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**Questions and Answers on the Japanese Agricultural Standards
for Organic Livestock Products and Organic Feeds
(Preliminary Translation)**

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- (Q5-2) What kind of locations do “fields for growing perennial plants (other than pasture grasses)” theoretically refer to?
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(Regarding Article 4: Coverage of Livestock or Poultry)

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(Q7-1) Is the use of organic feeds produced overseas permitted in the production of organic livestock products?

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(Q7-3) Please explain what additives can and cannot be used as feed additives.

(Q7-4) Can the following be used in the cultivation of microorganisms in cases where microorganisms and/or enzymes are added to feeds?

- Cultivation media to which substances chemosynthesized in the manufacturing process have been added
- Cultivation media to which recombinant DNA technology has been applied

(Q7-5) Is it permissible to give piglets under milking the iron that they lack?

(Q7-6) Purchased organic feeds have the possibility of containing 5% or less non-organic ingredients. In case that feeds for organic livestock are especially difficult to obtain, how should 15% or 20% non-organic feeds, which are allowed for the duration up until necessary quantities of feeds for organic livestock can be supplied, be calculated?

(Q7-7) When calculating “50%,” etc. for feeding, what unit should be used: days, months, years or lifelong?

(Q7-8) With regards to feeding, it is stipulated that in case that feeds for organic livestock are especially difficult to obtain, feeds other than for organic livestock may be supplied up to 15% or 20% of average feed intake only for the duration up until necessary quantities of feeds for organic livestock can be supplied. Is a case where one wants to engage in the production of privately-produced feeds but cannot also construed as “a case where it is difficult to obtain feeds for organic livestock?”

(Regarding Article 4: Health Control)

(Q8-1) Is it permissible to insert a magnet into a bovine’s stomach in order to prevent pericarditis caused by the mistaken ingestion of needles or wire?

(Q8-2) Is the use of mastitis ointment for non-lactating periods allowed?

(Q8-3) It is stipulated that “growth, production, stimulants or substances except for feeds shall not be provided.” What kind of substances are not allowed to be provided?

(Regarding Article 4: General Management)

- (Q9-1) The following is stated: “Open-air free runs (Open-air free runs for bovine, equine, ovine, or caprine animals are limited to those with fields, etc.)” Must pasture grasses, etc. be vegetating in said fields, etc.? Is a running ground in which hay has been placed also acceptable?
- (Q9-2) What kinds of action does “pasturing” refer to?
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2. Japanese Agricultural Standards for Organic Feeds

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- (Q13-3) Can the materials listed in Attached Table 11 be used for disinfectant purposes when slicing meat for consumption in a supermarket?

I. Production Process Manager for Organic Livestock Products

(Q1-1) What kind of individuals can become certified production process managers for organic livestock products?

(A)

With regards to who can become production process managers, Article 27 of the Regulations on the Enforcement of the JAS Law set forth the following individuals as those who shall manage or grasp production processes for agricultural and forestry commodities:

- (1) Producers of organic livestock products
- (2) Corporations whose members consist of producers of organic livestock products (includes persons stipulated as the representative person or administrator of associations and foundations without juridical personality)
- (3) Distributors of organic livestock products.

As an example, producers of organic beef refer to business operators who produce organic meat; namely, business operators in possession of beef at the time that live cattle are slaughtered and turned into said beef. Accordingly, calf breeding farmers who produce the bovine but not the beef and slaughterhouses that do not own the rights of possession to the beef itself and simply process it may not be certified on their own. For calf breeding farmers and slaughterhouses to undergo certification, they must become a corporation, etc. that includes fattening farmers among its members similar to (2) above, and then be collectively certified.

(Q1-2) Are farmers permitted to consign the task of grade labeling to slaughterhouses, etc.?

(A)

Due to the fact that attaching grading labels must be personally carried out by certified business operators, this task may not be consigned to a slaughterhouse operator who is not a certified business operator.

In cases where it is necessary to have slaughterhouses carry out the task of attaching grading labels, livestock farmers must be collectively certified as production process managers along with the slaughterhouse operator.

