

Changes to the Demeter Standards

These changes to the standards were announced in January 2017:

(The standards, before amendment, can be seen at

<http://www.biodynamic.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Demeter-stds-2015-1.pdf>)

Ringling of pigs.

Reference in section 7.12.3d) that permits ringling of pigs is removed. i.e. delete the words "~~and free ranging pigs~~"

Add a section **7.3 Plan** as follows "Demeter New Zealand may allow the keeping of a few animals for home consumption that are managed in ways that do not fully comply with this standard. Such animals or their products may not be marketed as Demeter."

Reason: Demeter International does not permit the ringling of pigs and would not change when NZ so requested. We have not for some years had any NZ applicants for commercial certification of pigs, but a few licensees have kept pigs for own use. Demeter International allows exceptions to the standards in such cases.

The standards committee did not believe that prior consultation with licensees was necessary, as there will be no material change for any current licensee.

Glossary

Added: "Normal: Indicates a discretionary rule. The discretion may not be exercised by the licensee without the permission of Demeter New Zealand"

Reason: The intention is sometimes misunderstood. For example, the standards say that normally prep 501 must be used on all crops. Occasionally licensees decide that their particular situation is not normal and that they don't have to do it, but don't check that out. This is an editorial (clarifying) change only. It makes visible what licensees are told individually.

Animal health and welfare

(a) Change 7.11.2 to read "Sick animals shall receive timely treatment including pain relief with effective remedies where those exist." (Underlined words added).

Reason: the new animal welfare regulations are more insistent on treatment, and our veterinary advice is that pain relief is more and more normal treatment. Besides obvious reasons, it aids recovery. This is an editorial (clarifying) change only.

(b) Add, to Table 7 (allowed treatments)

1) Ketoprofen

- Delivery method: any

- Purposes/restriction: Pain relief. According to veterinary directions

- Quarantine period: 48 hours

- Milk and meat w/h periods of 48 hours or twice legal w/h period whichever greater

- Permission required: No

- Status of animal: Unchanged

Reason: Same as above. Ketoprofen is an anti-inflammatory of the same class of drugs as ibuprofen. This change would allow it to be used without restriction when recommended by a vet. Licensees were canvassed about this last year. No permission is required because to be useful it needs to be administered by the vet when he calls. It has a zero legal withholding period.

2) Magnesium oxide

- Delivery method: oral

- Purposes/restriction: Hypomagnesaemia. According to veterinary directions. See management plan requirement 7.14.3

- Permission required: No

- Quarantine period: None

- Status of animal: Unchanged

Reason: magnesium deficiency causes metabolic problems. Conventional farmers treat with boluses – devices that sit in the animal's gut and release magnesium for months, but these are generally not allowed in organic farming because the delivery mechanism releases prohibited materials. Licensees were canvassed about this last year.