

May 12, 2010

Dear OEFFA Certified Livestock Farmer,

Why you are receiving this packet: On February 17, 2010, the National Organic Program published an amendment to the NOP Standards clarifying access to pasture for livestock. According to the NOP, the amendment was made to:

- 1) Reassure consumers that organic milk and meat comes from organically raised animals that are actively grazing on pasture during the grazing season; and
- 2) Allow the NOP to efficiently administer and enforce the integrity of the organic seal with regards to livestock feed and living conditions.

What the new rule amendment says: To summarize, the new rule amendment establishes the following:

- 1) A grazing standard of 30% Dry Matter Intake from pasture during the grazing season—a minimum of 120 days;
- 2) A year round “access to the outdoors” standard;
- 3) The requirement that all roughages used for bedding be certified organic;
- 4) A definition of allowed confinement practices for calves and dry and freshening cows;
- 5) A finishing grazing standard for ruminants;
- 6) And a pasture practice standard requiring that pasture is managed as a crop.

When the new rule amendment goes into effect: The rule becomes effective **June 17, 2010**. If this is the first year you are certified organic, you must comply with this rule by **June 17, 2010**. If you are a renewal applicant, you must comply with the rule by **June 17, 2011**.

What we need you to do: We are requesting that you complete the enclosed **OEFFA Livestock OSP Pasture Rule Addendum** in order to comply with this amendment. We know that this is an extra paperwork burden on your part, and have scheduled training sessions to answer your questions (see the back of this page for dates and times). If you are not planning to certify livestock this year, please contact the office so that we can change our records, and please disregard this packet.

- **If you have already had your 2010 annual inspection:** Please submit the **OEFFA Livestock OSP Pasture Rule Addendum** within 30 days to the address above.
- **If you have not yet had your 2010 annual inspection:** Please have the **OEFFA Livestock OSP Pasture Rule Addendum** available during your inspection. Your inspector will collect it at that time.

Please read through all documents completely and contact us if you have any questions. The only form we will need from you is the **OEFFA Livestock OSP Pasture Rule Addendum**—the remaining attachments are for your own records, and should be available for your next inspection.

Take a look at the back of this page to see upcoming training sessions we will have, and thank you for working with OEFFA Certification in 2010.

Sincerely,

Lexie Stoia Pierce
Program Manager

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. **OEFFA Livestock OSP Pasture Rule Addendum.** Please fill out all sections that apply to your operation. All livestock producers must complete this form.
 - **If you have already had your 2010 annual inspection:** Please submit this within 30 days to the address above.
 - **If you have not yet had your 2010 annual inspection:** Please have this available during your inspection. Your inspector will collect it at that time.

If you do not raise ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats) you may disregard the following attachments.

2. **Calculating Dry Matter Intake from Pasture.** This is an NOP-produced pamphlet explaining how to calculate dry matter intake. These instructions will help you with section 3B of the **OEFFA Livestock OSP Pasture Rule Addendum.**
3. **NOP Dry Matter Demand (DMD) Tables for Classes of Dairy Cattle.** One method of calculating dry matter demand is to use these NRC nutrient requirement tables (alternatively, you may use a % of body weight value to determine DMD). You may use this data for your calculations to support section 3B of the **OEFFA Livestock OSP Pasture Rule Addendum.**
4. **NOP Dry Matter Demand (DMD) Tables for Classes of Beef Cattle.** See description for attachment "3."

if you raise sheep and/or goats, and would like the DMD tables for these, please contact the office.

5. **DMI Calculation Worksheet [EXAMPLE].** This is an NOP-produced example of how to calculate DMD using NRC nutrient requirement tables.
6. **DMI Calculation Worksheets.** We have provided four blank worksheets (contact us if you would like more). Please use a different worksheet for each class/stage of production of your livestock (you will define these classes yourself).
7. **Grazing Log.** You may use this, or a similar document that you create yourself, to mark days that your livestock were grazing on pasture.
8. **Part 205—National Organic Program—amendment.** This is informally called the "Pasture Rule" and is the language amended to the NOP Standards. This amendment is the reason why you are receiving this packet.

UPCOMING TRAINING SESSIONS

If you have general questions about the Pasture Rule: feel free to call Paul Dutter, OEFFA Certification Livestock Specialist, at 614-262-2022 x 224, Monday to Friday, 9-5 pm EST.

All sessions are free of charge. We plan to hold more training sessions in the future if you cannot participate in the ones listed. Please contact Paul Dutter at 614-262-2022 x 224, or by writing the office, to sign up for any of the following:

Tues. May 25, 2010, 2 pm EST: In person training session. Sign up to meet at our Columbus, Ohio office for an in-person training session with Livestock Specialist Paul Dutter. Bring your paperwork with you and any questions you may have.

Tues. June 01, 2010, 5 pm EST: Phone-in training session. Call into our conference call number at 5 pm for a question and answer session with Paul Dutter. When you sign up, we'll send you all the information you need to know, including the conference call number and password.

Thurs. June 3, 2010, 2 pm EST: In person training session. Sign up to meet at our Columbus, Ohio office for an in-person training session with Livestock Specialist Paul Dutter. Bring your paperwork with you and any questions you may have.

Tues. June 8, 2010, 5 pm EST: Phone-in training session. Call into our conference call number at 5 pm for a question and answer session with Paul Dutter. When you sign up, we'll send you all the information you need to know, including the conference call number and password.

If you have a group of 20 or more and would like to host an on-site training session in your community, please contact us.