

# Requirements for Marketing Animals as “Certified Organic Meat”

## NOFA-NY Certified Organic LLC

If you wish to market animals as “certified organic meat,” the following requirements must be met:

1. You must indicate on your application that you wish to market “*organic meat*.”
2. You must submit a list of animals that you believe qualify for “organic meat.” We will provide you with a blank “Animal List” form for this purpose. The Animal List must be returned to the office, and must include a permanent ID#, and birth date for each animal, and proof of certification (if born on another farm). It will be reviewed to confirm that the animals will qualify. Medication Records and Purchased Feed Logs must also be kept and submitted.
3. The requirements for “*Certified Organic Meat*” are:
  - No animal that has been transitioned to organic production can qualify as “*organic meat*”. Example: Dairy animals that were transitioned to organic production and animals purchased from a conventional farm may never be sold as “*organic meat*,”
  - An animal intended for “*organic meat*” must be born from an animal that has been managed according to certification standards from at least the last trimester of its pregnancy (last third of gestation).
  - Poultry intended for organic meat or eggs must be managed organically from the second day of life.
  - An animal intended for “*organic meat*” must be fed only certified organic whole milk until weaning. No milk replacer is allowed.
  - An animal intended for “*organic meat*” must be fed only certified organic grains and forages from birth (or second day of life for poultry), and must be on organic land.
  - No feed from transitional fields can be fed. If you had transitional fields at the time of your certification, most likely the animals born during that time will not qualify as “*organic meat*.” Animals born after all your fields were certified will most likely qualify as “*organic meat*” provided all above requirements were met.
  - An animal intended for “*organic meat*” must not be treated with antibiotics, hormones, or any other prohibited medications from the last third of gestation.
  - An animal intended for “*organic meat*” must not be treated with synthetic wormers from the last third of gestation.
  - If marketing cuts of meat as “*certified organic*,” the slaughterhouse the animal is processed in must be USDA inspected and certified to process organic meat. You may certify the slaughterhouse as organic under your farm certification for only the cost of the inspection of the facility. All labels must be approved by the certification agency prior to printing.
  - If you are marketing whole animals directly to a customer for personal use, the slaughterhouse does not have to be certified as organic or USDA inspected. The animal will lose its organic certification when it enters the slaughterhouse and from that point on, the meat may not be represented or sold as certified organic.

Please refer to the Livestock portion of the National Organic Program Standards for requirements and guidelines: (Section 205.236 to Section 205.239).

If you have any questions, please contact the certification office for clarification.