

# Kootenay Organic Growers Society

## BC Certified - Organic Poultry Farm Plan Guide

COABC Livestock Management Standards require organic poultry producers to implement and maintain a Flock Health Management Plan and a Farm System Design Plan. Accurate completion of the Organic Poultry Management Plan (and yearly updates) will provide the farmer with enough information to cover both plans. Though daunting to look at, the Organic Poultry Management Plan can be a useful tool to help you become a better farmer, and will aid the organic certification process.

Use this guide to assist in completing the Organic Poultry Farm Plan. Numbers in the guide correspond to numbers in the Poultry Plan. Provide as much information as possible. The Certification Committee (CC) will decide your certification status, but they will never see your farm. The more information you can give, the easier it will be for the CC to make their decision.

### Section A General Information

1. The name of the person responsible for the certification of this operation.
2. Use the same name as on the Crop Plan
3. The date this Plan is completed.
4. Full mailing address.
5. Lot or road number if different from mailing address, and directions from the nearest community.
6. You may include more than one telephone number here
7. Fax number if you have one.
8. Include email address if you actually use it.
9. If you employ a farm/ranch manager, include this information.
10. This is important and relevant information - a yes answer will not jeopardise your application for certification.
11. This question is relevant to determining your certification needs.
12. Include any concerns you may have about the standards here - the VO will confirm your answer.
13. This information is important as different jurisdictions have different certification requirements - do not be caught later with improper requirements for export!
14. The CC needs a picture of your farming history.
15. As above.
16. Household amounts means that you do not sell any of these products.
17. A Split Operation is when an operator is running an organic system concurrently with a non-organic system (organic potatoes but non-organic beef, for instance). Household amounts of non-organic production are not considered a Split Operation. If you sell your non-organic production, then you are running a Split Operation and you must complete the Split Operation form. It is understood with livestock farms that there will always be non-organic animals (for slaughter purposes) on the farm - this fact does not make a farm a split operation.

18. The CC needs an idea of the scale of your operation, and dates of organic conversion for certification purposes. Divide your animals into flocks according to species and breed and date acquired.

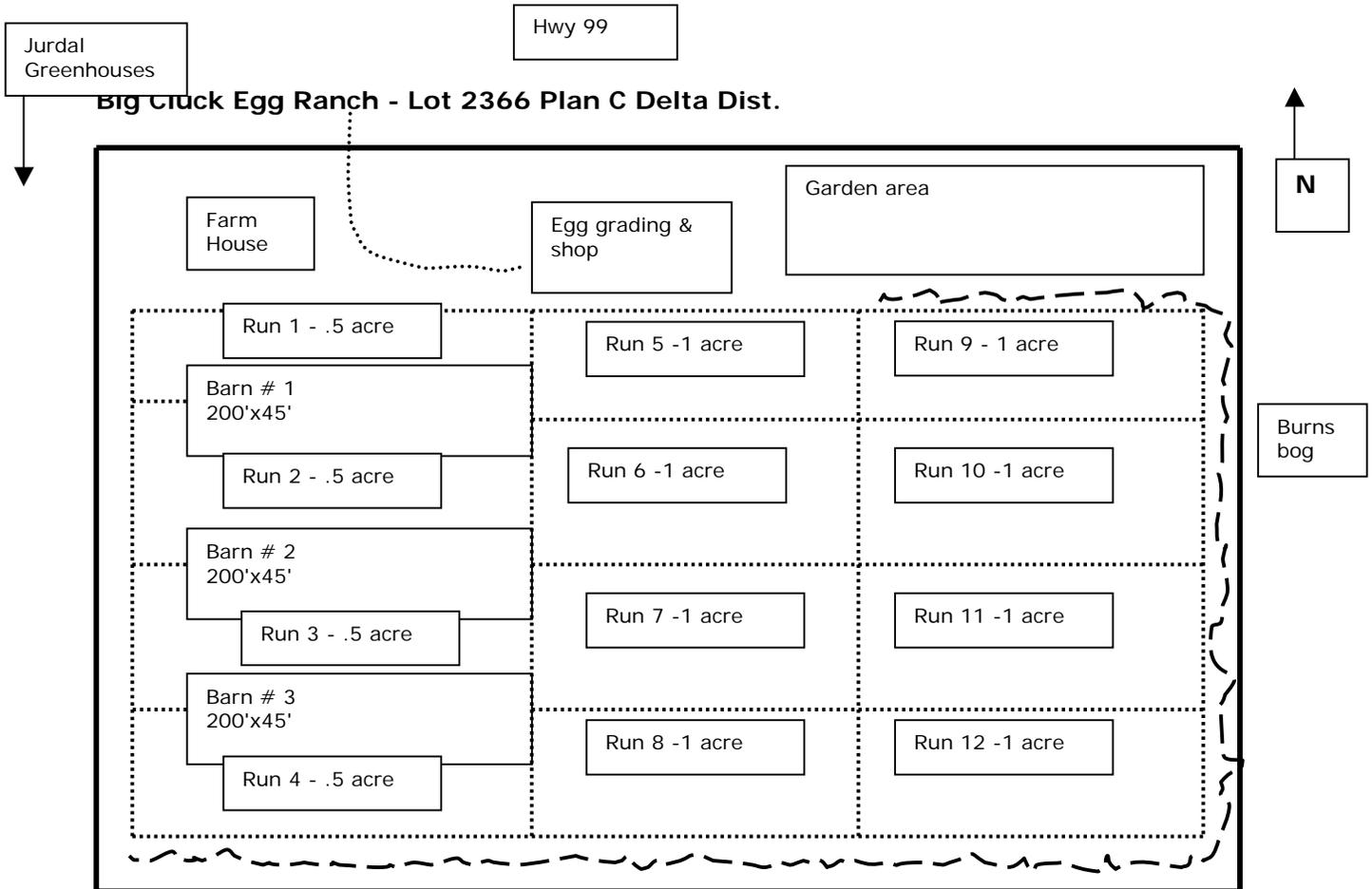
Species	Breed	layers (L) or meat (M)	# of birds	Source of stock Certified organic? Y or N	If other than on hatched on farm date acquired	Age when brought on farm
Chickens	Leghorns	L	2300	Richards Hatchery - N	Nov 23 2003	Day old

