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Global Organic Alliance



International Certification Standards

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Subpart A

Introduction

Subpart A Introduction

Review these Standards and the accompanying Materials List carefully. Questions or clarification of the Standards or Materials List must be directed to the Certification Department.

It is hoped that Europe, Meso America, and the Pacific Rim, while setting the standards for their specific bio regions will share and work with the United States, to create a set of World Guidelines as a basis for organic standards that will give international consumer confidence, while controlling use of organic seals. The terms "organic", "biologic" and "ecologic", their abbreviated forms and phrases containing these terms are used synonymously in international trade, and must be used in compliance with the requirements of the applicable organic standard.

It is equally important that we realize as certification organizations, that there is a need and a place for all who support/maintain high standards and ethics within the organic industry. No one agency can please everyone; however, we all must respect each other's differences. People will always prefer to have choices.

Labeling or market information that implies directly or indirectly that a product or ingredient is organically produced and/or handled must be produced and handled in compliance with the applicable organic standards.

An agricultural product produced or processed by an exempt or excluded operation, as defined by the National Organic Program (NOP), shall not display GOA's name, seal or logo or other identification which represents the exempt or excluded operation as a certified operation or to represent a product or ingredient as organic to any buyer.

GOA Guidelines for Organic Certification

Operations seeking initial certification must establish, implement and submit an organic production or handling plan and operations seeking continued certification must submit an updated organic production or handling plan annually. Organic production operations must provide the total organic acreage, transitional acreage and year of transition, and conventional acreage, three-year field histories and field maps, and ingredient labels for inputs used by the operation. Handling operations must provide facility maps, process flow charts, ingredient labels for all inputs, and product compositions sheets disclosing the ingredients and their respective percentages in multi-ingredient products that certification is being requested for. Crops, livestock, and processed products **shall not** be retroactively certified. Crops harvested prior to the first inspection are not eligible for organic certification; however, the land may still be considered for certification. In addition, operations must permit on-site inspections with complete access to the production or handling operation, including non-certified production and handling areas, structures, and offices.

An initial on-site inspection must be conducted of each production unit, facility, and site that produces or handles organic products that is included in an operation for which certification is requested. An on-site inspection shall be conducted annually thereafter for the purpose of determining whether to approve the request for certification or whether certification should continue. All on-site inspections must be conducted when an authorized individual of the operation who is knowledgeable about the operation being inspected is present to accompany the inspector and at a time when land, facilities, and activities that demonstrate the operations compliance with or capability to comply with the applicable standards.

The initial on-site inspection will be conducted within a reasonable time upon determination by GOA that all required documentation has been submitted and it appears the applicant complies or is able to comply with the applicable certification requirements. GOA may delay the initial inspection up to 6 months to ensure the inspection is conducted when the land, crops, facilities, and/or activities requested for certification can be observed and verified to be in compliance with the applicable certification requirements. Additional inspections may be announced or unannounced as determined by GOA and/or the Administrator of the National Organic Program (NOP).

Certification must be approved prior to the sale, labeling, or representation of products as "organic" or "made with organic ingredients/food group". Operations must apply for continued certification annually.

Farm and Livestock Certification

ALL FIELDS and PASTURES (organic, transitional, and conventional) **MUST** be listed in the farm profile section of the relevant organic plan, with all questions answered. The inspector of record must inspect ALL FIELDS and PASTURES. Certified fields/pastures are certified for the growing

season on the certificate, which means you do not have to seek permission, re-inspection, etc. when succession planting. For instance, if a certified field sustains crop damage from hail, flood, wind or any natural disaster and the field is replanted, or the crop is harvested and it is followed with a planting of another crop, provided it is within 12 months of the last inspection. However, if the field or pasture is transitional and eligible to be considered for certification the following certification period, the field/crop MUST be inspected during the growing season and granted certification. Crops harvested prior to the effective date of certification for the field may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

In addition, to the applicable organic plan, the following documentation must be submitted:

Field/Pasture Histories

Three-year (3) histories plus the current year history must be submitted for each field seeking or maintaining certification and provide the following:

- Field/pasture identification and acreage
- Crops previously grown and the projected planting for the current year
- Date and rate of all input applications (including the date of the of the last application of prohibited substances)

At a minimum, the field/pasture histories must report the thirty-six (36) month period immediately preceding the projected harvest date of crops requested for certification.

An applicant or certified operation requesting certification of a field or pasture that has not been under their control for thirty-six (36) months immediately preceding the initial request for certification; must obtain and submit a signed Prior Land Use Statement (PLUS) from the previous owner or operator providing the last application date of a prohibited substance or affirming the non-use of a prohibited material (per the GOA Materials List). In the event, a PLUS cannot or is not obtained, the fields' starting date of transition will be determined based on the field history information from the applicant or certified operation for the period it has been under their control.

Applicants and certified operations must provide ingredient labels for all inputs applied to fields during the 3 years immediately preceding the request for initial certification, including verification of untreated seed use..

Maps

Maps of each field/farm parcel must be submitted that identifies and/or provides the following:

- Field/pasture location and boundaries
- Individual field/pasture identification and individual field/pasture acreage
- Buffer areas and adjoining land use
- Post-harvest handling and crop storage locations
- Livestock housing and manure storage/pits and/or composting locations

Seeds and/or Planting Stock

The organic seed search, untreated and nonGMO verification for non-organic seed, non-GMO verification for inoculants – when used, and/or verification of organic certification for organic seed must be submitted with the Organic Plan.

Inputs

Ingredient labels must be provided for all inputs used or intended for use. This applies to fertility inputs, insect and disease controls, pest/rodent controls, and materials applied to stored commodities. The source, ingredients, manure management, and handling must be documented for off-farm manure. In the case of livestock, feed sources, feed supplement and additives, medications and vaccines, facility pest controls, cleansers, and sanitizers must also be submitted.

Livestock Feed

Applicants and certified operations must provide complete feed rations with ingredient percentages for each stage of production (i.e. gestation, lactation, starter, grower, layer, fattening, etc.) and for each type of livestock requested for certification. Operations that purchase organic feed or forage must submit verification of organic certification for organic feed and forage purchases. Ingredient labels must be submitted for purchased complete feeds (along with verification of organic certification), mineral, salt, silage inoculant, and premixes.

Slaughter Facilities

Organic livestock must be rendered in a slaughter facility certified by an accredited certification agency to sell, label, or represent meat products as organic. Verification of organic certification must be submitted with the organic plan before meat products requested for certification will be considered for certification.

Retail and Non-retail Labels

Private Labels making organic claims must be submitted for review and approval by GOA before the label may be applied to product entering the stream of commerce.

Processor/Handler Certification

The annual certification covers ONLY what appears on the certificate issued by GOA. Should you wish to introduce new machinery, new recipes, additional ingredients, move to a new location (to name a few possibilities), you must notify GOA in writing of the changes immediately. GOA will determine the need for an additional inspection or other measures necessary to verify continued compliance. No products may be sold, labeled, or represented as organic prior to the effective date of certification.

The following documentation must be submitted with the annual Processor/Handler Plan:

- Facility map and pest control map providing the locations of bait stations, traps, etc.
- Product/process flow chart and process description for each product requested for certification.
- List of all products certification is being requested for.
- Product Composition Forms providing the ingredients, additives, processing aids, and percentages. Product compositions may be designated "confidential" and will be strictly honored by GOA.
- Verification of organic certification for all organic ingredients and organic processing aids and, when applicable, verification of organic certification for contracted organic services.
- Ingredient labels for all inputs in use or intended for use (i.e. processing aids, additives, cleansers, sanitizers, pest controls, etc.).
- Retail and non-retail labels making organic claims for products requested for certification. Labels making organic claims must be submitted for review and approval by GOA before the label may be applied to product entering the stream of commerce.

Parallel Production/Split Operations

The practice of parallel production or managing split operations prompts one of the most important needs for accurate and detailed record keeping. Not just to assure the certifier but to maintain consumer trust. In addition to the above applicable documentation, all applicants and certified operations with parallel production or split operations must have the following records prepared and available for the inspector to review during the annual on-site inspection.

- Field/pasture maps and histories for organic and nonorganic fields/pastures
- Separate and well-marked storage facilities that are numbered and labeled "organic"
- Accurate organic and nonorganic production, harvest, storage, and sales records
- Clean equipment, storage, and transportation documentation
- This includes livestock, which must be marked/tagged in a permanent manner

When in doubt, PLEASE don't hesitate to call the GOA Office. If we cannot answer your questions, we will put forth every effort to find the answers or send you to someone who can.

Investigation of Complaints of Non-compliance

GOA may investigate written complaints of noncompliance by production and handling operations certified by GOA. GOA may assign an inspector to conduct an unannounced inspection of an operation suspected of violating or failing to be in full compliance with the applicable organic standards. GOA is required to notify the Administrator of the NOP of all noncompliance proceedings and actions taken.

Withdrawal of Application for Certification

An applicant or certified operation requesting certification pays a registration fee. If the applicant is not accepted, the registration fee will be refunded. Applicants or certified operations may withdraw their application at any time. Those who withdraw their application must do so in writing and are liable for costs and services provided by GOA up to the time the GOA office receives the written notification of withdrawal. Applicants or certified operations who withdraw their application will be assessed an estimated cost that includes inspection fees, whether an inspection has occurred or not. If the applicant or certified operation withdraws their application from the certification process prior to a decision being rendered, no written decision will be forthcoming.

Denial, Suspension, or Revocation of Certification

Denial, Suspension, or Revocation of certification may be initiated by GOA for any of the following infractions:

- Operation is not in compliance with organic standards and the materials list
- Misrepresentation of the operation or making false statements to mislead or misinform the inspector or GOA about their compliance with organic standards and the materials list
- Labeling an agricultural product as organically produced when the product was not produced or handled in accordance with organic standards
- Failure to comply with request for information or other actions requested by GOA to determine compliance with organic standards and the materials list.
- Failure to correct a noncompliance.
- Failure to pay fees when due or as required by GOA
- Or have otherwise violated the policies, organic standards, or certification requirements of GOA

GOA will notify the applicant or certified operation in writing when denial, suspension, or revocation proceedings are initiated and provide the basis for the action. The applicant or certified operation may file a written appeal of the notice of denial, suspension, or revocation. In addition, GOA will inform the Administrator of the National Organic Program and other certification agencies of the impending denial, suspension, or revocation proceedings as required. This may include posting the action on the GOA website or other media. Please contact the GOA office for more information on the appeal process.

Subpart B

Crop Production

Subpart B Crop Production Standards

1.1. Eligibility for Organic Certification

1.1.1. Last Application of Prohibited Materials:

Inputs which contain prohibited ingredients, including but not limited to: fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, growth regulators, rodenticides, and treated or genetically modified seed/seedlings must not have been applied to the crop or to the soil of fields for which certification is being requested for 36-months immediately preceding the first eligible harvest. Some land may not be suitable for organic production, even after the 36-month transition period.

1.1.1.1 Where a certified field is contaminated by a prohibited material (i.e. drift, overspray from neighboring operations, etc.) a 36-month transition period is required before the field will be reconsidered for certification.

1.1.2. Time Requirement for Conversion to Organic Production

Acreage that is documented to have had no use of a prohibited material or practice according to these standards, for 36-months immediately preceding the first eligible harvest may be certified upon completion of the certification process. An additional inspection may be required when compliance with organic standards has not been achieved to the satisfaction of GOA.

1.1.2.1 Initial on-site inspection must occur before the first certified harvest.

1.1.2.2 Crops shall not be retroactively certified. Crops harvested prior to the initial on-site inspection are not eligible for organic certification; however, the land may still be considered for certification.

1.1.3. Transition to Organic Status

No land or crop may be labeled, represented or sold using the GOA seal, which has not undergone the full 36-month conversion period, an initial onsite inspection, and certification has been granted. (GOA does not recognize transitional labels.)

1.1.3.1 GOA does not recognize transition as a certifiable entity, and will not issue a certificate for transitional crops; transition is simply a term used to show that a farm or field is in the process of preparing for organic certification.

1.1.3.2 GOA prohibits the use of treated or genetically modified seed on a field that is in transition.

1.1.4. Whole Farm Conversion, Split Operations and Parallel Production

1.1.4.1 Whole farm conversion

The conversion of a whole farm operation to organic production is a goal of all organic productions systems. Split operations are allowed when transitioning on a field-by-field basis; however the operation must meet the specified criteria for split operations in 1.1.4.2. The timing and level of conversion is at the discretion of the producer.

1.1.4.2 Split operations

A. Organic crops must be visually distinguishable from the nonorganic crops, exemptions may be granted to operations that demonstrate compliance with 1.1.4.3, Parallel Production.

B. Organically managed field(s) have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones separating it/them from non-organically managed land.

- C. Meticulous records for the organic and nonorganic production, handling, and sales under the management of the applicant/certified operation must be maintained. At a minimum these records must include field histories, field maps identifying field boundaries, adjoining land use, and buffer areas, seed and input documentation, clean equipment/storage/transportation and purge logs, and harvest, storage, and sales records. These records must be sufficient to fully disclose all activities and transactions and demonstrate separation of ALL organic and nonorganic products grown.
- D. Appropriate physical facilities, machinery, and management practices must be established to prevent the commingling of organic and non-organic products, and/or contamination by prohibited substances. This includes maintaining clean out logs and purge disposition to assure the integrity of the organic product.
- E. Prohibited materials shall be stored in a separate location from organic materials and production areas.
- F. Once a field has been certified, it cannot be switched back and forth between non-organic and organic production without undergoing the 36-month conversion period.

