock, including preventive measures such as pasture management, fecal monitoring, and emergency measures in the event of a parasite outbreak.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Euthanasia

- 1. Organic livestock operations must have written plans for prompt, humane euthanasia for sick or injured livestock suffering from irreversible disease or injury.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 2. The following methods of euthanasia are not permitted: suffocation; manual blow to the head by blunt instrument or manual blunt force trauma; and the use of equipment that crushes the neck, including killing pliers or Burdizzo clamps.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements and do not use the above methods.

No, I do not comply with the above requirements because I do use the above methods

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 3. Following a euthanasia procedure, operations must carefully examine livestock to ensure that they are dead.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Requirements for all Organic Avian Species Production and/or Handling Operations:

The below sections may or may not be applicable to operations handling poultry (e.g. slaughter or

auction facilities) depending on whether temporary housing or outdoor space is provided by your operation.

- 1. Organic poultry operations must establish and maintain year-round poultry living conditions that accommodate the health and natural behavior of poultry, including: year-round access to the outdoors; shade; shelter; exercise areas; fresh air; direct sunlight; clean water for drinking; materials for dust bathing; and adequate outdoor space to escape aggressive behaviors suitable to the species.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Indoor space and exit requirements

- 1. Poultry housing must be sufficiently spacious to allow all birds to move freely, stretch both wings simultaneously, stand normally, and engage in natural behaviors.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 2. Poultry houses must have at least 1 linear foot of exit area for every 360 birds, measured across the base of the exit, but no less than one linear foot of exit area for flocks with fewer than 360 birds. Exit areas must be appropriately distributed and sized to ensure that all birds have ready access to the outdoors. This means that in general, all birds must know of the exit and have the ability to exit without obstacles.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 3. All birds have access to areas in the house that allow for scratching and dust bathing with sufficient space to allow birds to freely express these natural behaviors without crowding. Additionally, litter must be provided and maintained in a dry condition in the house.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

- No, I do not comply with the above requirements
- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

4. Non-mobile houses with slatted/mesh floors must have 15 percent minimum of solid floor area available with sufficient litter available for dust baths so that birds may freely dust bathe without crowding.

- N/A, I use mobile housing only
- Yes, I comply with the above requirements
- No, I do not comply with the above requirements
- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Lighting

1. Artificial light is allowed to be used to prolong the day length for layers and other fully feathered birds. Artificial light is allowed to provide up to 16 hours of continuous light in a 24 hour period. An 8 hour period of darkness is required. Artificial light should be gradually lowered to encourage hens to move to perches or settle for the night. Light spectrum may not be manipulated to increase feed intake or growth rate.

- N/A, I do not use artificial lighting on my operation
- Yes, I comply with the above requirements
- No, I do not comply with the above requirements
- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Ammonia

1. Ammonia levels must be tested at least weekly at the height of the birds' heads. Testing mechanisms should be kept the same or similar, however no specific testing mechanism is required. When measurements exceed 20 ppm, additional measures must be taken to maintain ammonia below 20 ppm. OSPs should address air quality and ammonia monitoring plans.

- Yes, I comply with the above requirements
- No, I do not comply with the above requirements
- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Outdoor space requirements

1. Access to outdoor space and door spacing must be designed to promote and

encourage outside access for all birds on a daily basis. Producers must provide access to the outdoors at an early age to encourage (i.e., train) birds to go outdoors.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

2. Outdoor space must be at least 75 percent soil. Outdoor space with soil must include vegetative cover appropriate for the season, climate, geography, species of livestock, and stage of production. Vegetative cover must be maintained in a manner that does not provide harborage for rodents and other pests.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

3. Enclosed porches cannot be counted as outdoor space, but porches that are not enclosed (e.g. with roof but no walls) and allow birds to freely access other outdoor space may be included in the outdoor space calculations.

N/A, I do not have porches as part of my poultry house

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Temporary Confinement

1. Operations may temporarily confine birds when one of the following circumstances outlined at §205.241(d) exists.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Requirements for Layer or Pullet Production and/or Handling

Operations:

The below sections may or may not be applicable to operations handling layers or pullets (e.g. slaughter or auction facilities) depending on whether temporary housing or outdoor space is

provided by your operation.

N/A - I do not raise layers or pullets

Indoor stocking density

1. An organic pullet operation's indoor stocking density must not exceed 3.0 pounds of bird per square foot or alternatively a rate of at least 1.7 square foot per bird.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

2. An organic layer operation's indoor stocking density must meet one or both of the following rates depending on the type of housing used:

- a. Mobile housing: not to exceed 4.5 pounds per square foot; or, alternatively, a rate of at least 1.5 square feet per bird will comply with the requirement.**
- b. Aviary housing: not to exceed 4.5 pounds per square foot; or, alternatively, a rate of at least 1.5 square feet per bird will comply with the requirement.**
- c. Slatted/mesh floor housing: not to exceed 3.75 pounds per square foot; or, alternatively, a rate of at least 1.8 square feet per bird will comply with the requirement.**
- d. Floor litter housing: not to exceed 3.0 pounds per square foot; or, alternatively, a rate of at least 2.2 square feet per bird will comply with the requirement.**
- e. Other housing: not to exceed 2.25 pounds per square foot; or, alternatively, a rate of at least 3.0 square feet per bird will comply with the requirement.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Perches

