

# CERTIFIED NATURAL, INTERNATIONAL™ CERTIFICATION LIST OF ALLOWED AND PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

## 105.100 Evaluation criteria for allowed and prohibited substances, methods and ingredients

- a) Synthetic and non-synthetic substances considered for inclusion on, or deletion from, the list of allowed or prohibited substances will be evaluated by the Certified Natural, International™ Advisory Board.
- b) In addition, any synthetic substance used as a processing aid or adjuvant will be evaluated against and must meet the following criteria:
  - 1) The substance cannot be produced from a natural source and there are no natural substitutes;
  - 2) The substances manufacture, use and disposal do not have adverse effects on the environment and are done in a manner compatible with natural handling;
  - 3) The nutritional quality of the food is maintained when the substance is used and the substance has no adverse effect on human health;
  - 4) The substances use is not as a preservative or to improve taste, texture or color except where required by law;
  - 5) The substance is essential for the handling or processing of free-range products;
  - 6) The substance does not leave behind measurable residue.

(c)-(z) Reserved

## 105.101 Substances allowed for use in natural cover crop production.

In accordance with restrictions specified in this section, the following substances may be used in certified natural cover crop production and in the cleaning of equipment or other items used in free-range production:

- a) As algicide, disinfectants, and sanitizer, including irrigation system cleaning systems:
  - 1) Hydrogen Peroxide
  - 2) Soap-based algicide/demisters
  - 3) Chlorine for the cleaning and sanitizing of equipment *provided that* it does not come into contact with livestock
  - 4) Alcohols for cleaning and sanitizing of equipment and buildings *provided that* they do not come into contact with the livestock
- b) As herbicides, weed barriers, as applicable.
  - 1) Soap-based herbicides
  - 2) Newspaper (without colored ink or glossy pages) mulch
- c) As animal repellants/control
  - 1) Soaps
  - 2) Sulfur Dioxide – underground smoke bombs only
- d) As insecticides (including acaricides or mite control)
  - 1) Fatty acid potassium salt (soft soap)
  - 2) Lime sulfur (calcium polysulphide)
  - 3) Pheromones (as attractant in traps and dispensers and no contact with soil or plants)
  - 4) Plant oils
- e) As slug or snail bait
  - 1) None
- f) As plant disease control
  - 1) Lime Sulfur
  - 2) Elemental Sulfur
  - 3) Hydrogen Peroxide
  - 4) Lecithin
- g) As soil amendments

- 1) Dehydrated, freeze-dried, ground, or straight seaweed
- 2) Fish Meal
- 3) Compost
- 4) Vermicompost (dejecta of worms)
- 5) Guano
- 6) Sodium Chloride (mined only)
- 7) Sawdust, wood chips and bark (from non-treated felled trees)

(h)-(z) Reserved

**105.102 Non-synthetic substances prohibited from use in natural cover crop production**

The following substances may not be used in cover crop production:

- a) Ash from manure burning
- b) Arsenic
- c) Lead salts
- d) Sodium fluoaluminate (mined)
- e) Strychnine
- f) Tobacco dust (nicotine sulfate)
- g) Potassium chloride
- h) Sodium nitrate
- (i)-(z) Reserved

**105.103 Prohibited substances for use in free-range production**

Prohibited substances for use in free-range production include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Any synthetic feed ingredients
- b) Urea
- c) Growth or any other type of administered hormone
- d) Any GMO product
- e) The use of any synthetic pesticide or herbicide on any cover crop
- f) Any animal product or by-product in feed

**105.104 Amending the Certified Natural, International™ Certification List**

Any person may petition for a substance to be included in or removed from the Certified Natural, International™ Certification List by requesting a Petition Form from Certified Natural, International™. Once petition is completed please forward to the following address:

Program Manager  
Certified Natural, International™  
PO Box 848  
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

# **CERTIFIED NATURAL, INTERNATIONAL™ ALL NATURAL FREE-RANGE AND FREE- RANGE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS**

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## **GENERAL STANDARDS – ALL NATURAL FREE-RANGE AND FREE-RANGE**

### **Subpart A - Applicability**

#### **§100.100 Who can be certified.**

- a) Any operation that adheres to all standards set forth herein.

#### **§100.101 Use of the terms, “Certified All Natural Free-Range” as well as “Certified Free-Range.”**

Any animal that is sold or represented as "Certified All Natural Free-Range", or "Certified Free-Range" under the Certified Natural, International program must be:

- a) Raised in accordance with the requirements specified herein and
- b) Handled in accordance with the requirements specified herein
- c) Cannot be used in conjunction with any organic label, logo or claim.

#### **§100.102 Recordkeeping by certified operations.**

- a) A certified operation must maintain records concerning the handling of livestock or poultry that are intended to be sold or represented as "Certified All Natural Free-Range," or "Certified Free-Range."
- b) Such records must:
  - 1) Be adapted to the particular business that the certified operation is conducting;
  - 2) Fully disclose all activities and transactions of the certified operation in sufficient detail as to be readily understood and audited;
  - 3) Be maintained for not less than three (3) years beyond their creation; and
  - 4) Be sufficient to demonstrate compliance with the regulations in this part.
- c) The certified operation must make such records available for inspection and copying during normal business hours by authorized representatives of Certified Natural, International and the certifying agent.
- d) A written bio-security plan must be in place and available to all employees.
- e) All operations certified under either free-range programs agrees to periodic unannounced testing of feces, blood, urine, or milk for any ingredient not allowed herein.

#### **§100.103 General prohibited substances, methods, and ingredients in Certified Natural, International production and handling.**

To be sold or labeled as "Certified All Natural Free-Range," or "Certified Free-Range," the animal must be produced and handled without the use of:

- a) Synthetic substances and non-natural ingredients, except as approved by Certified Natural, International
- b) Substances used in or on livestock or poultry, except as otherwise provided herein – see Subpart H for specific items not allowed.
- c) Ionizing radiation, as described in Food and Drug Administration regulation, 21 CFR 179.26; and
- d) Sewage sludge.

#### **§§100.104-100.199 [Reserved]**

### **Subpart B - Certified Natural, International Production and Handling Requirements**

#### **§100.200 General requirements.**

The handler of a free-range operation intending to sell or represent animals as "Certified All Natural Free-Range or "Certified Free-Range" must comply with the applicable provisions of this subpart. Practices implemented in accordance with this subpart must maintain or improve the natural resources of the operation, including soil and water quality.