II. Japanese Agricultural Standards

1. Japanese Agricultural Standards for Organic Livestock Products

(Regarding Article 2)

(Q2-1) What is referred to by the statement “on the basis of [...] the avoidance of use of veterinary drugs?”

(A)

As stated under the criteria for the “Health control” item under Article 4, other than instances where “specific disease or health problems occur, or may occur, and no alternative permitted treatment or management practice exists,” feeding that is mixed with antibiotics and/or hormone drugs on a daily basis for the purpose of preventing illness or stimulating growth is not allowed. Additionally, the use of hormone drugs for the purpose of managing breeding cycles is also not permitted.

(Regarding Article 3)

(Q3-1) Restrictions have been placed on species of livestock and poultry. Does this mean that the grading as organic livestock products cannot be conducted for livestock products originating from other species of livestock (such as ostrich eggs and meat, etc.)?

(A)

Looking at factors such as the current state of quantities fed for each species of livestock and poultry in Japan, it can be deduced that the distribution of organic livestock products derived from species of livestock and poultry other than those stipulated under the JAS for Organic Livestock Products is extremely limited in nature. It has therefore been determined since the JAS for Organic Livestock Products were originally enacted that there is little necessity for subjecting non-stipulated species to grading. Note that going forward, species of livestock and poultry subject to grading as organic livestock products will be gradually revised as necessary following consideration of the production and distribution status of organic livestock products.

(Q3-2) What kind of items fall under these Standards?

(A)

Livestock products (meat (including organs), avian eggs for consumption, thoroughly unprocessed raw milk and bones) produced in accordance with criteria stipulated in Article 4 fall under the JAS for Organic Livestock Products.

(Q3-3) When producing or mixing privately-produced feeds for use in organic livestock breeding, is it necessary to acquire certification as a production process manager for “organic feeds?”

(A)

In the production or mixing of privately-produced feeds for use in organic livestock breeding by certified production process managers for organic livestock products, implementation methods for managing and/or assessing facilities or production processes pertaining to the production of said feeds are verified by registered certifying bodies in accordance with technical criteria for the certification of production process managers as they pertain to organic livestock products. As such, there is no need for certified production process managers for organic livestock products to acquire separate certification as production process managers for organic feeds. Additionally, in such cases, said production process managers may supply feeds to livestock or poultry at the appropriate farm in the form of organic feeds without attaching the Organic Feed JAS logo on said feeds. However, when shipping feeds produced in surplus as organic feeds, certified production process managers for organic livestock products must become certified production process managers for organic feeds, grade the feeds in question and attach an Organic Feed JAS logo to them.

(Q3-4) Under the definition of “Renewal”, the following is stated: “The introduction of livestock equivalent to no more than 1/3 of the livestock that died or were shipped during the last 3 business years.” How are cases handled when less than three years have passed since organic raising commenced?

(A)

When it is the second year since organic raising commenced, the number of livestock equivalent to or less than the number of livestock that died or were shipped during the last business year is used. When it is the third year since organic raising commenced, 1/2 or less of livestock that died or were shipped in the last two business years is used.

(Q3-5) How are the average feed intakes in Attached Table 3 calculated?

(A)

The following calculations have been applied.

Meat-type bovine animals:

Feed intake calculated with ME=2.353 (TDN=assumed to be 65%) and standard growth curves for Holstein cattle and Japanese black cattle used as a reference

Milk-type female bovine animals:

Feed intake calculated based on the Japanese Feeding Standards for Dairy Cattle (2006 version) with daily milk yield for one delivered cow=approx. 30kg

Porcine animals:

Feed intake calculated based on the Japanese Feeding Standard for Swine (2005 version) by recalculating dried foodstuff intake using digestible energy demand, with incremental intake through pasturing added to the obtained value

Porcine in pregnancy:

Feed intake calculated by calculating average animal feed supply quantities for swine in pregnancy (weight of 190kg; fourth birth), with free running taken into consideration

Porcine under milking:

Feed intake calculated by calculating average feed supply quantities for swine under milking (following six births), with free running taken into consideration

Meat-type poultry and laying hens:

Feed intake calculated using standard growth weight and feed supply quantities for broiler chickens and laying hens during their egg-warming period under the Japanese Feeding Standards for Poultry (2004 version), with free running taken into consideration

(Regarding Article 4: Housing for Livestock or Poultry)

(Q4-1) It is stipulated that livestock and poultry “Domestic animals have free access to feeds and fresh water.” Specifically speaking, what kind of efforts are required for this criterion?