1. Six inches per bird is required, except in aviary housing, in which 55% of layers must be able to perch at the same time (i.e. Aviary housing must provide six inches of perch space for 55 percent of the flock or 3.3 inches of perch for each

bird in the flock). Floors in slatted/mesh floor housing must not be counted as perch space, though the perch space calculation may include the alighting rail in front of the nest boxes.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Outdoor stocking density

1. An organic layer operation's outdoor stocking density must be provided at a rate of no less than one square foot for every 2.25 pounds of bird in the flock; or alternatively a rate of at least 3.0 square feet per bird will comply with this requirement.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

2. An organic pullet* operation's outdoor stocking density must be provided at a rate of no less than one square foot for every 3.0 pounds of bird in the flock, or alternatively, a rate of at least 1.7 square foot per bird will comply with the requirement. (*Pullets may be temporarily confined up to 16 weeks of age, which means that if pullets are relocated to a compliant layer barn by 16 weeks of age then outdoor space is not required to be provided.)

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Requirements for Broiler Production and/or Handling Operations:

The below sections may or may not be applicable to operations handling broilers (e.g. slaughter or auction facilities) depending on whether temporary housing or outdoor space is provided by your operation.

N/A - I do not raise broilers

Indoor stocking density

- 1. An organic broiler operation's indoor stocking density must not exceed 5.0 pounds of bird per square foot or alternatively a rate of at least 2.0 square foot per bird.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Outdoor stocking density

- 1. Outdoor space must be provided at a rate of no less than 1 square foot for every 5 lbs of bird in the flock, or alternately, a rate of 2 sq. ft / bird will comply with the requirement.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Requirements for all Operations Transporting Organic Livestock:

Transportation

- 1. Certified organic livestock must be clearly identified as organic, and this identity must be traceable for the duration of transport.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 2. All livestock must be fit for transport to buyers, auction or slaughter facilities:**
 - a. Seriously crippled and non-ambulatory animals must not be transported for sale or slaughter. Such animals may be medically treated or euthanized.**

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

- 3. Adequate and season-appropriate ventilation is required for all livestock trailers, shipping containers, and any other mode of transportation used to**

protect animals against cold and heat stresses.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

4. During any transport and prior to slaughter, bedding must be provided on trailer floors and in holding pens, as needed, to keep livestock clean, dry, and comfortable. Use of bedding must be appropriate to the species and type of transport. When roughages are used for bedding, they must be certified organic.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

5. For transport that exceeds eight hours, measured from the time all animals are loaded onto a vehicle until the vehicle arrives at its final destination, the operation must describe how organic management and animal welfare will be maintained. Transport times for organic livestock must be recorded and demonstrate that these times are not detrimental to the welfare of the animals.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

6. Organic producers and handlers, who are responsible for overseeing the transport of organic livestock, must have emergency plans in place that adequately address possible animal welfare problems that might occur during transport.

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

Requirements for all Operations Slaughtering Organic Livestock:

Slaughter

N/A, I do not have slaughter animals on my operation

1. **Producers and handlers who slaughter organic poultry must:**
 - a. **be in compliance, as determined by FSIS, with the Poultry Products Inspection Act requirements (21 U.S.C. 453(g)(5)); the regulations at paragraph (v) of the definition of “Adulterated” in 9 CFR 381.1(b), and 9 CFR 381.90, and 381.65(b)); and applicable FSIS Directives,**
 - b. **provide all noncompliance records related to the use of good commercial practices in connection with slaughter issued by the controlling national, federal, or state authority and all records of subsequent corrective actions to the certifying agent at inspection or upon request.**
 - c. **if exempt from or not covered by the requirements of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, must ensure that: (i) No lame birds may be shackled, hung, or carried by their legs; (ii) All birds shackled on a chain or automated system must be stunned prior to exsanguination, with the exception of religious slaughter; and (iii) All birds must be irreversibly insensible prior to being placed in the scalding tank.**
 - Yes, I comply with the above requirements
 - No, I do not comply with the above requirements
 - If you answered no, consider how you will demonstrate compliance when you submit OSP updates to PCO (in early 2025).

What’s Next?

- Use this assessment to help you prepare for compliance by January 2, 2025 (or January 2, 2029 for certain requirements). It does not need to be submitted to PCO.
- Contact your Certification Specialist if you have questions about how this impacts your operation.
- Visit PCO’s OLPS webpage at for additional information and resources
- Look for reminders and updates in our monthly eNews and bi-annual Organic Matters newsletter.
- Pay close attention to additional communications from PCO in the coming months that will contain important updates and instructions on required information you will need to submit.