

Materials for Trainer

- DVD player, disc, and screen

Advance Preparation for Trainer

- Read NCAT's *Organic Livestock Workbook* (<http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/livestockworkbooksum.html>)
- Read the relevant sections of the NOP Standards (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/standards.html>)

Materials for Participants

- *Participant's Guide to Module 8*
- Relevant sections of the NOP Standards (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/standards.html>)
- NCAT's *Organic Livestock Workbook* (<http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/livestockworkbooksum.html>)
- *Organic Livestock Documentation Forms* (<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/livestockforms.pdf>)
- OMRI Products List (http://www.omri.org/OMRI_products_list.html)

Module Delivery (80 Minutes Total)

I. Module Objectives and Content (5 minutes)

1. Distribute the *Participant's Guide to Module 8* to all participants. Also distribute a copy of the relevant portions of the National Organic Standards if you have not already done so.
2. Review and discuss the **application objective**.

After completing this module you will be able to understand the concept of organic production of livestock and the specific requirements of certification for livestock producers.

3. Review and discuss the **learning objectives**.

After completing this module you will understand:

The requirements for organic livestock production including transition period, breeding stock, feed, vaccines and allowed and prohibited substances for health and nutritional purposes. What constitutes access to pasture.

4. Call attention to the **topics** that will be covered in this module.

Types of livestock, Dairy vs. slaughter herds
Other livestock
Conversion of herds

Production of breeder stock
Handling of replacement stock
Feeds and feed supplements and additives
Health care and pest control
Housing and living conditions

II. Materials and Resources (5 minutes)

1. Point out that the Participant's Guide to Module 8 includes a list of the **Relevant Sections of the NOP Standards** that will be covered by this module.

205.236 Origin of livestock
205.237 Livestock feed
205.238 Livestock health care practice standard
205.239 Livestock living conditions
205.306 Labeling of livestock feed
205.603 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production
205.604 Synthetic substances prohibited for use in organic livestock production
205.672 Emergency pest or disease treatment

2. Draw attention to the Additional Reference Materials, especially the NCAT livestock documentation forms and workbooks. Electronic versions of these documents are available free of charge. This list is included in the *Participant's Guide*.

Sustainable Pasture Management (<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/sustpast.pdf>)

Integrated Parasite Management for Livestock (<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/livestock-ipm.pdf>)

Dairy Farm Sustainability Check Sheet (<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/dairychecksheets.pdf>)

Beef Farm Sustainability Check Sheet (<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/beefchec.pdf>)

3. Draw participants' attention to the list of Keywords in the Guide.

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.

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 animals.

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

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

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 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.

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

Livestock. Any cattle, sheep, goat, swine, poultry, 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

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

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

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

III. Activity 1: A Virtual Conversion with Two Livestock Producers (65 minutes)

1. Prepare the DVD for show.
2. Read the following scenario to the participants:

You are an Extension Faculty member. Prior to the full implementation of the National Organic Program on October 21, 2002, two farms in your region were certified organic by a local certifying agency. This means that both farmers met their certifying agencies' individual requirements for organic certification prior to the time when the USDA became the regulator of the organic industry. Their agencies requirements may or may not have been the same as the current requirements of the USDA's National Organic Program Standards.

These growers decided not to renew their certification when their local program became accredited by the USDA in 2002. As a result, they could no longer label their products "organic." However, they now realize that they are probably losing money because they cannot sell their products as organic.

Both of the farmers, Libby Schmidt and Bubba Kurtz, have asked you to visit their farms so that they can explain their current farming practices. They want you to determine if they meet the National Organic Program Standards. They know that you have recently attended an organic training and that you understand the organic regulations, which seemed like a lot of gobbledy gook to them when they tried to read a copy that they downloaded from the NOP website. They are hoping that they are in compliance with the current regulations. If they are not, they are hoping you will tell them what parts of their operation that they will need to change to become compliant.

Well, it's a little far to drive to Libby and Bubba's farms. Let's take a virtual farm tour instead.

