Part II – Table of Contents (excerpt*)

Standards for the Production, Processing and Trade of 'Bud' Products

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* Page numbers are from the complete edition of the Bio Suisse Standards for the Production, Processing and Trade of 'Bud' Products. This segment and the list of abbreviations are excerpts.

Reading guide for the latest edition of the Bio Suisse Standards for the Production, Processing and Trade of 'Bud' Products

Every standard is composed of various parts. Standards are formulated by various decision-making bodies within the organization:

- The Assembly of Delegates adopts the principles and aims of each standard. These are marked by a green band at the side of the page.
- The directives that follow are based on the principles and define their technical implementation. Changes to the directives are first submitted to the Bio Suisse member organizations. If there are no objections within a period of 60 days, the changes go into effect by order of the Quality Committee. Directives are not specially marked within the text.
- For certain areas there are also operative implementing provisions that are issued and adapted by the responsible Bio Suisse Label Commissions. These are marked by a vertically pin-striped band at the side of the page.
- The appendices contain lists that could change at short notice as well as practical information. Various staff members and decision-making bodies are responsible for the appendices. The Bio Suisse head office maintains a complete list. Appendices immediately follow the sections to which they relate. They are designated as appendices and are marked by a horizontally pin-striped band at the side of the page.

These standards and additional documents that are designated with an arrow → are available online at: www.bio-suisse.ch → Import with Bio Suisse and at www.bioaktuell.ch → 'Das Bioregelwerk' (in German) → 'La réglementation bio' (in French) → 'Le normative bio' (in Italian).

This translation is provided for information purposes only and has no legal force. The original German version is definitive.
# List of Abbreviations

- t Designates ingredients at risk of contamination with GMOs. A declaration of assurance that the prohibition of the use of genetic engineering set out by the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) and Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 was complied with is required.
- ° Such designated products or procedures must be authorized by the Bio Suisse head office (this applies to on-farm processors as well as to licensees).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADEB</td>
<td>areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity</td>
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<tr>
<td>AG</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Advisory Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>AGRIDEA</td>
<td>Swiss agricultural extension centres (formely LBL Landau and SRVA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>AgriTOP/BUL</td>
<td>Swiss Advisory Bureau for Accident Prevention in Agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agroscope</td>
<td>Swiss centre of excellence for research into agriculture, nutrition and the environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AHV</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Old Age and Survivors’ Insurance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anipo</td>
<td>Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance (SR 455.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.O.C.</td>
<td>'Appellation d’Origine Contrôlée'; registered designation of origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLW</td>
<td>Bundesamt für Landwirtschaft (Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture, FOAG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRC</td>
<td>British Retail Consortium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTS</td>
<td>Swiss federal programme on “besonders tierfreundlichen Stallhaltungssysteme (BTS)” (“high welfare livestock housing”) in accordance with Art. 72 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH-Bio</td>
<td>certified according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHF</td>
<td>Swiss franc</td>
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<tr>
<td>COA</td>
<td>certified organic agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>DM</td>
<td>dry matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>EAER</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECA</td>
<td>ecological compensation area</td>
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<tr>
<td>ET</td>
<td>embryo transfer</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU organic</td>
<td>certified according to Council Regulation (EC) 889/2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDHA</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Department of Home Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>FiBL</td>
<td>Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, CH-5070 Frick</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOAG</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture</td>
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<td>FOPH</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Office of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>FSOVO</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMOs</td>
<td>genetically modified organisms</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRUDAF</td>
<td>‘Principles of fertilizer application in arable and forage cultivation’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ha</td>
<td>hectare</td>
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<tr>
<td>HMF</td>
<td>hydroxymethylfurfural</td>
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<td>ICS</td>
<td>internal control system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFCO</td>
<td>acronym for 'international fruit container'</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFOAM</td>
<td>International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements</td>
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<tr>
<td>IFS</td>
<td>International Featured Standards (aka International Food Standard)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
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<td>IP</td>
<td>integrated production</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCI</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Label Commission 'Import'</td>
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<td>LCP</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Label Commission 'Production'</td>
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<td>LCPT</td>
<td>Bio Suisse Label Commission 'Processing and Trade'</td>
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<tr>
<td>LMU</td>
<td>livestock manure units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LU</td>
<td>livestock unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>LW</td>
<td>live weight</td>
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<tr>
<td>METAS</td>
<td>Swiss Federal Office of Metrology and Accreditation</td>
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<tr>
<td>non-organic</td>
<td>not certified according to any organic standard (i.e., from conventional or IP agriculture); the term 'conventional' is also frequently used (e.g., on labels)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAK</td>
<td>'Produzenten-Anerkennungskommission' ('Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission'), a committee that preceded the LCP</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEP</td>
<td>'proof of ecological performance' (in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments, [SR 910.13])</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIWI</td>
<td>fungus-resistant variety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PVC</td>
<td>polyvinyl chloride</td>
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<tr>
<td>RAUS</td>
<td>'Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien', Swiss federal programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swissmedic</td>
<td>Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAA</td>
<td>utilized agricultural area</td>
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<tr>
<td>UHT</td>
<td>ultra-high temperature processing or ultra-heat treatment; a method of sterilizing milk and milk products by briefly heating them above 135°C (275°F)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UV</td>
<td>ultraviolet light; invisible electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength from 1 nm to 380 nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WPO</td>
<td>Swiss Waters Protection Ordinance (SR 814.201)</td>
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All Swiss federal laws and ordinances may be obtained from the Swiss Federal Office for Buildings and Logistics (FBL) (formerly the Federal Printed Matter and Materials Centre, or EDMZ), 3003 Bern, Tel. 031 325 50 50, or downloaded from the Swiss Federal Council website: www.admin.ch → Federal Law
## Legal Notice