#### **§100.201 Certified Natural, International System Plan.**

- a) The handler of a free-range operation intending to sell, label, or represent animals as "Certified All Natural Free-Range" or "Certified Free-Range" must develop a Natural Free-Range system plan that is agreed to by the producer or handler and the certifying agent. A Natural system plan must meet the requirements set forth in this section for Certified

Natural, International production or handling. A Certified Natural, International Free-Range system plan must include:

- 1) A description of practices and procedures to be performed and maintained, including the frequency with which they will be performed including, but not limited to;
  - i) Biosecurity plan addressing quick response times and actions
  - ii) Traceback system for all animals
  - iii) Breeding program that includes control of stock numbers and defects
  - iv) Feed program that shows optimum feed for each stage of growth and how to adhere to this plan
  - v) Pasture rotation plan and density
- 2) A list of each substance to be used as an input, indicating its composition, source, location(s) where it will be used, and documentation of commercial availability, as applicable;
- 3) A description of the monitoring practices and procedures to be performed and maintained, including the frequency with which they will be performed, to verify that the plan is effectively implemented;
- 4) A description of the recordkeeping system implemented
- 5) A description of the management practices and physical barriers established to prevent commingling of animals on a split operation to prevent contact of free-range animals and feed operations with prohibited substances; and
- 6) Additional information deemed necessary by the certifying agent to evaluate compliance with the requirements herein.
- 7) Any specific requirements as set for in Subpart H

**§100.202 Land requirements.**

Any field or farm parcel from which livestock or poultry are intended to be raised must:

- a) Have been managed in accordance with the provisions herein
- b) Have had no prohibited substances applied to it for a period of 3 years immediately preceding harvest of a crop with current soil test provided; and
- c) Have distinct, defined boundaries and buffer zones such as runoff diversions to prevent the unintended application of a prohibited substance to the cover crop or contact with a prohibited substance applied to adjoining land that is not under natural management.

**§100.203 Soil fertility and cover crop nutrient management practice standard.**

- a) The producer must select and implement tillage and cultivation practices that maintain or improve the physical, chemical, and biological condition of soil and minimize soil erosion.
- b) The producer must manage cover crop nutrients and soil fertility through rotations, and the application of plant and animal materials.
- c) The producer must manage plant and animal materials to maintain or improve soil matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of cover crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances. Animal and plant materials include:
  - 1) Raw animal manure, which must be composted unless it is:
    - i) Applied to land used for a cover crop not intended for human consumption;
    - ii) Incorporated into the soil not less than 120 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion has direct contact with the soil surface or soil particles; or
    - iii) Incorporated into the soil not less than 90 days prior to the harvest of a product whose edible portion does not have direct contact with the soil surface or soil particles;
  - 2) Composted plant and animal materials produced through a process that
    - i) established an initial C:N ratio of between 25:1 and 40:1; and
    - ii) maintained a temperature of between 131° F and 170° F for 3 days using an in-vessel or static aerated pile system; or

- iii) maintained a temperature of between 131° F and 170° F for 15 days using a windrow composting system, during which period, the materials must be turned a minimum of five times.
- 3) Uncomposted plant materials.
  - i) Must be free of synthetic residues and contaminants
- d) A producer may manage cover crop nutrients and soil fertility to maintain or improve soil matter content in a manner that does not contribute to contamination of cover crops, soil, or water by plant nutrients, pathogenic organisms, heavy metals, or residues of prohibited substances by applying:
  - 1) A cover crop nutrient or soil amendment included on the Certified Natural, International List of substances allowed for use in natural crop production;
  - 2) A mined substance of low solubility;
  - 3) Ash obtained from the burning of a plant or animal material, provided that the material burned has not been treated or combined with a prohibited substance.
  - 4) A plant or animal material that has been chemically altered by a manufacturing process.
- e) The producer must not use:
  - 1) Any fertilizer or composted plant and animal material that contain a synthetic substance unless approved in writing by certifying agent;
  - 2) Sewage sludge
  - 3) Burning as a means of disposal for crop residues produced on the operation: except that burning may be used to suppress the spread of disease or to stimulate seed germination.

**§100.204 Seeds and planting stock practice standard.**

- a) The producer must use naturally grown seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock except that:
  - 1) Untreated seeds and planting stock may be used to produce a natural cover crop when an equivalent naturally produced variety is not commercially available except that naturally produced seed must be used for the production of edible sprouts;
  - 2) Non-certified produced seeds and planting stock that have been treated with a substance may be used when an equivalent naturally produced or untreated variety is not commercially available and is approved in writing by the certifying agent;
  - 3) Non-certified produced annual seedlings may be used to produce a natural cover crop when a temporary variance has been granted by your Certifying Agent.
  - 4) Non-certified produced planting stock to be used to produce a perennial cover crop may be represented as naturally produced only after the planting stock has been maintained under a system of natural management for a period of no less than 1 year; and
  - 5) Seeds, annual seedlings, and planting stock treated with prohibited substances may be used to produce a natural cover crop when the application of the materials is a requirement of Federal or State phytosanitary regulations. (Foreign Federal authorities and other properly recognized bodies as appropriate with the written approval of the certifying agent.)

**§100.205 Cover crop rotation practice standard.**

The producer must implement a cover crop rotation including but not limited to sod, green manure crops, and catch crops that provide the following functions that are applicable to the operation:

- a) Maintain or improve soil natural matter content;
- b) Provide for pest management in annual and perennial cover crops;
- c) Manage deficient or excess plant nutrients; and
- d) Provide erosion control.

**§100.206 Cover crop pest, weed, and disease management practice standard.**

- a) The producer must use management practices to prevent crop pests, weeds, and diseases including but not limited to:

- 1) Crop rotation and soil and crop nutrient management practices as provided herein
  - 2) Sanitation measures to remove disease vectors, weed seeds, and habitat for pest organisms; and
  - 3) Cultural practices that enhance cover crop health, including selection of plant species and varieties with regard to suitability to site-specific conditions and resistance to prevalent pests, weeds, and diseases.
- b) Pest problems may be controlled through mechanical or physical methods including but not limited to:
- 1) Augmentation or introduction of predators or parasites of the pest species;
  - 2) Development of habitat for natural enemies of pests;
  - 3) Non-synthetic controls such as lures, traps, and repellents.
- c) Weed problems may be controlled through:
- 1) Mulching with fully biodegradable materials;
  - 2) Mowing;
  - 3) Livestock grazing;
  - 4) Hand weeding and mechanical cultivation;
  - 5) Flame, heat, or electrical means
- d) Disease problems may be controlled through:
- 1) Management practices which suppress the spread of disease organisms; or
  - 2) Application of non-synthetic biological, botanical, or mineral inputs.
- e) When the practices provided for in paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section are insufficient to prevent or control cover crop pests, weeds, and diseases, a biological or botanical substance or a substance allowed for use in natural cover crop production may be applied to prevent, suppress, or control pests, weeds, or diseases provided that the conditions for using the substance are documented in the Certified Natural, International system plan and agreed to in writing by the certifying agent.
- f) The producer must not use lumber treated with arsenate or other prohibited materials for new installations or replacement purposes in contact with soil or livestock.

**§§100.207 - 100.269 [Reserved]**

**§100.270 Facility pest management practice standard.**

- a) The handler of a free-range facility must use management practices to prevent pests, including but not limited to:
- 1) Removal of pest habitat, food sources, and breeding areas;
  - 2) Prevention of access to handling facilities; and
  - 3) Management of environmental factors, such as temperature, light, humidity, atmosphere, and air circulation, to prevent pest reproduction.
- b) Pests may be controlled through:
- 1) Mechanical or physical controls including but not limited to traps, light, or sound; or
  - 2) Lures and repellents using non-synthetic substances.
- c) If the practices provided for in this section are not effective to prevent or control pests, a synthetic substance approved in writing by Certified Natural, International may be applied.
- d) If the practices provided for in this section are not effective to prevent or control facility pests, a synthetic substance may be applied, *provided that* the handler and certifying agent agree on the substance, method of application, and measures to be taken to prevent contact of the animals raised for free-range certification or ingredients used within the operation with the substance.
- e) The handler of a free-range operation who applies a non-synthetic or synthetic substance to prevent or control pests must update the operation's free-range handling plan to reflect the use of such substances and methods of application. The updated Certified Natural plan must include a list of all measures taken to prevent contact of the naturally produced feed or animals with the substance used.
- f) Notwithstanding the practices provided for in this section, a handler may otherwise use substances to prevent or control pests as required by Federal, State, or local laws and



regulations provided that measures are taken to prevent contact of the free-range animals or feed with the substance used.

