

# IOFGA GUIDELINES FOR DEDICATED ORGANIC LIVESTOCK SALES

## GENERAL CRITERIA

- 1) An IOFGA Inspector must be present at all dedicated organic livestock sales to verify the authenticity of livestock presented for sale. The Inspector will also check that the guidelines outlined below are met.
- 2) Organisers of dedicated organic marts must ensure that premises to be used for organic sales of livestock have a current licence under the Livestock Marts Act 1967. All national rules must be abided by.
- 3) The Organisers must register with IOFGA at least 30 days in advance of the mart. IOFGA is required to inform the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food of such sales prior to any advertising or promotion commences. No advertising of the mart should take place prior to registration with IOFGA.
- 4) The application to IOFGA must be in writing outlining the following:
  - a) How the applicant intends to meet with the specifications above.
  - b) Stating the date of the mart(s).
  - c) Time and venue for proposed sale.
  - d) An undertaking to abide by the 'IOFGA Guidelines for Dedicated Organic Livestock Sales'.
- 5) A registration fee of EUR 200 per mart must be paid to IOFGA.
- 6) All animals must be pre-registered with the organisers of the mart. The mart organisers must submit to IOFGA a listing of all animals to be presented for sale including:
  - a) livestock identification number
  - b) seller's name
  - c) seller's address.

## DOCUMENTATION

- 7) The following documentation must accompany animals to a mart:
  - Producer's organic/in-conversion licence
  - Livestock Identification Cards
  - Movement forms (sheep)
  - Organic record book
- 8) A copy of the organic/in-conversion licence must be given to each buyer.

## MART PREMISES AND WELFARE

- 9) All facilities at the mart should be thoroughly cleaned with an approved disinfectant prior to the sale.
- 10) Only fit animals may be transported (unless under veterinary supervision) and they must be presented in a clean and rested condition.
- 11) All animals presented for sale at marts must be dehorned, castrated, and weaned properly. Weanlings should be guaranteed by the seller to be weaned at least a fortnight.
- 12) Animals must be dehorned according to specifications laid down by the "IOFGA Standards for Organic Food and Farming in Ireland".
- 13) The inspector has the right to reject animals which do not confirm to clauses 10, 11, and 12.
- 14) Animals presented for sale should be given access to clean water and straw bedding to reduce stress.
- 15) Animals from different holdings should be kept in separate pens.
- 16) Recommended: Selling from pens. Permitted: Selling from the ring.
- 17) Different lots from each individual farm should be sold in succession.

- 18) Animals should be clearly marked as organic, in-conversion, and non-organic, using different colour codes if possible, to help identify the status of the stock and to prevent confusion between 'organic' and 'conversion' grade stock.

Recommended: A sticker placed on each animal to clearly indicate the status of the animal. A different colour sticker should be used for each status. Non-organic\* animals must also be clearly labelled.

Permitted: a) non-organic cow with organic or in-conversion calf at foot  
b) non-organic breeding stock from organic farms (bulls, rams).

- 19) A notice must appear in the sales area of the mart to inform buyers and sales staff of the distinction at 18 above.
- 20) Ideally stock should be removed from the livestock sales mart on the day of the sale.
- 21) The buyer is responsible for the welfare, feed, and bedding of any animals kept overnight at the mart.
- 22) Both the organising group and the owners of the stock have a responsibility to provide suitable lairage, food, and bedding for overnight stays.
- 23) It is the responsibility of the organisers to ensure that owners provide straw and water for their animals.
- 24) Following the holding of the mart the organisers must submit to IOFGA a report setting out:
- a) Seller's name and address
  - b) Seller's organic licence number
  - c) Status of animals presented for sale (i.e. 'organic' 'conversion' or 'non-organic' grade)
  - d) Lot number for each animal/set of animals sold
  - e) Number of animals per lot
  - f) Livestock identification numbers for each animal sold.
  - g) Buyer's name and address.