1.1.4.3. Parallel Production

The simultaneous production of visually nondistinguishable nonorganic and organic crops is permitted only when:

- A. The established management practices and physical barriers to prevent commingling of organic and nonorganic products and to prevent contact of organic products with prohibited substances on a split operation are effective and observed to be in compliance during the on-site inspection; and
- B. Found the applicant/certified operation has demonstrated adequate record keeping ability and all requirements in split operations, 1.1.4.2.B through 1.1.4.2.G are in compliance.

1.2. Equipment

- 1.2.1. Condition of machinery and equipment must be maintained to avoid contamination of soil or crops. (i.e. leaking hydraulic fluid, fuel, oil, etc.).
- 1.2.2. All equipment (i.e. planting, tillage, baling, harvesting and handling), owned, hired, borrowed, or leased that is used in the production and/or handling of organic crops shall be cleaned to prevent contamination of the organic crop by prohibited substances or by commingling with nonorganic and/or GMO crops or products. Equipment cleanings, purges with organic crop and the disposition of the purged crop must be documented.

1.3. Field Boundaries and Buffer Zones

- 1.3.1. Field boundaries must be distinct, clearly defined, and identifiable.
- 1.3.2. Operations that have organically managed land adjoining nonorganic land with the potential for contamination by a prohibited substance shall implement and include in their Organic Plan a description of practices and physical barriers to prevent contamination. Such practices to prevent the application or drift of a prohibited substance to land on which organically produced crops are grown include:
 - A. Establishment of physical barriers or buffer areas of no less than 25 feet. Enlarged buffers in areas of higher risk (i.e., neighboring pesticide application by use of air-blast sprayers, and aerial spraying) may be required. Crops grown in buffer zones shall not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.;
 - B. Diversions or runoffs.
- 1.3.3. Field borders or areas in fields exposed to drift, run-off, or application of a prohibited material must:
 - A. Establish a 25-foot buffer around the affected area which must be maintained during the required 36-month transition period. This includes paths taken by spray equipment applying prohibited substances. Field maps must identify the affected area and the buffer.

1.4. Biological Diversity and Natural Resource Conservation

1.4.1 Biological diversity shall be established, maintained, and promoted through the use of various practices which may include, but are not limited to:

1.4.1.1 Establishment or preservation of non-agricultural areas, such as hedgerows, native prairie, wetlands and woodlands, adjacent to or adjoining the field or farm parcel;

1.4.1.2 The planting of species, adjacent to or between cropped areas, that provide habitat for beneficial organisms;

1.4.1.3 The use of rotational or intensive grazing methods on areas maintained as pasture, grazing land or farm lot areas;

1.4.1.4 Introduction of diverse species into any field or farm parcel planted with a perennial crop;

1.4.1.5. Appropriate conservation measures, including management practices such as grass waterways, contour strips, catch ponds, riparian buffers and cover crops to prevent wind and water erosion, shall be established and maintained.

1.4.1.6. Burning crop residue is restricted to pest or disease control or sanitation purposes. Whole field burning is prohibited.

1.4.1.7 Water conservation measures must be observed to avoid excessive exploitation and depletion of water resources.

1.5. Crop Rotation

The practice of alternating annual crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field. Perennial cropping systems must employ practices such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to introduce biological diversity in lieu of crop rotation.

1.5.1 For the production of annual crops, a soil building crop rotation including but not limited to; sod, legumes, other nitrogen-fixing plants, and green manure crops, shall be established to provide biodiversity, break weed, pest and disease cycles, improve or maintain soil fertility and organic matter content, manage deficient or excess plant nutrients, and provide erosion control. Green manure crops are required in the rotation.

1.5.2. Annual cropping – ideally a (4) four year rotation is preferred = legume hay > corn with small grain/legume cover crop > soybeans > fall seeded small grain inter-seeded with a legume. Not all bio-regions can support this rotation; therefore, a rotation of corn with a small grain/legume cover crop > soybeans > fall seeded small grain inter-seeded with a legume cover crop is acceptable.

1.6. Soil Fertility and Nutrient Management

1.6.1. Manage crop nutrients and soil fertility through crop rotations, cover crops, and the application of plant and animal materials.

1.6.2. Implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of the soil and minimize soil erosion.

1.6.3. Plant and animal materials must be managed to maintain or improve soil organic matter content in a way that does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, nitrates, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances.

1.6.4. A crop nutrient or soil amendment in the GOA Materials List allowed for use in organic crop production.

1.6.5. Permitted sources of mineral nutrients.

1.6.5.1. A non-synthetic mineral having a low solubility and salt index

1.6.5.2. A substance derived from a natural plant, animal or mineral substance,

1.6.5.3. Ash obtained from the burning of a plant material except as prohibited in 1.5.7, provided, the material burned has not been treated or combined with a prohibited substance or the ash is not prohibited in the GOA Materials List for crop production.

1.6.6. Restricted sources of mineral nutrients.

The following nutrient or micronutrient sources may be used to correct a nutrient deficiency, provided, the material is not used in place of organic management practices (i.e. crop rotations, green manures/cover crops, etc.). Compliance to restrictions must be documented in the Organic Plan.

1.6.6.1 Those substances explicitly listed in the GOA Materials List as allowed or restricted for use in crop production may be applied as a micronutrient source, provided there is a documented nutrient deficiency by soil or tissue testing. Micronutrients may not be applied as a defoliant, herbicide, or desiccant. Those made from nitrates or chlorides are prohibited.

1.6.6.2 Non-synthetic minerals that are highly soluble and have a high salt index may only be used when explicitly allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List.

1.6.7. Prohibited methods and sources for use as crop nutrients

1.6.7.1 Burning of manure as a means of disposal or use of such.

1.6.7.2 Municipal sludge (biosolids)

1.6.7.3 Potassium Chloride (Muriate of Potash) due to high solubility and potential for chloride accumulation.

1.6.7.4 Sodium nitrate (Chilean nitrate) from any source.

1.6.7.5 Genetically Modified Organisms or derivatives thereof.

1.6.7.6 Ionizing Radiation

1.6.7.7 Synthetic substances and ingredients, except those explicitly listed as allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List.

1.6.7.8 Nonsynthetic substances and ingredients explicitly prohibited in the GOA Materials List.

1.7. Animal Manure

Animal manures are a valuable source of crop nutrients that must be properly handled to stabilize nutrients, prevent environmental degradation, and prevent the spread of pathogens.

1.7.1 Runoff diversions or other means must be implemented to prevent contamination of crop production areas with animal waste from adjacent livestock holding facilities, fields, or waste storage areas.

1.7.2 Raw (uncomposted) manure shall be applied in a manner that prevents or minimizes contamination of crops, soil, or water by nitrates and bacteria, pathogenic microbes, heavy metals and residues of prohibited substances. Manure applications shall not exceed the soil or crop needs.

1.7.2.1 Liquid extracts of manure (manure tea) shall not be applied to crops for human consumption unless the manure is applied in compliance with 1.7.3.2.

1.7.3 Raw manure is a regulated material and must be composted unless it is applied;

1.7.3.1 To land used for a crop not intended for human consumption;

1.7.3.2 On land used for crops intended for human consumption, provided that the manure is incorporated into the soil:

A. Not less than **90 days** prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion **does not have direct** contact with the soil surface or soil particles.

B. Not less than **120 days** prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion **has direct** contact with the soil surface or soil particles.

- 1.7.4. Source of manure
 - 1.7.4.1 All (on-farm and off-farm) manure sources, ingredients, and handling practices must be documented.
 - 1.7.4.2 Raw manure from non-organic livestock operations may require testing for the presence of contaminants if sourced from farms reliant on veterinary and feed inputs not permitted in organic agriculture.
 - 1.7.4.3 Liquid manure/slurry from nonorganic livestock operations may require residue testing. (i.e. pit additives, insecticides, cleansers, etc.)
 - 1.7.4.4 Manures containing human excrement (feces and urine) are prohibited for use on crops for human consumption.
- 1.7.5 Prohibited uses of manure
 - 1.7.5.1 Burning manure as a means of disposal or applying ash from manure burning.

1.8. Compost

Compost may be used to replenish soil organic matter content, provide essential crop nutrients, and enhance soil biological activity.

- 1.8.1 Must be used at appropriate rates to and in a manner that prevents or minimizes contamination of crops, soil, or water, by nitrates, bacteria, pathogenic microbes, heavy metals, and residues of prohibited substances.
- 1.8.2 Compost storage facilities must be managed in a manner that prevents contamination of soil, water, or crops with pathogens, nitrates, bacteria, heavy metals, and residues of prohibited substances.
- 1.8.3 Acceptable compost feedstock includes:
 - A. Animal manures
 - B. Plant material, including hay, straw, etc.
 - C. By-products from processing agricultural commodities.
 - D. Source-separated yard debris (leaves and brush),
 - E. Plant or animal waste materials that contain known residues of a prohibited material, with the exception of those specifically prohibited in 1.7.4, provided the prohibited material detectable in the raw plant or animal waste is not detectable in the composted product. (Tests for confirmation may be required.)
 - F. A synthetic material used to treat plant residues or animal waste is permitted only if the substance appears in the GOA Materials List as allowed or restricted for use in organic crop production.
- 1.8.4 Prohibited compost feed stocks include:
 - A. Sewage sludge (biosolids); mixed municipal solid waste
 - B. Synthetically fortified compost starter
 - C. Glassy paper and colored ink
 - D. Substances recovered from a Materials Recovery Facility;
 - E. Non-agricultural industrial by-products, unless explicitly allowed.
 - F. A synthetic material not listed or specifically listed as prohibited or nonsynthetic material specifically prohibited in the GOA Materials List.

1.9 Composting Process

- 1.9.1 To qualify as compost, plant and animal materials must be produced through a process that:
 - 1.9.1.1 Established an initial C:N ratio of between 25:1 and 40:1; and
 - 1.9.1.2 Maintained a temperature between 131° F and 170° F for 3 days using an in-vessel or static aerated pile system;
or

- 1.9.1.3 Maintained a temperature between 131° F and 170° F for 15 days using a windrow composting system, during which period, the materials must be turned a minimum of five (5) times.

1.10 Selection and Use of Seeds, Seedlings and Planting Stock

- 1.10.1 Organic seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock; including bulbs, tubers, and plant material derived through tissue culture must be used, except, that,
 - 1.10.1.1 Nonorganically produced, untreated seeds and planting stock may be used when an equivalent organically produced variety is not commercially available, Except:
 - A. Organically produced seed must be used for the production of edible sprouts.
 - 1.10.1.2 Nonorganically produced seeds and planting stock that have been treated with a substance explicitly allowed in the GOA Materials list may be used to produce an organic crop when an equivalent organically produced untreated variety is not commercially available. **Seed treated with a synthetic substance not specifically allowed is prohibited.**
 - 1.10.1.3 Nonorganically produced annual seedlings may be used to produce an organic crop when the Administrator of the National Organic Program has granted a temporary variance.
 - 1.10.1.4 Non-organically produced planting stock may be used for perennial crops, which may be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced only after the planting sock has been maintained under a system of organic management on a certified organic farm for a period of no less than one (1) year.
 - 1.10.1.5 Seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock treated with prohibited substances may be used to produce an organic crop when the application of the materials is a requirement of Federal or State phytosanitary regulations.
- 1.10.2 GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SEED, ANNUAL SEEDLINGS, PLANTING STOCK, AND INOCULANT ARE PROHIBITED. NONORGANIC SEED AND PLANTING STOCK MUST BE DOCUMENTED TO BE UNTREATED and NON-GMO AND INOCULANT DOCUMENTED TO BE NON-GMO.

1.11. Prevention and Management of Pests, Weeds and Diseases

- 1.11.1 Pests, weeds, and diseases in crops shall be prevented and managed by practices including but not limited to:
 - 1.11.1.1 Crop rotation, replenishment and maintenance of soil fertility.
 - 1.11.1.2 Sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds and habitat for pest organisms.
 - 1.11.1.3 Cultural practices that enhance crop health, including the timing of crop planting and the selection of plant species and varieties with regard to suitability to site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent pests, weeds and diseases.
 - 1.11.1.4 Any non-synthetic biological, botanical, mineral substance, or a substance that is included in the GOA Materials List allowed for use in crop production may be applied to prevent, suppress, or control pests, weeds or diseases provided that all regulations related to its use are followed.
 - 1.11.1.5 Inert ingredients in pesticide products must be listed in the EPA List 4 inert ingredients list. EPA List 3 inert ingredients are prohibited unless explicitly listed in the Materials List. EPA List 1 and 2 inert ingredients are prohibited.
- 1.11.2 Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods, including but not limited to:
 - 1.11.2.1 Use of beneficial insects including augmentation or introduction of predators or parasites of the pest species.
 - 1.11.2.2 Development of habitat for natural enemies of pests.
 - 1.11.2.3 Non-synthetic, non-toxic controls such as lures, traps, and repellents.

- 1.11.3 Weed management practices, including;
 - 1.11.3.1 Mulching with fully biodegradable materials;
 - 1.11.3.2 Mowing;
 - 1.11.3.3 Livestock grazing;
 - 1.11.3.4 Hand weeding or mechanical cultivation;
 - 1.11.3.5 Flame, heat, or electrical means;
 - 1.11.3.6 Plastic or other synthetic mulches or other agricultural plastic may be used provided they are removed from the field at the end of the growing or harvest season or at end of use. Plastic shall not be incorporated into the soil or left to decompose. It must be disposed of appropriately and recycled when possible. Plastic must not be burned for disposal.
- 1.11.4 Disease management practices, including;
 - 1.11.4.1 Management practices which suppress the spread of disease organisms;
 - 1.11.4.2 Steam sterilization or solarization of growing media;
 - 1.11.4.3 Application of approved biological, botanical, or mineral inputs;
 - 1.11.4.4 Burning crop residues is prohibited; except to suppress disease or seed germination.