**§100.271 Commingling and contact with prohibited substances prevention practice standard.**

a) The handler of a free-range operation must implement measures necessary to prevent Certified All Natural Free-Range Poultry and Livestock or Free-Range Poultry and Livestock from contact with prohibited substances.

b) The following are prohibited for use in the handling of any naturally raised poultry or livestock:

- 1) Packaging materials, and storage containers, or bins that contain a fungicide, preservative, or fumigant;
- 2) The use or reuse of any bag or container that has been in contact with any substance in such a manner as to compromise the natural integrity of any naturally produced product or ingredient placed in those containers, unless such reusable bag or container has been thoroughly cleaned and poses no risk of contact of the naturally produced product or ingredient with the substance used.

**§§100.272 - 100.289 [Reserved]**

**§100.290 Temporary variances.**

a) Temporary variances from the requirements in §§100.203 through 100.206 and 100.270 through 100.271 may be established for the following reasons:

- 1) Natural disasters declared by the USDA;
- 2) Damage caused by drought, wind, flood, excessive moisture, hail, tornado, earthquake, fire, or other business interruption; and
- 3) Practices used for the purpose of conducting research or trials of techniques, varieties, or ingredients used in Certified Natural production or handling.

c) The certifying agent must notify each production or handling operation it certifies to which the temporary variance applies.

d) Temporary variances will not be granted for any practice, material, or procedure prohibited.

**§§100.291-100.299 [Reserved]**

**Subpart C - Labels, Labeling, and Market Information**

**§100.300 Use of the term "Certified All Natural Free-Range" or "Certified Free-Range"**

a) The term, "Certified All Natural Free-Range" or "Certified Free-Range" may only be used in conjunction with poultry or livestock that have been raised and handled in accordance with the regulations in this part. The term, "Certified All Natural Free-Range Poultry or Livestock" or "Certified Free-Range" may not be used in a name to modify animal not raised to the specifications herein.

b) Poultry or animals for export, raised and certified to foreign national free-range standards or foreign contract buyer requirements, may be promoted in accordance with the requirements of the receiving country or contract buyer

**§100.301 Poultry or Livestock at the point of sale that are sold or represented as "Certified All Natural Free-Range" or "Certified Free-Range"**

a) Livestock or poultry for sale may use the term, "Certified All Natural Free-Range" to modify the name of the animal provided that the terms are used to identify the livestock or poultry that is intended for sale.

- 1) Contracts for sale must include the seal, logo, or other identifying mark of Certified Natural, International as having provided the certification of animals.

**§§100.302-100.399 [Reserved]**

**Subpart D - Certification**

**§100.400 General requirements for certification.**

A person seeking to receive or maintain Certified Natural, International Free-Range certification under the regulations in this part must:

- a) Comply with applicable Certified Natural, International free-range regulations of this part;

- b) Establish, implement, and update annually a natural system plan that is submitted to Certified Natural, International;
- c) Permit on-site inspections with complete access to the operation, including non-certified production and handling areas, structures, and offices by the certifying agent;
- d) Maintain all records applicable to the free-range operation for not less than three (3) years beyond their creation and allow authorized representatives and the certifying agent access to such records during normal business hours for review and copying to determine compliance with the regulations in this part;
- e) Submit the applicable fees charged by Certified Natural, International; and
- f) Immediately notify the certifying agent concerning any:
  - 1) Application, including drift, of a prohibited substance to any field, production unit, site, facility, product, or animal that is part of an operation; and
  - 2) Change in a certified operation or any portion of a certified operation that may affect its compliance with the regulations in this part.

**§100.401 Application for Certification.**

A person seeking certification of a free-range operation under this subpart must submit an application for certification to Certified Natural, International. The application must include the following information:

- a) A Certified Natural system plan;
- b) The name of the person completing the application; the applicant's business name, address, and telephone number; and, when the applicant is a corporation, the name, address, and telephone number of the person authorized to act on the applicant's behalf;
- c) The name(s) of any organic certifying agent(s) to which application has previously been made; the year(s) of application; the outcome of the application(s) submission, including, when available, a copy of any notification of non-compliance or denial of certification issued to the applicant for certification; and a description of the actions taken by the applicant to correct the non-compliances noted in the notification of non-compliance, including evidence of such correction; and
- d) Other information necessary to determine compliance with the regulations in this part.

**§100.402 Review of application.**

- a) Upon acceptance of an application for certification, Certified Natural, International must:
  - 1) Review the application to ensure completeness;
  - 2) Determine by a review of the application materials whether the applicant appears to comply or may be able to comply with the applicable requirements of subpart B of this part;
  - 3) Verify that an applicant who previously applied to another certifying agent and received a notification of non-compliance or denial of certification has submitted documentation to support the correction of any non-compliances identified in the notification of non-compliance or denial of certification and
  - 4) Schedule an on-site inspection of the operation to determine whether the applicant qualifies for certification if the review of application materials reveals that the production or handling operation may be in compliance with the applicable requirements of subpart B of this part.
- b) The certifying agent shall within a reasonable time:
  - 1) Review the application materials received and communicate its findings to the applicant;
  - 2) Provide the applicant with a copy of the on-site inspection report, as approved by the certifying agent, for any on-site inspection performed; and
  - 3) Provide the applicant with a copy of the test results for any samples taken by an inspector.
- c) The applicant may withdraw its application at any time. An applicant who withdraws its application shall be liable for all costs of services provided up to the time of withdrawal of its application. An applicant that voluntarily withdrew its application prior to the issuance of a notice of non-compliance will not be issued a notice of non-compliance. Similarly, an

applicant that voluntarily withdrew its application prior to the issuance of a notice of certification denial will not be issued a notice of certification denial.

**§100.403 On-site inspections.**

- a) On-site inspections.
  - 1) The certifying agent must conduct an initial on-site inspection of each production unit, facility, and site that produces or handles natural products and free-range animals and that is included in an operation for which certification is requested. An on-site inspection shall be conducted annually thereafter for each certified operation that produces or handles natural animals for the purpose of determining whether to approve the request for certification or whether the certification of the operation should continue.
- b) Scheduling.
  - 1) The initial on-site inspection must be conducted within a reasonable time following a determination that the applicant appears to comply or may be able to comply with the requirements of subpart B of this part except that the initial inspection may be delayed for up to 6 months to comply with the requirement that the inspection be conducted when the land, facilities, and activities that demonstrate compliance or capacity to comply can be observed.
  - 2) All on-site inspections must be conducted when an authorized representative of the operation who is knowledgeable about the operation is present and at a time when land, facilities, and activities that demonstrate the operation's compliance with or capability to comply with the applicable provisions of subpart B of this part can be observed, except that this requirement does not apply to unannounced on-site inspections.
- c) Verification of information. The on-site inspection of an operation must verify:
  - 1) The operation's compliance or capability to comply with the regulations in this part;
  - 2) That the information, including the Certified Natural system plan accurately reflects the practices used or to be used by the applicant for certification or by the certified operation;
  - 3) That prohibited substances have not been and are not being applied to the operation through means which, at the discretion of the certifying agent, may include the collection and testing of soil, water, waste, seeds, plant tissue, and plant, animal, and processed product samples. The applicant is not liable for the sampling costs.
- d) Exit interview. The inspector must conduct an exit interview with an authorized representative of the operation who is knowledgeable about the inspected operation to confirm the accuracy and completeness of inspection observations and information gathered during the on-site inspection. The inspector must also address the need for any additional information as well as any issues of concern.
- e) Documents to the inspected operation.
  - 1) At the time of the inspection, the inspector shall provide the operation's authorized representative with a receipt for any samples taken by the inspector. There shall be no charge to the inspector for the samples taken.
  - 2) A copy of the on-site inspection report and any test results will be sent to the inspected operation by the certifying agent.

