

# **Kootenay Organic Growers Society**

## **BC Certified Organic Program**

### **Guide to completing the Organic Livestock Management Plan**

#### **Introduction**

COABC Livestock Management Standards require livestock producers to implement and maintain a Herd/flock Health Management Plan and a Farm System Design Plan. Accurate completion of the Organic Livestock Management Plan (and yearly updates) will provide enough information to serve both plans. Though daunting to look at, the Organic Livestock Management Plan can be a useful tool to help you develop a better farming or ranching plan, and will greatly aid the organic certification process.

Use this guide to assist in completing the Organic Livestock Management Plan. Numbers in the guide correspond to numbers in the Livestock Plan. Provide as much information as possible. The Certification Committee (CC) will decide your certification status, but they will never see your farm. The more information you can give, the easier it will be for the CC to make their decision. If you run out of room for an answer please continue your answers on another sheet of paper or document. There is some extra space you can use at the end of the form.

1. The name of the person responsible for the certification of this operation.
2. The date this Plan is completed.
3. Use the same name as on the Crop Plan.
4. If you employ a farm/ranch manager, include this information.
5. This question is relevant to determining your certification needs.
6. As above.
7. The VO will verify this question.

#### **Source of Stock (COABC sections 8.4, 8.5, 3.3)**

All slaughter stock (except poultry) must be under organic management from the third trimester of in-utero development. Breeding animals may be brought in from any source as long as they are not genetically engineered. Please note that after a breeding animal is brought into the organic management system it must be raised according to the standards. (See section 3.3.2 for details of transition requirements) The Milking herd must be under organic management for at least one year before milk can be sold as organic. During that one year, the pasture can be at third year transitional status. Note that once a calf is born into the organic management system it cannot be rotated out and then back in to the organic management system. (See section 3.3.2 for details of transition requirements)

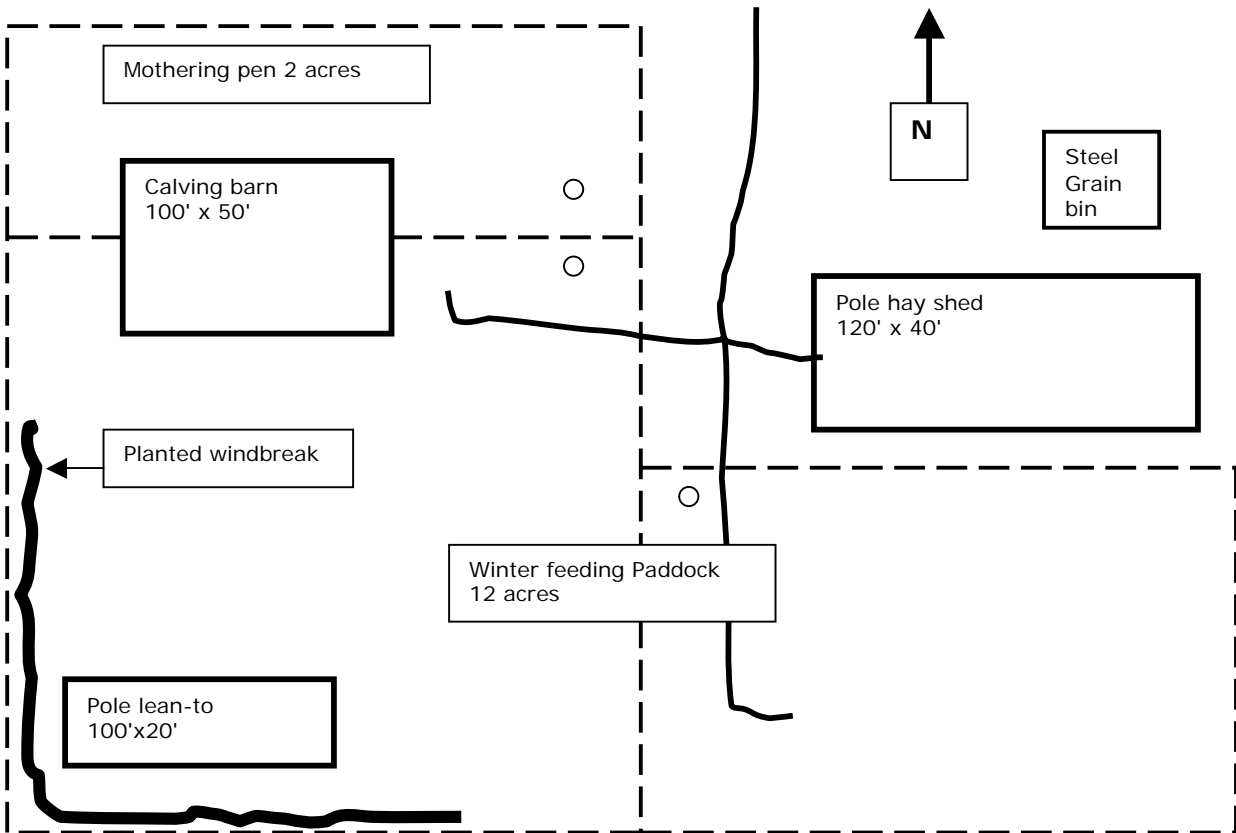
8. Identify your animals in lots according to when they were brought under organic management. Animals brought in from outside your farm may have a different date from those you raised yourself.