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Trademark</th>
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<td>'KNOSPE'</td>
<td>is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration number P-494457.</td>
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<tr>
<td>'BOURGEON'</td>
<td>is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration number P-494456.</td>
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<td>'GEMMA'</td>
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<tr>
<td>'BUD'</td>
<td>is a registered trademark with the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (CH-3003 Bern) and is entered under the registration number P-494459.</td>
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Part II: Standards for Crop Production and Animal Husbandry in Switzerland

1 Conversion to organic agriculture and the whole-farm approach

The whole-farm approach is a defining principle of Bio Suisse organic production. It serves to
- establish the credibility of organic farming as a production method
- ensure that the organic farming requirements are comprehensible and that their fulfilment can be verified

According to the Bio Suisse standards, a farming operation is defined as an enterprise or one or more production
sites which constitute a comprehensive whole comprised of farmland, buildings, equipment and a workforce.

Conversion to organic agriculture generally involves the entire farming operation and the entire operational
acreage. However, some on-farm activities, including processing and trading foodstuffs and catering to guests,
are exempted from the whole-farm requirement. In certain cases, managing summering operations can be
exempted from the whole-farm approach requirement. Details are decided at the directives level. The Bio Suisse
standards must be fully met, even during the conversion period.

Those interested in converting their farming operations to organic agriculture must submit full details of their
previous farming practices as well as soil analyses (regarding nutrient reserves) to an inspection body.

Individuals who intend to convert their farming operation or who would like to manage a new 'Bud' farm are
obliged to complete an introductory or continuing education course of at least two days’ duration on the history
and methods of organic farming. A certificate will be issued upon completion of the course. The mandatory
training requirement can be fulfilled by having completed an optional course in organic farming as part of
an agricultural training programme, having completed an agricultural apprenticeship on an organic farming
operation, or having had work experience on an organic farming operation for at least one vegetation period,
provided it took place within the last four years.

The conversion period takes at least two full calendar years. At the start of the conversion period, the farm
operations manager must sign a written commitment to comply with the Bio Suisse standards. Full approval as
a 'Bud' farming operation may be obtained after the third year from the start of the conversion period. Plant
and animal products produced after 1 January of the third year may be traded under the regular 'Bud' logo.
The (U2) 'Bud' in-conversion permit issued in the previous year is sufficient authorization for trading under the
regular 'Bud' logo.