**§100.404 Granting certification.**

- a) Within a reasonable time after completion of the initial on-site inspection, the certifying agent must review the on-site inspection report, the results of any analyses for substances conducted, and any additional information requested from or supplied by the applicant. If the certifying agent determines that the Certified Natural system plan and all procedures and activities of the applicant's operation are in compliance with the requirements of this part and that the applicant is able to conduct operations in accordance with the plan, the agent shall grant certification. The certification may include requirements for the correction of minor non-compliances within a specified time period as a condition of continued certification.

- b) The certifying agent must issue a certificate of Certified Natural, International operation which specifies the:
- 1) Name and address of the certified operation;
  - 2) Effective date of certification;
  - 3) Categories of Certified Natural, International operation;
  - 4) Name, address, and telephone number of the certifying agent.
  - 5) Provide the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board notice of certification at the following address: Program Manager, Certified Natural, International, PO Box 848, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.
- c) Once certified, a production or handling operation's Certified Natural certification continues in effect until surrendered by the Certified Natural operation or suspended or revoked by the certifying agent.

**§100.405 Denial of certification.**

- a) When the certifying agent has reason to believe, based on a review of the information that an applicant for certification is not able to comply or is not in compliance with the requirements of this part, the certifying agent must provide a written notification of non-compliance to the applicant. When correction of a non-compliance is not possible, a notification of non-compliance and a notification of denial of certification may be combined in one notification. The notification of non-compliance shall provide:
- 1) A description of each non-compliance;
  - 2) The facts upon which the notification of non-compliance is based; and
  - 3) The date by which the applicant must rebut or correct each non-compliance and submit supporting documentation of each such correction when correction is possible.
- b) Upon receipt of such notification of non-compliance, the applicant may:
- 1) Correct non-compliance's and submit a description of the corrective actions taken with supporting documentation to the certifying agent;
  - 2) Correct non-compliance's and submit a new application to certifying agent provided that the applicant must include a complete application, the notification of non-compliance received from the first certifying agent, and a description of the corrective actions taken with supporting documentation; or
  - 3) Submit written information to the issuing certifying agent to rebut the non-compliance described in the notification of non-compliance.
- c) After issuance of a notification of non-compliance, the certifying agent must:
- 1) Evaluate the applicant's corrective actions taken and supporting documentation submitted or the written rebuttal, conduct an on-site inspection if necessary, and
    - i) When the corrective action or rebuttal is sufficient for the applicant to qualify for certification, issue the applicant an approval of certification or;
    - ii) When the corrective action or rebuttal is not sufficient for the applicant to qualify for certification, issue the applicant a written notice of denial of certification.
  - 2) Issue a written notice of denial of certification to an applicant who fails to respond to the notification of non-compliance.
  - 3) Provide notice of approval or denial to the certification board
- d) A notice of denial of certification must state the reason(s) for denial and the applicant's right to:
- 1) Reapply for certification;
  - 2) Request mediation
  - 3) File an appeal of the denial of certification
- e) An applicant for certification who has received a written notification of non-compliance or a written notice of denial of certification may apply for certification again at any time.
- f) The certifying agent who receives a new application for certification, which includes a notification of non-compliance or a notice of denial of certification, must treat the application as a new application and begin a new application process.
- g) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, if the certifying agent has reason to believe that an applicant for certification has willfully made a false statement or otherwise

purposefully misrepresented the applicant's operation or its compliance with the certification requirements pursuant to this part, the certifying agent may deny certification pursuant to paragraph (c)(1)(ii) of this section without first issuing a notification of non-compliance.

**§100.406 Continuation of certification.**

- a) To continue certification, a certified operation must annually pay the certification fees and submit the following information, as applicable, to the certifying agent:
- 1) An updated Certified Natural system plan which includes:
    - i) A summary statement, supported by documentation, detailing any deviations from, changes to, modifications to, or other amendments made to the previous year's system plan during the previous year; and
    - ii) Any additions or deletions to the previous year's system plan, intended to be undertaken in the coming year
  - 2) Any additions to or deletions from the information required
  - 3) An update on the correction of minor non-compliances previously identified by the certifying agent as requiring correction for continued certification; and
  - 4) Other information as deemed necessary by the certifying agent to determine compliance with the regulations in this part.
- b) Following the receipt of the information specified in paragraph (a) of this section, the certifying agent shall, within a reasonable time, arrange and conduct an on-site inspection of the certified operation except that when it is impossible for the certifying agent to conduct the annual on-site inspection following receipt of the certified operation's annual update of information, the certifying agent may allow continuation of certification and issue an updated certificate of Certified Natural operation on the basis of the information submitted and the most recent on-site inspection conducted during the previous 12 months provided that the annual on-site inspection is conducted within the first 6 months following the certified operation's scheduled date of annual update.
- c) If the certifying agent has reason to believe, based on the on-site inspection and a review of the information that a certified operation is not complying with the requirements and the regulations in this part, the certifying agent shall provide a written notification of non-compliance to the operation.
- d) If the certifying agent determines that the certified operation is complying with these requirements and the regulations in this part and that any of the information specified on the certificate of Certified Natural operation has changed, the certifying agent must issue an updated certificate of Certified Natural operation.

**§§100.407-100.499 [Reserved]**

**Subpart E - Compliance**

**§100.500 General compliance standards.**

- a) The Certified Natural, International Advisory Board may inspect and review certified operations and certifying agents for compliance with the regulations in this part.
- b) The Certified Natural, International Advisory Board may initiate suspension or revocation proceedings against a certified operation:
- 1) When the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board has reason to believe that a certified operation has violated or is not in compliance with the regulations in this part; or
  - 2) When the certifying agent fails to take appropriate action to enforce the requirements in this part.
- c) Each notification of non-compliance, rejection of mediation, non-compliance resolution, proposed suspension or revocation, and suspension or revocation issued and each response to such notification must be sent to the recipient's place of business via a delivery service which provides dated return receipts.

**§100.501 Investigation of certified operations.**

- a) The certifying agent may investigate complaints of non-compliance with the regulations of this part concerning free-range operations certified by the certifying agent. The certifying

agent must notify the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board of all compliance actions taken pursuant to this part.