Species and breed	Number of animals on farm	Age and Date brought under organic management	Source of stock
Calves	60	8-12 months organic since 2 <sup>nd</sup> trimester	Own stock
C o w s Hereford/Charlois	200	Cow/calves May 2002	Some from local breeders, some from own stock

9. Let your CB know if you are planning to purchase livestock from any source. Ensure you do not purchase animals that are products of embryo transfer, or genetic engineering, or hormone implantation.
10. Provide a general answer here: milk, calves, or butchered lamb.
11. This would include cattle, sheep, pigs, and others - breeding or slaughter stock.
12. You may check more than one box.
13. A Split Operation is when an operator is running an organic system concurrently with a non-organic system (organic potatoes but non-organic beef, for instance). Household amounts of non-organic production are not considered a Split Operation. If you sell your non-organic production, then you are running a Split Operation and you must complete the Split Operation form. It is understood with livestock farms that there will always be non-organic animals (for slaughter purposes) on the farm - this fact does not make a farm a split operation. However, if you were raising organic beef, and raising non-organic lamb, it would be a split operation.
14. You must have a method to permanently identify all the animals (organic and non-organic) on your farm.
15. Since organic livestock farms will always have some non-organic (for slaughter purposes) stock in the herd, there must be a foolproof method of ensuring that non-organic animals do not become confused with organic animals. If an animal is treated with a prohibited (or regulated, as with antibiotics in milking cows) treatment, that animal must be identifiable so the meat or milk is not sold as organic.
16. Describe where your sows (for instance) come from, how they are housed during gestation, when the piglets are weaned, where the shoats are kept, and at what age the finished hogs are shipped or slaughtered. If your winter season is different from summer, describe the difference.

17. Your Animal Handling map(s) must be on 8\_x11 (standard letter size) for ease of photocopying - do not use colours on your map for the same reason. If you do not have enough room on one page, split your map up into sections. The map below gives a simple description of the winter set-up for a cow-calf operation. Cattle handling facilities (chutes, crowding and loading pens) would need to be described in another diagram. A hog facility would look quite different and would need a diagram of the interior of the barn. Similarly with a dairy operation. Send your map(s) by mail (do not fax) or you may scan your map(s) and send by email. If you are ambitious, you can draw your map(s) on your computer. Don't forget to include a road map describing how to get to your farm from the nearest community.

**White Rose Ranch - Winter Feeding and Calving Area**



- Legend**
- Fences - - - -
  - Roads ————
  - Water outlets ○

**Housing COABC Section 8.3**

Livestock living conditions must provide reasonable freedom of movement, lack of crowding, proper sanitation, fresh air, sunshine, appropriate shelter and adequate bedding.

18. Housing table - do your best to illustrate your housing within the constraints of the table.

Type of structure	Housing Unit name or ID #	Type of Animal	Dimensions	# of animals in unit	Period of use (hours/day or months/year)
Wood frame insulated	Sow barn	Sows	60'x40'	12	Constant use
Pole - tin roof	Loafing barn	Dairy cows	125'x54'	75	20hrs/day winter months

19. You may check more than one box (windows and electric lights).

20. Hog fuel is sawmill waste (bark, sawdust, and woody debris).

21. Ensure the bedding you use is clean and uncontaminated.

22. Cattle, sheep, goats, and hogs will eat amounts of clean straw. If your animals typically consume their bedding then the bedding has to be certified organic, or, with permission of you certification body, and a letter from the producer -grown without prohibited materials

23. The answer to this question will vary greatly with the species of animals, climate, and housing.

24. Items marked \* are regulated - refer to COABC Standards for specific annotations.

**Feed COABC Sections 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 3.3**

Organic standards require that certified organic livestock be fed 100% certified organic feed. Feed supplements should not contain non-organic protein sources or prohibited materials. Please save labels for the organic inspector. Once an animal is in an organic system you may not rotate it out of the system (by feeding non-organic feed) and then bring it into the organic system again, to milk or breed.