(A)

Conceivable efforts are placing water cups in a number that sufficiently matches the number of livestock fed, securing drinking areas, continually or frequently feeding livestock, and other efforts that correspond to the species of livestock and/or state of feeding.

(Q4-2) Are there any criteria for “fresh water?”

(A)

There are no specific numerical criteria for water quality, etc. Sanitary water with no impediment to health control must be supplied with consideration accorded to the physiological needs of livestock and poultry.

(Q4-3) It is stipulated that “Housings are strongly constructed to keep appropriate temperature, humidity, ventilation, air infiltration and bright sunlight.” What are the specific numerical criteria involved? Are there any conditions related to the size of windows, etc.?

(A)

Neither numerical criteria for temperature, humidity, brightness, etc. nor specific conditions for window size, ventilation, etc. are stipulated. Due to the importance of proper housing design and management being conducted in accordance to the climate of the region in question and the species and feeding environment of the livestock or poultry, management of each housing must be conducted with consideration to actual local circumstances surrounding the securing of temperatures, air infiltration and brightness via sunlight as well as with consideration to the physiological needs of livestock and poultry.

For example, feeding livestock or poultry during the appropriate period with the windows closed on the basis of snow accumulation, strong winds and other weather conditions is permissible; however, windowless housing for livestock or poultry is not permitted.

(Q4-4) Can recycled compost be used as bedding in housing for livestock or poultry? What kind of state is referred to by “has a clean and dry floor?”

(A)

Recycled compost may also be used as bedding. Additionally, while floor surfaces must be clean, excessive dryness may be detrimental to the growth of livestock depending on the species. As a general rule, a state of dryness that corresponds to the species of livestock should be ensured.

(Q4-5) Is housing that fulfills raising area conditions in Attached Table 5 also required for livestock raising management based on feeding conducted through yearlong pasturing in open-air free runs?

(A)

In managing the raising of livestock based on yearlong pasturing (for example, in cases where livestock or poultry are fed without being allowed free access to open-air free runs in order to recover from disease or injury and other feeding situations in which housing for livestock or poultry are generally not used (excluding cases in which housing for livestock or poultry is used for emergency evacuation purposes)), housing for livestock or poultry does not necessarily have to have feeding areas indicated in Attached Table 5.

However, in cases where feeding is conducted in housing for a limited period of time

during, for example, the final stage of fattening, said housing must fulfill the criteria in Attached Table 5.

(Q4-6) Is raising poultry using a battery cage allowed?

(A)

Poultry necessitate regular pasturing in open-air free runs. Forcing poultry apart from their flock and into battery cages is deemed to lack consideration for the behavioral needs of poultry. Excluding individual poultry that have to be kept away from their flock for a proper reason, such as for purposes of recovering from disease or injury, raising poultry in battery cages is not allowed.

(Q4-7) Is it permissible to install an accompanying nighttime shelter (a compact shed not intended for feeding in which livestock and poultry are placed and confined during the nighttime to avoid external threats) due to a lack of housing for livestock or poultry while still focusing on raising livestock or poultry using open-air free runs?

(A)

From the standpoint of feeding with consideration given to the physiological and behavioral needs of animals, limiting access by livestock and poultry means that criteria for the livestock or poultry must be satisfied. This applies even for temporary, nighttime-only shelters.

(Regarding Article 4: Open-Air Free Runs)

(Q5-1) It is stipulated that “Open-air free runs provide sufficient trees, woods or protections against excessive rain, wind, sunlight and temperature in the case that livestock do not have a free access to livestock housings.” When pasturing livestock, in order and clean or prepare feeds, I restrict free access by cattle. Do such circumstances also require the installation of a facility?

