

**National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)
Livestock Committee
Invitation for Public Input on Stocking Rate Charts
February 16, 2010**

I. Introduction

During the November 3-5, 2009 National Organic Standards Board Meeting, the Board passed an Animal Welfare Recommendation. From public comment, the Livestock Committee realized that additional time was needed to collect and analyze input on the Stocking Rate Charts that were part of the recommendation.

II. Background

As part of the Livestock Committee's recommendation on Animal Welfare, the committee realized the importance of requiring adequate space for animals to exhibit their natural behavior during the non-grazing season or during times of temporary confinement. While other organizations and country's animal welfare standards were considered, the committee decided to allow more time for the public to provide comment on the stocking rates.

The relevant sections of the National Rule, along with the charts, is found below. Also included is an appendix of charts that have been received so far, including some that are based on the weight of the animal.

The Livestock Committee intends to take the information provided by public comment, along with the other information we gathered during the process of writing the Animal Welfare Recommendation, and fill in the charts. The committee will then propose a final recommendation for the Fall 2010 NOSB Meeting.

From the NOSB Animal Welfare Recommendation passed in November, 2009:

§ 205.239 Livestock living conditions. (Mammal section)

- (c) The producer of an organic livestock operation may provide temporary confinement for an animal for the following reasons. Temporary confinement may last no longer than necessary to safely perform the procedure or address the condition:
 - (1) Milking, shearing, breeding, hoof trimming, birthing, health care procedures and recuperation from illness;
 - (2) Dangerous weather;

(3) Conditions under which the health, safety, or well being of the animal could be jeopardized;

(4) Risk to soil, water, or plants.

(5) During the non-grazing season or during times of temporary confinement, the following stocking rates shall be provided:

(i) In loose housing (bedding packs, dry lots, cover-alls, etc.):

Livestock	Indoor Space	Outdoor Runs and Pens
Adult cows		
Calves		
Sheep and goats		
Sows and piglets (up to 40 days' old)		
Growing pigs		
Sows in group pens		
Boars in individual pens		
Laying hens		
Broilers		
Turkeys, geese and large birds		
Mobile poultry units (moved daily) Laying hens Broilers Turkeys Ducks Geese		
Young rabbits		
Doe rabbits		

(ii) In confined housing (free stalls, tie stalls, etc.) at least one stall must be provided for each animal in the facility at any given time, except that:

(A) The confinement of animals in cages is not permitted under any circumstance.

§ 205.239 Livestock living conditions. (Avian section)

(h) Space Allowance

Poultry housing must be sufficiently spacious to allow all birds to move freely, stretch their wings and engage in natural behaviors. Perching areas and nest boxes may not be used in the calculation of floor space. Slatted/grated floors may be considered floor space.

	Pullets	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys/ Large Birds
Permanent Houses				
Indoor Floor Space				
Outdoor runs (associated with permanent house)				
Perch Space				
Mobile Pens (without free range access to pasture)				
Structure Area				

III. Committee vote

Moved: Kevin Engelbert Second: Jeff Moyer
Yes – 5; No – 0; Absent – 3; Abstain -- 0

(2) Houses with slatted floors must have 30% minimum of solid floor area available with sufficient litter available for dust baths;

(3) Litter must be provided and maintained in a dry manner.

F. Birds must have sufficient exit areas, appropriately distributed around the building, to ensure that all birds have ready access to the outdoors. Exit areas must allow the passage of more than one bird at a time.

G. Complete clean out of a poultry house is required if there have been adverse health issues with the previous flock; otherwise litter should be refurbished between flocks to maintain a sanitary environment.

H. Space Allowance

Poultry housing must be sufficiently spacious to allow all birds to move freely, stretch their wings and engage in natural behaviors. Perching areas and nest boxes may not be used in the calculation of floor space. Slatted/grated floors may be considered floor space.

