ORGANIC PIG FARMING

Guidelines no. 22:
Rules for organic pig production
in accordance with EU Regulations (EC) no. 834/2007 and (EC) no. 889/2008
I. Scope

Organic pig-farming is covered by European Regulation.

Wild animals from hunting are not, however, considered to be part of the organic production system (e.g.: wild pigs and boars.).

II. Conversion

A. Definition

The conversion to organic farming corresponds to the transition phase between conventional agriculture and the «organic farming» designation.

The conversion period starts once:

- All the breeding requirements stated in the (EC) Regulation 834/07 (Art.11 and 14) and in the (EC) Regulation 889/08 (Art. 8 to 25) are met (housing, feeding, disease prevention...).
- The operator has submitted his holding to the control system and notified his activity as organic farmer to the competent authority.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conversion period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pasturage/open air area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months or 6 months (with no other possible reduction)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>if the land concerned has not received disallowed treatments during the last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Animals</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Land used for organic feed production</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>« Classic» conversion of organic plant production*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months before sowing for annual crops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months before use as organic feed for grassland and perennial forage</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Animals may be wholly fed on in-conversion feedstuffs (meaning starting from the 12th month of conversion of the land used to produce the feed) if the feed originates solely from the holding.

NB: See part «V. Purchasing animals » for the requirements for introducing non-organic animals to the holding.
B. Examples of conversion

1. Pasture rearing:

12-month pasture conversion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start of pasture conversion</th>
<th>Start of conversion for animals</th>
<th>Animals are ORGANIC on 01/11/2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>ORGANIC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/05/2010</td>
<td>01/11/2011</td>
<td>01/11/2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6-month reduced pasture conversion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Start of pasture conversion</th>
<th>Start of conversion for animals</th>
<th>Animals are ORGANIC on 01/05/2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>ORGANIC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/05/2010</td>
<td>01/11/2010</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Rearing within buildings:

Animal conversion starts once the building and open air areas meet organic requirements (See part VII regarding buildings).

Note:
Simultaneous conversion of land and animals over 24 months is not « economically » advantageous in pig production, when compared with non-simultaneous conversion.

III. Mixed operations

A. Definition:

Mixed production means that one or several categories of animals are reared simultaneously on the same holding, organically and conventionally. Any simultaneous production constitutes a split operation, which may temporarily be tolerated under certain conditions or prohibited in some cases.
B. General rules:

A single animal species may not simultaneously be reared organically and conventionally on the same farm (even if the organic and conventional units are completely separate).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Special cases</th>
<th>Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Possible commingling of different species</td>
<td>Clear separation of buildings, pasture and land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Example: organic pigs and conventional sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holdings carrying out agricultural</td>
<td>Possible subject to prior agreement to project by ECOCERT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>research or formal education: rearing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the same species organically and</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>conventionally</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IV. Identification and transport

A. Identification documents

Animals must possess permanent identification, which for pigs may be individual or per batch (in accordance with art. 75 of EC regulation 889/08) but it must also meet each country’s relevant regulatory requirements (ring or tattoo where required).

Livestock records must be kept at all times and must be made available to the control body. They must describe:

- entering animals (origin, number, conversion period, veterinary history, identification marks)
- animals leaving (age, number, destination, identification mark, weight if slaughtered)
- any animal losses and the causes thereof
- feeding
- disease prevention, treatment and veterinary care

B. Transporting animals

Animal transportation time must be reduced to limit stress and maintain their welfare conditions.

Identification of the animals and their products must be ensured at all stages of production, preparation (slaughter, cutting up), transport and marketing.
Animals must be loaded and unloaded without the use of electrical stimulation, and the use of allopathic tranquilisers is prohibited before and during the journey.

V. Purchasing animals

A. General remarks

On an organic holding, purchased animals must be organic. Purchasing non-organic animals may, however, be authorised for rearing when organic animals are unavailable (for reproduction and not for fattening).