(A)

“Open-air free runs provide sufficient trees, woods or protections against excessive rain, wind, sunlight and temperature in the case that livestock do not have a free access to livestock housings” assumes the presence of a shelter forest, a shelter house or other facility. As cleaning and feeds preparation work is generally completed in a short period of time, livestock management circumstances such as those above do not necessarily require the installation of a facility.

(Q5-2) What kind of locations do “fields for growing perennial plants (other than pasture grasses)” theoretically refer to?

(A)

In addition to the likes of forage tree fields and sugarcane fields, said locations theoretically refer to situations in which fruits produced in fruit farms that are not shipped for consumption is supplied to livestock in the form of feeds.

(Q5-3) Does the “animal or a bird” under “For open-air free runs intended for livestock or poultry in the left column of Attached Table 6, livestock or poultry must be accorded an area equal to or greater to the area stipulated in the right column of said Table” also apply to the numbers of animals or birds accessing the outdoors?

(A)

Given that the ability of all livestock or poultry undergoing feeding to freely access an open-air free run represents the principle of livestock management, one may conclude that it is appropriate to apply the above to all livestock and poultry undergoing feeding that are used in the production of organic livestock products.

(Q5-4) Are farms that are enclosed by wire and roofed for protection against external threats recognized as “open-air free runs?”

(A)

While it is necessary to judge the above following total consideration of factors such as sunlight and the gap with external temperatures, provided that the farm in question is structured in such a manner that sunlight and air passage is not blocked, said farm is recognized as an “open-air free run.”

(Q5-5) What happens in cases where prohibited materials and/or genetically-modified seeds and seedlings are mistakenly used in open-air free runs?

(A)

Open-air free runs in which prohibited materials have been used may not be utilized in organic production. As such, if the timing with which the farms are to be used does not fall after the passage of a determined period of time calculated from the last day that prohibited materials were used, livestock pastured in those pastures may not be rendered into organic livestock products. Additionally, open-air free runs in which seeds and seedlings produced utilizing recombinant DNA technology were used may not be utilized in organic production until the elimination of recombinant DNA plants from the

open-air free runs in question has been confirmed.

(Regarding Article 4: Coverage of Livestock or Poultry)

(Q6-1) Are calves born from mother cattle mated through hormone treatment that are organically converted and subsequently organically raised for a period of six or more months prior to giving birth to said calves fall under organic livestock products?

(A)

Yes, said calves fall under organic livestock products.

(Q6-2) It is stipulated that “the poultry shall be raised organically after hatching.” Is hatching using an incubator rather than a mother fowl allowed?

(A)

Yes, the use of an incubator is permitted.

(Q6-3) The following is stated: “From the third day after hatching to slaughter.” Does the day of hatching itself count as the first day or the day after hatching count as the first day?

(A)

The day after hatching should be count as the first day.

(Q6-4) Does the “less than three days of age” under poultry for chicken meat mean the same as “less than three days after hatching?”

(A)

“Less than three days of age” means the same as “less than three days after hatching.”

(Q6-5) Less than how many days of age does “less than 18 weeks of age” under poultry for eggs mean?

Typically, as “18 weeks of age” refers to 18 weeks, but not 19 weeks or greater, passing since the birth of the poultry in question, “less than 18 weeks of age” refers to 126 days not passing since the birth of said poultry.

(Regarding Article 4: Feeding)

(Q7-1) Is the use of organic feeds produced overseas permitted in the production of organic livestock products?

(A)

In addition to privately-produced feeds for organic livestock breeding, livestock breeding farmers may purchase and use organic feeds from external sources. However, only purchased feeds that have been graded as conforming to the JAS for Organic Feeds may be used, regardless if they have been produced domestically or overseas.

(Q7-2) Do feeds used upon the production of organic livestock products by overseas production process managers for said products have to be graded organic feeds? Even in cases where mixed feeds that are processed by overseas production process managers themselves are used, is the grading of the source plants and said mixed feeds necessary?