3. Give the participants a few minutes to look over the relevant sections of the National Organic Standards.
4. Tell the participants they may want to take notes as the farmer explains their operation so that they can determine if the farmer meets the NOP Standards. Tell them to pay attention to details concerning feed, animal stock, access to pasture, pasture management, health care and application of synthetic substances.
5. Play the DVD.
6. After the viewing the tape, divide give the participants into groups of two to three. The groups tasks are to determine if each of the operations are compliant with the NOP Standards. If the operations are **not** compliant with the NOP Standards, the participants should list what changes need to be made to become compliant. Each group should prepare a summary of their findings and recommendations and prepare a brief report for the plenary (maximum 5 minute presentation per group). Allow 20 minutes for this activity.
7. After 20 minutes, ask one group to briefly review Libby Schmidt's operation (allot 5 minutes per presentation and 5 minutes for additional information from other groups and discussion). After their presentation, see if any other groups have anything to add to the assessments made by the previous group.
8. Make sure the following points are mentioned.
 - The operation is not organic.
 - Libby's operation would not meet the NOS because her poultry must be under continuous organic management beginning no later than the second day of life.
 - She feeds the chickens conventional feed, while the organic standards require 100% organic feed.
 - Libby uses animal drugs which are not listed on 205.603 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production.
 - Libby's chickens have adequate access to the outdoors and she utilizes hardy breeds of chickens to help reduce the incidence of disease. Libby's cattle have adequate access to pasture.
 - Libby's pigs have access to the outdoors, as required by the regulation.
 - The supplemental feed that she uses for her cattle are from conventional crops and therefore not compliant with the 100% organic feed requirements.
 - She uses conventional fertilizers on her pasture which are prohibited under the crop production standards.
 - Libby uses medications which may not be listed on 205.603 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production.
9. Choose another group to briefly review Bubba Kurtz's operation (5 minutes). After their presentation, see if any other groups have anything to add to the assessment made by the previous group.
10. Make sure the following points are mentioned.

- Bubba Kurtz's operation is not organic.
- Even though Bubba's calves are born on the farm, he takes them off the farm after they are weaned where they are raised under conventional practices which is not compliant with 205.236 (b) (1) Livestock or edible livestock products that are removed from a organic operation and subsequently managed on a nonorganic operation may be not sold, labeled, or represented as organically produced.
- Bubba's cows are fed a supplemental grain which is not organically produced which violates the 100% organic feed regulation.
- Although antibiotics are not found in Bubba's milk, he does use them in his operation which are prohibited.
- It is likely that Bubba uses synthetic materials for animal health that are not listed on 205.603 Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production.
- At times, Bubba has used synthetic fertilizers on his pasture which is prohibited under the crop production standards.

IV. Closure (5 minutes)

Review the document "Key Point about Organic Livestock Production" with the participants (see next page, last page in Participant's Guide).

Key Points about Organic Livestock Production

All organic livestock must be fed 100% organically grown feeds.

All organic livestock must have access to outdoors and ruminants must have access to pasture.

Livestock products that are sold, labeled or represented as organic must be from livestock under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation or hatching except that poultry must be under continuous organic management beginning not later than the second day of life.

Nonsynthetic substances and synthetic substances allowed under Section 205.603 may be used as feed additives and supplements.

No animal drugs, including hormones can be used to promote growth.

No mammalian or poultry slaughter by-products can be feed to mammals or poultry.

The producer must establish and maintain preventive livestock health care practices.

The producer must not administer any animal drug, other than vaccinations in the absence of illness, administer hormones for growth promotion and synthetic parasiticides on a routine basis.

The producer must not withhold medical treatment from a sick animal in an effort to preserve its organic status.

The producer may provide temporary confinement because of inclement weather, the animal's stage of production, conditions that could jeopardize animal's health or safety, risk to soil or water quality.

Manure must be managed so that it does not contribute to contamination of crops, soil or water by plant nutrients, heavy metals or pathogenic organisms and optimizes recycling of nutrients.

Organic milk production must come from animals that have been under organic management for at least 12 months.