1.12. Treated Lumber

Use of lumber treated with arsenate or other prohibited materials for new installations or replacement purposes in contact with soil or livestock is prohibited.

1.13. Irrigation Water

- 1.13.1. Reasonable water conservation measures must be taken to avoid excessive exploitation and depletion of water resources.
- 1.13.2 Water used for irrigating an organic crop may not contain intentionally added prohibited substances. Water suspected of or known to have prohibited substances from residual environmental contamination is prohibited.
- 1.13.3 Water used to irrigate crops for human consumption must be documented to be free of E. coli pathogens.
- 1.13.4 Chlorine materials may be used as an algicide, disinfectant, and sanitizer, irrigation cleaning systems, provided the residual chlorine levels in the water shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit (4 mg/L MRDL) under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

1.14. Wild Crop Harvesting

- 1.14.1 Any site producing a wild crop intended to be sold, labeled or represented as organic shall have had no prohibited substance applied to it for a period of at least three years (36 months) immediately preceding the harvest of the wild crop and at an appropriate distance from conventional farming, pollution and contamination. All harvesting areas must be inspected annually.
- 1.14.2 A wild crop shall be harvested in a manner that assures that such harvesting or gathering will not be destructive to the environment and will sustain the growth and production of the wild crop, including implementation of measures to prevent or avoid the following:
 - 1.10.2.1. Threaten the existence or deplete the population of the plant, fungal, or animal species, including those not directly exploited;
 - 1.10.2.2. Soil erosion or other environmental disturbance and;
 - 1.10.2.3. Adverse impacts on biological diversity.

- 1.14.3 Wild crop harvesting areas must have defined and identifiable boundaries. The operator who manages the harvesting or gathering of wild crops must be familiar with the defined collection areas.
- 1.14.4 Wild crop harvesting areas and the associated crop must be clearly identified on site maps submitted with the organic plan.
- 1.14.5 Wild crops shall only be harvested from areas where the water is not contaminated by substances prohibited in these standards.
- 1.14.6 The audit trail must be capable of tracking the wild crop from the original harvest area to the point of sale.

1.15. Greenhouse Production

- 1.15.1 Greenhouses operated as in-ground or permanent soil systems shall comply with all provisions of these standards, including the requirement of a 36-month transition period prior to the harvest of the first certifiable crop.
- 1.15.2 Organic certification requires compliance to the Crop Production Standards that demonstrate:
 - 1.15.2.1 No prohibited substances may compromise the integrity of the organic greenhouse production system.
 - 1.15.2.2 All materials used must be in accordance with Crop Production Materials in the GOA Materials List. Non-synthetic potting media is permitted, including peat, vermiculite, perlite, compost and other natural materials provided they do not contain or have been exposed to prohibited materials.
 - 1.15.2.3 Plants, soil, and substrates shall not be in direct contact with wood treated with prohibited substances, including arsenic salts (e.g. copper-chromium-arsenate treated wood).
 - 1.15.2.4 A 25-foot minimum buffer zone must be established when there is potential for contamination from adjacent areas.
- 1.15.3 Organic and nonorganic production may coexist in a greenhouse operation, provided:
 - 1.15.3.1 Organic production shall be operated and labeled as distinct units from conventional greenhouses. No prohibited materials may be used in greenhouses dedicated to organic production.
 - 1.15.3.2 Ventilation systems shall be designed to prevent drift of prohibited materials from nonorganic greenhouses to organic greenhouses.
 - 1.15.3.3 Liquid fertilizer lines/systems in organic greenhouses must be separate from liquid fertilizer lines/systems in nonorganic greenhouses.
 - 1.15.3.4 Each greenhouse must be labeled according to production methods, "organic" or "nonorganic".
 - 1.15.3.5 Soil mixing equipment and production tools must be thoroughly cleaned before use for organic production. A cleaning log must be maintained.

1.16. Hydroponics Production

Organic production systems are soil-based systems, dedicated to maintaining and improving soil fertility and minimizing the use of non-renewable resources. Hydroponics systems, with the exception of sprouts, may only be approved if;

- 1.16.1 They meet the principles of organic production and all applicable organic standards, including recycling materials of plant and animal origin, and minimizing the use of non-renewable resources.
- 1.16.2 Hydroponics systems must be integrated into the farm ecosystem, not dependent totally on off-farm inputs.

1.17. Mushrooms

- 1.17.1 Organic Mushrooms may be grown indoors or outdoors and shall comply with all provisions of these standards.
- 1.17.2 No prohibited substances will compromise the integrity of the organic mushroom production system.
- 1.17.3 Organic mushroom houses shall be operated and labeled as distinct units from conventional mushroom houses on the same site.

- 1.17.4 All sources of substrate and spawn shall be documented for review during the inspection visit.
 - 1.17.4.1 Uncomposted substrate from agricultural sources, including grain, straw, etc. shall be organically produced. Sawdust or wood products used for substrate must be obtained from sources which have not been treated with materials prohibited for use in organic production.
 - 1.17.4.2 Logs shall be organically produced or be sourced from sites documented not to have been treated with prohibited materials for a minimum of three years (36-months) prior to harvest of the logs for mushroom production.
 - 1.17.4.2 Testing may be required of substrate for residues of prohibited materials.
 - 1.17.4.3 Organically produced spawn must be used when available. If documented as unavailable, non-organic spawn may be used, provided no prohibited materials are applied during spawn production.
 - 1.17.4.4 Mushroom strains and substrate must not be genetically engineered.
- 1.17.5 Well, stream, or pond water used for soaking logs or blocks may be used; however, water suspected of or known to have prohibited substances from residual environmental contamination is prohibited.
- 1.17.6 Chlorine (bleach) may be used for sanitizing equipment and facilities, but may not be applied to crops or substrate.
- 1.18. Sprouts
 - 1.18.1 Organic sprouts may be grown with or without soil.
 - 1.18.2 Organically produced seed must be used for the production of edible sprouts.
 - 1.18.3 Water used for organic sprout production or seed treatment must meet the criteria of the EPA Current Drinking Water Standards.
 - 1.18.4 Seeds may be treated with the following materials/methods to prevent food-borne pathogens:
 - A) Heat;
 - B) Hydrogen peroxide;
 - C) Ozone products and processes
 - D) Any other substances that are approved in the GOA Materials List.
 - 1.18.5 Soil grown sprouts are subject to the same standards as organic crop and greenhouse production.
 - 1.18.6 Light sources may be natural or artificial.
- 1.19. Maple Syrup Production
 - 1.19.1 All cultural practices are to be chosen with the objective of maintaining the maple forest and ensuring long-term preservation of the sugar bush as part of the ecosystem. Biodiversity in the sugar bush must be encouraged. Sensitive areas (i.e. wetlands, raptor perches, winter habitat) must be protected.
 - 1.19.2 All practices and materials used must meet the crop and handling requirements of these standards.
 - 1.19.3 Producers must follow the best forest management practice. Canopy development and general health of the sugar bush ecosystem must be the primary objective of the forest management plan. Small diameter taps are encouraged.
 - 1.9.3.1 Taps shall be hammered in gently to avoid splitting the sapwood when it is frozen.
 - 1.9.3.2 Taps shall be distributed evenly on the trunk,
 - 1.9.3.3 Number of taps per tree is to be consistent with the overall objective of maintaining health and vigor of the sugar bush ecosystem: 5/16 diameter taps or smaller – trees 20 to 34 cm diameter at chest height may have one tap; trees 35 to 46 cm diameter may have 2 taps; trees over 47 cm diameter may have 3 taps maximum. 7/16 diameter taps – trees 24 to 38 cm diameter at chest height may have one tap; trees 39 to 50 cm diameter may have 2 taps; trees over 51 cm diameter may have 3 taps maximum.

1.19.4 Collecting

1.9.4.1 Vacuum pumps are permitted. Vacuum shall not exceed minus 20 pounds per square inch (minus 68 megapascals) at the spout.

1.9.4.2 Taps buckets, tubing and other equipment shall be in good condition and properly used. Freshening of taps with same drill size is permitted. Buckets must be covered at all times. Bark should be protected from girding.

1.19.5 In addition to the following, maple syrup must be processed in compliance with the GOA processing standards:

- A. Acceptable defoaming materials include non-synthetic agents such as organic vegetable oil, milk, and milk products.
- B. Use of settling tanks traditional cone or flat filter types (paper, wool, orlon or nylon). Filters using diatomaceous earth, silica powder, or clay.
- C. Boiling equipment must be made of stainless steel.
- D. Techniques for reverse osmosis are permitted only if the operation has clearly defined methods for their use and the appropriate methods for disposal of membrane cleaning solutions.

Subpart C

Livestock Production

Subpart C Organic Livestock Production

2.1 Organic Livestock Requirements

- 2.1.1 Dairy – Crops and forage from the operator's land only and included in the operator's organic system plan, that is in the **third** year of organic management may be consumed by the dairy animals on the farm during the 12-month period immediately prior to the sale of organic milk and milk products.
- 2.1.2 Slaughter Stock – Must be offspring of breeding stock that has been under organic management, including organic feed, prior to the last third of gestation. Purchased stock must be from organic sources.
- 2.1.3 Livestock or edible livestock products from livestock that are removed from an organic operation and subsequently managed on a nonorganic operation, graze or access organic and nonorganic pastures/fields, or rotated in and out of organic management are not eligible for organic certification and may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

2.2 Split Operations

- 2.2.1 Organic and non-organic livestock may be managed on the same operation, provided:
 - A. Livestock is visually distinguishable and unique identification systems for the organic and nonorganic livestock is implemented.
 - B. Organic land/pasture must have distinct, defined boundaries separating it from nonorganically managed land.
 - C. Appropriate physical facilities, machinery, and management practices are established to prevent commingling nonorganic and organic livestock and feed or contamination of organic livestock by prohibited substances. Storage areas for organic and nonorganic grains and forages must be separated and clearly marked.
 - D. Prohibited materials shall be stored in a separate location from organic materials and production areas.
 - E. Meticulous records for the organic and non-organic livestock production must be maintained. At a minimum these records must include field/pasture histories, field/pasture maps providing the identification, acreage, status, boundaries, buffer areas, and adjoining land use, seed information, clean equipment/storage, feed sources and rations, breeding and herd health records, slaughter/production (eggs, milk) documentation, and harvest, storage, and sales records. These records must be sufficient to document the audit trail and separation of ALL feed and livestock/products (organic and nonorganic).

2.3 Parallel Production

The simultaneous production of visually nondistinguishable nonorganic and organic livestock is permitted only when the operation has:

- A. Established management practices and physical barriers to prevent commingling of organic and nonorganic livestock, feed, and products and to prevent contact of organic livestock, feed, and products with prohibited substances; and
- B. Has demonstrated adequate record keeping ability and all requirements for split operations in 2.2 are met.

2.4 Living Conditions

Certified organic livestock operations shall be based on systems that maximize animal health and safety, allowing for the natural behavior of animals. Such a production environment must include the following:

- 2.4.1 Access to shade, shelter, fresh air, outdoors and direct sunlight suitable to the species, the stage of production, the climate, and the environment;

- 2.4.2 Adequate clean dry bedding, appropriate to the husbandry system. If the bedding is typically consumed by the animal species, it must comply with organic feed standards in 2.8;
- 2.4.3 Access to clean, fresh water according to the needs of the animal that is readily accessible and available at all times.
- 2.4.4 A housing design which provides for:
 - A. Natural maintenance, comfort behaviors and the opportunity to exercise safely.
 - B. Sufficient space to stand naturally, lie down easily, turn around, groom, and assume all natural postures and movements such as stretching and wing flapping.
 - C. Temperature levels, ventilation and air circulation suitable to the species.
 - D. Reduced potential for livestock injury.
 - E. Feeding areas shall provide animals with enough space to express natural behaviors and movement.
- 2.4.5 Proper livestock health management may include periods of time when livestock are housed indoors. Temporary indoor housing may be justified for:
 - A. Inclement weather; however, animals shall have access to an outdoor exercise area.
 - B. Conditions where the health, safety or well-being of the animal could be jeopardized.
 - C. The protection of plant, soil or water quality.
 - D. Stage of production, (such as pregnancy).
- 2.4.6 The following living conditions are prohibited for organic production:
 - A. Continuous, routine confinement is prohibited;
 - B. Cages for poultry and rabbits;
 - C. Slatted floors or confinement to stanchions;
 - D. White veal production is prohibited;
 - E. Extending day length with artificial lighting for more than 16 hours in a 24 hour period; and
 - F. Treated lumber in livestock production areas and feed storage facilities.

2.5 Manure Management

- 2.5.1. Operations shall develop and implement manure management practices that:
 - A. Optimize recycling of nutrients;
 - B. Minimize soil and water degradation;
 - C. Does not contribute to the contamination of crops, soil, or water by nutrients, heavy metals, or pathogenic bacteria, and
 - D. Does not include burning manure as a means of disposal or other practice inconsistent with organic standards.
- 2.5.2 All manure storage and handling facilities, including composting facilities, must be designed, constructed, and operated to provide containment of runoff.
- 2.5.3 Manure application rates must not exceed soil or crop needs or be at levels that contribute to ground and/or surface water contamination. Application timing and methods must not increase the potential for runoff or leaching.
- 2.5.4 Livestock operations shall meet or exceed local, state, or federal laws regarding odor, pollution, and waste management.

2.6 Sources of Livestock

- 2.6.1 Origin of livestock

Livestock and edible products from livestock that are sold, labeled or represented as organic shall be from livestock under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation or hatching. Livestock brought in for organic slaughter stock must be from organic sources.

