



Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont

An organization of farmers, gardeners, and consumers working to promote an economically viable and ecologically sound Vermont food system

Filling Out the New Animal Inventory Sheet

Vermont Organic Farmers (VOF) is now requiring all dairy and livestock producers to fill out a form that lists all the animals currently on the farm to be certified. This form will need to be updated each year with animals that have entered and left the farm. Although we did our best to keep it simple, this form has raised several important questions from our producers:

Is this form related to the federal NAIS program?

No. This form has been created so that VOF can keep a list of all the animals on the farm which will be verified at each annual inspection. The information submitted to VOF is confidential and the producer can be certain it will not be shared with outside parties.

I've had some animals for many years, what if I can't recall the date of birth?

We realize exact birthdates may not be on hand for some animals. For older animals, please give us your best estimate of month and year, if this is the case. Please start tracking dates of births and purchases as part of your recordkeeping system. Remember to obtain both an itemized receipt and a copy of the seller's certificate for any purchases made.

Do my animals qualify as organic slaughter stock?

The column titled 'Qualifies for Organic Slaughter' has raised the greatest number of questions. Animals meant to be slaughtered and sold as organic meat must come from breeding stock which has been managed organically from the last third of gestation and must be under continuous organic management until slaughter. Animals that transitioned to organic in a 'whole herd transition' will never qualify as organic slaughter stock. In addition, animals treated with a synthetic parasiticide lose the ability to qualify as organic slaughter stock. Animals to be sold as organic meat must be slaughtered in a certified facility to ensure the organic integrity of the finished product. Please contact the VOF office for a list of certified processing facilities.

Why do you ask if the tails are docked?

Since tail docking is prohibited in organic production, this is another way for VOF to verify whether the animal was transitioned or raised from the last third of gestation.

Is 'Date Placed under Organic Management' the same as 'Date Purchased or Born'?

Yes, except for those animals that went through the one year whole herd transition. For these animals 'date placed under organic management' is the date the dairy transition year started.

Do I have to use the VOF form?

Using our forms is not required if you have another way of documenting this information, for example with DHIA records. If you are using another system, please ensure it is noted whether or not the animal qualifies for organic slaughter stock.



PO Box 697 · 39 Bridge St., 2nd Floor · Richmond, VT 05477
NOFA Tel: 802-434-4122 · VOF Tel: 802-434-3281 · Fax: 802-434-4154
www.nofavt.org

