



# Knowledge Tree

## Certified Organic Dairy Cattle Fact Sheet

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## Converting to Organic Dairy Cattle



- Dairy cows must spend a minimum of 180 days on the certified operation, before certified milk can be produced.
- While converting, it is important to be able to identify those animals that are certified and those animals that are not. Common techniques are to use different coloured tags, different ear marks or different brands.
- You'll need to have good records on your cattle numbers and records that support the 180 day requirement has been met.

As your operation moves from being certified in-conversion to fully certified, the milk from your animals has the same status as the operation. For example, cows produce certified organic in-conversion milk while on a certified in-conversion property. The same cows will produce certified organic milk when that property achieves full certification status.

### Feeding

- Dairy cattle must be fed mainly from grazing.
- Animals should have free access to mineral supplements (licks, trace elements etc.)
- Feed supplements (feed other than pasture and mineral supplements) must be certified organic. If this can't be found, SXC can approve non-certified supplements up to a maximum 5% of the total ration.
- In circumstances such as droughts, fires and floods, SXC can approve the use of non-certified, brought-in feed. While using this feed, the milk from the animals is deemed not be certified. Animals must have certified feed for at least 6 months before the milk regains its certified status.
- You need to keep good records of feed given and grazing movements between paddocks.



### Animal Health



If an animal becomes sick or injured it must immediately have appropriate treatment, even if that means the milk from the animal becomes uncertified.

- Vaccines are permitted when practices are insufficient to guard against disease or illness.
- Only certified allowed inputs or substances (listed at the end of this document) can be used.
- Treating animals with science-based/modern medicine and antibiotics is prohibited.
- Animals and their milk become uncertified when treated with prohibited substances (however, after 180 days on the certified operation, certified milk can once again be produced).
- Animals treated with prohibited substances must be quarantined for the greater period of 3 weeks or 3 times the withholding period of the drug used, before being allowed to return to the herd.
- Records of all treatments and quarantine need to be kept.

## Bringing Cattle onto a certified operation

- Cattle brought onto the property must spend at least 3 weeks in your quarantine area.
- Any animal on your certified organic operation must be treated as though it were a certified animal – including agistment stock. This means they must be treated and fed in accordance with the standard and are subject to the same Animal Health requirements.
- You'll need to keep records of when the animals entered and exited quarantine

## Substances Permitted for Organic Livestock

### Pest Control

- Ayurvedic preparations
- Biological controls (Naturally occurring organisms and cultured organisms)
- Boric Acid
- Clay
- Diatomaceous earth
- Essential oils, plant oils and extracts
- Garlic oil, garlic extract or crushed garlic
- Homeopathic preparations
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Natural plant extracts obtained by infusion
- Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom salts)
- Methylated spirits
- Monosodium fluorosilicate
- Potassium permanganate
- Pyrethrum (Extracted from *Chrysanthemum cineraria folium*)
- Quassia (Extracted from *Quassia Amara*)
- Rotenone (Extracted from *Derris Elliptica*)
- Sea salts and salty water
- Seaweed, seaweed meal, seaweed extracts
- Sodium Bicarbonate
- Sulphur
- Vinegar (e.g. cider)

### Disease Control

- Ayurvedic preparations
- Calcium salts
- Charcoal
- Clay
- Copper sulphate
- Diatomaceous earth and naturally occurring chitin products
- Essential oils, plant oils and extracts
- Homeopathic preparations
- Hydrogen Peroxide
- Natural plant extracts obtained by infusion, excluding tobacco
- Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom Salts)
- Methylated spirits
- Potassium permanganate
- Sea salts and salty water
- Seaweed, seaweed meal, seaweed extracts
- Sodium Bicarbonate
- Trace elements (to correct identified deficiencies only)
- Vaccines\*
- Vitamins (Naturally sources only)
- Vinegar (e.g. cider)
- Zinc sulphate

\*May be used only for a specific disease, which is known to exist on the organic farm or neighbouring farms and which threatens livestock health and which cannot be effectively controlled by other management practices. Vaccines must not contain genetically modified ingredients or by-products.