(A)

For organic livestock product production purposes, in addition to privately-produced feeds, organic feeds may be purchased from external sources and used. However, the purchased feeds must be graded as conforming to the JAS for Organic Feeds. Moreover, in cases where production process managers of organic livestock products personally produce source plants for feeds in line with criteria set forth in the JAS for Organic Livestock Products and mix feeds themselves, there is no need to grade the source plants or the mixed feeds in question. Note that this also applies to overseas production process managers.

(Q7-3) Please explain what additives can and cannot be used as feed additives.

(A)

According to provisions under the Act on Safety Assurance and Quality Improvement of Feeds, categories of feed additives designated by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries currently number 157 (as of February 4, 2010). Among these categories, those produced with the use of antibiotics (19 categories) or recombinant DNA technology may not be used as additives in organic feeds even if said additives represent natural substances or those derived from natural substances. Other additives may be used provided that they are natural substances or derived from natural substances, and that they have not undergone chemical treatment. (For example, no issues exist with the addition of lactobacilli separated/cultivated from yogurt as a probiotic.)

Furthermore, with regard to amino acids (13 categories), vitamins (33 categories) and minerals (38 categories) used with the intention of supplementing nutrients or other active ingredients in feeds, similar substances, such as refined vitamins and

chemically-treated minerals may be used; provided, however, that no natural variations or variations derived from natural substances have been produced, that said variations, despite having been produced, cannot be used in feeds due to being expensive, or that similar circumstances apply.

Additionally, production process managers for organic livestock products may personally supply feed additives intended to supplement minerals in cases where it is difficult to obtain feeds intended for supplementing minerals that represent either natural substance or variations derived from a natural substance that has not undergone chemical treatment.

(Q7-4) Can the following be used in the cultivation of microorganisms in cases where microorganisms and/or enzymes are added to feeds? <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cultivation media to which substances chemosynthesized in the manufacturing process have been added• Cultivation media to which recombinant DNA technology has been applied

(A)

The following may be used in unavoidable cases where they are absolutely essential to the growth microorganisms, etc. to be used:

- Cultivation media to which substances chemosynthesized in the manufacturing process have been added
- Cultivation media to which recombinant DNA technology has been applied

(Q7-5) Is it permissible to give piglets under milking the iron that they lack?

(A)

It is permitted to supply piglets under milking with substances intended to supplement minerals.

However, the administration of intramuscular injections, etc. of iron drugs that represent veterinary drugs is not permitted for non-treatment purposes.

(Q7-6) Purchased organic feeds have the possibility of containing 5% or less non-organic ingredients. In case that feeds for organic livestock are especially difficult to obtain, how should 15% or 20% non-organic feeds, which are allowed for the duration up until necessary quantities of feeds for organic livestock can be supplied, be calculated?

(A)

Graded organic feeds that have been purchased may be construed as organic feeds as a whole, including their 5% or less non-organic ingredient content. Accordingly, quantities of non-organic feeds recognized for the elapsed duration stated above are not

more than 15% or 20% of average feed intake excluding feeds, feed additives, fish meal, algae, enzymes and microorganisms intended to supplement minerals.

(Q7-7) When calculating “50%,” etc. for feeding, what unit should be used: days, months, years or lifelong?

(A)

As said figures are likely to fluctuate depending on the day, calculations should be performed using units of approximately one month.

(Q7-8) With regards to feeding, it is stipulated that in case that feeds for organic livestock are especially difficult to obtain, feeds other than for organic livestock may be supplied up to 15% or 20% of average feed intake only for the duration up until necessary quantities of feeds for organic livestock can be supplied. Are cases where one wants to engage in the production of privately-produced feeds but cannot also construed as a “case that feeds for organic livestock are especially difficult to obtain?”

(A)

Within the current situation, in addition to the distribution of organic feeds for feeding purposes being limited, the production of privately-produced feeds for organic livestock cannot be carried out immediately. Consequently, cases in which there are no fields for collecting grass or organic feeds cannot be purchased are construed as cases in which feeds for organic livestock are especially difficult to obtain.

However, producers are required to conduct feeding that does not fall back on such special cases at the earliest possible stage.

(Regarding Article 4: Health Control)

(Q8-1) Is it permissible to insert a magnet into a bovine’s stomach in order to prevent pericarditis caused by the mistaken ingestion of needles or wire?