2.6.1.1 Breeding Stock

- A. Breeding stock must be under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation in order for their offspring to qualify as organic slaughter stock.
- B. Breeding stock from nonorganic sources must be under continuous organic management for 12 months before being eligible for organic breeding stock certification.
- C. Breeding stock that has not been under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic slaughter stock.

2.6.1.2 Dairy

- A. Milk or milk products must be from animals that have been under continuous organic management beginning no later than 1 year prior to the production of the milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic, Except,
 - 1. Crops and forage from land, included in the organic system plan of a dairy farm, that is in the **third** year of organic management may be consumed by the dairy animals on the farm during the 12-month period immediately prior to the sale of organic milk and milk products.
- B. Once an entire, distinct herd has been converted to organic production, all dairy animals shall be under organic management from the last third of gestation. Replacement animals must be from an organic source.
- C. Dairy stock that has not been under continuous organic management since the last third of gestation may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic slaughter stock.

2.6.1.3. Poultry

Poultry or edible poultry products must be from poultry that have been under continuous organic management beginning no later than the second day of life.

2.6.1.4. Non-edible Livestock Products

- A. Livestock may be designated as livestock from which hide, fur, feather, fibers, and other non-edible products obtained from them may be sold, labeled or represented as GOA organically produced, provided the livestock have been under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation for mammals and the second day of life for poultry. ***Wool, fur, and hide production may not be certified under the National Organic Program (NOP) and may not make any labeling claims regarding the NOP or bear the USDA seal.*

2.6.2. Prohibited Sources of Livestock

- A. Genetically engineered animals and animals from embryo transfer and/or cloning techniques are prohibited.
- B. Organically produced animals that have been diverted to non-organic production shall not be transferred back to organic production.

2.7 Feed Requirements

- 2.7.1. Organic livestock must be fed a total feed ration composed of one hundred percent (100%) organically produced and, when applicable, organically handled raw or processed agricultural products, including pasture, forage, and outdoor access areas.
- 2.7.2. Nonsynthetic substances and synthetic substances explicitly allowed in the GOA Materials List may be used as feed additives and supplements.

2.8 Pasture and Outdoor Access Area Requirements

- 2.8.1. Pastures and outdoor access areas that livestock graze shall be managed using measures designed to maximize edible forage throughout the growing season and maintain and improve soil fertility and range land health.
- 2.8.2. Pasture and outdoor access area stocking rates must not lead to land degradation or pollution of ground or surface water.
- 2.8.3. Pastures and outdoor access areas must have a minimum 25-foot buffer along borders that adjoin nonorganic land or potential sources of contamination. GOA may require enlarged buffers in areas of higher risk. Buffer zones may not be grazed by or fed to organic livestock.
- 2.8.4. Ruminant animals shall have access to pasture. Dairy animals must have access to pasture by 6 months of age.

2.9 Weaning

- 2.9.1. Young mammalian livestock must receive adequate colostrums from an organic source. Livestock that receives nonorganic or synthetic colostrums may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.
- 2.9.2. Mammalian livestock shall receive maternal milk or whole milk from an organic source. Livestock receiving nonorganic milk replacer may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

2.10 Feed Additives/Supplements

Feed additives/supplements fed to organic livestock shall meet the following requirements:

- 2.10.1. Feed additives/supplements that are non-synthetic, such as salt, limestone (calcium carbonate), and kelp may be from any source, provided the supplement is not listed as a nonsynthetic substance prohibited for organic livestock production.
- 2.10.2. Synthetic feed additives/supplements must be explicitly listed as allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List.
- 2.10.3. Permitted additives/supplements include amino acids, vitamins and minerals. Synthetic amino acids, vitamins, and minerals may be fed to livestock under organic management as necessary for the purpose of fulfilling the nutritional requirements of the livestock. Their use must be documented and reported in the Livestock Plan.
- 2.10.4. Agricultural ingredients in feed additives/supplements must be from an organic source. These may include, but are not limited to grain or forage by-products, molasses, flax oil or meal, soybean oil or meal, etc.

2.11 Silage Inoculant

- 2.11.1. Bacteria, fungi, enzymes, sea salt, rock salt, organic sugar or organic sugar products are permitted.
- 2.11.2. Agricultural ingredients in silage inoculant must be from an organic source.
- 2.11.3. Silage inoculant may not contain prohibited substances. (i.e. propionic acid)

2.12 Prohibited Feed Ingredients

The following substances/methods are prohibited for feeding organic livestock:

- A. Any synthetic substance that is not allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List;
- B. Artificial additives and flavors, stabilizers, synthetic preservatives, and coloring agents;
- C. Hormones or growth stimulators;
- D. Antibiotics or other animal drugs;
- E. Synthetic amino acids, vitamins or trace elements fed above levels needed for nutrition;
- F. Plastic pellets for roughage;
- G. Manure feeding or re-feeding;
- H. Mineral oil, urea;

- I. Meals that are extracted by the use of synthetic solvents, such as hexane, or the addition of other prohibited substances;
- J. Nonorganic milk replacer and colostrum;
- K. Synthetic silage/forage preservatives;
- L. Feeding of poultry and mammalian slaughter by-products to organic poultry and mammals;
- M. Genetically engineered organisms, including their derivatives; and
- N. Use feed, feed additives, and feed supplements in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

2.13 Plastic and Other Synthetic Materials to Preserve Feed/Forage

- 2.13.1 Plastic and other materials used for bale wraps, silage covers, and other uses to protect or preserve feed/forage must not contain prohibited substances and be disposed of appropriately or recycled.

2.14 Livestock Health Care

- 2.14.1 Producers must maintain an environment that promotes livestock health and limits livestock stress. When a prohibited material is used to treat an organic animal, the animal or edible livestock product from the treated animal may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic. Practices to maintain the health of the animals may include, but not limited to:

- A. Providing a complete and balanced feed ration. Poultry - Withdrawal of food to induce molting is prohibited;
- B. Selection of appropriate breeds and breeding of animals for resistance and immunity to disease;
- C. Proper sanitation practices to minimize the occurrence and spread of diseases;
- D. Exercise, freedom of movement and reduction of stress;
- E. Pasture management and appropriate stocking densities;
- F. Quarantine incoming stock;
- G. Vaccinations as required by law or for diseases endemic to an area that cannot be controlled by other management practices; and
- H. Administering veterinary biologics, vitamins and minerals.

- 2.14.2 Livestock producers are required to manage livestock to reduce the risk of parasite infestation through cultural and biological practices, which may include, but not limited to:

- A. Quarantine and fecal examination for incoming stock;
- B. Pasture rotation and management;
- C. Periodic fecal examinations and culling seriously infested individuals;
- D. Vector and intermediate host control;
- E. Release of beneficial organisms; and
- F. Natural dusting wallows for poultry.

- 2.14.3 When preventive management practices are not effective to prevent a sickness or infestation of parasites, organic producers are permitted to use the following:

- A. Nonsynthetic substances that are not explicitly prohibited in the GOA Materials List.
- B. Synthetic substances that are listed as allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List.
- C. Parasiticides permitted in the GOA Materials List may be used as an emergency treatment for breeder and dairy stock provided:
 - 1. Breeder stock is not treated during the last third of gestation or during lactation if offspring are to be sold or represented as organic.

2. Dairy stock is not treated at least 90-days prior to the production of milk or milk products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

D. Medications may contain excipients that are identified by the FDA as Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS); approved by the FDA as a food additive; or included in the FDA review and approval of a new animal drug or new drug application. See 'Excipients' in Subpart J, Definitions.

2.14.4 Prohibited Practices and Materials

A. Use of antibiotics; administering antibiotics to breeding stock during the last third of gestation bars their offspring from being sold, labeled, or represented as organic.

B. Synthetic substance not specifically allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List.

C. Hormones for growth production;

D. Administer synthetic parasiticides to slaughter stock;

E. Routine use of synthetic parasiticides;

F. Administering any medication, other than vaccinations, in the absence of illness, or

G. Administer animal drugs in violation of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

2.14.5 The action of a producer to withhold treatment to maintain the organic status of an animal which results in the otherwise avoidable suffering or death of an animal is grounds for decertification. All appropriate medications must be used to restore an animal to health when methods acceptable to organic production fail.

2.15. Physical Alterations

2.15.1. Physical alterations may be performed when it is for the animal's ultimate benefit and shall be administered in a manner that minimizes pain and stress.

2.15.2. The following physical alterations are exempted provided the following restrictions are met:

A. Dehorning, castration, freeze branding, and tail docking of lambs may only be done at a young age;

B. Clipping needle teeth of piglets within 24 hours of birth.

2.15.3. The following physical alterations are prohibited:

A. Beak trimming and toe clipping poultry.

B. Tail cutting/docking, with the exception of lambs.

C. Wing burning.

D. Teeth clipping, with the exception of piglet needle teeth within 24 hours of birth.

2.16. Reproduction

2.16.1. Natural service is preferred. Artificial insemination is permitted.

2.16.2. Embryo transfer and hormonal reproductive treatments are prohibited.

2.16.3. Clones and cloning are prohibited

2.17. Apiculture

Products from an apiculture operation that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be from hives that have been under continuous organic management for no less than 270 days prior to the removal of products from the hive. Hives may not be rotated in and out of organic management.

2.17.1. Sources of bees must be documented. Introduction of replacement bees which are from organic sources or nonorganic sources, provided the replacement bees are managed organically for at least 60 days prior to the removal of organic apiculture products.

- 2.17.2. **Forage Areas.** Bees from which organic honey and other products are harvested shall have access to organic forage. Hives must be located on certified land and not within 2 miles of a sanitary landfill, incinerator, power plant, golf course, town or city, crops sprayed with prohibited substances, genetically modified crops or other sources of contamination. The minimum distance may be increased if deemed necessary.
- 2.17.3. Feeding bee colonies where conditions require reserves to be built up for winter may be undertaken. Feeding must be carried out between the last honey harvest and the period of dormancy of the colony.
- 2.17.3.1 The feeding of non-organic honey or sugar syrup is prohibited.
- 2.17.3.2 Supplemental feed from organic honey or organic sugar syrup are allowed; except, organic sugar syrup must not be provided less than 30 days prior to the harvest of honey.
- 2.17.3.3 Adequate supplies of honey and pollen must be maintained in the hive, including leaving hives with reserves of honey and pollen sufficient for the colony to survive during the dormancy period.
- 2.17.4. Hives must be constructed of natural materials, including wood and metal. Use of treated lumber is prohibited. Outside hive surfaces may be painted with non-lead based paints.
- 2.17.5. The health of bee colonies should be maintained by good apiary practices and preventive health care practices. These include, but are not limited to:
- A. The use of hardy breeds that adapt well to the local conditions;
 - B. Regular renewal of queen bees;
 - C. Regular cleaning and disinfecting of equipment;
 - D. Use of non-contaminated foundation wax;
 - E. Destruction of contaminated equipment and bees;
 - F. Regular renewal of beeswax; and
 - G. Availability of sufficient pollen and honey in the hives.
- 2.17.6. The following are not allowed in managing organic apiaries:
- A. Use of synthetic substances not specifically allowed or nonsynthetic substances prohibited in the GOA Materials List.
 - B. Acknowledging the presence of pests, parasites, or disease without efforts to restore the health of the colony.
 - C. Using antibiotics, sulfa products, or any drug not specifically allowed by these standards.
 - D. Annually destroying bee colonies following honey flows.
 - E. Use of prohibited substances in bee smokers and synthetic bee repellents during honey extraction operations.
 - F. Wing clipping queen bees.
 - G. The cycling of hives between conventional and organic management.
- 2.17.7. Honey Handling - An operation which processes or handles organic honey must be in compliance with all applicable handling requirements of these standards. (See Subpart D)
- 2.17.7.1 Equipment that comes in contact with honey, must be made of stainless steel, glass, or other food grade materials.
- 2.17.8 Audit Trail - In addition to the crop and livestock audit trail requirements, the following documentation must be maintained:
- 2.17.8.1 Site maps must identify the location of the hives, the location of organic and wild land, and the location of nonorganic areas (i.e. sanitary landfills, incinerators, sewage treatment facilities, power plants, golf courses, towns or cities, and other sources of potential contamination in the forage zone).
- 2.17.8.2 Describe the quantity of organic and/or wild forage to be provided per colony, including the type or types of forage and forage density and water sources available in the forage zone.