19. Organic poultry products include slaughtered birds, eggs, or other processed poultry products. Please try to estimate the amount you will sell.

20. Live birds for breeding, slaughter or day-old chicks, or pullets.

21. This information provides the CC with an idea of the complexity of your enterprise

22. Farm Maps - Your farm map(s) must be on 8\_x11 (standard letter size) for ease of photocopying - do not use colours on your map (for the same reason). If you do not have enough room on one page, split your map up into sections. The example below gives a simplified version of a poultry operation on one lot. If the farm were larger than just the poultry operation, both an overall farm map and a poultry operation map would have to be submitted. You are also required to supply a diagram of the inside layout of your barns. Send your map(s) by mail (do not fax) or you may scan your map(s) and send by email. If you are ambitious, you can draw your map(s) on your computer. Don't forget to include a road map describing how to get to your farm from the nearest community.



Legend

- Chicken fence ..... (dotted line)
- Property boundary \_\_\_\_\_ (solid line)
- Planted and wild trees and shrubs - - - - - (dashed line)
- Road ..... (dotted line)

**Section B Basic Land Base Information**

- 23. The Organic Crop Plan contains all the material requested in section B. You must submit an Organic Crop Plan if you are producing any of your own feed (excluding pasture) or other crops for sale.
- 24. Describe your property in acres or hectares - the numbers should add up to the total owned or managed.

25. This question deals with individual fields - questions for runs come up later in the form. This table asks you to identify all your fields. Most farmers break their farms into separate fields for ease of farming. Fences, bush, or hedges usually separate fields, but fields can also be contiguous - in this case, do your best to identify separate fields on your maps and by physical markers on the ground. Sites are physically separate areas of a farm - may farms have only one site. Some large farms have many sites. Give every site a name. Give every separate field a number, regardless of which site they are located - don't use the same field numbers on different sites. Provide your best estimate of acreage and the legal description from your tax assessment. Let the CB know how long you've owned this field and whether you want it included in your certification. See example below:

Site name	Field #	Acres/ ha	Location and lot # (legal address)	How long owned or managed by you?	Applying for Certification? Y or N
Home Place	1	24	DL 1223 North Island	17 yrs	Y
Home Place	2	10	Same	17 yrs	Y

26. This table asks you to describe the fields you identified in table 25. List all your fields from table 25 as well as the activity in each field for the last 3 years. To make this easier, you may group fields together if their history is the same (i.e. hayfields or pasture). The previous use column is asking what the field was used for before three years ago - answer as best you can. If you need more room, use the space at the end of this form or send the information to your CB in another attachment. CBs will make their decision based on the information you supply (this table) and confirmation from your inspection. Though this question will take some time to complete, it is crucial to determining your certification status. A CB can only supply certification based on actual field records. See example below:

Year	Field or run #	Previous Use	Materials including fertilisers, pesticides and/or herbicides applied	Date(s) of application
2001	1,3,4, 10	Hay and pasture	Roundup, 20-10-0	April/May 2001
2002	1,3,4, 10		None	
2003	1,3,4, 10		10 tons Manure	November 2003