(A)

As the above falls under the appropriate usage and handling of magnets for preventing accidents with livestock that are not administered veterinary drugs, yes, it is permissible.

(Q8-2) Is the use of mastitis ointment for non-lactating periods allowed?

(A)

No, the use of mastitis ointment for dry periods is not allowed given the fact of using veterinary drugs containing antibiotics for the purpose of preventing diseases.

(Q8-3) It is stipulated that “growth, production, stimulants or substances except for feeds shall not be provided.” What kind of substances are not allowed to be provided?

(A)

A pair of examples are hormone drugs for stimulating fattening and artificial fiber substitutes for ruminant livestock.

(Regarding Article 4: General Management)

(Q9-1) The following is stated: “Open-air free runs (open-air free runs for bovine, equine, ovine, or caprine animals are limited to those with fields, etc.)” Must pasture grasses, etc. be vegetating in said fields, etc.? Is a running ground in which hay has been placed also acceptable?

(A)

“Fields, etc.” in this context refers to fields and grass-collection pastures where pasture grasses, etc. vegetate.

(Q9-2) What kinds of action does “pasturing” refer to?

(A)

Where plant-eating animals are concerned, “pasturing” refers to the act of putting said animals out to pasture in grasslands for the purpose of having them consume fresh forage. Where meat-eating animals are concerned, “pasturing” refers to the act of putting said animals out to pasture in running grounds for the purpose of having them run.

(Q9-3) Should poultry not be able to freely access open-air free runs, are they also recognized as being organically raised if they are pastured twice or more a week?

(A)

While managing the raising of poultry in an outdoor farm falls under pasturing poultry, in cases where poultry, too, cannot be granted free access to the outdoor farm, managing the raising of said poultry in an outdoor farm no less than twice a week is recognized as a method of raising that conforms with criteria under general management. Moreover, in cases where poultry may freely move about in housing for poultry, etc. where the Aviary system is implemented, there is no need to pasture the poultry in question two or more times a week.

(Q9-4) Is it permissible to raise calves using a calf hatch?

(A)

A calf hatch may be used until calves are around two months of age in order to prevent them from becoming sick.

(Q9-5) “Pastured [...] no less than twice a week” is stipulated. How many hours of pasturing are required per time?

(A)

With regards to pasturing times, depending on management methods, milking frequency and distances between housing and running grounds differ, as do appropriate pasturing times based on factors such as the state of pasture grasses and the health condition of livestock. Due to the resulting difficulty in establishing uniform criteria, appropriate pasturing times are approached in the following manner.

- The time equivalent to that from sunrise up until sunset is generally adopted
- When subject to limitations arising from local geographic features and weather conditions, the raising conditions and environment of individual producers, and so forth, it is necessary to clearly indicate reasons for restricting pasturing upon doing so.

(Ex.: Cases in which early morning or evening pasturing is dangerous to the livestock or poultry due to freezing)

(Q9-6) The following is stated: “Livestock shall not be intentionally injured.” How should measures in this regard be approached?

(A)

Injuring livestock or poultry is only permitted in the following three cases: (1) As measures to ensure the safety and/or health of livestock or poultry; (2) Measures for identifying individual livestock; and (3) surgical neutering. Cases that fall under (1) include the trimming of beaks, tail doking, dehorning, teeth removal, the removal of spurs from poultry, attaching nose rings, hoof cutting, attaching horseshoes, measures for treatment purposes, measures for physical checkups and other tests, and vaccination against communicable diseases. Cases that fall under (2) include attaching ear marks and notching ears.

In implementing the above measures, it is necessary that measures taken must be minimal so as not to cause suffering, and must be administered with the most appropriate timing. Additionally, should measures to be implemented be for identical purposes, it is necessary to consider selecting methods with the least amount of suffering, administering proper care to injuries after measures have been implemented, carrying out surgical neutering while the livestock or poultry are at a young age, and so

forth. Moreover, with regards to the timing and methods behind said measures, prior to implementation, it is necessary to take into consideration differences between species and breed and clarify the reasons why the measures to be taken were judged to be appropriate.

