



2525 SE 3rd Street | Corvallis, OR 97333 | www.tilth.org | PH 503.378.0690 | FX 541.753.4924 | organic@tilth.org

NOTIFICATION

Please read closely; NOP's proposed changes will impact all certified organic livestock operations.

Dear OTCO Client:

On April 13, 2016, the National Organic Program (NOP) released proposed revisions and additions to the organic livestock and poultry practice standards for public comment. The proposal covers all aspects of animal welfare and will affect all organic livestock operations. The public comment period is open until June 13, 2016.

The NOP stated that the new proposal is intended to address the following:

- Clarify how producers and handlers must treat livestock and poultry to ensure their health and wellbeing.
- Clarify when and how certain physical alterations may be performed on organic livestock and poultry in order to minimize stress. Additionally, some forms of physical alterations are now prohibited.
- Set maximum indoor and outdoor stocking density for avian species
- Define outdoor access to exclude the use of structures with solid roofing for outdoor access and require livestock and poultry to have contact with soil.
- Add new requirements for transporting livestock and poultry to sale or slaughter.
- Clarify the application of USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) requirements regarding the handling of livestock and poultry in connection with slaughter to certified organic livestock and poultry establishments and provide for the enforcement of USDA organic regulations based on FSIS inspection findings.

How can I learn more?

We have included a summary of the key points with this notification. To read the full text visit: <https://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic-livestock-and-poultry-practices> or request a mailed copy from Oregon Tilth. To view only the proposed regulatory text, please see the final 20+ pages.

What if I have questions or want more information?

Please contact OTCO with any questions you have about these proposed changes. Contact Farm Program Technical Specialist, Jackie Sleeper or Farm Program Manager, Callyn Kircher, at (503) 378-0690.

Provide public comment by June 13, 2016

If you would like to share feedback, revisions or concerns, we strongly encourage you to submit comments to the NOP. You can submit your comments via <http://1.usa.gov/1T7WTm1>, or by mail to the following address:

Paul Lewis Ph.D., Director Standards Division
National Organic Program
USDA-AMS-NOP, Room 2646-So., Ag Stop 0268
1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250-0268
Docket #: AMS-NOP-15-0012; NOP-15-06PR