**Protection from Contamination –Boundaries & Buffer Zones - COABC Section 3.4, 3.5**

27. Prohibited substances include pesticide sprays from farms or highway crews, fertilisers, and dust retardant on gravel roads and other materials.
28. Include any other relevant information such as nearby industry or non-organic farms
29. Buffer zones are required where there is chance of contamination from neighbouring land use.
30. Answer this question as comprehensively as possible. Neighbouring land use means roads or railways, crown land and private land - anywhere your boundary touches property you don't own or control. Use the area at the end of the form if your need more room.
31. Include any other relevant information such as nearby industry or commercial farms.
32. The COABC has a policy of providing written letters to neighbours or agencies informing them of a farm's certification status. Contact the COABC for more information.
33. If you answer yes here, indicate what the soil was used for.

34. Bio-solids are prohibited in organic production.
35. Answer this question for all areas of your farm. Treated lumber does not have to be removed, but if the treatment is not allowed (COABC Materials List), the lumber must be isolated from production.
36. CCA stands for Copper Chromated Arsenate treated lumber (green posts) and is prohibited by the COABC organic production standards. Existing posts do not have to be removed.

### Section C Organic Poultry Management Plan - COABC Section 9

37. Describe where young birds (day-old chicks or pullets) come from, where they are initially placed and for how long. Describe all the steps in rearing, egg or meat production and final sale or slaughter or broilers or spent layers. Provide as much information as possible so the CC has a clear picture of what you do on your farm.
38. Include this information even if you are repeating what you have provided in question 37.
39. Refer to your COABC Management standards for specifications for rearing chicks.
40. You may need a letter from your hatchery to confirm this information.
41. The CC understands this information will vary over the season and year-to-year.
42. As above.
43. At some point, a bird, or an entire flock will need to be treated with prohibited materials (antibiotics). This procedure is not prohibited, but treated birds or flocks may never be sold as certified organic. In this case, you must have a foolproof plan in place to ensure that treated birds or flocks do not become confused with organic birds or flocks.

### HOUSING & OUTDOOR ACCESS - COABC section 9.3, 9.6, 16

#### 44. Housing

Housing unit name or ID #	Type of structure (movable?)	Type of poultry	Dimensions (Length/ width (meters or feet))	# of birds in unit at any given time (ages of birds, if relevant)
#1	Wood frame, steel clad	Laying chickens	120'x45'	2,000 mature birds
#2	Log barn	Turkeys	60'X30'	250 in winter 400 in summer

45. Indicate the number of flocks you plan to run at one time in the next 12 months. Also, provide the total number of birds planned for each flock.
46. How many flock rotations over the next 12 months? Do your best to provide an estimate - average as close to 12 months as possible.
47. It is assumed that housing may be cleaned and runs re-seeded between flocks - how long will this period be?
48. See provisions in 9.3 regarding use of artificial light.
49. You may check more than one box - indicate your plans over the next 12 months.
50. Sawmill logs can be treated with fungicide; this product can end up in shavings.
51. Movable poultry systems will have a different answer here.
52. Items marked \* are regulated. Refer to livestock materials list for annotations.
53. Pay particular attention to the space you provide your poultry - access to pasture/runs is also critical.

### OUTDOOR ACCESS - COABC Section 9.3

54. Movable poultry systems will have a different run arrangement than static systems. The Run Rotation Plan is described in question 60.

55. Add up the number of acres (or square feet) of runs you are planning to use and add up the number of poultry you will raise over a year.
56. Describe the species of poultry when answering this question.
57. Provide the best average you can.
58. This will depend on the species of bird and climatic conditions.
59. Chickens and turkeys are essentially forest animals - they are more likely to make use of pasture if there is tree or brush cover.
60. Run Rotation Plan - Describe your plan to use and renovate your runs. Moveable systems will have a rotation, but the use of runs will be modified - describe how you will move your system in terms of rotations.

Run ID #	Rotation Plan
# 1	Birds from barn 1. Heavy sod grass with some bush - two weeks in then two weeks in run #2 then back as long as the pasture holds up Run 1 gets 2 month rest between layer flocks.
# 2	Birds from barn 1. Plant annual rye and fodder kale - let it grow for six weeks, then rotations of mature laying hens for 2 weeks at a time in alternation with run 1 - continue as long as the weather and pasture holds. Run gets 2-month rest between layer flocks.

#### 61. Feed Table

Type of poultry	Feed	Average amounts animal/year	Source	Certified organic Y or N
Turkeys	Organic turkey mix	50 #'s	Wally's organic feeds	Y

62. See regulations in 9.1 of the COABC Management Standards.
63. You are allowed to process organic and non-organic feed, but you must ensure there is no chance of contamination (commingling) of the organic feed.
64. Supplements refer to vitamins, minerals, salt, and other feed additives. Refer to the section 9.2 and Livestock Materials List (section 16) for information regarding feed supplements. If you are in doubt about whether a supplement is allowed you can send an ingredient list to the certification body asking for approval for use.
65. You may be asked to supply documentation to support your answer to this question.