Subpart D

Organic Handling

Subpart D Organic Handling

- 3.1. Organic Handling Requirements
- 3.1.1 Mechanical and biological handling methods include, but are not limited to cooking, baking, heating, drying, mixing, grinding, churning, separating, distilling, extracting, fermenting, slaughtering, cutting, eviscerating, preserving, dehydrating, chilling, freezing, or otherwise manufacturing, including packaging, canning, jarring, or otherwise enclosing in a container may be used to process organically produced agricultural product for the purpose of retarding spoilage or otherwise preparing the agricultural product for market.
- 3.1.2 Handlers that take legal title to organic products, including livestock feed, who process, package, or store organic products.
- 3.1.3 The activity of individuals or businesses who do not take legal title to organic products but process, package, or store organic agricultural products for a certified farming or handling operation must be inspected and certified.
- 3.1.4 Retail operations that process organic foods, label organic products under their own name (i.e. private labels), or handle certified organic goods that are not in a consumer ready package, must be certified. Retailers who do not process, transform, re-pack, or label are exempt from certification.
- 3.1.5 Organic handlers and processors must be in compliance with Federal and State regulations applicable to their operation.
- 3.2. Split Handling Operations
- 3.2.1. Processing and handling organic products must be done separately from the processing and handling of nonorganic products by space or time or both space and time.
- 3.2.2 A management plan describing the practices and physical barriers in place to prevent the commingling of organic and nonorganic products, ingredients, and processing aids and to protect the organic products, ingredients, and processing aids from contact with prohibited substances.
- 3.2.2. Operations handling organic and non-organic products must comply with additional audit trail requirements documenting the separation of organic and non-organic products, ingredients, and processing aids and the prevention of contamination of organic products, ingredients, and processing aids by prohibited materials.
- 3.2.3. Seed treatments and equipment. The storage, use, or application of prohibited seed treatment substances, seed treating equipment, or the storage and/or handling of any seed treated with such substances must be segregated in a manner which prevents the contamination of organic product during production, storage, and transportation.
- 3.3. Product Composition
- 3.3.1 A processed product sold, labeled, or represented as "100% organic" must contain 100% organically produced and handled ingredients (excluding water and salt). Processing aids shall be from an organic source.
- 3.3.2. A processed product sold, labeled, or represented as "organic" must contain a minimum of 95% organically produced and handled ingredients (excluding water and salt). The remaining 5% of the ingredients must be organically produced or must be nonagricultural substances or nonorganically produced agricultural products listed in the GOA Materials List.
- 3.3.2.1 An agricultural substance that is not organically produced may be used in a processed product sold, labeled, or represented as "organic", provided:
- A. The nonorganic ingredient is specifically listed in the GOA Materials List; and
 - B. Documented not to contain any prohibited substances or derived from prohibited practices identified in 3.3.6. **Prohibited ingredients/substances are not allowed within the five percent (5%).**

- 3.3.3. Multiingredient products sold, labeled, or represented as "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))" must contain at least 70% organically produced and handled ingredients (excluding water and salt). The non-organic ingredients may not be produced or handled using excluded methods, sewage sludge, or ionizing radiation.
- 3.3.4. The organic products containing less than 70% organically produced and handled ingredients (excluding water and salt) may represent the organic nature of the product only. The nonorganic ingredients may be produced and handled without regard to the requirements of these standards.
- 3.3.5. A raw or processed livestock feed product sold, labeled, or represented as "100 percent organic" must contain (excluding water and salt) not less than 100% organically produced raw or processed agricultural product. A raw or processed livestock feed product sold, labeled, or represented as "organic" must be produced in compliance with the livestock feed requirements in these standards.
- 3.3.6. Products labeled "organic" and ingredients identified as "organic" in the ingredient statement of a product must not:
 - A. Contain nonagricultural or nonorganically produced ingredients, additives, or processing aids that are not explicitly allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List.
 - B. Contain sulfites, nitrates, or nitrites added during the production or handling process, except, that wine containing added sulfites may be labeled "made with organic grapes".
 - C. Be processed using processing aids not approved in the GOA Materials List, except, processed products labeled as "100 percent organic" must be processed using organically produced processing aids.
 - D. Include organic and nonorganic forms of the same ingredient.
 - E. Ingredients extracted with petroleum distillates.
 - F. Ingredients produced using synthetic volatile solvents or propylene glycol.
 - G. Ingredients produced using sewage sludge.
 - H. Ionizing radiation, including ingredients which have been subjected to ionizing radiation
 - I. Genetically engineered organisms and their derivatives and products.
- 3.3.7. An agricultural product organically produced or handled by an operation exempt or excluded from organic certification by the National Organic Program may not be used as an organic ingredient or be identified or represented as "organic".
- 3.3.8. Salt and water are not certifiable ingredients and shall not be included in calculating ingredient percentages. Salt may not contain prohibited substances. Water must meet the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- 3.3.9. Nutrient vitamins and minerals are allowed when used in compliance with 21 CFR 104.20, Nutritional Quality Guidelines For Foods.

3.4. Sanitation

- 3.4.1. Written sanitation procedures must be submitted for each facility. The procedures must identify the materials in use, the location and how the materials are used.
- 3.4.2. The treatment of food contact surfaces, including utensils and food contact surfaces of equipment, with cleaning compounds, sanitizers, and disinfectants must be done in such a way as to prevent the loss of organic integrity.
 - A. Extra rinses, flushes, purges, and/or analyses may be required prior to the processing/handling of organic products to ensure no residues come into contact with organic product.
 - B. Records shall be maintained to verify protection of organic integrity
 - C. Food contact surfaces must be food grade, non reactive, cleanable, and of structural integrity (e.g. no chipping paint or rust) so as to not contaminate the organic product.
- 3.4.3. Water used for sanitation purposes must meet the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- 3.5. Extraction Methods
 - 3.5.1. Extraction with water, ethanol, plant and animal oils, vinegar, carbon dioxide, and nitrogen of food grade quality is permitted. Extraction with petroleum distillates is prohibited.
- 3.6. Boiler Water Additives
 - 3.6.1. Boiler water additives must be specifically permitted in the GOA Materials List.
 - 3.6.2. Residues of boiler water additives must be prevented from contacting organically produced food by the use of steam without entrained water, steam filtering, or other means.
 - 3.6.3. When boiler water additives are used for culinary steam which directly contacts organic food, condensate traps shall be used for monitoring the level of boiler water additives in the steam.
 - 3.6.4. Tests of finished products may be required to verify the absence of boiler water additives.
- 3.7. Waste Management
 - 3.7.1. Waste shall be managed to prevent environmental degradation, including contamination of ground and surface water. Wastes shall be contained so as not to attract pests or a threat of potential contamination to organic products.
 - 3.7.2. Waste products that are sold, labeled, or represented as "organic" are subject to all applicable requirements of these standards and must be certified.
- 3.8. Pest Management
 - 3.8.1. Organic handling operations must implement structural pest management programs which emphasize exclusion, sanitation, removal of pest habitat, monitoring, use of least toxic pest control substances and maintenance of application records.
 - A. A pest management plan and maps providing the locations of pest control devices specific to each facility requested for certification shall be submitted. A program of regular preventive practices and monitoring must be part of this plan. Pest control treatments shall be noted in the plan and the pest control log, along with the justification for use.
 - 3.8.2. Pest prevention and management in a certified organic handling facility shall be prevented and controlled by methods including but not limited to:
 - A. Removal of pest habitat, food sources and breeding areas;
 - B. Denying access to handling facilities by pest organisms;
 - C. Inspection of incoming products/ingredients;
 - D. Management of environmental factors, such as temperature, light, humidity, atmosphere, and air circulation to prevent pest infiltration and reproduction;
 - E. Mechanical or physical controls including, but not limited to traps, adhesives, light or sound controlled atmosphere; and
 - F. Non-toxic, non-synthetic controls such as mineral products, lures, and repellents.
 - 3.8.3. When pest prevention practices and methods listed in 3.8.2 are not effective, a nonsynthetic or synthetic substance consistent with the GOA Materials List may be applied.
 - 3.8.4. When pest prevention practices and methods in 3.8.2 and 3.8.3 are ineffective to prevent or control pests, a synthetic substance not in the GOA Materials List may be applied, provided the operator and GOA agree upon the substance, method of application and measures taken to prevent contact of the organic products or ingredients with the substance used. A management plan must be developed to reduce/eliminate the use of restricted or prohibited materials.
 - 3.8.5. The pest control substance must be labeled for its intended use by the appropriate regulatory authority and used in accordance with the labeling directions.

- 3.8.6. Pest control substances shall not be used during the processing, packing, or holding of organically produced food, feed, or fiber.
- 3.8.7. When the use of a prohibited pest control substance is required to control an infestation:
- A. Organic food, feed, fiber and related packaging materials must be removed from the treated area before and during application of the prohibited pest control substance; and
 - B. Organic products and packaging may be brought back into the facility when there is no danger of contamination of the organic products and packaging with the prohibited pest control substance. The removal and reintroduction of organic products and packaging must be documented.
 - C. Pesticides applied by fogging or fumigation, the re-introduction of organic ingredients, products or packaging to the treated area must not occur until after 3 times the re-entry period for the pesticide or 72 hours, whichever is longer. The removal and reintroduction of organic products and packaging must be documented.
- 3.8.8. All food contact surfaces exposed to prohibited pesticides must be cleaned and rinsed before organic handling resumes.

3.9. Prohibited Practices

- 3.9.1. Synthetic substances that are not allowed or restricted in the GOA Materials List for **washing, peeling, or floating** shall not be used to prepare organically produced raw agricultural products or organic food.
- 3.9.2. **Water** that contacts conventionally produced raw agricultural products during handling operations such as washing, floating, rinsing, or cooling must not come in contact with organically produced raw or finished agricultural products.
- 3.9.3. **Ionizing radiation** for the purpose of killing insects or microorganisms in the food or preserving food shall not be used for handling organic food or pest control. Use of X-rays for inspection of organic food is allowed, as in metal detectors.
- 3.9.4. **Genetic engineering** and organisms that are created through the use of genetic engineering technology, or products of such organisms shall not be used as ingredients or processing aids in the handling of organic products.

3.10. Prevention of Commingling and Contact with Prohibited Substances

- 3.10.1. Organic handling operations shall implement measures to prevent the commingling of organic and nonorganic products and protect organic products from contact with prohibited substances.

3.11. Packaging Materials

- 3.11.1. Packaging materials, and storage containers, or bins that contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative, or fumigant are prohibited.
- 3.11.2. The use or reuse of any bag or container that has been in contact with any substance in such a manner as to compromise the organic integrity of any organically produced product or ingredient placed in the bags or containers is prohibited, unless such a reusable bag or container has been thoroughly cleaned and poses no risk of contact of the organically produced product or ingredient with the substance used.

Subpart E Handling, Storage and Transportation

Subpart E Handling, Storage and Transportation

- 4.1. Handling, Storage, and Transportation
- 4.1.1 All handling and storage facilities must be inspected and certified to maintain the organic status of the product. Organic product handled by a nonorganic facility may not be sold, labeled, or represented as organic.
- 4.1.2 Organic products must be handled, stored and transported in a manner to prevent contamination by a prohibited substance and to ensure the organic integrity of the product. (i.e. watertight, rodent proof, etc.)
- 4.1.3 Organic products may not be stored or transported with non-certified products unless packaged, labeled, or separated in a manner that will protect the organic product from commingling with nonorganic product.
- 4.1.4 Handling, storage, and transport equipment used for organic and nonorganic production must be thoroughly cleaned prior to handling, loading, or transporting organic product. Cleanings must be documented.
- 4.1.5 Permitted handling and storage methods:
- A. Aeration and drying grains by natural or mechanical means;
 - B. Ambient temperatures;
 - C. Controlled atmosphere storage (airtight silos, carbon dioxide, nitrogen, or ozone);
 - D. Chilling perishable crops (water must be meet the EPA Current Drinking Water Standards);
 - E. Refrigeration and freezing;
 - F. Humidity controlled
 - G. Hot water drips/vapor heat
- 4.1.6 Irradiation is prohibited.
- 4.1.7 Structural pest management must be in compliance with Subpart D of these Standards.
- 4.1.8 The following are prohibited in the handling, storage, or transport of organically produced agricultural products or ingredients:
- A. Packaging materials, and storage containers, or bins that contain a synthetic fungicide, preservative, or fumigant;
 - B. The use or reuse of any bag or container that has been in contact with any substance in such a manner as to compromise the organic integrity of any organically produced product or ingredient placed in the bag or container, unless such a reusable bag or container has been thoroughly cleaned and poses no risk of contact of the organically produced product or ingredient with the substance used.
- 4.1.9 Water used in post-harvest handling
- Water used to wash organic agricultural products must meet drinking water standards as established by the EPA Current Drinking Water Standards. Chlorine materials may be used as a disinfectant and sanitizer, provided the residual chlorine levels in the water shall not exceed the maximum residual disinfectant limit (4 mg/L MRDL) under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- 4.1.9.1 Water that contacts conventionally produced raw agricultural products during handling operations such as washing, floating, rinsing, or cooling must not come in contact with raw or finished organic agricultural products.

4.2. Livestock Transportation and Holding

- 4.2.1. Animal stress, injury, and accidental mortality must be minimized during loading, unloading, holding, and slaughter.
- 4.2.2. A responsible person known to or appointed by the certified producer will accompany the animal(s) to the place of slaughter to assure the safety of the animal and integrity of the audit trail.
- 4.2.3. Animals/flocks must be clearly identified and segregated (when applicable) during transport and holding to prevent commingling with nonorganic animals.
- 4.2.4. Synthetic tranquilizers or stimulants shall not be administered prior to or during transport.

Subpart F

Record Keeping (Audit Trail)

Subpart F Record Keeping (Audit Trail)

5.1. Record Keeping Requirements – General

Operators shall maintain records concerning the production, harvesting, storage, handling, and sales of organic crops and products.

