**Organic Poultry Survey**

This survey is to gather organic poultry data to support the [Organic Livestock and Poultry Standards (OLPS) rule](https://www.ota.com/advocacy/critical-issues/organic-animal-welfare-standards) and is open to any NOP-certified producer or handler of egg layers or broilers. Please answer the following questions by **September 21, 2022.** Return to [jmirenda@ota.com](mailto:jmirenda@ota.com) or complete online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CQVJ5KQ>.

This survey is administered by the Organic Trade Association (OTA). Your responses will be held **confidentially** by OTA staff. Responses will be compiled into a summarized, anonymous format and communicated to USDA as part of OTA’s public comments on the OLPS Proposed Rule. If you have questions about this survey or results please contact Johanna Mirenda, [jmirenda@ota.com,](mailto:jmirenda@ota.com) 202-812-7704.

Survey Overview:

* Section A – Company Overview (everyone completes)
* Section B – egg layers only
* Section C – broilers only

**Section A. Company Overview**

1. Name of your operation: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your contact information in case we have follow-up questions about your responses: \_\_\_\_\_
3. **How many organic birds** does your operation have under **your livestock OSP**? (If none, skip to next question)
   1. # of organic Layers: \_\_\_\_\_
   2. # of organic Broilers (annual production):\_\_\_\_\_
4. If birds in your livestock OSP are raised under contract for other operations that process, handle, broker, or market the birds or products from birds you directly manage, please identify the operations and their activity. This will be used to avoid double-counting. (Skip if not applicable):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. **How many organic birds** does your operation **process, handle, or market** eggs or meat from? (including birds you own that are raised by another operation under contract for you; including birds from operations in your supply pool). Please indicate the **total # of birds** and also the **total # of operations** that you source from in the appropriate boxes below. (Skip this question if not applicable)
   1. # of organic Layers: \_\_\_\_\_
   2. # of organic Layer operations: \_\_\_\_\_
   3. # of organic Broilers (annual production): \_\_\_\_\_
   4. # of organic Broiler operations: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section B. Organic Egg Layers**

Please answer the following questions for the # of egg layers that you reported in Section A.

If you only reported broilers, please skip down to Section C.

1. Which additional private animal welfare certifications does your operation obtain for your Certified Organic flocks?
   1. Certified Humane (HFAC - Humane Farm Animal Care)
   2. Animal Welfare Approved (A Greener World)
   3. American Humane Certified (American Humane Association)
   4. Global Animal Partnership (GAP)
   5. United Egg Producers (UEP) Cage Free
   6. None
   7. Other – please list: \_\_\_\_\_
2. If the OLPS Rule goes in to effect, would you **drop** the Additional Private Animal Welfare Certifications for your Certified Organic Flocks?
   1. Yes
   2. No (please explain why not; identify whether you’d keep certification but **not label** organic eggs with additional certifications): Required\_\_
   3. Not Applicable (no additional certifications)
3. How much space (sq. ft. per bird) do you provide for organic laying hens **INDOORS?** (leave blank if not applicable)
   1. Mobile housing: \_\_\_\_\_\_
   2. Aviary housing: \_\_\_\_\_\_
   3. Slatted/mesh floor housing: \_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. Floor Litter housing: \_\_\_\_\_\_
   5. Other housing: \_\_\_\_\_\_

If multiple housing types are used, please explain what % of layers reported in Section A are managed under each housing type: \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. USDA is proposing the following maximum stocking densities (pounds of bird per square foot) for laying hens **INDOORS** by housing type. Indoor space includes flat areas available to birds, excluding nest boxes. Approximate equivalent to “sqft/hen” are provided. **Could your operation adapt to this proposed requirement?** Please answer Yes or No for each. Leave blank if not applicable.
   * + Mobile housing: 4.5 lb/sqft (equivalent to 1 sqft/hen) Yes or No
     + Aviary housing: 4.5 lb/sqft (equivalent to 1 sqft/hen) Yes or No
     + Slatted/Mesh Floor housing: 3.75 lb/sqft (equivalent to 1.2 sqft/hen) Yes or No
     + Floor Litter housing: 3.0 lb/sqft (equivalent to 1.5 sqft/hen) Yes or No
     + Other housing: 2.25 lb/sqft (equivalent to 2.0 sqft/hen) Yes or No

If you answered “no” to any of these above, please explain why not; describe what costs/time/resources would be required to adapt: \_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Please explain your **OUTDOOR** management practice for layers (e.g. pasture raised?); if multiple practices are used, please identify # hens at # facilities are managed under each type/space: \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many layers are raised in facilities that have **OUTDOOR** access that is exclusively enclosed space with a floor, a roof, and screened-in walls (i.e. "**poultry porch**")? Select one:
   1. All (100% of layers reported in Section A are raised in facilities with porches as only form of outdoor access)
   2. None (porches are never used for outdoor access)
   3. Other – please explain (identify # hens at # facilities where porches are the only form of outdoor access): \_\_\_\_\_
3. How many layers are raised in facilities that have **OUTDOOR** access that allows laying hens to contact the **soil** (when age/seasonally appropriate)? Select one:
   1. All 100% of the layers reported in Section A are raised in facilities have outdoors access that allows soil contact)
   2. None
   3. Other – please explain (identify # hens at # facilities where outdoor access allow soil contact: \_\_\_\_\_
4. **How much space (sq. ft. per bird)** do you provide for organic laying hens **OUTDOORS?** (not including porches)? If multiple housing types are used, please explain what % of layers reported in Section A are managed under each housing type \_\_\_\_\_
5. USDA is proposing **2.25 lbs per square foot** as maximum stocking density **OUTDOOR** for laying hens (Equivalent to 2sqft/hen), and at least 50% of the space must be soil with maximal vegetative cover (as seasonably appropriate). **Could your operation(s) adapt to this proposed requirement?**
   1. Yes
   2. No (Explain why not; describe what costs/time/resources are required to adapt): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Do you **reformulate diets** (e.g. increase feed) to account for extra energy expenditure when hens are outdoors?
   1. Yes (please elaborate): \_\_\_\_
   2. No (please elaborate, e.g. extra energy expenditure for birds outside is offset by voluntary consumption of additional calories from foraging; no need to reformulate diet): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Fill in the blank: I implement practices to maintain **ammonia** levels in poultry housing below \_\_\_\_ ppm.
8. USDA is proposing that producers must implement practices to maintain **ammonia** levels below 10ppm. When ammonia levels exceed 10 ppm, producers must implement additional practices and additional monitoring to reduce ammonia levels below 10 ppm. Ammonia levels must not exceed 25 ppm.  **Could your operation(s) adapt to this proposed requirement?**
   1. Yes
   2. No (Explain why not; describe what costs/time/resources would be required to adapt): \_\_\_\_\_
9. For housing with slatted/mesh floors, USDA proposed that you must provide at least **30% solid flooring** with sufficient litter to allow birds to scratch and dust bathing without crowding.