(Q9-7) Is forced molting allowed?

(A)

As poultry are required to “have a free access to feeds and fresh water,” it is not permissible to starve them or otherwise limit feeding for forced molting purposes.

(Q9-8) Are all cleaning agents for dairy use and disinfectant approved under the Food Sanitation Act included in cleaning and sterilization chemicals for milking facilities and apparatus?

(A)

Yes, said cleaning agents are included. Note that it is necessary to manage cleaning agents, etc. so that organic livestock products are not contaminated through means such as using water to clean up following the use of said agents.

(Q9-9) Can male stock for breeding that have not been organically raised be pastured in farms for organic raising for the purpose of using them to mate with bovine?

(A)

Male stock for breeding may be used for breeding for the production of organic livestock products immediately following their placement without establishing a conversion period. However, in addition to preventing the contamination of organically-raided livestock from prohibited materials, should said male stock be used in meat and other organic livestock products, it is necessary to go through a conversion period.

(Q9-10) Is the use of rodenticides permitted?

(A)

The use of rodenticides in housing for livestock or poultry is permitted. However, it is necessary to control this use so that the livestock or poultry in question does not directly ingest the rodenticide. Note that the use of rodenticides is not permitted in the management of disassembling, selection, processing, cleaning, storage, packaging and other processes.

(Regarding Article 4: Management concerning of Slaughter, Dressing, Selection, Processing,

Cleaning, Storage, Packaging and Other Processes)

(Q10-1) At slaughterhouses, in what manner should organic beef cattle and standard cattle be differentiated from one another?

(A)

As it is necessary to prevent organic livestock products and other livestock products from coming into contact or mixing with one another, controls such as establishing specialized lines or specific time slots for processing only organically-raised cattle are also necessary.

(Q10-2) The following is stipulated: “The slaughter of livestock is undertaken in a manner which minimizes stress and suffering by producing loss of consciousness as much as possible.” What kind of specific efforts are needed to carry out pertinent measures?

(A)

Where the slaughter of livestock is concerned, a “manner which minimizes stress and suffering” differs according to the conditions surrounding the breed of livestock and slaughterhouse involved. As such, it is difficult to establish uniform provisions for the matter. However, it is necessary to carry out measures in accordance with actual circumstances at each individual slaughterhouse or poultry meat treatment center. Such measures include securing time and locations where livestock and poultry may recuperate after being brought into the premises, adopting processes that ensure blood and bodies remain out of the sight of livestock and poultry prior to slaughter, and conducting stunning using methods that inflict the least amount of suffering as possible.

(Q10-3) Can production process managers be collectively certified to also carry out processes involving the processing of carcasses into sections?

(A)

As a general rule, the process of processing carcasses into sections requires separate certification as a re-packer. However, in cases where the slaughter process and the process of processing carcasses into sections represent a continuous work process, and said work process is being conducted by the same corporation in the same place of business, then production process managers may be collectively certified to also process carcasses into sections. In such cases, should fattening farmers conduct grading, production process managers may also consign the processing of carcasses into sections to an external source.

As livestock cannot be rendered into livestock products without undergoing slaughter and/or disassembling processes, production process managers must also be certified to process livestock up to the carcass phase at warehouses. Similarly, for poultry as well, production process managers must also be certified to process poultry at poultry meat treatment centers until it is free of organs and ready for inspection. (See Q2.)

2. Japanese Agricultural Standards for Organic Feeds

(Q11-1) Can certified production process managers for organic plants ship rice straw resulting from the production of organic rice as organic feeds?

(A)

As production process managers for organic plants can only grade food and drink products, in the above case, certified production process managers for organic plants must also become certified for organic feeds and grade the rice straw as such. Similar conditions also apply to byproducts of plants produced in organic certified fields as well as to residue and byproducts resulting from the manufacturing and/or treatment processes for organically-processed foods when these are used as organic feeds.

