



## **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 may not be routinely used and must only be used with documentation that alternative methods to prevent harm failed:**

**a. Needle teeth clipping (more than top one-third of the tooth) in pigs**

**b. Tail docking in pigs**

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).

- 3. The following physical alteration practices are prohibited: tail docking of cattle, wattling of cattle, face branding of cattle, tail docking of sheep shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold, and mulesing of sheep.**

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 must utilize 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, you must update your OSP to meet the above requirements

- 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 sell, label or represent milk from animals undergoing treatment with synthetic substances that are allowed under §205.603 of the National List but have associated withdrawal periods as organic during the withdrawal period. However this milk may be fed to calves on the same operation. Milk from animals undergoing treatment with prohibited substances cannot be sold, labeled, or represented as organic or fed to organic livestock.**

- N/A, we do not sell milk
- 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 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).

**3. 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).

**4. 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).

**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. Additionally, 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).

**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).

## **Requirements for all Organic Mammalian and Non-Avian Species**

### **Production and/or Handling Operations:**

*The below sections may or may not be applicable to operations handling mammalian or other non-avian species (e.g. slaughter or auction facilities) depending on whether temporary housing or outdoor space is provided by your operation.*

### **Shelter/Housing**

#### **1. Shelter must provide:**

- Over a 24-hour period, sufficient space and freedom to lie down, turn around, stand up, fully stretch their limbs, and express normal patterns of behavior;**
- Temperature level, ventilation, and air circulation suitable to the species;**
- Reduction of potential for livestock injury; and**
- Indoor housing must have areas for bedding and resting that are sufficiently large, solidly built, and comfortable so that animals are kept clean and dry, as appropriate for the species, and free of lesions.**

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 properly clean and disinfect, as needed, housing, pens, runs, equipment, and utensils to prevent cross-infection and build-up of disease-carrying organisms.**

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 that use confined housing with stalls for mammalian livestock,**

**enough stalls must be present to provide for the natural behaviors of the animals. Cages are prohibited and are not considered stalls.**

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).

### **Cattle**

N/A, I do not have cattle on my operation

**1. For group-housed cattle, bedded packs, compost packs, tie-stalls, free-stalls, and stanchion barns are permitted so long as production practices are compatible (e.g. livestock can express their normal patterns of behavior over a 24-hour period according to §205.239(a)(4)(i)).**

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. Dairy Young Stock: Individual housing of animals is allowed until the weaning process is complete, as long as animals have sufficient room to turn around, lie down, stretch out while lying down, get up, rest, and groom themselves. In addition, individual pens for young stock must be designed so that animals can see, smell, and hear other animals.**

N/A, I do not have dairy young stock 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).

### **Swine**

N/A, I do not have swine on my operation

**1. For group-housed swine, the number of individual feeding stalls may be less than the number of animals, as long as all animals are fed routinely over a 24-hour period.**

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. Swine must be housed in a group, except for the following:**

**a. Sows may be housed individually at farrowing and during the suckling period; gestation and farrowing crates are prohibited;**

**b. Boars; and**

**c. Swine with multiple documented instances of aggression or for recovery from an illness.**

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. The use of gestation and farrowing crates, flat decks or piglet cages is prohibited.**

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. Rooting materials must be provided except during farrowing and suckling period.**

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. Indoor and outdoor space must allow for rooting (including during temporary confinement).**

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**

- 1. "Outdoors or outdoor space" defined as any area outside an enclosed building or enclosed housing structure must be provided year round. Enclosed housing structures with open sides (e.g., open-sided freestall barns) are not to be**

**considered outdoors or outdoor space.**

- a. Outdoor space includes all the non-enclosed space encompassing soil-based areas such as pastures, pens, or sacrifice lots; hardened surface areas such as feedlots, walkways, or loafing sheds; and areas providing outdoor shelter such as windbreaks and shade structures.**

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. When the outdoor space includes soil, vegetative cover must be maintained as appropriate for the season, climate, geography, species of livestock, and stage of production.**

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. Breeding: Animals shall not be confined any longer than necessary for natural breeding or to perform artificial insemination. Animals may not be confined to observe estrus, and animals may not be confined after breeding to confirm pregnancy.**

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. 4-H, National FFA Organization, and other youth projects: Facilities where animals are sold as youth projects are not required to be organic, however animals must be managed organically while at this facility.**

N/A, I do not participate in these type of events

Yes, I comply with the above requirements

No, I do not comply with the above requirements

- If you answered no, you must update your OSP to meet the above requirements

### **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. Calves must have a dry navel cord and be able to stand and walk without human assistance.**

**b. 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 mammalian livestock must be in compliance, as determined by FSIS, with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603(b) and 21 U.S.C. 610(b)), the regulations at 9 CFR part 313 regarding humane handling and slaughter of livestock, and the regulations of 9 CFR part 309 regarding ante-mortem inspection AND be prepared to provide all noncompliance records related to humane handling and slaughter issued by the controlling authority, as well as records of subsequent corrective actions to certifying agents during inspections or upon request.**

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. Producers and handlers who slaughter organic exotic animals must be in**

**compliance with the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621, et seq.), the regulations at 9 CFR parts 313 and 352 regarding the humane handling and slaughter of exotic animals, and the regulations of 9 CFR part 309 regarding ante-mortem inspection AND be prepared to provide all noncompliance records related to humane handling and slaughter issued by the controlling authority, as well as records of subsequent corrective actions to certifying agents during inspections or upon request.**

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.