25. Access to pasture for a minimum of 120 days per year is required for all grazing animals. This is land where the animal can graze and meet some of its nutritional requirements.

26. Includes crown range permits.

27. This question refers to seasonal feeding, not to pasture.

28. Indicate if you feed inside a barn.

29. Winter paddock table (see section 8.3 for requirements for confined areas)

Example:

Paddock #	Type of animal	# of animals	Sq. ft. per head or animals per acre
Field #6	Cows/calves	170 head	5.6 animals/acre
#4	Feeder hogs	60	20 sq. ft./head

30. Since you have to feed organic feed for the animals to remain organic it is a good idea to make a plan for what you will do if there is a shortage of organic feed available. Refer to COABC Management Standards, section 8.1

31. Feed ration:

Livestock	Feed (i.e. hay, dairy ration, hog grower)	Average amounts animal/year	Source
Dairy cows	Hay, dairy ration	2 tons hay 1200 lb. dairy ration	Own hay, Rod's Organic Feeds
Hogs	Alfalfa, hog grower	200 lbs. hay 1000 lbs. hog grower	Al's Organic Hay Farm Rod's Organic Feeds

List each different type of feed separately as above. To calculate average feed /animal/year: Take total hay (for instance) fed to milking herd last year then divide by number of milking animals you fed last year. This should give you an average amount of hay per animal.

32. Even if you handle and store non-organic feed (but do not process it), you must be prepared to prove to your CB that you will not confuse organic and non-organic feed.

33. Planned Feed Supplements See 8.2 and Section 16 for requirements for using and the composition of acceptable feed supplements. Generally, you may use supplements from natural sources, provided there are no genetically engineered substances. Supplements from synthetic sources can only be used if no natural sources are available. Requesting a list of ingredients will help determine whether the supplement can be used for organic livestock. Keep all labels and ingredients lists on file.

Feed supplement or additive	Source	Label and ingredient list in records: Y or N	Reason for use
Sheep mineral mix	Co-op	Y	Necessary for sheep nutrition

34. Feed storage - If you keep non-organic feed on farm the bins must be clearly labelled and you must be able to prove to the certification body that the organic and non-organic feed cannot be confused.

Storage ID #	Feed	Type of storage	Capacity	Status of feed
#1	Whole Barley	Steel bin	15 tons	Organic
#2	Hay	Pole shed	500 round bales	Organic

35. The use of rodenticides is prohibited.

36. Livestock may have many different accesses to water. If you supply piped water, but your animals have access to a creek, you must indicate both water access points.

37. This is in addition to whatever additives are in a municipal water supply.

38. Spring run-off, industrial use upstream, effluent from you own manure storage facilities.

39. Organic livestock producers have a duty to protect the aquatic environment.

### **Section C Health Management (COABC Sections 8.6, 8.7, 16)**

Organic health management relies on preventative management techniques such as keeping stress low, animals active, good quality feed, pasture management, and culling animals that have a history of health problems. Herbs, naturopathic, homeopathic and biodynamic preparations may be used. Use of prohibited medication will disqualify slaughter stock for

organic status, but medical treatment may not be withheld in an effort to preserve organic status.

Breeding and dairy animals may be treated with antibiotics and synthetic parasiticides for health care emergencies only. Use in the third trimester of gestation or before weaning disqualifies offspring for certified organic status as slaughter animals. Dairy animals treated with antibiotics must have their milk removed from the organic stream for 30 days or twice the label withdrawal time, whichever is longer.

40. Disease Management Plan - Take your time when completing this table. This is part of your Herd Health Management Plan and will be critically assessed by your CB. You should be able to fit any disease you have encountered into this table.

Disease / Pest	Specific Ailment, Past or Present	Planned Treatment Strategy for Organic production
Diarrhoea (Coccidiosis) (scours)	Calf scours	Clean bedding - rotate calving pens - move young animals to dry ground

41. This is further documentation of your Herd Health Management Plan. The answers you provide will be verified in subsequent renewal inspections.

