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## Summary of Proposed Changes For Ruminant Livestock

### Proposed New Definitions:

*There are a number of new definitions being proposed. These include:*

- Definitions for a variety of physical alterations which are used in animal agriculture.
- Outdoor space for all species, that excludes any area under a solid roof and provides at least 50% access to the soil.

### Proposed Changes to All Livestock Healthcare:

- Many physical alterations prohibited for organic livestock production. For ruminants these include 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.
- Producers are encouraged to provide pain control materials (such as anesthetics) as allowed on the National List when performing physical alterations.
- Producers must have a comprehensive internal parasite prevention program, including preventative measures such as fecal monitoring and pasture management.
- Producers must have a written euthanasia plan, using the specified allowed methods of euthanasia.
- Producers must keep records of the percent of the herd suffering from lameness and the causes.

### Proposed Changes to Mammalian Ruminant Living Conditions:

- Clarification that animals must be kept clean through the use of clean, dry bedding and sufficient shelter, as appropriate for the species.
- Dairy young stock may be individually housed until weaning (from milk to solid food), and must be group-housed after weaning.
- At least 50% of the outdoor access area for all animals must be soil, except in temporary conditions that threaten soil/water quality then outdoor access without soil contact must be provided. The definition of outdoor space only includes areas that are not under a solid roof.

### Proposed New Standards on Organic Livestock Transport:

- Animals must be fit for transport to auction or slaughter – no sick, lame or injured animals may be transported (except for veterinary care).
- Transport vehicles must provide sufficient season-appropriate ventilation and protection against cold and heat stress.
- Bedding must be provided in livestock trailers.
- Animals must be provided with organic feed and water if transport exceeds 12 hours, and transport must comply with the Federal Twenty-Eight Hour Law.
- Organic producers must have emergency plans in their Organic System Plan to address potential animal welfare problems that might occur during transport.
- Organic producers must provide records of any non-compliant actions during transport and the corrective actions taken to the organic inspector.



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### **Proposed New Standards on Organic Slaughter**

- Organic mammalian slaughter facilities must be compliant with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (inspected by either a federal or state inspector).
- Organic slaughter facilities must provide records of any non-compliant actions and the corrective actions taken to the organic inspector.

### **Implementation Period**

- AMS is proposing that all provisions of this rule must be implemented within one year of the publication, except for outdoor space requirements for avian species.
- For avian species outdoor space, a non-certified facility would need to comply within three years after the publication to obtain certification.
- For avian species outdoor space, a facility certified prior to three years from the date of publication would need to comply within five years of the publication of the final rule.