

## Livestock Standards

The standards for the Mendocino Renegade (MR) label differ substantially from the USDA standards. The most important difference being that all feed must be 100% organic, and that parallel or mixed production is not allowed. Only those farms and businesses that use organic methods for their entire farm or operation will qualify. All livestock must be produced using organic methods.

The livestock standards emphasize stress reduction and good nutrition to maximize animal health. MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock production requires organically grown feeds, the active prevention of disease through nutrition and positive management of living conditions, and the humane treatment of all animals. It cannot be overemphasized that it is not acceptable to simply eliminate the use of synthetic materials. This approach can lead to exhaustion of soil resources, poor quality crops, unthrifty livestock and ultimate operation failure. MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers must never deny treatment to an ill animal so that its products may be labeled "organic."

### TRANSITION PERIOD

Animals intended for slaughter must be raised according to these standards from birth. It is possible to convert a non-organic dairy herd or laying flock to MENDOCINO RENEGADE certified production. Dairy animals and laying stock must be managed according to these standards for specified periods prior to and during production of MENDOCINO RENEGADE certified milk or eggs.

### FEED

Animals intended for slaughter must be raised on a balanced diet of 100% organic feed from birth and must be in the direct control of a certified producer and fed certified organic feeds for at least 90 days prior to slaughter. Lactating animals that are nursing slaughter stock must be fed 100% organic feed. Animals that live less than 90 days from birth to slaughter must be in the direct control of a certified producer and fed certified organic feeds for their entire life. Dairy stock must be fed certified organic feeds for 12 months prior to the production of certified milk. Egg laying stock must be fed certified organic feed for six months prior to the production of certified eggs. MENDOCINO RENEGADE prohibits the following:

- a) Non-organic feed.
- b) Feed containing plastic pellets, urea or other synthetic materials.
- c) Feed containing antibiotics, hormones, drugs, or other medications.
- d) Intentional refeeding of manure.
- e) Maintaining animals on poorly balanced diets, including raising anemic animals (as in veal production).

MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers are encouraged to provide their animals with trace mineral and/or vitamin supplements derived from mined rocks or plant products. Synthetic vitamin and mineral supplements are permitted for documented deficiencies but their use is discouraged. Hormones and/or growth promoters are

prohibited whether implanted, ingested, or injected. Antibiotics, hormones or growth promoters are not permitted as feed supplements.

#### LIVING CONDITIONS

MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers are required to provide their animals with uncrowded living conditions, with maximum fresh air, daylight and shelter from inclement weather. Each animal must have enough room to comfortably get up, lie down, groom, turn around and stretch its limbs. Livestock producers are encouraged to provide all animals with access to pasture or outside runs. Stock facilities must be cleaned on a regular basis.

The following practices are prohibited: confinement of young mammals to straw or chip-lined pens, pigs and piglets confined to farrowing boxes, confinement of poultry or rabbits with no access to outside runs, and confinement of cattle and sheep to final fattening areas.

It is prohibited to routinely chain animals inside boxes or pens that do not allow free movement (as in white veal production), to confine pigs and piglets to farrowing crates for periods longer than 4 days, and to confine rabbits or poultry in any environment that does not allow free movement.

#### DISEASE PREVENTION

MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers are encouraged to minimize livestock diseases through adequate nutrition, proper sanitation, reduction of animal stress, proper pasture management, isolation of ill individuals, quarantine of incoming stock and regular grooming (such as shearing and hooftrimming). Producers are strongly encouraged to allow young mammals to feed on colostrum for at least the first 24 hours of life. Livestock facilities may be disinfected using lime, chlorine bleach, hydrogen peroxide or soaps. Producers may vaccinate stock for endemic diseases, but are prohibited from administering hormones or subtherapeutic levels of antibiotics. Maintaining animals dependent on routine medications is also prohibited. Iodine may be used to disinfect wounds. Footbaths of copper sulphate or iodine are allowed. Livestock and facilities may not be disinfected with substances containing synthetic pesticides or any material that is prohibited in the materials list.

#### DISEASE TREATMENT

MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers are encouraged to promptly recognize ill animals, isolate diseased livestock, and treat with methods that do not require drugs, antibiotics or other medications. Internal and topical medications, as limited by the MENDOCINO RENEGADE Materials List, are allowed to treat a specific and manifest disease or malady. Only approved medications are permitted in MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock production. Each such disease or malady must be diagnosed and the treatment prescribed by a licensed veterinarian or each such disease or malady must be diagnosed and the treatment prescribed under the general supervision of a licensed veterinarian. There must be a documentation for each such diagnosis and treatment. Even with (regardless of) the diagnosis and prescription of a licensed veterinarian, the regular

or planned use of medication within any animal management system is considered to be a dependency on routine medication and is prohibited.

Slaughter animals that have been medicated must be withheld from slaughter or organic production for 90 days. Dairy stock and laying stock that have been medicated must be withheld from organic production for 30 days. Thereafter the animal may return to the organic herd and the products may be sold as organic. Stock requiring medications but unable to meet this withdrawal timetable cannot be sold as organic. MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers are prohibited from denying treatment to an ill animal so that its products may be labeled organic.

#### PARASITE CONTROL

MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers are required to minimize the use of parasiticides. Applications of organophosphate, benzimidazole and other synthetic pesticides are prohibited. Producers are required to minimize parasite infestation through the use of alternative methods such as:

- a) Quarantine and fecal exams for all incoming stock.
- b) Adequate pasture rotation and good pasture management.
- c) Maintaining clean facilities.
- d) Periodic fecal exams and culling seriously infested individuals.
- e) Vector and intermediate host control.
- f) Using biological control methods (such as fly parasites).
- g) Maintaining dusting wallows for poultry.

#### STOCK SOURCES

MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock producers are encouraged to raise their own stock or purchase replacement animals from certified organic producers. Slaughter stock from non-certified producers may be used provided that an affidavit verifying the producer's compliance with these MENDOCINO RENEGADE livestock standards is on file with the Review Committee and . MENDOCINO RENEGADE will actively verify these affidavits at the expense of the MENDOCINO RENEGADE producer. It is prohibited to purchase slaughter stock from non-organic sources, with the exception of day-old poultry, which may be purchased from any source.

Dairy stock from non-organic sources cannot be certified for at least 12 months after entering the certified production unit. Egg laying stock from non-organic sources cannot be certified for at least six months after entering the certified production unit.

MENDOCINO RENEGADE producers are encouraged to maintain a breeding herd as a source of replacement animals for their own production or sale to other certified producers. Breeding stock or breeder operations may be certified by MENDOCINO RENEGADE and are the preferred source of replacement animals for MENDOCINO RENEGADE producers. Breeding animals must be managed according to these standards for one year prior to certification. MENDOCINO RENEGADE certified meat products may only come from animals raised according to these standards from birth.

## RECORD KEEPING

Livestock producers are required to ear-tag or individually mark in some way all livestock with the exception of poultry. Records must be kept (including dates, amounts and sources) of all medications administered, all feeds bought and fed, all feed supplements used, weight of slaughter animals when they enter the certified production unit (with the exception of poultry), weight of animals at slaughter, and production records. All records must be kept by individual (or flock in the case of poultry) from birth/purchase to slaughter/sale. All MENDOCINO RENEGADE certified organic livestock products must be kept physically separate from conventionally produced animal products and they must be clearly labeled with the MENDOCINO RENEGADE seal. Receipts for purchased stock and materials as well as sales invoices must also be kept to ensure a complete audit trail. Additional records may be required by the Review Committee.