B. Use of non-organic animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories of animal</th>
<th>Authorised % of non-organic purchases</th>
<th>Maximum age or weight of purchase</th>
<th>Animals’ conversion period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establishing reproductive stock</td>
<td>No numerical limitation when constituting a herd</td>
<td>Piglets &lt; 35 kg</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishing stock for fattening</td>
<td>Purchasing conventional piglets for fattening prohibited.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stock renewal</td>
<td>Up to 20 % per year of the adult livestock for renewal in the form of nulliparous adult females (or 1 animal/year if the stock is &lt; 5 porcine). or 40% in one of the following situations: -Major extension to the farm -Change of breed -New livestock specialisation -Endangered breed (in this case non-nulliparous adults can be purchased) \  [\Rightarrow] Agreement of competent authority must be requested</td>
<td>Nulliparous adult females</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding boars (adult males)</td>
<td>For reproduction : 100% of requirements</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
C. Exceptional conditions

When animal mortality is high due to illness or catastrophic circumstances, the competent authority may authorise, with documentary evidence, livestock renewal or re-establishment through non-organic animals on a temporary basis when organically reared animals are not available. (Art 47 REC 889/08).

VI. Feeding

A. Feedstuff autonomy

Landless livestock production, where the producer does not manage the agricultural land and/or has not established a written cooperation agreement with another organic producer to spread his effluent, is prohibited.

At least 20% of the feed shall come from the farm itself or be produced in the same region in cooperation with other organic farms or feed business operators.

B. Composition of feedstuffs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEED MATERIALS</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic plant origin</td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic animal origin</td>
<td>Any feed material of animal origin (in respect of the standard regulation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organic milk</td>
<td>Young mammals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodder (roughage, fresh, dried) or silage</td>
<td>Must be added to the daily ration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed materials of mineral origin</td>
<td>No restriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FEEDSTUFFS NON “FROM Organic Farming”</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conventional feed materials (plant or animal origin)</td>
<td>Spices, herbs and molasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yeasts <em>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</em> and/or <em>carlsbergiensis</em></td>
<td>- if non available in organic form - produced or prepared without chemical solvents - 1% /year maximum of the feed ration (calculation as a % of dry matter of feed from agricultural origin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>produced or prepared without chemical solvents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|               | Protein feed of plant and animal origin | -if non available in organic form  
|---------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|               | -produced or prepared without chemical solvents  
|               | -5% maximum per period of 12 months (calculation as a % of dry matter of feed from agricultural origin) for 2012, 2013 and 2014  
|               | -produced or prepared without chemical solvents  
|               | -use of fish protein hydrolysate only for young animals (no maximum %)  
| **C1**        | **self-produced** permanent pastures (grazing or harvesting), perennial forage and protein crop | Up to 20%**  
|               | Purchased fodder/ cereals/... | Considered as conventional  
| **C2**        | Self-produced | Up to 100%  
|               | Purchased | Up to 30%**  

### OTHER SUBSTANCES

| **Nutritional additives** | Synthetic amino acids, growth promoters | **Prohibited**  
|                          | Vitamins and provitamins | Natural vitamins and synthetic vitamins which are identical to natural ones  
|                          | Trace elements | Listed in annex VI.3b of EC Regulation 889/2008  

| **Zootecchnical additives** | Enzymes and micro organisms |  

| **Technological additives** | Preservatives, antioxidant substances, binders, coagulants and anti-caking agents, silage additives | Listed in annex VI 1 of EC Regulation 889/2008  

| **Sensory additives** | Flavouring compounds | Extracts from agricultural products  

*C1 : produced on parcels in the 1st year of conversion  
*C2 : produced on parcels during the conversion period from the 2nd year onwards  
**calculated as a percentage of dry matter in feedstuffs of plant origin
All raw materials and substances used must be guaranteed “non-GM” (particular vigilance is required for micro-organisms, enzymes and yeasts).

For further details, you may consult Guidelines no. 26 (Animal Feed).

