Organic Poultry
A Recordkeeping Checklist

Animal Origin & Identification

- [ ] Flock Identification System - ID, source of animal, organic slaughter eligibility, breeding dates, animals entering or leaving the flock
- [ ] Record hatch date, supplier organic certificate; dates animals were purchased or sold, source/origin, IDs, certification status, breed & sex, and itemized receipts
- [ ] Origin documentation proving continuous organic management from no later than the second day of life - note dates arrived and management started
- [ ] Records showing chicks were under organic management by day 2 of life
- [ ] Records identifying any animals treated with prohibited substances and documentation proving they and their products are not sold as organic

Feed & Nutrition

- [ ] Purchase records for all feed, labels, including organic certification of suppliers
- [ ] Pasture and forage production & inventory records
- [ ] Feed additive and supplement documentation (must be on National List §205.603)
- [ ] Records showing 100% organic feed ration, seasonal ration changes, including grazing

Healthcare & Welfare

- [ ] Animal ID, symptoms/diagnosis, date of treatment, product name and active ingredients, dosage and route, vaccination records (preventive and allowed), veterinary prescription/authorization (if required), treatment administrator, and documented vet visits with reasons
- [ ] Preventive practices, fecal monitoring, emergency protocols, and documentation showing acceptable methods were tried before any allowed treatments; parasiticides prohibited in slaughter stock; emergency use allowed and by veterinary order (§205.238(b))
- [ ] Receipts and labels for healthcare products, supplements, and bedding, including organic certificates when applicable
- [ ] Compliance with meat withdrawal periods for allowed substances (§205.603), clear identification of animals/products permanently removed from organic status due to prohibited substances (e.g., antibiotics, non-allowed synthetics)
- [ ] Temporary confinement records (start/end dates and reason), physical alterations (break trimming, toe clipping, etc.) performed for welfare/ID/safety, animals euthanized, and documentation of animals treated with prohibited substances

Housing & Living Conditions

- [ ] Records demonstrating adequate space and appropriate indoor and outdoor design to meet animal health and welfare needs, including temperature, ventilation, and air circulation monitoring records for housing facilities
- [ ] Documentation showing animals have continuous access to outdoors, exercise areas, fresh air, direct sunlight, shade, shelter, and clean drinking water; exit areas provide 1 linear foot per 360 birds
- [ ] Records showing 6 inches of perch space per layer; documentation that all layers can perch simultaneously
- [ ] Bedding type and source records; organic certification required when bedding is edible/roughage
- [ ] Routine cleaning, maintenance, and sanitation records for animal housing and facilities
- [ ] Weekly ammonia monitoring records at bird head height; documentation of ammonia levels and actions taken when levels exceed 10 ppm
- [ ] Documentation of vegetative cover maintenance on outdoor soil areas; records showing access to scratching and dust bathing areas with dry litter
- [ ] For slatted/mesh floor, documentation of 30% minimum solid floor with dust for bath
- [ ] Record of temporary confinement with dates, animals affected, and reason of any periods of temporary confinement

Pasture Practices & Crop Field Activity

- [ ] Pasture management plan demonstrating pasture as a managed crop
- [ ] Pasture rotation schedules and maps - location, name, size, fences, shade, water access
- [ ] Records of outdoor space calculations meeting stocking density requirements for layers and broilers
- [ ] Grazing season dates and duration, movement, including daily grazing records throughout grazing season
- [ ] Documentation of pasture management compliance (§§205.240)
- [ ] Pasture soil amendments and fertility records within organic compliance (§§205.203)
- [ ] Keep field activity logs (planting, inputs, cultivating, harvesting, etc.) (§§205.203)
- [ ] Order and document any seed purchase and search for pasture and field crops (must be organic or documented unavailability) (§§205.204)
- [ ] Buffer zone documentation, if applicable
- [ ] Record amount of feed harvested, amount, and from which fields
- [ ] Pest management records for pasture

Transport & Slaughter

- [ ] Transport logs including:
  - [ ] Departure and arrival times
  - [ ] Condition of animals; records showing birds are not transported if non-ambulatory
  - [ ] Transporter identity
- [ ] Labeled as organic for the duration of transport
- [ ] Emergency transport plans for animal welfare incidents
- [ ] Slaughter records, if applicable; records demonstrate FSIS humane standards followed

Sales

- [ ] Keep sales records for all poultry products (live animal, meat, eggs sales)
- [ ] Sales invoices describing product as “organic”
- [ ] Records linking each animal/product to its organic management and origin
- [ ] Buyer certifications or verification of organic status
- [ ] Keep records for traceability and mass balance inspection audits

Organic System Plan & Inspection

- [ ] Update the Organic System Plan by due date, annually
- [ ] Complete the certification fee reimbursement application (usually through FSA or Dept of Ag)
- [ ] Gather all records for your annual organic inspection ahead of time
- [ ] Be sure you have a comprehensive audit trail linking animal origin → management → feed → health care → sale
- [ ] Retain all records for at least 5 years
- [ ] Documentation preventing commingling with nonorganic animals/products
- [ ] Training records for staff responsible for organic livestock

NORTHEAST/ MID-ATLANTIC TRANSITION TO ORGANIC PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

United States Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
National Organic Program
Transition to Organic Partnership Program

USDA ORGANIC

ctnofa
Creating an Organic CT Since 1982

NOFA-NH

NOFA-VT