Selling Organic Ruminant Slaughter Stock

As the organic beef industry grows, demand is increasing for culled organic dairy animals to meet the demand of affordable beef. However, differences in the requirements for organic dairy animals and organic slaughter stock mean that animals that qualify as organic dairy animals may not qualify for organic beef slaughter stock.

Beef must be listed on the organic certificate for the producer to sell culls as organic slaughter stock. To list beef, WSDA must verify that slaughter stock have been under continuous organic management since the last third of gestation and have never been treated with Ivermectin, fenbendazole or moxidectin.

Transitioned animals
Most WSDA certified organic dairies transitioned in their herd rather than purchasing certified animals. Any animal (whether heifer or cow) that is transitioned from conventional to organic is not eligible for organic beef. This applies to animals transitioned both under the 80/20 feed exemption and the 100% feed transition.

Replacement animals (closed herd)
Calves born to cows that were either in transition or certified organic during the last third of gestation would be eligible for organic beef as long as they have not been treated with synthetic parasiticides (Ivermectin, fenbendazole or moxidectin).

Purchased organic animals
Purchased organic animals are only eligible for organic beef if the farmer can get verification from the seller of the animals that these animals were under organic management from the last third of gestation (and not transitioned) and were not treated with synthetic parasiticides (Ivermectin, fenbendazole or moxidectin).

WSDA Ruminant Slaughter Verification Form
Producers can have sellers complete the WSDA Ruminant Slaughter Verification Form (AGR 2611) for all animals they purchase. Producers may also use the WSDA Ruminant Slaughter Verification Form when selling any dairy animals to the organic beef market.
NATIONAL ORGANIC STANDARDS CITATIONS

- Origin of Livestock:
  205.236 (a) Livestock products that are to be sold, labeled, or represented as organic must be from livestock under continuous organic management from the last third of gestation.

- Parasiticides:
  205.603 Synthetic Substances Allowed for Use in Organic Livestock Production
  (18) Parasiticides. Ivermectin, fenbendazole, moxidectin—prohibited in slaughter stock.

For questions or application forms:

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