Moreover, given that production processes for organic feeds manufactured from byproducts of organic plants and organic processed foods are the same as organic plants and organic processed foods, “technical criteria for certification” that pertain to agricultural and forestry commodities under both have been unified. Consequently, individuals who have already acquired certification for organic plants, etc. may also acquire certification for organic feeds with relative ease. Additionally, upon simultaneously acquiring certification for both organic plants, etc. and organic feeds, certification for both can be achieved with a single testing process that covers redundant testing items.

However, in cases where livestock farmers partner up with rice production farmers to collectively acquire certification, the livestock farmers in question may use rice straw, etc. resulting from the production of organic rice privately produced by said rice production farmers as privately-produced feeds for organic livestock without grading said rice straw, etc. as organic feeds.

(Q11-2) In cases where plants produced with the intention of shipping them as organic plants are shipped to organic livestock farmers for use as feeds due to the form and size of said plants not meeting shipping criteria, can those plants be graded as organic plants?

(A)

The JAS for Organic Plants define organic plants as being limited to food and beverage products. Plants whose form and size do not meet shipping criteria are also considered

to be food and drink products, and as such can be graded as organic plants.

(Q11-3) Similarly to organic plants, can feeds recognized as organic feeds under systems in a foreign country be imported, attached with the Organic JAS logo and sold?

(A)

Organic feeds differ from organic plants that can be JAS-labeled with certificates from foreign governments, etc. in that the former has no system for verifying equivalency between overseas systems and those in Japan. Accordingly, importers of organic feeds cannot be certified.

(Q11-4) Technical criteria for certification by production process managers for organic feeds consist of the following two criteria: those items that have only undergone the processing or selection process and those items that have undergone processes other than processing or selection. Which of these technical criteria for certification is applied in cases where hay or silage is produced? Can these be attached with the Organic JAS logo and sold?

(A)

Technical criteria for those items that have undergone process other than processing or selection are applied to hay and silage. In cases where hay and/or silage is produced through cultivating pasture grasses in fields, technical criteria for two certifications must be conformed to. Moreover, due to the fact that the certification of business operators is conducted for each category of agricultural and forestry commodity, even in cases where business operators undergo certification based on technical criteria for two certifications, said business operators end up with a single certification.

(Q11-5) Are there any regulations concerning transport, mixing upon storage, contamination prevention, etc. as they pertain to organic feeds?

(A)

Please refer to the provisions of Article 19-12 of the JAS Law and Article 72 of the Regulations for the Enforcement of the JAS Law, which stipulate the agricultural and forestry commodities subject to the above as well as the reasons for not conforming to the JAS in question.

In cases where prohibited substances are mixed with organic feeds, organic feeds are contaminated, or feeds or substances other than organic feeds are mixed with the former upon the transport and/or storage of organic feeds, it is necessary to remove or void grade labeling in accordance with the aforementioned provisions.

III. Labeling

(Q12-1) Is milk obtained from bovine in mid-conversion to organic raising labeled during conversion?

(A)

The labeling of livestock products and/or processed livestock foods with “in mid-conversion” is not allowed.

IV. Other

(Q13-1) What kind of certification is required to sell organic beef as organic seasoned beef in a supermarket?

(A)

As items in which multiple ingredients are rendered into a single product (seasoned beef, assorted beef and pork, etc.) fall under processed foods, in order to attach an Organic JAS logo to and sell these foods, it is necessary to become a certified production process manager for organic processed foods.

(Q13-2) What kind of certification is required for farmers when selling self-produced organic livestock products that have been processed into organic processed foods?

(A)

Aside from certification as production process managers for organic livestock products, said farmers must be certified as production process managers for organic processed foods.

(Q13-3) Can the materials listed in Attached Table 11 be used for disinfectant purposes when slicing meat for consumption in a supermarket?

(A)

The materials listed in Attached Table 11 are “limited to the use for disinfecting meat and poultry at slaughter,” and as such, cannot be used for the above purposes. Note that it is acceptable to use cleaning and disinfecting agents for the cleaning and disinfecting of machines and apparatus used in treatment processes. However, in such cases, it is necessary to manage said agents, etc. so that ingredients and products are not contaminated through means such as using water to thoroughly clean up said agents, etc.