	Pullets	Layers	Broilers	Turkeys/ Large Birds
Permanent Houses				
Indoor Floor Space	1 sq. ft./ bird ^a	1.8 sq. ft./bird ^a	1 sq. ft./bird ^a	7.5 lbs. / sq. ft. ^b Examples: 15 lbs. = 2 sq. ft. 22.5 lbs. = 3 sq. ft. 30 lbs. = 4 sq. ft. 37.5 = 5 sq. ft
Outdoor runs (associated with permanent house)	1 sq. ft./bird	1.8 sq. ft./bird	1 sq. ft./bird	4 sq. ft / bird
Perch Space	--	6" per bird ^b	--	16" per bird ^b
Mobile Pens (without free range access to pasture)				
Structure Area	.7 sq. ft./bird ^c	1.8 sq. ft./bird ^a	.7 sq. ft./bird ^c	3.6 sq. ft/bird ^c

a Canadian Standards

b Humane Farm Animal Care

c Soil Association

Appendix # 3

Canadian Livestock Space Requirements with US Equivalent

Livestock	Indoor Space		Outdoor Runs and Pens	
	Canadian Measurement	US Equivalent	Canadian Measurement	US Equivalent
Adult cows	6 m ² /head	64.6 sq.ft./hd.	9 m ² /head	96.8 sq. ft. hd.
Calves	Incremental increase of 2.5 m ² /head for young calves to 5 m ² /head for growing (1-year old) steers and heifers	26.9 sq.ft./hd. for young calves to 53.8 sq.ft./hd. for growing (1 year old) stock	5 m ² /head to 9 m ² /head, depending on the size of animals	53.8 sq.ft to 96.8 sq.ft./hd. depending on the size of animals
Sheep and goats	1.5 m ² /head plus 0.35 m ² /head for each additional lamb/kid	16.1 sq.ft./ hd., plus 3.8 sq.ft./ hd. for each additional lamb/kid	2.5 m ² /head plus 0.5 m ² /head for each additional lamb/kid	26.9 sq.ft/hd., plus 5.4 sq.ft./hd.
Sows and piglets (up to 40 days' old)	7.5 m ² for each sow and litter	80.7 sq. ft. for each sow & litter	2.5 m ² for each sow and litter	26.9 sq. ft. for each sow & litter
Growing pigs a. up to 30 kg. (66#)	0.6 m ² /head	6.5 sq. ft./hd.	0.4 m ² /head	4.3 sq. ft./hd.
b. 30 – 50 kg. (66# - 110#)	0.8 m ² /head	8.6 sq. ft./hd.	0.6 m ² /head	6.5 sq. ft./hd.
c. 50 – 85 kg. (110# - 187#)	1.1 m ² /head	11.8 sq. ft./hd.	0.8 m ² /head	8.6 sq. ft./hd.
d. > 85 kg (> 187#)	1.3 m ² /head	14 sq. ft./hd.	1.0 m ² /head	10.8 sq. ft./hd.
Sows in group pens	3 m ² /head	32.3 sq. ft./hd.	3 m ² /head	32.3 sq. ft./hd.
Boars in individual pens	9 m ² /head	96.8 sq.ft./hd.	9 m ² /head	96.8 sq.ft./hd.
Laying hens	6 birds/m ²	6 birds/10.8 sq.ft.	4 birds/m ²	4 birds / 10.8 sq.ft.
Broilers	Maximum 21 kg./m ²	46 # /10.8 sq.ft.	4 birds/m ²	4 birds / 10.8 sq.ft.
Turkeys, geese and large birds	Maximum 26 kg./m ²	57.2 # /10.8 sq.ft.	17 kg./m ²	37.4 # / 10.8 sq.ft.
For pasture based operation and mobile poultry units (moved daily)				
Laying hens			2000 / hectare	800 / acre
Broilers			2500 / hectare	1000/ acre
Large Birds			1300 / hectare	540 / acre
Young rabbits	0.3 m ² /head	3.2 sq. ft./head	2 m ² /head	21.5 sq.ft./head
Pregnant Does	0.5 m ² /head	5.4 sq. ft./head	2 m ² /head	21.5 sq.ft./head
Does and offspring	0.7 m ² of floor space /doe and offspring	7.5 sq. ft. of floor space /doe and offspring	2 m ² /head	21.5 sq.ft./head
Bucks	0.3 m ² /head	3.2 sq. ft./head	2 m ² /head	21.5 sq.ft./head

1 meter = 39.27 inches
1 meter = 3.28 feet

1 meter² = 10.76 sq.ft.

