

NOTIFICATION

Please read closely; Changes will effect your operation.

Dear OTCO Client:

Last week the National Organic Program (NOP) posted the final rule regarding Organic Livestock and Poultry Production Practices. The majority of the requirements from the proposed rule released earlier this year were maintained, with some notable exceptions. We have included updated summaries with this letter but please make sure you re-review the final rule to ensure you are fully up to speed.

The NOP stated that the rule is intended to address the following:

- Establishes minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for broiler chickens and laying hens;
- Clarifies how producers and handlers must treat livestock and poultry to ensure their health and well-being throughout life, including transport and slaughter; and
- Specifies which physical alterations are allowed and prohibited in organic livestock and poultry production.

How can I learn more?

We have included a summary of the key points. To read the full text visit: <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=AMS-NOP-15-0012-6680> or request a mailed copy from the Oregon Tilth office. To view only the proposed regulatory text, please see the final 20+ pages of the document.

Dates:

The final rule will be fully implemented on March 20, 2018. That means that all requirements must be met by that date to continue your certification, except that,

- Organic egg operations that are certified before March 20, 2020 need to implement the outdoor access requirements by March 21, 2022. Organic egg operations that become certified after March 20, 2020 need to comply with the outdoor access requirements in order to obtain certification.
- Organic broiler operations must fully implement the indoor space requirements by March 20, 2020.

Implementation Plan:

Oregon Tilth is committed to ensuring our clients fully understand and can comply with the rule changes. This year we are sending all of our livestock operations updated Organic System Plans* page that capture the required information. During your 2017 renewal we will assess your operation to the new standard and notify you if there will be any changes you need to make.

**Keep in mind that these documents were created during the proposed rule phase. There may be minor changes made at final rule publishing.*

Have Questions?

Please contact our office by phone 503-378-0690 or by email organic@tilth.org. We will also be holding a webinar on May 9, 2017 to do a compliance spotlight on the new requirements and their impacts for organic producers.

The majority of our staff will be out of the office for our biannual conference Organicology and certifier trainings, January 31 through February 3, so our response times will be longer than usual.