

Current Temporary Variances



Temporary variances from the production and handling requirements of the USDA organic regulations may be granted by the Administrator for natural disasters declared by the Secretary, damage caused by severe weather, or other business interruption, or for the purpose of conducting research in organic production or handling. Procedures for requesting temporary variances are described in [NOP 2606: Processing Requests for Temporary Variances](#). 7 CFR Section 205.290 provides the full regulatory text regarding temporary variances.

The list of temporary variances that are currently in effect or that were denied in 2014 is listed below. For a list of expired temporary variances, please visit <http://1.usa.gov/expired-temporary-variances>.

2014 Allowed Temporary Variances

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Effective Date	Expiration	Certifying Agent	Remarks
Various in California	California	2/12/2014 Link to Letter	2/12/2014	2014 calendar year	Requested by: Marin Organic Certified Agriculture; CCOF	Temporary variance is granted from §§205.237(c), 205.240(b) and (c)(2) for the 2014 grazing season with the following restrictions: (1) applies only to organic ruminant livestock producers located in California counties designated as primary natural disaster areas by Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack in 2014 and consider February and March 2014 as part of their grazing season. (2) Organic ruminant livestock producers, whose grazing season includes February and March 2014, are not required to graze or provide dry matter intake from pasture during this time period. Producers may reduce their 2014 grazing season by the number of days that correspond to this time period in their grazing plan. (3) This temporary variance applies to the 2014 calendar year only.

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Effective Date	Expiration	Certifying Agent	Remarks
Cottonwood Cattle Company	Texas New Mexico Colorado	5/16/2014 Link to Letter	5/16/2014	2014 calendar year	Requested by: Quality Certification Services (QCS)	Temporary variance is granted from §205.237(c) with the following restrictions: (1) applies only to Cottonwood Cattle Company, Inc., operations in Hartley, Dallam and Sherman Counties in Texas; Colfax, Harding and Union Counties in New Mexico; and Baca and Las Animas Counties in Colorado. (2) applies to non-irrigated pasture only. (3) applies for the first two months of Cottonwood's 2014 grazing season (June 1- July 31), a period of 61 days. During this time period Cottonwood does not have to provide grazing from pasture to its organic ruminant livestock. (4) Cottonwood must manage its ruminants on pasture during the last two months of the grazing season (August and September 2014). During that time period all ruminant livestock must be provided an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from pasture. If pasture is available for grazing after September 30, then all Cottonwood organic ruminant livestock must graze an average of not less than 30 percent of their dry matter intake from pasture during that time period.
Aurora Organic Farms – High Plains	Gill, Colorado	6/19/2014 Link to Letter	5/1/2014	7/31/2014	Requested by: Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)	Temporary variance is granted from §§205.237(c) and 205.240 with the following restrictions: (1) this temporary variance applies only to the Aurora Organic Farms – High Plains operation in Gill, Colorado. (2) the established 2014 grazing season for the Aurora Organic Farms – High Plains operation is May 1 – September 30. This temporary variance applies from May 1 – July 31. During this time period, Aurora Organic Farms – High Plains does not have to provide grazing from pasture to its organic ruminant livestock.
Ohio State University's Ecological Food and Farming Association Education and Research Program	Wooster, Ohio	6/23/2014 Link to Letter	6/23/2014	End of specified research project	Requested by: Ohio Ecological Food and Farming Association	Temporary variance is granted from §205.205 for the cucurbit disease management research project. Ohio State University's Organic Food & Farming Education & Research Program is not required to comply with crop rotation regulations in §205.205 for the life of this specific research project.

2014 Denied Requests for Temporary Variances

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Certifying Agent	Remarks
Landsverk Dairy	Fosston, Minnesota	4/3/2014 Link to Letter	Quality Assurance International (QAI)	Denied because request was not timely.
John Bledsoe Organics	Blackstone, Virginia	5/6/2014 Link to Letter	International Certification Services (ICS)	Denied because the reason for the variance does not fit any of the allowed reasons under which a temporary variance could be granted, and due to the use of a prohibited fungicide.
Richard Pool Organics	South Boston, Virginia	5/6/2014 Link to Letter	International Certification Services (ICS)	Denied because the reason for the variance does not fit any of the allowed reasons under which a temporary variance could be granted, and due to the use of a prohibited fungicide.

This table is updated when AMS Administrator decisions are issued.