1 kilogram = 2.2046 pounds

Compiled by:



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CROPP Cooperative Stocking densities

Livestock	Indoor Space	Outdoor space
Beef cattle	Livestock have enough space to stand up, turn around, groom, and perform respective natural behaviors and a clean, dry, well-bedded place to lie down.	Animals have year-round access to the outdoors on a daily basis as appropriate with regard to age of animal and weather conditions.
Dairy cattle	Cows and calves will be provided with a clean, dry, comfortable space where they are able to lie down, stand up, groom, and express other natural behaviors.	Standard stocking rate is 3 lactating cows per acre, unless the farmer demonstrates that a higher rate is sustainable. Animals must have access to the outdoors on a daily basis whenever possible.
Sows and piglets (up to 14 days' old)	48 sq. ft.	Animals have outdoor access at all times during daylight hours by two weeks of age when it is seasonally appropriate.
Live weight of pig	Space / animal sq. ft.	Animals must have outdoor access to maximize animal health and immunity. Animals benefit from exercise, sunlight, fresh air, and contact with the earth. Access to outdoors is defined as an area with no ceiling and is required at all times.
20	1.2	
50	3.0	
100	6.0	
150	9.0	
200	12.0	
225	13.5	
250	15.0	
275	16.5	
Sows in group pens	All swine should be clean, dry, comfortable, and able to lie down fully stretched, stand up, turn around, groom, and express other natural behaviors. This minimizes aggressive behaviors and reduces competition for feed.	
Boars in individual pens		
Laying hens	1.75 sq. ft. / hen	5 sq. ft. / hen
Broilers	1.0 sq. ft	1.0 sq. ft.

Livestock type	GAP-outcome based standards	
	Minimum Indoor bedded area	Minimum loafing area

Adult cows	Steps 1, 2, and 4: Bedded seasonal space to exercise, lie, and move freely about w/o obstruction.	Steps 1 and 2: Housing permitted for finishing or when seasonal conditions permit. Step 4: Housing permitted when seasonal conditions permit. Steps 5 and 5+: Housing permitted only in extreme weather emergency.
Calves to 220 lbs		
Cattle 220-440lbs		
Cattle 440-770lbs		
Cattle 770-1100lbs		
Adult bison cows		
Bison calves to 220 lbs		
Bison calves to 220-440lbs		
Bison calves to 440-770lbs		
Bison calves to 770-1100lbs		
Ram / ewe Buck / doe		
Ewe w / lamb Doe w / kid		
Additional lamb or kid		
Lambing / kidding pen		
Farrowing sow	All Steps: Crates or stalls for gestating or farrowing sows and for boars are prohibited. Steps 4 – 5+: Individual 8x6 hut or separated space in building on forage or pasture area.	Step 3: Continuous, unobstructed outdoor access during daylight hours required after 2 weeks of age Step 4: Continuous, unobstructed outdoor access required after 2 weeks of age; continuous access to foraging areas or pastures for all pigs 2+ weeks old when seasonal conditions permit
Boars		
Sows		

Livestock type	GAP-outcome based standards	
	Minimum Indoor bedded area	Minimum loafing area
Growing pigs to 66lbs	obstructed by another animal, and have the ability to move away from others. Space and conditions to allow animals to establish separate eating, lying, and dunging areas. Steps 1 – 4: Slatted flooring may not exceed 25% of the total floor area available to the animal(s).	Step 5 and 5+: Continuous access to foraging areas or pastures for all pigs 2+ weeks old
Growing pigs to 110lbs		
Growing pigs to 187lbs		
Growing pigs to 242lbs		
Laying hens		
Broilers	All Steps: Must be provided with enough space to express natural behavior, including standing, spreading their wings, turning around, flapping their wings, and preening, without touching another bird. Steps 2 – 4: Must be provided with cover and/or blinds that enable the birds to hide and isolate themselves from others. Steps 3 and 4: During adverse seasonal or weather conditions, must have continuous access to an indoor foraging area that is equal to or greater than 25% of the occupied floor area of the house. Steps 5 and 5+: May only be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions that pose a welfare risk. Seasonal housing is prohibited. Housing requirements must meet those above.	
Turkeys, geese and large birds		

Livestock type	GAP-outcome based standards	
	Minimum Indoor bedded area	Minimum loafing area

Ducks-meat		
Ducks-layer		
Ducks-breeder		
Mobile poultry units (moved daily) Laying hens Broilers Turkeys Ducks Geese		
Young rabbits		
Doe rabbits		