

Refresher on Synthetic Methionine Use in Organic Poultry Production

by Jade Archer, Certification Specialist

Poultry producers will notice new questions in their 2022 poultry supplement on the use of synthetic methionine in organic feed.

DL-methionine (synthetic) is an amino acid that is often found in organic poultry grain. Synthetic methionine is allowed in organic poultry production at a maximum average intake (measured as pounds per ton) over the life of the flock. The National Organic Program (NOP) Rule § 205.603(d)(1) applies to the use of methionine in organic poultry production.

DL-Methionine, DL-Methionine-hydroxy analog, and DL-Methionine-hydroxy analog calcium (CAS Numbers 59-51-8, 583-91-5, 4857-44-7, and 922-50-9)—for use only in organic poultry production at the following pounds of synthetic 100 percent methionine per ton of feed in the diet, maximum rates as averaged per ton of feed over the life of the flock: Laying chickens—2 pounds; broiler chickens—2.5 pounds; turkeys and all other poultry—3 pounds

If you are purchasing and feeding organic grain with synthetic methionine at, or under, the maximum allowed pounds per ton, the average methionine consumption over the lifespan of the flock would

be in compliance. Documentation showing how this was verified must be available at inspection. Documentation may include a statement from your feed supplier stating the amount of methionine added to the ration.

If at any time over the lifespan of the flock, the amount of methionine in the grain exceeds the allowed amount, calculations must be provided by the producer that show the average methionine consumption is below the maximum amount allowed. Calculations must be included in the Organic System Plan and will be reviewed at inspection. Please refer to the MCS Practice Manual or the fall 2021 edition of the Organic Sprout for example calculations.

Layer operations purchasing pullets from certified organic operations must provide MCS with documentation to verify synthetic methionine average intake over the lifetime of the purchased flock.

If you have any questions, please contact your certification specialist.

Temporary Confinement

(continued from Page 7)

NOP §205.103 Recordkeeping:

Operators must keep records for the reason and the duration of all occurrences of temporary confinement or denial of pasture for ruminant animals. MCS recommends taking the minimal approach to recordkeeping by describing your outdoor access protocol and documenting occasional compliant confinement. Inspectors will verify records for temporary confinement at your annual inspection to confirm that confinement is temporary.

Please reach out to your certification specialist with any questions.