- 5.1.1 Audit trail documentation must be adapted to the operation and sufficient to demonstrate compliance with these Standards.
- 5.1.2 Fully disclose all activities and transactions of the operation in sufficient detail that is readily understood and audited. Meticulous records for the organic, transitional, and non-organic production and/or handling operations under the management of the applicant or certified operation must be maintained. The operation must provide authorized representatives of GOA access to all records related to organic production activities. If the operation also handles non-organic products, access to non-organic production records may be required, as deemed necessary to determine compliance.
- 5.1.3 Operators shall retain copies of all applicable records for five (5) years from the date the record was generated and allow authorized representatives of GOA access to such records during normal business hours for review and copying to determine compliance with GOA Standards, Policies, and Procedures.
- 5.1.4 Operators shall maintain a complaint register detailing all complaints received, action taken to investigate and remedy the complaint, and the response given to the complainant regarding the operation, organic product, and/or failure to comply with the applicable organic program standard, policies, and/or procedures.
- 5.1.5 Documentation must be maintained for inputs/materials listed with restrictions in the GOA Materials List that describe the use and measures taken to comply with the restriction.
- 5.1.6 Additional records as required by GOA

5.2 Crop Production Record Keeping, including pasture and outdoor access areas

- 5.2.1 Field/pasture/outdoor access histories for the previous three years plus the current year plantings or projected planting, providing the last application date of a prohibited material, including treated seed, and the date and rate of input applications.
- 5.2.2 Field/pasture/outdoor access maps providing the field id, production status, acreage, field boundaries, buffer areas, and adjoining land use.
- 5.2.3 Individual field/pasture/outdoor access activity records documenting tillage, planting dates, input applications (including manure/compost), harvest dates, and storage location(s).
- 5.2.4 Seeds: Tags/labels and invoices for purchased seed, which includes and not limited to seed for cover crops, bulbs, and tubers, annual seedlings and planting stock. Attempts to source organic seed must be documented (a minimum of 3 sources) and non-GMO verification from the seed supplier is required when non-organic, untreated seed or planting stock is purchased. Verification of organic certification must be obtained for organic seed, seedling and rootstock purchases.
- 5.2.5 Harvest, storage, and sales records: amount harvested per field or production unit and storage location, storage/running bin inventory records, sales invoices identifying the crop, lot number, and quantity sold, buyer name, and gross organic sales for the certified operation. Wholesale sales must have invoices with lot numbers keyed to field and/or bin numbers, or another audit trail system approved by GOA.
- 5.2.6 Buffer records: description of buffer management including, but not limited to their location, crop grown in the buffer area, buffer crop harvest and storage location, and non-organic sale/disposition. Description of physical barriers and actions taken to prevent commingling non-certified buffer crops with organic crops.

- 5.2.6.1 Crops harvested from areas affected by drift, runoff, or application of a prohibited material must be documented being sold as non-organic. This documentation shall include, but is not limited to, the following: clean equipment, harvest and storage records, and sales receipts.
- 5.2.7 Documentation or evidence that packaging material, storage containers, and transport vehicles used for organic crops are suitable for organic packaging and/or organic product transport.
- 5.2.8 Transportation records must be maintained to identify the product shipped, lot number and the products organic status, amount shipped, seller/buyer of product, and clean truck documentation.

5.3. Livestock Production Record Keeping Requirements

In addition to the applicable documentation above, organic livestock operations must be able to trace livestock from birth to slaughter, including but not limited to progeny/birth/purchase records, sources and amounts of all feed/forages and supplements, herd health records, transportation, slaughter and sale. Documentation for edible livestock products must be able to track the edible product back to the animal/herd/flock that produced the product.

- 5.3.1 Breeding and birth records must be maintained for on-farm organic livestock. The following documentation must be maintained for purchased livestock:
 - 5.3.1.1 Organic livestock/poultry - Verification of organic certification and receipts providing the purchase date, species of animal, and number of animals/birds purchased must be maintained.
 - 5.3.1.2 Day old chicks - Receipts must be maintained providing the purchase date, age, and number of chicks purchased.
 - 5.3.1.3 Non-organic breeding stock – Receipts providing the species of the animal, purchase date, number of animals purchased, and in the case of female breeding stock whether the animal is bred or open. When bred breeding stock is purchased birth records must be maintained to verify the breeding stock was under organic management and 100% organic feed prior to the last third of gestation.
- 5.3.3 Feed/forage: Feed receipts and verification of organic certification must be maintained for feed and forage suppliers, organic agricultural ingredients in complete feed rations, feed supplements, and feed additives and when applicable for feed mills and feed handlers.
- 5.3.4 Livestock health records must show all medical interventions, including physical alterations and vaccinations, the identification of the animal/flock treated, treatment date, reason for treatment, and the method and material used for treatment must be maintained and available for inspector review. Animals receiving medical treatments must be identified in a manner that will correspond to a record of the material used and date of treatment.
 - 5.3.4.1 Allowed, restricted, and prohibited medical interventions and inputs must be documented. When a prohibited input is used to treat an organic animal or flock, records must be maintained verifying the animal or flock was segregated and sold as non-organic.
- 5.3.5 All large animals including pigs, goats cattle, sheep, etc must be individually identified with a tag or tattoo. Paints and crayons used to mark livestock must not contain prohibited materials and must be used in a manner that does not contaminate the livestock or livestock products.
- 5.3.6 Poultry, rabbits, bees, and other small animals that are not individually identified are to be tracked by flocks/lots or other applicable units, wherein all animals have received the same inputs and treatment.
- 5.3.7 Transportation records must be maintained to identify the animal/product shipped, lot number and the animal/products organic status, amount/number shipped, seller/buyer of product, and clean truck documentation.
- 5.3.8 Handling/production records must be maintained for edible and non-edible products from organic livestock. (i.e. meat, eggs, etc.) Refer to the Handling Record Keeping Requirements in 5.4.
- 5.3.9 Records must be maintained for the sale of livestock and edible livestock products providing the identity of the product sold, lot number, date, and amount sold.

5.4 Handling Record Keeping Requirements

- 5.4.1 Audit trail and inventory control procedures must be adequate to trace all ingredients and products from the supplier(s) through the entire production system, including packaging and storage, transportation, and on through distribution/sales using lot numbers, date codes or a similar product tracking system.
- 5.4.2 Organic handlers must retain verification of current certification for all organic ingredients, products, and processing aids and contracted organic services.
- 5.4.3 Handlers must provide GOA with detailed written information on all ingredients, additives, and processing aids used in the production of products intended to be sold or labeled as organic or made with organic ingredients.
- 5.4.4 Production/batch records must be maintained providing the identity of the date, product, incoming lot number of the ingredients, amounts of raw ingredients used, waste amounts, amount of finished product with lot number, storage location, and running inventories of amounts in and out of storage.
- 5.4.5 Transportation records must be maintained to identify the product shipped, lot number and the products organic status, amount shipped, seller/buyer of product, and clean truck documentation.
- 5.4.6 Records must be maintained to verify that organic products do not come into contact with non-organic ingredients and/or prohibited substances, including, but not limited to, boiler water additives, detergents, sanitizers and pesticides.
- 5.4.7 Pest control activities and treatments must be documented. Records must provide dates and times, specific locations, material used, method and rate of material application, targeted pest(s), applicator/responsible individual, removal and reintroduction of organic product and packaging materials when applicable, and cleaning food contact surfaces.

Subpart G

Testing and Exclusion

Subpart G Testing and Exclusion

6.1. Inspection and Testing of Agricultural Products to be Sold or Labeled Organic

- 6.1.1 All agricultural products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))" must be made accessible by certified organic production or handling operations for examination by GOA.
- 6.1.2 GOA may require pre-harvest or post-harvest testing of any agricultural input used or agricultural product to be sold, labeled, or represented as "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))", when there is reason to believe that the agricultural input or product has come into contact with a prohibited substance or has been produced using excluded methods. Such tests must be conducted by GOA at the expense of GOA.
- 6.1.3 The pre-harvest or post-harvest tissue test sample collection pursuant to 6.1.2 of this section must be performed by an inspector representing GOA. Sample integrity must be maintained throughout the chain of custody, and residue testing must be performed in a laboratory subcontracted by GOA. Chemical analysis must be made in accordance with the methods described in the most current edition of the Official Methods of Analysis of the AOAC International or other current applicable validated methodology determining the presence of contaminants in agricultural products.
- 6.1.4 Results of all analyses and tests performed under this section: (A) Must be promptly provided to the Administrator; except, where State organic program exists, all test results and analyses shall be provided to the State organic program's governing State official by GOA and (B) Will be available for public access, unless the testing is part of an ongoing compliance investigation.
- 6.1.5 If test results indicate a specific agricultural product contains pesticide residues or environmental contaminants that exceed the Food and Drug Administration's or the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory tolerances, GOA must promptly report such data to the Federal health agency whose regulatory tolerance or action level has been exceeded.

6.2 Exclusion From Organic Sale

When residue testing detects prohibited substances at levels that are greater than 5 percent of the Environmental Protection Agency's tolerance for the specific residue detected or unavoidable residual environmental contamination, the agricultural product must not be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced. GOA may conduct an investigation of the certified operation to determine the cause of the prohibited substance.

6.3 Emergency Pest or Disease Treatment

- 6.3.1 When prohibited substance is applied to a certified operation due to a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program and the certified operation otherwise meets the GOA requirements, the certification status of the operation shall not be affected as a result of the application of the prohibited substance: provided,
 - A. Any harvested crop or plant part to be harvested that has contact with a prohibited substance applied as the result of a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program cannot be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced; and
 - B. Any livestock that are treated with a prohibited substance applied as the result of a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program cannot be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced: except, that

1. Milk or milk products may be sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced beginning 12 months following the last date that the dairy animal was treated with the prohibited substance; and
2. The offspring or gestating mammalian breeder stock treated with a prohibited substance may be considered organic; provided, the breeder stock was not in the last third of gestation on the date that the breeder stock was treated with the prohibited substance.

Subpart

H

Labels, Labeling, and Marketing

Subpart H Labels, Labeling, and Marketing

- 7.1. Use of the Term "Organic"
- 7.1.1 The term "organic" may only be used on labels and in labeling of raw or processed agricultural products, including ingredients that have been produced and handled in accordance with these standards. The term, "organic", may not be used in a product name to modify a nonorganic ingredient in the product.
- 7.2. Percentage Calculation – Raw or Processed Agricultural Products
- 7.2.1 The percentage of all organically produced ingredients in an agricultural product sold, labeled, or represented as "100 percent organically", "organic", or "made with organic ingredients", or that include organic ingredients must be calculated by:
- A. Dividing the total net weight (excluding water and salt) of combined organic ingredients at formulation by the total weight (excluding water and salt) of the finished product.
 - B. Dividing the fluid volume of all organic ingredients (excluding water and salt) by the fluid volume of the finished product (excluding water and salt) if the product and ingredients are liquid. If the liquid product is identified on the principal display panel or information panel as being reconstituted from concentrates, the calculation should be made based on single-strength concentrations of the ingredients and finished product.
 - C. For products containing organically produced ingredients in both solid and liquid form, dividing the combined weight of the solid ingredients and the weight of the liquid ingredients (excluding water and salt) by the total weight (excluding water and salt) of the finished product.
- 7.2.2 The percentage of all organically produced ingredients in an agricultural product must be rounded down to the nearest whole number.
- 7.2.3 The percentage must be determined by the processor/handler that affixes the label on the consumer package and verified by GOA.
- 7.3. Labeling Livestock Feed
- 7.3.1 A livestock feed product may display on any package panel the following:
- A. The statement, "100 percent organic" or "organic" as applicable to modify the name of the feed product.
 - B. The USDA seal.
 - C. The GOA logo, provided, the GOA logo is not displayed more prominently than the USDA seal.
 - D. The word "organic", an asterisk, or other reference mark which is defined on the package to identify the ingredients that are organic. Water and salt included as ingredients cannot be identified as organic.
- 7.3.2 Livestock feed products must:
- A. Display on the information panel below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the product and preceded by the statement, "Certified organic by Global Organic Alliance (or GOA)" or similar phrase. The business address, Internet address, or telephone number may be included.
 - B. Comply with other Federal agency or State feed labeling requirements as applicable.

7.4. Nonretail Containers Used Only For Shipping or Storage

7.4.1. Nonretail containers used only to ship or store raw or processed agricultural product labeled as containing organic ingredients may display the following terms or marks:

- A. The name and contact information of GOA.
- B. Identification of the product as organic.
- C. Special handling instructions needed to maintain the integrity of the product.
- D. The USDA seal.
- E. The GOA seal

7.4.2. Nonretail containers used to ship or store raw or processed agricultural product labeled as containing organic ingredients must display the production lot number of the product.

7.4.3. Shipping containers of domestically produced product labeled as organic intended for export to international markets may be labeled in accordance with any shipping container labeling requirements of the foreign country of destination or the container labeling specifications of a foreign contract buyer, provided, the shipping containers and shipping documents accompanying such organic products are clearly marked "For Export Only" and, provided, further, proof of such container marking and export must be maintained by the handler in accordance with recordkeeping requirements.

7.5. "100 percent Organic" and "Organic" Label

7.5.1. Organic agricultural products labeled "100 percent organic" or "organic" may display on the principal display panel, information panel, and any other panel of the package and on any labeling or market information concerning the product, the following:

- A. The term "100 percent organic" or "organic" as applicable, to modify the name of the product.
- B. For products labeled "organic", the percentage of organic ingredients in the product; (The size of the percentage statement must not exceed one-half the size of the largest type size on the panel which the statement is displayed and must appear in its entirety in the same type size, style, and color without highlighting.)
- C. The term "organic" to identify the organic ingredients in multi-ingredient products labeled "100 percent organic".
- D. The USDA seal.
- E. The GOA seal and any other certifying agent's seal which certified production or handling operations producing raw organic product or organic ingredients used in the finished product, provided, the handler producing the finished product maintain records verifying organic certification of the operations producing such ingredients, and, provided further, that such seals are not individually displayed more prominently than the USDA seal.

7.5.2. Organic products labeled "100 percent organic" or "organic" must:

- A. For products labeled "organic" identify each organic ingredient in the ingredient statement with the word "organic" or asterisk or other reference mark which is defined below the ingredient statement to indicate the ingredient is organically produced. Water or salt included as ingredients cannot be identified as organic.
- B. On the information panel, below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the produced and preceded by the statement, "Certified organic by Global Organic Alliance (or GOA)" or similar phrase and may display the business address, Internet address, or telephone number in such label.

7.6. "Made with Organic Ingredients/Food Groups" (at least 70% organic ingredients)

7.6.1. Organic agricultural products labeled "made with organic" may display on the principal display panel, information panel, and any other panel of the package and on any labeling or market information concerning the product, the following:

- A. The statement:
 - 1. "Made with organic (specified ingredients)", provided, the statement does not list more than three organically produced ingredients; or
 - 2. "Made with organic (specified food groups)", provided the statement does not list more than three of the following food groups: beans, fish, fruits, herbs, meats, nuts, oils, poultry, seeds, spices, sweeteners, and vegetables or

processed milk products: and, provided further, all ingredients of each listed food group in the product must be organically produced.