42. You must also have a plan to manage parasites.

43. Include any vaccines not already listed in question 40.

44. In general, hormones are prohibited. The use of oxytocin for the treatment of mastitis or to encourage milk let down is regulated for use under specific conditions.

45. This difficult to answer question will continue to be asked. You may have to write the manufacture of a product for a satisfactory answer.

46. Regular SCC measurement is good health management.

47. This standard question is required only to prove that you have a veterinarian.

48. Surgical practices must be described and justified:

Practice	Reason for use	Method and age of animal
Castration	Do not want ram lambs	Rubber bands at two days old
Dehorning	Horns are dangerous on milking stock	Hot iron at 3 days old or when buds appear

### **Section D Manure and Waste Management (COABC sections 8.3, 3.1, 3.9)**

Manure must be handled in an environmentally sound manner.

49. You may have a number of different systems for manure handling.

50. In livestock systems, added ingredients is usually the bedding used.

51. All livestock farm will have dead animals - how will you deal with them?

52. This and the next two questions highlight the need to protect the environment from detrimental effects of improper manure handling.

53. As above

54. As above.

55. You must account for all the manure produced on your farm.

56. This activity is regulated by the Code of Agricultural Practice for Waste Management.

57. Section 3.9 limits the amount of raw manure that can be spread on fields.

58. As in question 53.

### **Section E Milk Handling (COABC sections 8.6 and 8.10)**

Procedures must be in place to avoid contaminating organic milk with prohibited substances and non-organic milk.

59. The CC needs a picture of what type of dairy you are operating.
60. Please list the Brand Names and active ingredients in all products.
61. Describe exact procedure including washing, materials used, and drying. Do you use any paper material?
62. Include active ingredient along with brand name.
63. Please specify the teat-dip product.
64. Infections are an organic and food safety control point. They should be carefully monitored.
65. Contact the BCMAFF for information about this on-farm food safety program that will also help you identify and eliminate risks that could be a threat to your organic status.
66. It is understood this figure will change from week to week but provide an average, here.
67. Provide as much detail as possible, including, how you identify and segregate treated animals, and what happens to the treated milk. It is understood that most dairy farms have some treatment at some time.
68. This information is needed for audit balance on your farm and remains confidential.

### **Section F Slaughter and Transportation (COABC section 8.11)**

Humane treatment of animals during transportation and slaughter is required. Clear identification of stock from farm through transportation, slaughter, cutting, packaging, processing and sale is required to ensure that there is no confusion between organic and non-organic animals. Organic integrity must be ensured by having procedures in place so the product is not contaminated at any step in the process. Slaughter procedures must be inspected if meat is to be sold as certified organic.

69. Current slaughter regulations are available from BCMAFF.
70. Your responsibility for the organic integrity of your product extends as long as you own that product. If you sell the animals before they are shipped, then your responsibility ends at the point of sale.
71. As above
72. As in question 70 regarding ownership and audit trail of the organic product.
73. You may use a non-certified storage facility under conditions described in the Independent Storage Facility form. Slaughter & meat cutting facilities must be inspected for compliance with organic processing standards. Notify your certifier at least 3 months in advance of slaughter in a non-certified organic facility, so inspection may be arranged.
74. This question includes the use of a common carrier.
75. If you retain ownership of animals during transport, you are responsible to ensure they are transported in a humane and organically secure manner. There must be safeguards to ensure animals are not mixed up with non-organic animals.
76. You may provide the distance in km.
77. This question refers to animals in transit for more than 24 hours.
78. If you still own the animals, you are responsible for the organic integrity of their handling.
79. This may seem like a nuisance, but it must be attended to.
80. If you will be transporting milk off farm the transportation methods must be inspected either as part of your certification, or under the certification of your processor, depending on whom is responsible for transportation.
81. Some livestock producers arrange to have their animals slaughtered and processed at a independent facility, but the producer does the marketing.

### **Section G Record Keeping (COABC sections 8.9, 8.6, 8.7, 2.6)**

Records are a major method of verification for organic certification.

82. The VO will ask to see these. Information on their source must be available (name and contact information).
83. This includes seed and any fertiliser, feed, feed supplements.
84. These are essential for audit trail evaluation. Sales invoices or receipts must indicate the organic status of the animal (organic, transitional, or non-organic).
85. This information could be kept in a livestock journal. The VO will ask to see records of non-organic animals
86. The VO will ask to see records of non-organic animals.
87. Attachments that you may be required to submit to your CB.