**§100.502 Non-compliance procedure for certified operations.**

a) Notification. When an inspection, review, or investigation of a certified operation by the certifying agent reveals any non-compliance with the regulations in this part, a written notification of non-compliance shall be sent to the certified operation. Such notification shall provide:

- 1) A description of each non-compliance;
- 2) The facts upon which the notification of non-compliance is based; and
- 3) The date by which the certified operation must rebut or correct each non-compliance and submit supporting documentation of each such correction when correction is possible.

b) Resolution:

- 1) When a certified operation demonstrates that each non-compliance has been resolved, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of non-compliance resolution.

c) Proposed suspension or revocation:

- 1) When rebuttal is unsuccessful or correction of the non-compliance is not completed within the prescribed time period, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification of the entire operation or a portion of the operation, as applicable to the non-compliance. When correction of a non-compliance is not possible, the notification of non-compliance and the proposed suspension or revocation of certification may be combined in one notification. The notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification shall state:
  - i) The reasons for the proposed suspension or revocation;
  - ii) The proposed effective date of such suspension or revocation;
  - iii) The impact of a suspension or revocation on future eligibility for certification; and
  - iv) The right to request mediation pursuant to §100.503 or to file an appeal pursuant to §100.700.

d) Willful violations:

- 1) Notwithstanding paragraph (a) of this section, if the certifying agent has reason to believe that a certified operation has willfully violated the regulations in this part, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification of the entire operation or a portion of the operation, as applicable to the non-compliance.

e) Suspension or revocation.

- 1) If the certified operation fails to correct the non-compliance, to resolve the issue through rebuttal or mediation, or to file an appeal of the proposed suspension or revocation of certification, the certifying agent shall send the certified operation a written notification of suspension or revocation.
- 2) The certifying agent must not send a notification of suspension or revocation to a certified operation that has requested mediation pursuant to §100.503 or filed an appeal pursuant to §100.700, while final resolution of either is pending.

f) Eligibility.

- 1) A certified operation whose certification has been suspended under this section may at any time, unless otherwise stated in the notification of suspension, submit a request to the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board for reinstatement of its certification. The request must be accompanied by evidence demonstrating correction of each non-compliance and corrective actions taken to comply with and remain in compliance with the regulations in this part.
- 2) A certified operation or a person responsibly connected with an operation whose certification has been revoked will be ineligible to receive certification for a period of 5 years following the date of such revocation, except that the Certified Natural,

International Advisory Board may, when in the best interest of the certification program, reduce or eliminate the period of ineligibility.

- g) Violations. In addition to suspension or revocation, any certified operation that:
- 1) Makes a false statement under the regulations herein to the certifying agent shall be subject to the provisions of section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

#### **§100.503 Mediation.**

Any dispute with respect to denial of certification or proposed suspension or revocation of certification under this part may be mediated at the request of the applicant for certification or certified operation and with acceptance by the certifying agent. Mediation shall be requested in writing to the applicable certifying agent. If the certifying agent rejects the request for mediation, the certifying agent shall provide written notification to the applicant for certification or certified operation. The written notification shall advise the applicant for certification or certified operation of the right to request an appeal, pursuant to §100.700, within 30 days of the date of the written notification of rejection of the request for mediation. If mediation is accepted by the certifying agent, such mediation shall be conducted by a qualified mediator mutually agreed upon by the parties to the mediation. The parties to the mediation shall have no more than 30 days to reach an agreement following a mediation session. If mediation is unsuccessful, the applicant for certification or certified operation shall have 30 days from termination of mediation to appeal the certifying agent's decision pursuant to §100.700. Any agreement reached during or as a result of the mediation process shall be in compliance with these regulations. The Certified Natural, International Advisory Board may review any mediated agreement for conformity to these regulations and may reject any agreement or provision not in conformance with these regulations.

#### **§100.504-100.599 [Reserved]**

### **Subpart F - Inspection and Testing, Reporting, and Exclusion from Sale**

#### **§100.600 Inspection and testing of livestock or poultry to be sold or labeled "Certified All Natural Free-Range" or "Free-Range".**

- a) All animals that are to be sold or represented as "Certified All Natural Free-Range" or "Certified Free-Range" must be made accessible by certified operations for examination by the certifying agent.
- b) The certifying agent may require testing of any input used or animal to be sold or represented as "Certified All Natural Free-Range" or "Certified Free-Range" when there is reason to believe that the input or animal has come into contact with a prohibited substance or has been produced using excluded methods. Such tests must be conducted by the certifying agent at the certifying agent's own expense.
- c) The test sample collection pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section must be performed by an inspector representing the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board or certifying agent. Sample integrity must be maintained throughout the chain of custody, and testing must be performed in an accredited laboratory. Chemical analysis must be made in accordance with the methods described in the most current edition of the applicable validated methodology determining the presence of contaminants in products or animals.
- d) Results of all analyses and tests performed under this section:
  - 1) Will be available for public access, unless the testing is part of an ongoing compliance investigation.
- e) If test results indicate a specific product or animal contains pesticide residues or environmental contaminants that exceed the Food and Drug Administration's or the Environmental Protection Agency's regulatory tolerances, the certifying agent must promptly report such data to the Federal health agency whose regulatory tolerance or action level has been exceeded.

#### **§100.601 Exclusion from Certified Natural sale.**

When testing detects prohibited substances at levels that are greater than the Environmental Protection Agency's tolerance for the specific residue detected or unavoidable residual environmental contamination, the animal must not be sold, labeled, or represented as naturally produced. The Certified Natural, International Advisory Board or the certifying agent may conduct an investigation of the certified operation to determine the cause of the prohibited substance.

**§100.602 Emergency pest or disease treatment.**

When a prohibited substance is applied to a certified operation due to a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program and the certified operation otherwise meets the requirements of this part, the certification status of the operation shall not be affected as a result of the application of the prohibited substance provided that:

- a) Any ingredient or animal that has contact with a prohibited substance applied as the result of a Federal or State emergency pest or disease treatment program cannot be sold or represented as naturally produced.

**§§100.603-100.699 [Reserved]**

**Subpart G - Adverse Action Appeal Process**

**§100.700 General appeal standards**

- a) Persons subject to the regulations herein who believe they are adversely affected by a non-compliance decision of the certifying agent may appeal such decision to the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board.
- b) Persons subject to the regulations herein who believe that they are adversely affected by a non-compliance decision of the certifying agent may initiate handling of the appeal pursuant to appeal procedures approved herein.
- c) Persons subject to the regulations herein who believe that they are adversely affected by a non-compliance decision of the certifying agent may appeal such decision to the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board.
- d) All written communications between parties involved in appeal proceedings must be sent to the recipient's place of business by a delivery service that provides dated return receipts.
- e) All appeals shall be reviewed, heard, and decided by persons not involved with the decision being appealed.

**§100.701 Appeals.**

- a) Certification appeals. An applicant for certification may appeal the certifying agent's notice of denial of certification, and a certified operation may appeal the certifying agent's notification of proposed suspension or revocation of certification to the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board.
- b) Filing period. An appeal of a non-compliance decision must be filed within the time period provided in the letter of notification or within 30 days from receipt of the notification, whichever occurs later. The appeal will be considered "filed" on the date received by the Certified Natural, International Advisory Board . A decision to deny, suspend, or revoke certification or accreditation will become final and non-appealable unless the decision is appealed in a timely manner.
- c) Where and what to file.
  - 1) Appeals to the Program Manager must be filed in writing and addressed to Program Administrator, Certified Natural, International, PO Box 848, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729.
  - 2) All appeals must include a copy of the adverse decision and a statement of the appellant's reasons for believing that the decision was not proper or made in accordance with applicable program regulations, policies, or procedures.