#### 66. Feed Storage

Storage ID #	Feed	Type of storage	Capacity	Status of feed
Bin #1	Layer mash	Steel bin	12 tonne	Organic

67. Rodenticides are prohibited for use - items marked \* are regulated for use see - section 16.

#### WATER - COABC sections 9.1, 9.3

68. Even if you supply water through standard livestock water systems, if poultry also have access to natural sources, (ponds, ditches) you must indicate this.
69. This is in addition to anything added to municipal drinking water.
70. Spring run-off, industrial, or commercial agricultural use.
71. Ducks love water but in too many numbers will damage riparian areas - COABC section 3.1.

### Section D Health Management - COABC sections 9.6, 9.7 & 16

72. Disease Management Plan - Take your time when completing this table. This is part of your Flock Health Management Plan and will be critically assessed by your CB. You should be able to fit any disease you have encountered into this table.

Disease/pest	Planned prevention and/or treatment strategy for organic production
Diarrhoea diseases (Coccidiosis, Salmonellosis)	Vaccinate - keep bedding dry - change runs frequently and replant with vigorous greens

73. This question is an adjunct to question 72 - check as many boxes that apply.

74. Items marked with \* indicate a regulated practice. Consult your organic management standards for specific annotations.

### Section E Manure and Waste Management - COABC 3.9, 3.10, 8.3, 9.9, 3.1

75. Your CB wants to ensure that the manure from your farm is being handled as a benefit to farming rather than a threat to the environment.

76. As above

77. In vessel means a compost-making machine.

78. COABC standards require compost to reach a certain temperature.

79. All livestock operations will have dead animals. What is your plan to dispose of these?

The "Code of Agricultural Practice for Waste Management is available at BCMAFF website <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca> in the Environmental Guidelines section. The "Code" describes the rules for storing and handling manure and compost and other agricultural waste. This is the law in BC. \* Asterisk indicates that this is a regulated practice - see section 9.7.

80. If your landbase cannot accommodate the amount of manure produced by your farm, you must have a plan to deal with excess manure.

81. Excess rainwater can be an environmental problem in some regions and soil types.

82. Environmental Farm Plans are useful (free) tools for assessing the environmental impact of your farm. Contact the COABC for more information.

### Section F Egg Handling, Slaughter and Transport - COABC section 9.10, 11, 16

83. As part of verifiable audit trail, all steps in the production and distribution of organic product must be subject to inspection.

84. You may wash some eggs and not wash others.

85. You may grade some eggs and not grade others.

86. If eggs are graded off-farm (and you retain ownership of them), the facility must be subject to inspection.

87. The VO will ask to see this licence. Egg grading regulations are available at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>

88. Farmgate sales are not subject to grading regulations.

89. If you wash your own eggs, describe how you do it, including the cleaners and sanitisers you use.

90. On-farm slaughter regulations are available at the BCMAFF <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca>

91. As above.

92. If you ship poultry to a slaughter facility (and retain ownership of the poultry) that facility must be subject to organic inspection.

93. As above.

94. Organic poultry products means eggs and egg products as well as meat and meat products.

95. The humane transport of animals is governed by legislation enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency <http://www.inspection.gc.ca>

96. If you retain ownership of birds during transport, you are responsible for the organic integrity of those birds

97. How far are you planning to ship your birds?

98. Birds must have adequate care wherever they are held.

99. Organic feed for transported birds must be considered if birds are to be held at any facility.

100. Transport of organic eggs must be part of the audit trail from farm to final sale.
101. As above.
102. Contact your CB for details on use of the COABC Program Symbol - do not use the checkmark without approval. Containers used for shipping product must be labelled. After you receive your certificate from your CB shipping containers, at a minimum, must include name of producer (farm name) certification status (transitional or organic) and name of certification agency and certification number. Before you receive your certificate, you may not sell your produce as transitional or organic.

### **Section G Record Keeping**

103. Your VO will wish to reconcile the amount of birds or poultry products sold with the amount of birds or chicks purchased.
104. These receipts can help prove that seeding has occurred over the year.
105. As in question 101, these records will assist the reconciliation of inputs to organic products sold.
106. These records can form part of an Organic Poultry Journal.
107. Try to consider areas that might be problematic in the future.
108. Attachments that may be required by your certification body.
109. Use this area when you haven't enough room inside the application. Provide any other information you feel will help the CC make their decision.
110. Read this affirmation carefully before signing.
111. For VO only