Brief Introduction to Requirements for Organic Livestock Production

according to European Regulation (EC) 834/07*, the US National Organic Program (NOP), and CERES standard interpretation
(Not: CERES is not accredited for livestock certification under JAS)

1. What organic livestock production means:
   ✚ Organic feed
   ✚ No genetically modified organisms (GMO)
   ✚ Number of animals linked to available land
   ✚ High priority for animal welfare (e.g. adequate housing)
   ✚ Priority for natural veterinary medicine; use of allopathics only when no other solution exists
   ✚ Livestock manure must not become a source of pollution
   ✚ Healthy, good quality milk, eggs and meat, instead of maximum quantities.

2. Feeding:
   ✚ NOP: Only organic feed, only those additives and supplements mentioned in the National List (§ 205.603), no manure, urea or plastic pellets. Ruminants must have access to pastures, at least during part of the year.
   ✚ EU-Regulation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raising of young stock</th>
<th>Heriboves (ruminants, horses)</th>
<th>Pigs</th>
<th>Poultry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grazing</td>
<td>Maximum use of grazing, accordin to local possibilities</td>
<td>Desired, but no requirements defined</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roughage</td>
<td>Minimum 60% of dry matter</td>
<td>Roughage must be added to daily ration</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed from own farm</td>
<td>Minimum 60% of dry matter (except for transhumance)</td>
<td>Minimum 20% of dry matter</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Feed from land in conversion</td>
<td>Maximum 30% of dry matter (100% in case that the land in conversion belongs to the same farm); maximum 20% from own perennial grassland in first year of conversion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional feed</td>
<td>Not allowed (the only allowed conventional ingredient is molasses)</td>
<td>Not allowed. Derogation can be granted for protein components (max. 5%) if not available from organic origin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additives</td>
<td>Only those listed in Annex VI to Reg. (EC) 889/08</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Housing:
   ✚ Both NOP and EU-Regulation require appropriate housing, including freedom of movement and comfort behaviour, adequate bedding and temperature. Animals must have access to fresh air, direct sunlight, shade, and shelter. Stables must be kept clean, to prevent diseases and pests. Only those substances may be used for cleaning, disinfection and pest control in stables, which are mentioned in the National List (NOP) respectively in Annex VII to Reg. (EC) 889/08.
   ✚ Reg. (EC) 889/08 gives further details for stables and outdoor exercise areas, like e.g.:
     ✚ Livestock must not be tethered
     ✚ Livestock housing must have smooth, but not slippery floors. At least half (mammals) or one third (poultry) of the total floor area must be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction
3.2.2 en Inf

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- Calves must not be kept in individual boxes after the age of one week
- Sows must be kept in groups, piglets may not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages
- Poultry must be reared in open-range conditions and cannot be kept in cages
- Water fowl must have access to a stream, pond or lake
- A maximum number of animals per poultry house is established in Art. 12 of Reg. (EC) 889/08
- For further details, see Annex III to Reg. 889.

4. Management practices:
   ✓ EU-Regulation:
     - In principle, natural reproduction should be used. Artificial insemination is permitted. Other forms of artificial reproduction (for example embryo transfers) and the use of hormones are prohibited.
     - Attaching elastic bands to the tails of sheep, tail docking, cutting of teeth, trimming of beaks and dehorning must not be carried out systematically. Some of these operations may be allowed in exceptional cases, for reasons of safety or animal health.
     - Calf fattening conditions may not encourage anemia
     - Minimum age at slaughter for poultry is defined in Art. 12 of Reg. 889
     - Animals must be transported, loaded and unloaded in a way, which minimizes stress. Allopathic tranquillisers or electrical animal driving devices are forbidden
     - Livestock and livestock products must be identified
     - Stocking densities for different species are defined in detail in Annex IV to Reg. 889.

5. Origin of animals and conversion period:
   ✓ Hardy, locally adapted breeds must be chosen
   ✓ Animals must be purchased from organic operations and be managed according to organic standards from birth, with some exceptions. Livestock or livestock products can be sold as organic, in case of organic management during at least:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EU-Regulation</th>
<th>NOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>Laying hens 6 weeks, other poultry 10 weeks, from 3rd day of life on</td>
<td>From 2nd day of life on</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animals for meat</td>
<td>6 months for goats, sheep, pigs, 12 months for beef (at least ¾ of their lifetime)</td>
<td>From birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy animals</td>
<td>6 months prior to selling milk as organic</td>
<td>1 year prior to selling organic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non edible products</td>
<td>Not defined</td>
<td>1 year prior to selling organic (e.g. wool)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conversion of land for forage</td>
<td>Whole forage land of the farm must be converted, conversion for pastures can be reduced to 1 year (6 months in case of grassland without use of chemicals)</td>
<td>No use of chemicals during at least three years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeder stock</td>
<td>Only male breeder stock may be purchased from conventional farms without further restrictions</td>
<td>Purchase of non-organic breeder stock is allowed. Females must not be brought onto the farm later than the last third of the gestation, if offspring are to be raised as organic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In case of the EU-Regulation, purchase of conventional animals is limited by several further restrictions. Please contact CERES for further details!

✓ During the conversion period, livestock products must be sold as conventional!
6. Veterinary treatments:

✓ Diseases and pests must be prevented through selection of hardy breeds, adequate feeding, housing, sanitary conditions, and vaccines
✓ In case that animals, in spite of prevention, fall ill, they must be treated; preference is to be given to natural or homeopathic treatments
✓ In case of allopathic treatments, the waiting time has to be doubled in case of the EU-Regulation; under NOP, whenever livestock is treated with a substance not listed under §205.603, the animals become conventional and can not be re-converted to organic
✓ Preventive use of allopathic medicine is forbidden. This refers especially to antibiotics, coccidiostatics or hormones used as growth promoters.

7. Records:

✓ Before the first inspection takes place, the farm has to present an organic management plan to the certifier; this plan has to be updated annually
✓ A stock diary must be kept, recording at least birth, purchase, sales, and death of animals, besides all veterinary treatments
✓ Invoices for purchase of feed, veterinary medicine, animals, etc., must be filed
✓ Quantities of produced livestock products must be recorded
✓ The farm needs at least a simple system of bookkeeping for sales of organic products

8. Knowledge:

✓ The farmer has to keep a copy of the respective standards and has to study them
✓ The farmer needs adequate knowledge on organic livestock production rules and technologies.

*Note: Inside the EU, the Regulation has to be applied in its strictest sense. Products from third countries outside the European Union are considered “equivalent”. Please refer to the CERES homepage for our Policy 4.1.1, which, combined with Regulations (CE) 834/07 and (CE) 889/08 and our other policies, make up the “CERES equivalent standard”.

Please be aware that this is only a selection of essential requirements of the organic standards, meant as an introduction. The operator, of course, has to learn about and meet all requirements of the respective standard.