**§§100.702-100.799 [Reserved]**



## Subpart H – Specific Standards

### STANDARDS for “CERTIFIED ALL NATURAL FREE-RANGE” AND “CERTIFIED FREE-RANGE” LIVESTOCK

#### Definition of “Certified All Natural Free-Range” as it pertains to this certification:

Any animal which has been raised *at least* 85% of it's lifetime on outdoor pastureland and adheres to the following standards.

#### Definition of “Certified Free-Range” as it pertains to this certification:

Any animal which has been raised *at least* 85% of it's lifetime on outdoor pastureland and adheres to the following standards, but is allowed treatment with antibiotics.

#### 100.800 General-Livestock

The following must be documented 1 time per week:

- a. Any illnesses
- b. Pasture cover condition
- c. Cleaning of feed equipment, housing and transport crates
- d. Any equipment or housing maintenance performed.

#### 100.801 Conversion

- a. Livestock raised under certified organic standards may qualify for conversion to the natural program immediately if not previously treated with any means not allowed herein. If not, the following conversions apply:

1. First generation offspring of any animal that is certified organic
2. Offspring where first generation is raised on farm in “natural” or organic manner (non-certified). This must be proven by records and trace back of food, parentage and veterinarian care.
3. Dairy: Milk produced from cows that have been raised in a “natural” free-range environment for at least one year.

#### 100.802 Pasturing / Breeding

All livestock must be raised to the following standards:

- a. All livestock must be allowed continuous access to pasture after:  
Sheep: no later than 2 weeks\* of age.  
Cattle: no later than 6 weeks\* of age.  
Pigs: no later than 2 weeks\* of age.  
\*when temperatures do not impose a health hazard along with free access to shelter at all times.
- b. When livestock are kept in a climate that does not support year round vegetation they must still be allowed continuous free-will access to pasture with supplemental approved food and water available at stations in the pasture at all times. Outdoor access to a concrete area is not acceptable. Adequate pasture to support the number of livestock is required to be available and accessible at all times.
- c. Livestock must be allowed to reproduce and genetically maintained through self-breeding. Artificial insemination is not allowed without written consent of certifying agent.

#### 100.803 General Health Practices

- a. Any animal that becomes ill or injured and requires treatment not allowed herein must not be denied such care in order to keep the animal within program limits. If the producer of livestock has been found to refuse treatment by a means not allowed herein in order to prevent removal of said animal from “natural” status, the producer shall be decertified immediately.
- b. If any animal is treated with actions not allowed herein, said animal must be easily identified as treated and cannot be sold as “natural.”
- c. If birth happens to take place within a temporary shelter, clean and fresh bedding must be available.
- d. Additional feed and vitamin supplementation is encouraged in pregnant animals.

- e. Induction by drugs is not allowed unless medically necessary and overseen by a qualified veterinarian.
- f. All surgical procedures must be performed by a veterinarian and must include the use of anesthetic.
- g. Chlorine and alcohols are allowed in the cleaning and sanitizing of equipment and buildings provided that it does not come in direct contact with feed or livestock.
- h. Standard vaccinations are allowed.
- i. Castration is allowed with anesthesia and with animal less than 14 days of age.

#### **100.804 Health Care**

The producer of All Natural livestock must establish a written health care plan that provides for the following:

- a. Selection of appropriate species for site conditions and must not be a "fast growing" strain.
- b. Implementation of feeding program to include rations, vitamins and minerals sufficient to meet nutritional requirements.
- c. Records and a prevention plan of all vaccines, parasite treatments and any other veterinarian care.
- d. Records of all cullings and reasons.
- e. Records of all defects.
- f. Records of any illness or injury and of time withdrawn.
- g. Records of deaths and causes.
- h. Daily general overall group observations must be recorded.
- i. Records of daily predator observations.
- j. Records of twice daily inside housing and outdoor temperatures.
- k. Records of cleaning and disinfection of all housing and fixtures.
- l. Steps taken to allow Livestock to give birth on pasture. The handler must observe and monitor the animal in order to intervene if necessary to prevent loss or unnecessary suffering.
- m. Steps taken to allow birthing to take place to coincide with spring pasture growth.
- n. The use of antibiotics (Free-Range program only) and internal parasiticides are only to be used under specific situations when there is no other alternative and is to be administered by a veterinarian. Once administered to stock the following applies:
  - 1. Slaughter stock that has had any parasiticides must be withdrawn from the program for a minimum of 90 days.
  - 2. Dairy stock must not have milk sold during 14 days following administering of these substances as "free-range".
  - 3. Pregnant stock must not receive these treatments in the last 1/3 of pregnancy and nursing animals must not be treated until offspring is weaned. If it is imperative to the health of the nursing mother to receive treatment while still nursing, other measures must be taken to provide milk to the offspring or the offspring can not be raised within the All Natural Free-Range program but may be converted to the Free-Range program and certified therein (antibiotics only).
  - 4. Once treated with an antibiotic, any animal in any production stage must be removed from All Natural Free-Range program and converted to the Free-Range program if so desired. This will require certification under the Free-Range program.
- o. A written regular schedule of preventive health care must be followed to prevent hoof problems, disease and parasites.
- p. A program that allows cattle must be uniquely identifiable.
- q. Tusks of pigs may be trimmed only by a veterinarian.
- r. Animals treated with an anesthetic must be allowed a withdrawal period of:
  - 1. 7 days for dairy or slaughter stock

#### **100.805 Weaning**

- a. Steps taken to promote livestock being able to maintain visual/auditory contact upon weaning.
  - 1. Lambs must not be less than 3 months of age when weaned.

2. Calves must be no less than 5 months of age at weaning.
3. Pigs must be no less than 3 months of age when weaned.

#### **100.806 Prohibited Practices**

Prohibited practices are as follows:

- a. Livestock must not be:
  1. fed any synthetic ingredient or urea
  2. fed any animal or avian by-product
  3. treated with a growth hormone
  4. cloned
  5. fed any GMO product
  6. the first generation offspring of an animal produced with any synthetic means not allowed herein excluding cloned livestock whose offspring is not allowed under any circumstances. If said first generation is then raised by "natural" free-range standards, the second generation will qualify for inclusion to program.
  7. Confined to a feedlot at any time in its life
- b. Disbudding
- c. Mulesing
- d. Shearing of sheep in winter months
- e. Routinely administering parasiticides
- f. Hot and cold branding
- g. Use of electric prods
- h. Tail docking
- i. Livestock must not be tethered or penned except for the practice of animal husbandry and veterinarian care up to one full day unless written instructions from the vet require otherwise.
- j. The routine use of non-therapeutic antibiotics, hormones, or sulfas to control or mask disease or promote growth are not allowed.
- k. Dehorning. Tipping is allowed if medically necessary.
- l. Milk replacer containing antibiotics or growth promoters.
- m. Nose-ringing
- n. Cutting or grinding of teeth
- o. Farrowing crates.
- p. Cutting of dewlaps
- q. Brisket tagging
- r. Wattling

