



Organic Livestock Transportation

An organic animal **must** travel with proper documentation at all times. The paperwork must clearly correlate to the specific animal including, but not limited to: organic certificates; Animal List; MCS Livestock Organic Status Affirmation and/or equivalent documentation. Please refer to our guidance document *Buying and Selling at Auction* for further information.

Organic certification is not required for operations or individuals involved solely in the transport of organic livestock. * This includes truckers, livestock dealers, or livestock transportation companies. **Payments must occur between the certified organic operation and a certified organic entity (slaughterhouse, auction, stockyard).**

**Note that any bedding used must be certified organic if agricultural (hay, straw) or untreated if non- agricultural (wood shavings, sawdust).*

Organic animals must not be unloaded from the truck until they have reached their destination at a certified organic market or another certified organic farm. If the livestock are unloaded, or are handled or housed at another location, the transportation company will need to become certified organic as a handler of certified organic livestock, to cover the facility where the animals are housed and to allow the organic claim to move forward.

The certified organic farmer, responsible for the organic livestock that are transported, is also responsible for records and the prevention of commingling and contamination.

Additional information can be found in the National Organic Program Handbook: www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic/handbook, specifically documents NOP 5025 & NOP 5031 (excerpt from NOP 5031 below):

An operation that transports unpackaged organic products does not need to obtain certification if it does not handle (i.e., sell, process, or package) organic products. The certified organic operation responsible for the organic products that are transported must:

- *Maintain records in sufficient detail as to be readily understood and audited;*
- *Maintain the audit trail and traceability of organic products;*
- *Prevent commingling and contamination of the certified organic products during transportation;*
- *Fully describe the transportation practices in the organic system plan; and*

- *Ensure that the transportation records for organic products are available for inspection.*

Examples of operations that do not need to obtain certification include:

- *Transportation companies that move certified organic hay or straw (wrapped or unwrapped) or milk from a certified organic farm to a certified organic buyer or processing facility;*
- *Transportation companies that transport certified organic grain from certified operations to a certified handling facility; and*
- *Transportation companies that move certified organic livestock from a certified organic farm to a certified organic slaughter facility.*

If you have any questions about organic livestock transportation, please contact your MOFGA certification specialist, or contact our office at: certification@mofga.org or 207-568-6030.