**C. Exceptional Conditions**

Use of non-organic feed may be permitted by the Competent Authority for a limited period in a defined area (article 47 of EC Regulation 889/2008) where there have been losses of forage production due to exceptional climatic conditions, fires...

**D. Prohibited practices**

Keeping animals in conditions which encourage anaemia or subjecting them to a diet which promotes anaemia, is prohibited.

**VII. Buildings**

Buildings are not mandatory in areas where climatic conditions allow the animals to live outdoors.

**A. Requirements**

- Smooth, non-slippery floors
- A minimum of 50% of the indoor surface area defined in annex III to EC Regulation 889/2008 must be constructed in a solid material (not slatted or grid)
- Dry laying/rest area on solid material (not slatted), covered with natural litter
- Exercise areas must permit dunging and rooting by the animals (different substrates may be used)

**B. Tethering and isolating animals**

Prohibited practices except individually for a limited period for safety or welfare reasons, or when following veterinary instructions (proof of requests required)

Sows are kept in groups except at the end of gestation and during the suckling period.

Piglets may not be kept in boxes with duckboard floors (flatdesk) or in cages.
C. Minimum area

Stocking density must guarantee the animal comfort and welfare. For this purpose minimum areas for buildings and exercise areas are specified in annex III to EC Regulation 889/2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Indoors (net surface area/animal)</th>
<th>Outdoors (exercise areas, pasturage excluded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum live weight (kg)</td>
<td>m² / head</td>
<td>m² / head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farrowing sows with piglets under 40 days old</td>
<td>7,5 per sow</td>
<td>2,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs for fattening</td>
<td>Up to 50</td>
<td>0,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 85</td>
<td>1,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 110</td>
<td>1,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Over 110</td>
<td>1,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piglets</td>
<td>Over 40 days and maximum 30 kg</td>
<td>0,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pigs for reproduction</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>If pens are used for natural service : 10 m² per breeding boar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of animals is limited so as to reduce overgrazing, poaching of soil, erosion or pollution caused by the animals or by spreading of their manure.

In particular, stocking density must not result in an annual nitrogen load per hectare of organic agricultural land used by the producer in excess of 170 kg, and the total quantity of effluent from the holding (fresh and dried manure, composted solid excrement, composted manure, liquid excrement) is taken into account for the purposes of this calculation. In determining this stock density, the competent authority may take the figures in annex IV to EC Regulation 889/08 into account or else establish the figures in accordance with Directive 91/676/EEC (concerning protection of water against nitrate pollution from agricultural sources).

Where excessive manure is produced, this may only be spread on organic land, and the producer must conclude a written cooperation agreement to this effect with another producer whose land is organic.
VIII. Husbandry practices

A. Mutilation

The Competent Authority may only permit operations which are essential for certain types of production or necessary for safety reasons (for the animals or the producers), or for the animals’ hygiene, welfare or health. This may relate to tail-docking or cutting of teeth in particular. However, physical castration of the animals is permitted.

In all cases, the animals must undergo minimal suffering thanks to an anaesthesia or sufficient analgesia, except for a transition period ending on 31st December 2011 for castration of piglets. Similarly, the animals must undergo minimal suffering during slaughter.

B. Final fattening phase

The final fattening phase for pigs reared for meat may take place indoors provided that the period concerned does not exceed 3 months and does not represent more than 1/5th of the animal’s lifetime. This practice is only possible until December 31st 2010, with an additional control visit.

C. Reproduction

Preference must be given to natural methods, however artificial insemination is permitted.

The use of hormones or analogous substances to control reproduction (e.g.: induction or synchronisation of oestrus) is prohibited. Artificial reproduction methods like cloning or embryo transfer are prohibited.