#### **100.807 Feed and Water**

- a. Records must be kept showing the frequency and method of cleaning and sanitizing food and water containers to prevent contamination by foreign objects and caking of feed. Written procedures must be in place and accessible to all employees.
- b. Sufficient feed and water must be available at all times. Feed and forage must be available as supplementation to pasture not as an alternative.
- c. Feeding any animal a meat or poultry product, by-product, blood or bone meal or synthetic ingredient is prohibited.
- d. Areas where feed is stored must be rodent proof and all feed must not be contaminated by rodents or mold.
- e. Water and feed offered (indoors and out) must be fed up off of the ground with sufficient room so that every animal within the group can feed at the same time without competition. Automated sequential feeders are not allowed.
  1. Feed offered to ruminants out of the growing season must allow them to continue rumination by consisting of at least 70% dry, high quality forage or long fiber roughage.
- f. Livestock must not be fed medicated feed or feed with any added ingredients other than those allowed herein. Only feed consisting of whole grains are allowed. No pelletized grain allowed.
- g. Newly born livestock may utilize a milk substitute as a last resort.
- h. Records must be kept of all on-site mixing of feed including source and ratios.

- i. There may be no controlling of food intake/quality to either induce rapid growth or to prevent normal weight gain.
- j. All "finishing" must take place on the pasture. Additional feeding at this stage to allow for fattening is allowed.

#### **100.808 Housing**

- a. Indoor stocking density of housing:
  - 1. Sheep-
    - a. Ewes with lambs: lambs to 2 weeks, one pair per six square feet  
lambs to 6 weeks, one pair per seven square feet
    - b. Lambs and sheep over 6 weeks: one per 3 square feet
    - c. Rams: 6 square feet
  - 2. Cows must have enough room per animal for all to lay prone, turn around and get up and down without difficulty or touching another animal.
  - 3. Boars shall have a minimum of 64 square feet, excluding access to outdoors. Sows and litter must have a minimum of 35 square feet. Growing pigs must have minimum of 8 square feet per pig while housed indoors.
- b. Floors must not be slatted except around water source. Slats must not allow foot to be caught or trapped.
- c. Housing must be draft proof, predator proof and ventilated with adequate protection and temperature control from the elements.
- d. Only non-toxic bedding is allowed and must be maintained in a dry, hygienic and mold free manner.
- e. Passages must be wide enough to allow 2 or more cows passage at the same time.
- f. There must be enough space within any shelter to allow all animals to lie down, stand and rise simultaneously without difficulty.
- g. Isolation areas must be available for sick or injured animals and must be within vocal/hearing distance of other animals of like kind unless the illness warrants complete isolation.
- h. Outdoor stocking density:
  - 1. Pigs must not exceed 6 adults per acre or 15 adults per hectare.
  - 2. All other livestock stocking rates must be within reason for the region and must have a written plan that shows the impact on the environment as well as provisions for the health of the livestock. All livestock must be raised in a rotated pasture management system.
- i. All manure must be handled in such a way as to prevent ground and water contamination.
- j. Outdoor pasture huts are allowed for the farrowing of sows. These must allow for the natural instinct of nest building as well as allow room for the mother to remove herself from the piglets as needed. Only one adult and litter allowed per hut. Bedding area must consist of at least 16 square feet and total square footage, including access to pasture, shall be a minimum of 35 square feet per sow.
- k. Bedding must be appropriate to the animal as well as clean and dry. If the bedding may be consumed by the animal it must be of a food quality applicable to the animal.

#### **100.809 Pest Control**

Acceptable pest and predator control plan must be written and available to all employees. Emphasis is placed on prevention and deterrents, however lethal methods are allowed as a last resort. There must be written records describing all actions taken and you must obtain written permission from the certifying agent prior to implementing lethal action.

#### **100.810 Training**

Ongoing training shall be mandatory for all employees to be conducted no less than once yearly. Records of attendance, topic, dates and times must be kept for no less than three (3) years. Training may also consist of conferences and seminars.

#### **100.811 Land Management and Practices**

- a. Livestock must be allowed free access when weather permits to pasture with at least 75% vegetation cover. Adequate written plans must be in place to maintain acreage in a way that will always provide vegetation cover by rotation of pasture.

- b. All pasture must have written records and test results proving no synthetic pesticides or herbicides have been used in the past 3 years. These are not allowed for the duration of use for "natural" livestock.
- c. All natural fertilizers are allowed and must be recorded and applied during the resting stage. Copies of labels must be provided to the certification body.
- d. All efforts must be taken to maintain or improve the quality of cover, the soil and reduce pests.
- e. There must be adequate shelter from wind, rain and other inclement weather available in the pasture which may include trees or man-made shelter and must allow all animals within the herd to stand, lie down and rise without difficulty.
- f. Shade must be available in addition to shelter.
- g. Wallows, or other means of cooling, must be available for pigs during warm weather.
- h. A forage quality and rotation plan must be implemented that allows for controlled grazing.
- i. Drainage plans must be in place for low lying areas that collect standing water and to protect surrounding areas that may be contaminated by the runoff.
- j. Rotation must be implemented depending on availability of ground cover. There must always be sufficient growth of grasses to allow for continued grazing and land must not be allowed to become overgrazed or polluted with manure.
- k. Stocking density should be managed to allow nutritional requirements to be met mainly through grazing.
- l. Soil samples must be taken and recorded prior to the first group being pastured to determine a baseline. Soil tests must be performed annually to prevent excessive build up of nutrients.
- m. Pasture must be allowed a "resting" period between groups of not less than one growing season.

#### **100.812 Transport**

Livestock must be allowed access to water up to loading. Feed may be withdrawn up to 8 hours prior to transport. The following standards also apply:

- a. Transport vehicles must provide adequate ventilation.
- b. Floors must be solid construction.
- c. Temperature must be maintained at a comfortable level.
- d. There must be sufficient room within the transport to contain animals without causing injury by crowding.

#### **100.813 – 100.899 [Reserved]**

# **“CERTIFIED ALL NATURAL FREE-RANGE” AND “CERTIFIED FREE-RANGE” POULTRY STANDARDS Farm**

## **Definition of “Certified All Natural Free-Range” as it pertains to this certification:**

Any poultry which has been raised *at least* 85% of it's lifetime on outdoor pastureland and adheres to the following standards.

## **Definition of “Certified Free-Range” as it pertains to this certification:**

Any poultry which has been raised *at least* 85% of it's lifetime on outdoor pastureland and adheres to the following standards, but is allowed treatment with antibiotics.

## **STANDARDS**

### **100.900 General**

To qualify for certification under the Certified Natural, International (CNI) Certified All Natural Free-Range Poultry program the following standards must be met or exceeded. All documentation must be maintained for a minimum of three (3) years and be available to the certification provider upon demand during normal business hours.

- a. All documentation must be adapted to the particular farm.
- b. Must be handled to the specifications set herein.
- c. Fully disclose all activities and transactions of the operation in sufficient detail as to be readily understood and audited and including, but not limited to:
- d. Be able to demonstrate compliance with all regulations herein.
- e. All birds must be allowed access to pasture after 10 days of age whenever temperatures do not impose a health hazard with free access to shelter, both on the range and housing, at all times.
- f. A written bio-security plan must be in place and available to all employees.
- g. Birds must be allowed to reproduce and genetically maintained through self-breeding. Artificial insemination is not allowed.
- h. Hens must have access to nest boxes and nesting materials at all times.
- i. When birds are kept in a climate that does not support year round vegetation all birds must still be allowed continuous free-will access to the outdoors.