3. Which appears in letters that do not exceed one-half the size of the largest type size on the pane and which appears in its entirety in the same type size, style, and color without highlighting.

B. The percentage of organic ingredients in the product. The size of the percentage statement must not exceed one-half the size of the largest type size on the pane and which appears in its entirety in the same type size, style, and color without highlighting.

C. The GOA seal.

7.6.2 Organic products labeled "Made with organic" must:

A. In the ingredient statement, identify each organic ingredient with the word "organic" or asterisk or other reference mark which is defined below the ingredient statement to indicate the ingredient is organically produced. Water or salt included as ingredients cannot be identified as organic.

B. On the information panel, below the information identifying the handler or distributor of the produced and preceded by the statement, "Certified organic by Global Organic Alliance (or GOA)" or similar phrase and may display the business address, Internet address, or telephone number in such label.

C. Agricultural products labeled "Made with organic" must not display the USDA seal.

7.7. Less than 70% Organically Produced Ingredients

7.7.1 Products with less than 70 percent organic ingredients may only identify the organic content of the product by:

A. Identifying each organically produced ingredient in the ingredient statement with the word "organic" or with an asterisk or other reference mark which is defined below the ingredient statement to indicate the ingredient is organically produced, and

B. If the organically produced ingredients are identified in the ingredient statement, displaying the product's percentage of organic contents on the information panel.

7.7.2 Agricultural products with less than 70 percent organically produced ingredients must not display:

A. The USDA seal,

B. The GOA seal.

7.8. Retail Sale— "100% Organic" or "Organic" Other Than Packaged Form At Point of Retail Sale

7.8.1. Agricultural products in other than packaged form may use the term "100 percent organic" or "organic", as applicable, to modify the name of the product in retail display, labeling, and display containers: provided, the term "organic" is used to identify the organic ingredients listed in the ingredient statement.

7.8.2 If the product is prepared in a certified facility, the retail display, labeling, and display containers may use:

A. The USDA seal.

B. The GOA seal and any other certifying agent's seal which certified production or handling operations producing raw organic product or organic ingredients used in the finished product, provided, that such seals are not individually displayed more prominently than the USDA seal.

7.9. Retail Sale— "Made with organic" Other Than Packaged Form At Point of Retail Sale

7.9.1 Agricultural products in other than packaged form containing between 70 and 95 percent organically produced ingredients may use the phrase "Made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))", to modify the name of the product in retail display, labeling, and display containers.

7.9.2 Such statement must not list more than three organic ingredients or food groups.

- 7.9.3 Any such display of the product's ingredient statement, the organic ingredients are identified as "organic".
- 7.9.4 If prepared in a certified facility, such agricultural products labeled as "Made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))" in retail displays, display containers, and market information may display the GOA seal.

7.10. Products From Exempt or Excluded Operations

- 7.10.1 An agricultural product organically produced or handled on an exempt or excluded operation must not:
 - A. Display the USDA seal or GOA seal or other identifying mark that represents the exempt or excluded operation as a certified organic operation.
 - B. Be represented as a certified organic product or certified organic ingredient to any buyer.
 - C. An agricultural product organically produced or handled on an exempt or excluded operation may be identified as an organic product or organic ingredient in a multi-ingredient product produced or handled by the exempt or excluded operation. Such product or ingredient must not be identified or represented as "organic" in a product processed by others.

Subpart I

Certification

Subpart I Certification

8.1 General Requirements for Certification

- 8.1.1 Each production or handling operation or specified portion of a production or handling operation that produces or handles crops, livestock, livestock products, or other agricultural products that are intended to be sold, labeled, or represented as "100 percent organic", "organic", or "Made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))" must be certified according to the provisions of these Standards and must meet all applicable requirements.
- 8.1.2 A person or operation seeking to receive or maintain organic certification must:
- A. Comply with the GOA Polices, Procedures and production and handling standards;
 - B. Establish, implement, and update annually an organic production or handling plan;
 - C. Permit on-site inspections with complete access to the production or handling operation, including nonorganic production and handling areas, structures, and offices;
 - D. Maintain all records applicable to the organic operation for not less than five (5) years beyond their creation and allow authorized representatives of GOA access to such records during the normal business hours for review and copying to determine compliance with the GOA certification program;
 - E. Submit all applicable fees;
 - F. Immediately notify GOA concerning any:
 - 1. Application, including drift, of a prohibited substance to any field, production unit, site, facility, livestock, or product that is part of an operation; and
 - 2. Change in a certified operation or any portion of a certified operation that may affect its compliance with GOA Standards.
 - G. The organic certification of a production and handling operation continues in effect until surrendered by the certified operation or certification is suspended or revoked by GOA.

8.2 Application for Certification

- 8.2.1 A person or operation seeking certification of a production or handling operation must submit an application for certification. The application must include the following:
- A. An organic production or handling system plan providing:
 - 1. A description of practices and procedures to be performed and maintained, including the frequency with which they will be performed;
 - 2. A list of each substance to be used as a production or handling input, indicating its composition, source location(s), where it will be used, and documentation of commercial availability, as applicable;
 - 3. A description of the monitoring practices and procedures to be performed and maintained, including the frequency with which they will be performed to verify that the plan is effectively implemented;
 - 4. A description of the recordkeeping system implemented to comply with the requirements established in the GOA production and handling standards;

5. A description of the management practices and physical barriers established to prevent commingling of organic and nonorganic products on a split operation and to prevent contact of organic production and handling operations and products with prohibited substances; and
6. Additional information deemed necessary by GOA to evaluate compliance with the Standards.

8.2.2. Name of the person completing the application, the business name, address, and telephone number; and, when the applicant is a corporation, the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized to act on the corporation's behalf.

8.2.3. The name(s) of any organic certifying agent(s) to which application has previously been made; the year(s) of application; the outcome of the application(s) submission, including, when available, a copy of any notification of noncompliance or denial of certification issued; and a description of the actions taken to correct the noncompliances noted in the notification of noncompliance, including supporting documentation; and

8.2.4. Other information necessary to determine compliance with the Standards.

8.3. On-site Inspections

8.3.1. An initial on-site inspection shall be conducted of each production unit, facility, and site that produces or handles organic products and that is included in an operation for which certification is requested.

8.3.1.1. An on-site inspected shall be conducted annually thereafter for each certified operation that produces or handles organic products to determine whether to approve the request for certification or whether the certification of the operation should continue.

8.3.2. GOA may conduct additional on-site inspections of applicants for certification and certified operations to determine compliance with these Standards.

8.3.2.1. Additional inspections may be announced or unannounced at the discretion of GOA or as required by the NOP Administrator.

8.3.3. The initial on-site inspection must be conducted within a reasonable time following determination that the applicant appears to comply or may be able to comply with these Standards, except, the initial inspection may be delayed for up to six (6) months to comply with the requirement that the inspection be conducted when the land, facilities, and activities that demonstrate compliance or capacity to comply can be observed.

8.3.4. Annual on-site inspections for continued certification shall be conducted within a reasonable time following receipt of the information specified in 6.2; except, that when it is impossible to conduct the annual on-site inspection following receipt of the certified operation's annual update information, GOA may allow continuation of certification on the basis of the information submitted and the most recent on-site inspection conducted during the previous twelve (12) months: PROVIDED, the required annual inspection is conducted within the first six (6) months following the scheduled date of the annual update.

8.3.5. All on-site inspections must be conducted when an authorized representative of the operation who is knowledgeable about the operation is present and at a time when land, facilities, and activities that demonstrate the operation's compliance with or capability to comply with the applicable provisions of GOA Standards can be observed, except that this requirement does not apply to unannounced on-site inspections.

8.4. Verification of Information

8.4.1 The on-site inspection must verify:

- A. The operations' compliance or capability to comply with GOA Standards;
- B. The information, including the organic production or handling plan, accurately reflects the practices used or to be used by the applicant for certification or by the certified operation;
- C. That prohibited substances have not been and are not being applied to the operation through means which, at GOA's discretion, may include the collection and testing of soil; water; waste; seeds; plant tissue; and plant, animal, and processed product samples.

- 8.4.2. The inspector must conduct an exit interview with an authorized representative of the operation who is knowledgeable about the inspected operation to confirm accuracy and completeness of inspection observations and information gathered during the on-site inspection. The inspector must also address the need for any additional information as well as any issues of concern.
- 8.4.3 At the time of inspection, the inspector shall provide the operation's authorized representative with a receipt for any samples taken by the inspector. There shall be no charge to the inspector for the samples taken.
 - A. A copy of the onsite inspection report and any test results will be sent to the inspected operation by GOA.

8.5. Continuation of Certification

- 8.5.1. To continue certification a certified operation must annually pay the certification fees and submit the following information:
 - A. An updated organic production or handling system plan which includes:
 - 1. A summary statement, supported by documentation, detailing any deviations from, changes to, modifications to, or other amendments made to the previous year's organic system plan during the previous year;
 - 2. Any additions or deletions to the previous year's organic plan intended to be undertaken in the coming year;
 - B. An update on the correction of minor noncompliances previously identified by GOA as requiring correction for continued certification.
 - C. Other information deemed necessary by GOA to determine compliance with GOA Standards.

Subpart J Definitions

Accreditation. A determination made by the Secretary that authorizes a private, foreign, or State entity to conduct certification activities as a certifying agent under this part.

Act. The Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, as amended (7 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

Action level. The limit at or above which the Food and Drug Administration will take legal action against a product to remove it from the market. Action levels are based on unavailability of the poisonous or deleterious substances and do not represent permissible levels of contamination where it is avoidable.

Administrator. The Administrator for the Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, or the representative to whom authority has been delegated to act in the stead of the Administrator.

Agricultural inputs. All substances or materials used in the production or handling of organic agricultural products.

Agricultural product. Any agricultural commodity or product, whether raw or processed, including any commodity or product derived from livestock, that is marketed in the United States for human or livestock consumption.

Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). The Agricultural Marketing Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Allowed synthetic. A substance that is included on the National List of synthetic substances allowed for use in organic production or handling.

Animal drug. Any drug as defined in section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended (21 U.S.C. 321), that is intended for use in livestock, including any drug intended for use in livestock feed but not including such livestock feed.

Annual seedling. A plant grown from seed that will complete its life cycle or produce a harvestable yield within the same crop year or season in which it was planted.

Area of operation. The types of operations: crops, livestock, wild-crop harvesting or handling, or any combination thereof that a certifying agent may be accredited to certify under this part.

Audit trail. Documentation that is sufficient to determine the source, transfer of ownership, and transportation of any agricultural product labeled as "100 percent organic," the organic ingredients of any agricultural product labeled as "organic" or "made with organic (specified ingredients)" or the organic ingredients of any agricultural product containing less than 70 percent organic ingredients identified as organic in an ingredients statement.

Biodegradable. Subject to biological decomposition into simpler biochemical or chemical components.

Biologics. All viruses, serums, toxins, and analogous products of natural or synthetic origin, such as diagnostics, antitoxins, vaccines, live microorganisms, killed microorganisms, and the antigenic or immunizing components of microorganisms intended for use in the diagnosis, treatment, or prevention of diseases of plants and animals.

Breeder stock. Female livestock whose offspring may be incorporated into an organic operation at the time of their birth.

Buffer zone. An area located between a certified production operation or portion of a production operation and an adjacent land area that is not maintained under organic management. A buffer zone must be sufficient in size or other features (e.g., windbreaks or a diversion ditch) to prevent the possibility of unintended contact by prohibited substances applied to adjacent land areas with an area that is part of a certified operation.

Bulk. The presentation to consumers at retail sale of an agricultural product in unpackaged, loose form, enabling the consumer to determine the individual pieces, amount, or volume of the product purchased.

Certification or certified. A determination made by a certifying agent that a production or handling operation is in compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part, which is documented by a certificate of organic operation.

Certified operation. A crop or livestock production, wild-crop harvesting or handling operation, or portion of such operation that is certified by an accredited certifying agent as utilizing a system of organic production or handling as described by the Act and the regulations in this part.

Certifying agent. Any entity accredited by the Secretary as a certifying agent for the purpose of certifying a production or handling operation as a certified production or handling operation.

Certifying agent's operation. All sites, facilities, personnel, and records used by a certifying agent to conduct certification activities under the Act and the regulations in this part.

Claims. Oral, written, implied, or symbolic representations, statements, or advertising or other forms of communication presented to the public or buyers of agricultural products that relate to the organic certification process or the term, "100 percent organic," "organic," or "made with organic (specified ingredients or food group(s))," or, in the case of agricultural products containing less than 70 percent organic ingredients, the term, "organic," on the ingredients panel.

Commercially available. The ability to obtain a production input in an appropriate form, quality, or quantity to fulfill an essential function in a system of organic production or handling, as determined by the certifying agent in the course of reviewing the organic plan.

Commingling. Physical contact between unpackaged organically produced and nonorganically produced agricultural products during production, processing, transportation, storage or handling, other than during the manufacture of a multiingredient product containing both types of ingredients.

Compost. The product of a managed process through which microorganisms break down plant and animal materials into more available forms suitable for application to the soil. Compost must be produced through a process that combines plant and animal materials with an initial C:N ratio of between 25:1 and 40:1. Producers using an in-vessel or static aerated pile system must maintain the composting materials at a temperature between 131F and 170F for 3 days. Producers using a windrow system must maintain the composting materials at a temperature between 131 F and 170 F for 15 days, during which time the materials must be turned a minimum of five times.

Control. Any method that reduces or limits damage by populations of pests, weeds, or diseases to levels that do not significantly reduce productivity.