IX. Disease prevention and veterinary treatment

A. General principles

In organic production, disease prevention is based on preventing illness: selecting breeds (avoiding breeds which are sensitive to porcine stress syndrome), husbandry management practices, feedstuff quality, adapting stocking density and housing, ease of exercise.
B. Hygiene measures
Buildings and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected using the products whose active ingredients are listed in annex VII to EC Regulation 889/08. Rodenticides in traps and the appropriate products from annex II may be used against insects and pests.

C. Prohibited practices
The use of substances to promote growth or production.
The preventative use of chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products, antibiotics or coccidiostatics.

D. Veterinary treatment
If the preventive measures (referred to above under « general principles ») prove ineffective, the illnesses and/or injuries must receive immediate treatment to prevent the animal suffering in any way. Preference must be given to phytotherapeutic products, the minerals listed in annex V.1 to EC Regulation 889/08 and the vitamins and trace elements listed in annex VI.3 to EC Regulation 889/08.

If these measures are ineffective, chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics can only be used to heal the animal on the instruction of a veterinarian.

The legal withdrawal period between the last administration of the allopathic veterinary medicine and the time when the animal and its products are marketed on the organic market must be doubled. If there is no withdrawal period for a product, a 48-hour time-limit must be applied.

1. Records
When therapeutic procedures and veterinary care are carried out, the date of treatment, diagnosis, type of product (detailing the active ingredients concerned), dosage, means of administration, length of treatment and legal withdrawal period must be clearly noted in the livestock record. Veterinary prescriptions must also be retained. Treated animals must be individually identified.

2. Number of allopathic treatments permitted

| Animals whose life-cycles are under 1 year - (fattening pig) | 1 single treatment during life-cycle |
| Animals whose life-cycles are greater than 1 year - (reproductive pig) | 3 treatments per 12-month period |
Parasites treatments and vaccinations are not taken into account when making this calculation and the same applies to treatment prescribed within the framework of compulsory eradication schemes.

NB: When non-organic animals are purchased (in the required conditions), their producer must give the purchaser the list of treatments carried out (number, nature and dates) so that these can be taken into account when calculating treatment.

X. Definitions

**Holding:** (Art 2e REC 889/08)
Means all the production units operated under a single management for the purpose of producing agricultural products.

**Production Unit:** (Art 2f REC 889/08)
Means all assets to be used for a production sector such as production premises, land parcels, pasturages, open air areas, livestock buildings, fish ponds, containment systems for seaweed or aquaculture animals, shore or seabed concessions, the premises for the storage of crops, crop products, seaweed products, animal products, raw materials and any other input relevant for this specific production sector.

**In-conversion feedingstuffs:** (Article 2i REC 889/08)
means feedingstuffs produced during the conversion period to organic production, with the exclusion of those harvested in the 12 months following the beginning of the conversion.

**Veterinary treatment:** (Art 2h REC 889/08)
means all courses of a curative or preventive treatment against one occurrence of a specific disease.
XI. References and EU Regulations

Scope
Art. 7 of EC Regulation 889/2008

Conversion
Art. 17 of EC Regulation 834/2007 and art. 36, 37 and 38 of EC Regulation 889/2008

Mixed operation
Art. 11 of EC Regulation 834/2007 and art. 17, 40 of EC Regulation 889/2008

Identification and recording
Art. 75 & 76 of EC Regulation 889/2008

Transport
Art. 14 of EC Regulation 834/2007 and art. 18 of EC Regulation 889/2008

Purchasing animals
Art. 14 of EC Regulation 834/2007 and art. 9, 47 of EC Regulation 889/2008

Feeding
Art. 14 of EC Regulation 834/2007 and art. 20, 21, 22 and 47 + annexes V and VI of EC Regulation 889/2008

Buildings
Art. 14 of EC Regulation 834/2007 and art. 10, 11, 14, 15 and annexes III and IV of EC Regulation 889/2008

Husbandry practices
Art. 14 of EC Regulation 834/2007 and art. 18, 95.3 and 95.4 of EC Regulation 889/2008

Disease prevention

These documents are available upon request to ECOCERT or may be downloaded from our website www.ecocert.com.