### **100.901 Conversion**

Birds raised under certified organic standards may qualify for conversion to the natural program immediately if under 2 weeks of age and not previously treated with any means not allowed herein. If not, the following conversions apply:

1. Pullets for egg production must be less than 4 weeks old
2. Chicks for broiler production must be less than 3 days old.

### **100.902 Health Care**

The producer of All Natural Free-Range Poultry must establish a written health care plan that provides for the following:

- a. Selection of appropriate species for site conditions and must not be a “fast growing” strain.
- b. Implementation of feeding program to include rations, vitamins, minerals, protein, amino acids, fatty acids sufficient to meet nutritional requirements.
- c. Records of all vaccines, parasite treatments and any other routine veterinarian care.
- d. Records of all cullings and reasons.
- e. Records of all defects.
- f. Records of any illness or injury and of time withdrawn.
  1. Any bird that becomes ill or injured and requires treatment not allowed herein *must not be denied* such care in order to keep bird within program limits.
  2. If any bird is treated with actions not allowed herein said bird must be removed from the “natural” flock.
- g. Records of deaths and causes.

- h. Daily general overall flock observations must be recorded.
- i. Records of daily predator observations.
- j. Records of daily brooder observations.
- k. Records of twice daily inside housing and outdoor temperatures.
- l. Records of litter stirring and removal of litter.
- m. Records of cleaning and disinfection of all housing and fixtures between batches.

### **100.903 Prohibited Practices**

Prohibited practices are as follows:

- a. Toe Clipping
- b. Beak Trimming
- c. Wing Clipping
- d. Dubbing
- e. Induced Molting
- f. Birds must not be:
  - 1. fed any synthetic ingredient or urea
  - 2. fed any animal by-product
  - 3. treated with a growth hormone
  - 4. cloned
  - 5. fed any GMO product
  - 6. cloned
  - 7. the first generation offspring of a bird produced with any means not allowed herein excluding cloned animals whose offspring in not allowed under any circumstances
  - 8. No caging allowed
  - 9. The routine use of non-therapeutic antibiotics, hormones, or sulfas to control or mask disease or promote growth are not allowed.
- g. Surgical castration
- h. De-voicing
- i. De-winging
- j. Tendon severing
- k. Toe-punching
- l. Slitting of webs (ducks)

### **100.904 Feed and Water**

- a. Records must be kept showing the frequency and method of cleaning and sanitizing food and water containers to prevent contamination by foreign objects and caking of feed. Written procedures must be in place and accessible to all employees.
- b. Sufficient feed and water must be available at all times. Feed must be available as supplementation to pasture not as an alternative.
- c. Water and food disbursement size must be sufficient to reduce competition between birds as follows:
  - 1. Cup drinkers - 1 per 30 birds
  - 2. Nipple drinkers - 1 per 10 birds
  - 3. Bell drinkers - 1 per 100 birds
  - 4. Trough drinkers - 2 inches per bird (turkeys and like sized birds – 4 inches per bird)
  - 5. Feeders - 2 inches per bird (turkeys and like sized birds – 4 inches per bird)
- d. Areas where feed is stored must be rodent proof and mold free.
- e. Birds must be provided access to calcium derived from oyster shell or grass-fed bone in free-choice manner.
- f. Birds must not be fed medicated feed or feed with any added ingredients. Only feed consisting of mixed whole grains are allowed. No pelletized grain allowed.
- g. Alfalfa pellets and dried kelp may be utilized along with dried legumes when free range is not accessible due to inclement weather or isolation due to sickness.
- h. Wild sourced seafood meal may be added to the daily ration to boost omega content.
- i. There may be no controlling of food intake/quality to either induce rapid growth (broilers) or to prevent normal weight gain (breeders/layers).

### **100.905 Housing**

- a. Indoor stocking density of housing:  
Chicken/ducks or like size birds:
  1. Hens – 1 bird per 1.5 square feet, broilers – 1 bird per square foot
  2. 6 inches of perch per bird
  3. 1 bird per 5.25 square feet
  4. 10 inches of perch space per bird
  5. Turkeys and like sized birds must be allowed twice the space as provided herein for chickens/ducks and like sized birds.
- b. If a dust bath is not available in the pasture, one must be provided.
- c. Housing must be draft proof, predator proof and ventilated with adequate protection and temperature control from the elements.
- d. Only non-toxic litter is allowed and must be stirred at least once per week and must be maintained in a dry and hygienic manner.
- e. Brooders must accommodate all of the chick's thermal and feeding/watering needs.
- f. Laying hens are allowed artificial lighting to provide up to 16 hours per day of light.
- g. The minimum size pophole for chickens and like sized birds is 14 inches by 16 inches and there must be 2 popholes per 300 birds, and the minimum pophole size for turkeys and like sized birds is 3.5 feet high and 4.75 feet wide with a minimum of 2 popholes per 250 birds.

### **100.906 Pest Control**

Acceptable pest and predator control plan must be written and available to all employees. Emphasis is placed on prevention and deterrents, however lethal methods are allowed as a last resort. There must be written records describing all actions taken and you must obtain written permission from the certifying agent prior to implementing lethal action.

### **100.907 Training**

Ongoing training shall be mandatory for all employees to be conducted no less than once yearly. Records of attendance, topic, dates and times must be kept for no less than three (3) years.

### **100.908 Land Management**

- a. Birds must be allowed free access when weather permits to pasture with at least 75% vegetation cover. Adequate written plans must be in place to maintain acreage in a way that will always provide vegetation cover by rotation of pasture. The pasture must have written records proving no pesticides or herbicides have been used in the past 3 years and are not allowed for the duration of use for natural poultry.
- b. There must be adequate shelter available in the pasture which may include trees or man-made shelter with roosts.
- c. Ducks and other aquatic fowl must be provided with access to water deep enough for swimming and for head immersion. To prevent duckling drowning the water area must be graded or contain immersibles which allow duckling footing to easily remove themselves from the water.
- d. Pasture must be kept mowed or planted with low-growing vegetation which may include cover such as clover, legumes, or oats. Ruminant grazing is allowed.
- e. Drainage plans must be in place for low lying areas that collect standing water and to protect surrounding areas that may be contaminated by the runoff.
- f. Rotation must be affected at no later than every 3 months depending on availability of ground cover. Soil samples must be taken and recorded prior to the first flock being pastured to determine a baseline. Soil tests must be performed annually to prevent excessive build up of nutrients. Pasture must be allowed a "resting" period between flocks per the following guideline:
  1. Minimum 2 months rest between batches
  2. Minimum one year's rest every three years

### **100.909 Transport**

Birds must be allowed access to water up to crating. Feed may be withdrawn up to 8 hours prior to transport. Birds must not be crated until just prior to loading.

- a. Crates must be sterilized between each transport



- b. Doors must be large enough to allow easy removal/loading of birds
- c. Transport truck must be covered to prevent exposure to weather
- d. Birds must be loaded into crates in such a way as to prevent injuries