

Information Sheet

New animals at the organic operator

The EU organic regulation states, that only organic animals may be added to an organic establishment. In some areas, some exceptions exist, they can be found in the following document.

If conventional animals are added, conversion periods must be observed!

1. Stock renewal and stock addition

During stock renewal and stock addition, conventional animals may be added to the organic establishment under the following conditions, and only if no organic animals are available:

Species	Conditions	Conversion period
Cattle and fenced game:		
Female breeding calves	Not older than 6 months	If the animal must be brought to the market as animal for slaughter: 3/4 of its life, minimum of 12 months
Female animals for stock renewal/stock addition	Only (young-) animals (may not have calved!) at an amount of 10%* of the stock of cattle older than 12 months *** (per calendar year)	For milk: 6 months If the animal must be brought to the market as animal for slaughter: minimum of 3/4 of its life
Male breeding animals	No restrictions	If the animal must be brought to the market as animal for slaughter: 3/4 of its life, minimum of 12 months
Animals for fattening	ONLY ORGANIC ADDITIONS!!!	–
Poultry:		
Laying hens	Conv. pullets: no older than 3 days	6 weeks
	Pullets: only organic additions!	–
Broilers	Conv. pullets no older than three days, but only with confirmation of the breeder that no organic pullets are available	10 weeks
Other poultry for meat products	Conventional pullets no older than three days	10 weeks
Pigs:		
Piglets for gilt breeding	Less than 35 kg entrance weight	6 months
Female animals for stock renewal and stock addition	Only (young-) animals (may not have littered!) at an amount of 20%* of the stock of pigs older than 6 months*** (per calendar year)	6 months
Breeding boars	No restrictions	6 months
Fattening pigs	ONLY ORGANIC ADDITIONS!!!	–
Sheep, goats		
Lambs and kits for breeding	No older than 60 days	6 months
Female animals for stock renewal and stock addition	Only young animals (may not have foaled!) at an amount of 20%* of the stock of sheep/goats older than 6 months*** (per calendar year)	6 months
Male breeding animals	No restrictions	6 months
Fattening animals	ONLY ORGANIC ADDITIONS!!	–
Horses:	See cattle	

* For the purpose of massive expansion of the stock, the switch to another race, this percentage may be raised to a maximum of 40%, **but only if consented by the responsible authorities.**

** However, in exceptional cases, the purchase of conventional pullets under consideration of multiple regulations is possible, **but only if consented by the responsible authorities.**

*** If the animal stock contains less than 10 cattle/horses or less than 5 pigs, sheep or goats, a maximum of one animal per year may be bought.

2. Development of a new livestock production

In order to build up a new production branch, the following conventional young animals for breeding may be added without amount-restrictions, if no organic animals are available:

Calves up to 6 months, piglets up to 35 kg, lambs and kits up to 60 days, foals up to 6 months.

Breeding animals, that are above these age- or weight requirements, as well as conventional mother animals from endangered species **may only be added in special cases and after consent by the responsible authority.**

3. Disaster situations

If a high animal death rate occurs due to health issues or in disaster situations, conventional animals, even mother animals, may be added, if no organic animals are available. In this case, prior to adding conventional animals, **consent by the responsible authority must be given.**

Please regard:

- **Conversion periods:**

All conventional animals added while regarding all requirements listed above must pass through conversion times in order to be declared as organic animals, or their product as organic product.

- **Documentation:**

Records of all additions must be kept. Compliance to all regulations and availability of all potentially necessary consent-forms will be checked during your yearly organic inspection by Austria Bio Garantie.

SPECIAL CASE:

- **Own use or non-certified animals:**

Conventional animals for own use (poultry, fattening pigs, sheep, goats) as well as non-certified animals (for example horses) may be added without complying to the regulations. All concerned animals may not be brought to the market and may only be eaten by family members of the operating manger, and may not be used for food production.