Crop. A plant or part of a plant intended to be marketed as an agricultural product or fed to livestock.

Crop residues. The plant parts remaining in a field after the harvest of a crop, which include stalks, stems, leaves, roots, and weeds.

Crop rotation. The practice of alternating the annual crops grown on a specific field in a planned pattern or sequence in successive crop years so that crops of the same species or family are not grown repeatedly without interruption on the same field. Perennial cropping systems employ means such as alley cropping, intercropping, and hedgerows to introduce biological diversity in lieu of crop rotation.

Crop year. That normal growing season for a crop as determined by the Secretary.

Cultivation. Digging up or cutting the soil to prepare a seed bed; control weeds; aerate the soil; or work organic matter, crop residues, or fertilizers into the soil.

Cultural methods. Methods used to enhance crop health and prevent weed, pest, or disease problems without the use of substances; examples include the selection of appropriate varieties and planting sites; proper timing and density of plantings; irrigation; and extending a growing season by manipulating the microclimate with green houses, cold frames, or wind breaks.

Detectable residue. The amount or presence of chemical residue or sample component that can be reliably observed or found in the sample matrix by current approved analytical methodology.

Disease vectors. Plants or animals that harbor or transmit disease organisms or pathogens which may attack crops or livestock.

Drift. The physical movement of prohibited substances from the intended target site onto an organic operation or portion thereof.

Emergency pest or disease treatment program. A mandatory program authorized by a Federal, State, or local agency for the purpose of controlling or eradicating a pest or disease.

Employee. Any person providing paid or volunteer services for a certifying agent.

Excipients. Any ingredients that are intentionally added to livestock medications but do not exert therapeutic or diagnostic effects at the intended dosage, although they may act to improve product delivery (e.g. enhancing absorption or controlling release of the drug substance). Examples of such ingredients, include fillers, extenders, diluents, wetting agents, solvents, emulsifiers, preservatives, flavors, absorption enhancers, sustained-release matrices, and coloring agents.

Feed. Edible materials which are consumed by livestock for their nutritional value. Feed may be concentrates (grains) or roughages (hay, silage, fodder). The term, "feed" encompasses all agricultural commodities, including pasture ingested by livestock for nutritional purposes.

Feed additive. A substance added to feed in micro quantities to fulfill a specific nutritional need; i.e., essential nutrients in the form of amino acids, vitamins, and minerals.

Feed Emergency. A temporary unplanned shortage of certified organic feed due to conditions that are entirely beyond a grower's control.

Feed Supplement. A combination of feed nutrients added to livestock feed to improve the nutrient balance or performance of the total ration and intended to be:

- (1) Diluted with other feeds when fed to livestock;
- (2) Offered free choice with other parts of the ration if separately available; or
- (3) Further diluted and mixed to produce a complete feed.

Fertilizer. A single or blended substance containing one or more recognized plant nutrient(s) which is used primarily for its plant nutrient content and which is designed for use or claimed to have value in promoting plant growth.

Field. An area of land identified as a discrete unit within a production operation.

Forage. Vegetative material in a fresh, dried, or ensiled state (pasture, hay, or silage), which is fed to livestock.

Genetically Modified Organism (GMO)/Genetically Engineered Organism (GE). A variety of methods used to genetically modify organisms or influence their growth and development by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes and are not considered compatible with organic production. Such methods include cell fusion, microencapsulation and macroencapsulation, and recombinant DNA technology (including gene deletion, gene doubling, introducing a foreign gene, and changing the positions of genes when achieved by recombinant DNA technology). Such methods do not include the use of traditional breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, or tissue culture.

Governmental entity. Any domestic government, tribal government, or foreign government subdivision providing certification services.

Handle. To sell, process, or package agricultural products, except such term shall not include the sale, transportation, or delivery of crops or livestock by the producer thereof to a handler.

Handler. Any person engaged in the business of handling agricultural products, including producers who handle crops or livestock of their own production, except such term shall not include final retailers of agricultural products who do not process agricultural products.

Handling operation. Any operation or portion of an operation (except final retailers of agricultural products who do not process agricultural products) that receives or otherwise acquires agricultural products and processes, packages, or stores such products.

Immediate family. The spouse, minor children, or blood relatives who reside in the immediate household of a certifying agent or an employee, inspector, contractor, or other personnel of the certifying agent. For the purpose of this part, the interest of a spouse, minor child, or blood relative who is a resident of the immediate household of a certifying agent or an employee, inspector, contractor, or other personnel of the certifying agent shall be considered to be an interest of the certifying agent or an employee, inspector, contractor, or other personnel of the certifying agent.

Inert ingredient. Any substance (or group of substances with similar chemical structures if designated by the Environmental Protection Agency) other than an active ingredient which is intentionally included in any pesticide product (40 CFR 152.3(m)).

Information panel. That part of the label of a packaged product that is immediately contiguous to and to the right of the principal display panel as observed by an individual facing the principal display panel, unless another section of the label is designated as the information panel because of package size or other package attributes (e.g., irregular shape with one usable surface).

Ingredient. Any substance used in the preparation of an agricultural product that is still present in the final commercial product as consumed.

Ingredients statement. The list of ingredients contained in a product shown in their common and usual names in the descending order of predominance.

Inspector. Any person retained or used by a certifying agent to conduct inspections of certification applicants or certified production or handling operations.

Inspection. The act of examining and evaluating the production or handling operation of an applicant for certification or certified operation to determine compliance with the Act and the regulations in this part.

Label. A display of written, printed, or graphic material on the immediate container of an agricultural product or any such material affixed to any agricultural product or affixed to a bulk container containing an agricultural product, except for package liners or a display of written, printed, or graphic material which contains only information about the weight of the product.

Labeling. All written, printed, or graphic material accompanying an agricultural product at any time or written, printed, or graphic material about the agricultural product displayed at retail stores about the product.

Livestock. Any cattle, sheep, goat, swine, poultry, rabbit, waterfowl, or equine animals used for food or in the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer products; wild or domesticated game; or other nonplant life, except such term shall not include aquatic animals or bees for the production of food, fiber, feed, or other agricultural-based consumer products.

Lot. Any number of containers which contain an agricultural product of the same kind located in the same conveyance, warehouse, or packing house and which are available for inspection at the same time.

Manure. Feces, urine, other excrement, and bedding produced by livestock that has not been composted.

Market information. Any written, printed, audiovisual, electronic, or graphic information, including advertising, pamphlets, flyers, catalogues, posters, and signs, distributed, broadcast, or made available outside of retail outlets that are used to assist in the sale or promotion of a product.

Mulch. Any nonsynthetic material, such as wood chips, leaves, or straw, or any synthetic material included on the National List for such use, such as newspaper or plastic that serves to suppress weed growth, moderate soil temperature, or conserve soil moisture.

Narrow range oils. Petroleum derivatives, predominately of paraffinic and naphthenic fractions with 50 percent boiling point (10 mm Hg) between 415F and 440F.

National List. A list of allowed and prohibited substances as provided for in the Act.

National Organic Program (NOP). The program authorized by the Act for the purpose of implementing its provisions.

National Organic Standards Board (NOSB). A board established by the Secretary under 7 U.S.C. 6518 to assist in the development of standards for substances to be used in organic production and to advise the Secretary on any other aspects of the implementation of the National Organic Program.

Natural resources of the operation. The physical, hydrological, and biological features of a production operation, including soil, water, wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife.

Nonagricultural substance. A substance that is not a product of agriculture, such as a mineral or a bacterial culture that is used as an ingredient in an agricultural product. For the purposes of this part, a nonagricultural ingredient also includes any substance, such as gums, citric acid, or pectin, that is extracted from, isolated from, or a fraction of an agricultural product so that the identity of the agricultural product is unrecognizable in the extract, isolate, or fraction.

Nonsynthetic (natural). A substance that is derived from mineral, plant, or animal matter and does not undergo a synthetic process as defined in section 6502(21) of the Act (7 U.S.C. 6502(21)). For the purposes of this part, “non-synthetic” is used as a synonym for “natural” as the term is used in the Act.

Nonretail container. Any container used for shipping or storage of an agricultural product that is not used in the retail display or sale of the product.

Nontoxic. Not known to cause any adverse physiological effects in animals, plants, humans, or the environment.

Organic. A labeling term that refers to an agricultural product produced in accordance with the Act and the regulations in this part.

Organic matter. The remains, residues, or waste products of any non-GMO organism.

Organic production. A production system that is managed in accordance with the Act and regulations in this part to respond to site-specific conditions by integrating cultural, biological, and mechanical practices that foster cycling of resources, promote ecological balance, and conserve biodiversity.

Organic system plan. A plan of management of an organic production or handling operation that has been agreed to by the producer or handler and the certifying agent and that includes written plans concerning all aspects of agricultural production or handling described in the Act and the regulations in subpart C of this part.

Pasture. Land used for livestock grazing that is managed to provide feed value and maintain or improve soil, water, and vegetative resources.

Peer review panel. A panel of individuals who have expertise in organic production and handling methods and certification procedures and who are appointed by the Administrator to assist in evaluating applicants for accreditation as certifying agents.

Person. An individual, partnership, corporation, association, cooperative, or other entity.

Pesticide. Any substance which alone, in chemical combination, or in any formulation with one or more substances is defined as a pesticide in section 2(u) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (7 U.S.C. 136(u) et seq).

Petition. A request to amend the National List that is submitted by any person in accordance with this part.

Planting stock. Any plant or plant tissue other than annual seedlings but including rhizomes, shoots, leaf or stem cuttings, roots, or tubers, used in plant production or propagation.

Practice standard. The guidelines and requirements through which a production or handling operation implements a required component of its production or handling organic system plan. A practice standard includes a series of allowed and prohibited actions, materials, and conditions to establish a minimum level performance for planning, conducting, and maintaining a function, such as livestock health care or facility pest management, essential to an organic operation.

Principal display panel. That part of a label that is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown, or examined under customary conditions of display for sale.

Private entity. Any domestic or foreign nongovernmental for-profit or not-for-profit organization providing certification services.

Processing. Cooking, baking, curing, heating, drying, mixing, grinding, churning, separating, extracting, slaughtering, cutting, fermenting, distilling, eviscerating, preserving, dehydrating, freezing, chilling, or otherwise manufacturing and includes the packaging, canning, jarring, or otherwise enclosing food in a container.

Processing aid. (a) substance that is added to a food during the processing of such food but is removed in some manner from the food before it is packaged in its finished form; (b) a substance that is added to a food during processing, is converted into constituents normally present in the food, and does not significantly increase the amount of the constituents naturally found in the food; and (c) a substance that is added to a food for its technical or functional effect in the processing but is present in the finished food at insignificant levels and does not have any technical or functional effect in that food.

Producer. A person who engages in the business of growing or producing food, fiber, feed, and other agricultural-based consumer products.

Production lot number/identifier. Identification of a product based on the production sequence of the product showing the date, time, and place of production used for quality control purposes.

Prohibited substance. A substance the use of which in any aspect of organic production or handling is prohibited or not provided for in the Act or the regulations of this part.

Records. Any information in written, visual, or electronic form that documents the activities undertaken by a producer, handler, or certifying agent to comply with the Act and regulations in this part.

Residue testing. An official or validated analytical procedure that detects, identifies, and measures the presence of chemical substances, their metabolites, or degradation products in or on raw or processed agricultural products.

Responsibly connected. Any person who is a partner, officer, director, holder, manager, or owner of 10 percent or more of the voting stock of an applicant or a recipient of certification or accreditation.

Retail food establishment. A restaurant; delicatessen; bakery; grocery store; or any retail outlet with an in-store restaurant, delicatessen, bakery, salad bar, or other eat-in or carry-out service of processed or prepared raw and ready-to-eat-food.

Routine use of parasiticide. The regular, planned, or periodic use of parasiticides.

Secretary. The Secretary of Agriculture or a representative to whom authority has been delegated to act in the Secretary's stead.

Sewage sludge. A solid, semisolid, or liquid residue generated during the treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works. Sewage sludge includes but is not limited to: domestic septage; scum or solids removed in primary, secondary, or advanced wastewater treatment processes; and any material derived from sewage sludge. Sewage sludge does not include ash generated during the firing of sewage sludge in a sewage sludge incinerator or grit and screenings generated during preliminary treatment of domestic sewage in a treatment works.

Slaughter stock. Any animal that is intended to be slaughtered for consumption by humans or other animals.

Soil and water quality. Observable indicators of the physical, chemical, or biological condition of soil and water, including the presence of environmental contaminants.

Split operation. An operation that produces or handles both organic and nonorganic agricultural products.

State certifying agent. A certifying agent accredited by the Secretary under the National Organic Program and operated by the State for the purposes of certifying organic production and handling operations in the State.

State organic program (SOP). A State program that meets the requirements of section 6506 of the Act, is approved by the Secretary, and is designed to ensure that a product that is sold or labeled as organically produced under the Act is produced and handled using organic methods.

State organic program's governing State official. The chief executive official of a State or, in the case of a State that provides for the statewide election of an official to be responsible solely for the administration of the agricultural operations of the State, such official who administers a State organic certification program.

Synthetic. A substance that is formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral sources, except that such term shall not apply to substances created by naturally occurring biological processes.

Tolerance. The maximum legal level of a pesticide chemical residue in or on a raw or processed agricultural commodity or processed food.

Transplant. A seedling which has been removed from its original place of production, transported, and replanted.

Unavoidable residual environmental contamination (UREC). Background levels of naturally occurring or synthetic chemicals that are present in the soil or present in organically produced agricultural products that are below established tolerances.

Wild crop. Any plant or portion of a plant that is collected or harvested from a site that is not maintained under cultivation or other agricultural management.