Could your operation(s) adapt to this proposed requirement for 30% solid flooring?

* 1. Yes
  2. No (Explain why not; describe what costs/time/resources would be required to adapt): \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Not applicable (do not have slatted/mesh floors)

1. On average, what is the **mortality** percent over the life of your layer flocks (at 78 weeks of total bird age)?: \_\_\_\_\_
2. On average, how many **eggs per hen** do you get (at 78 weeks of total bird age)? : \_\_\_\_\_

**Section C. Organic Broilers**

Please answer the following questions for the # of broiler that you reported in Section A.

Skip this section if not applicable.

1. Which Additional Private Animal Welfare Certifications Does Your Operation Obtain for your Certified Organic Flocks?
   1. Certified Humane (HFAC - Humane Farm Animal Care)
   2. Animal Welfare Approved (A Greener World)
   3. American Humane Certified (American Humane Association)
   4. Global Animal Partnership (GAP)
   5. None
   6. Other – please list:\_\_
2. If the OLPS Rule goes in to effect, would you **drop** the Additional Private Animal Welfare Certifications for your Certified Organic Flocks?
   1. Yes
   2. No (please explain why not; identify whether you’d keep certification but **not label** organic eggs with additional certifications): \_\_\_
   3. Not Applicable (no additional certifications)
3. **How much space (lbs of bird per square foot)** do you provide for broilers **INDOORS?** If multiple housing types are used, please explain what % of layers reported in Section A are managed under each housing type: \_\_
4. USDA is proposing 5.0 lbs per of bird per square foot as maximum stocking density **INDOORS** for broilers? Could your operation(s) adapt to this proposed requirement?
   1. Yes
   2. No (Explain why not; describe what costs/time/resources would be required to adapt)
5. Do you currently have **OUTDOOR** access that allows poultry to contact the soil (when age/seasonally appropriate)?
   1. Yes
   2. No

Please explain your outdoor management practice for broilers (e.g. pasture raised?); if multiple practices are used, please identify % of broilers reported in Section A are managed under each type:\_\_

1. Do you currently have **OUTDOORS** access that is exclusively enclosed space with a floor, a roof, and screened-in walls (i.e. "**poultry porch**")?
   1. All (100% of broilers reported in Section A are raised in facilities with porches as only form of outdoor access)
   2. None (porches are never used for outdoor access)
   3. Other – please explain (identify # birds at # facilities where porches are the only form of outdoor access): \_\_\_\_\_
2. **How much space** **(lbs of bird per sq ft)** do you provide for broilers **OUTDOORS?** (not including porches). If multiple housing types are used, please explain what % of broilers reported in Section A are managed under each housing type: \_\_\_\_\_
3. USDA is proposing **5.0 lbs per of bird per square foot** as maximum stocking density **OUTDOORS** for broilers, and at least 50% of the space must be soil with maximal vegetative cover (as seasonably appropriate). Could your operation(s) adapt to this proposed requirement?
   1. Yes
   2. No (Explain why not; describe what costs/time/resources would be required to adapt): \_\_\_\_\_
4. Would you need to add new land to your operations to maintain current production at proposed stocking density **OUTDOORS** (5.0 lbs per of bird per square foot)?
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. Not sure / I don’t know
5. Do you **reformulate diets** (e.g. increase feed) to account for extra energy expenditure when birds are outdoors?
   1. Yes (please elaborate): \_\_\_\_
   2. No (please elaborate, e.g. extra energy expenditure for birds outside is offset by voluntary consumption of additional calories from foraging; no need to reformulate diet): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Fill in the blank: I implement practices to maintain **ammonia** levels below \_\_\_\_ ppm.
7. USDA is proposing that producers must implement practices to maintain **ammonia** levels below 10ppm. When ammonia levels exceed 10 ppm, producers must implement additional practices and additional monitoring to reduce ammonia levels below 10 ppm. Ammonia levels must not exceed 25 ppm. Could your operation(s) adapt to this proposed requirement?
   1. Yes
   2. No (Explain why not; or how much time is needed to adapt)
8. What is the **mortality** percent over the life of your broiler flocks, on average? \_\_\_\_\_

**Section D. Other**

1. Is there any additional information you would like to provide or explain further?

Thank you very much for completing this survey. If you have questions about this survey or results please contact Johanna Mirenda, [jmirenda@ota.com,](mailto:jmirenda@ota.com) 202-812-7704.