1.1 Whole-farm approach

1.1.1 Definition of a 'farming operation'

'Bud' farms must meet the following requirements:

a) The farming operation must constitute a comprehensive whole comprised of farmland, buildings, equipment
   and a workforce. All buildings necessary for the running of the farming operation must be in place.
   The equipment must include at least all machinery and implements necessary to carry out the daily work.
   The farming operation must have its own workforce, and crop cultivation must mainly be carried out by
   regular employees. The employees must be acquainted with the Bio Suisse standards and participate in
   training courses on organic farming.

b) The farming operation must be autonomous. To be considered autonomous, the farming operation must
   have its own flow of goods (e.g., agricultural products, feedstuffs, auxiliary inputs, etc.) independent
   of other farming operations, keep its own accounts, and be headed by an autonomous and proficient farm
   operations manager who does not also hold a managerial position at a non-organic farming operation
   or non-organic agricultural production site. The farming operation must furthermore have its own clearly
   recognizable and distinctive image (including name, stationery, labelling and packaging material and a
   business address).

c) The farming operation must have a clearly identifiable centre of operations. The centre of operations is the
   area where the main buildings are situated and where the bulk of the work is carried out. The centre of
   operations is where the most important operational decisions are made (about how the work is organized
   and the business is run) and where the farm’s records and documents are processed and filed (including
cropping plans, inspection reports, etc.).
To be recognizable, the farming operation must have its own distinctive business address and its own buildings. The autonomy and visible presence of its centre of operations may not be impaired by buildings belonging to a non-organic operating unit.

**Keeping hobby animals and livestock for self-sufficiency purposes**

Hobby animals and livestock kept for self-sufficiency purposes do not necessarily have to be of organic provenance, and certification bodies may follow simplified inspection regulations if all animals in a given livestock category meet the following conditions:

- The animals are not kept for any commercial purposes
- The animals are not registered for the payment of RAUS or (if rabbits) BTS fees
- No products derived from this animal husbandry are traded (LCP 6/2016)

‘Trade’ is defined as any sales outside of the farming operation. It is permissible for products from livestock kept for self-sufficiency purposes or from the home garden to be distributed to employees (Minutes of the working group ‘Arbeitsgruppe Vollzug Biotierhaltung’, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG and Bio Suisse, 14 Nov. 2000).

The feeding and care of hobby animals and livestock kept for self-sufficiency purposes must fully conform to the Bio Suisse standards, and animal husbandry records must be kept in conformance with the legal requirements. No further record-keeping is required. The provenance of the livestock will not be checked.

**Home gardens**

As a rule, the Bio Suisse standards also apply to home gardens, and only auxiliary inputs that are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs may be used (in accordance with the whole-farm approach). Home gardens are only checked to ensure that no prohibited auxiliary inputs have been applied. As long as the home garden is only used for self-sufficiency purposes, seed and seedlings of non-organic provenance will be tolerated and cultivation measures need not be recorded.

Violations of the Bio Suisse standards in the home garden will be tolerated if the rights to its cultivation have been transferred to a third party (e.g., to parents or tenants) and it is only used to supply their needs. (LCP 7/2005)

1.1.2 **Split farming operations**

This refers to farming operations that are split into organic and non-organic units or farming operations that have split off from non-organic enterprises.

The prior approval of the Label Commission ‘Production’ (LCP) must be sought before farming operations are split and production sites are certified. The operations manager is responsible for submitting a dossier containing the application and all relevant documents to the LCP. If a farming operation is split into separately run operations, the whole-farm approach must be unambiguously defined at the outset of the conversion period by way of a written allocation of buildings, equipment and the workforce. Subsequent changes in farmland allocation between the already divided operations are only permitted after a 5-year waiting period unless both operations have converted to organic farming according to the Bio Suisse standards.

1.1.3 **Farming operation takeovers**

This refers to when non-organic farming operations are taken over by ‘Bud’ farms.

The certification status of a ‘Bud’ farm does not change when it takes over a non-organic farming operation. The certification status of the land parcels is governed by part II, chapter 1.4. The acquisition of non-organic livestock is governed by provisions on the provenance of the livestock (as per part II, chapter 4.4). Derogations may be granted; rules for granting derogations are set forth in the catalogue of criteria for the granting of derogations. Waiting periods must be observed.

With regard to the certification status of animal products at the time of the takeover or merger, if an organic farming operation takes over or merges with a non-organic farming operation and both contribute the same kind of livestock, then Art. 16f, paragraph 5, letter a of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) and part II, chapter 4.4 will apply (after the merger, up to 40% more livestock may be purchased if a derogation has been granted). With regard to trade, if the strict separation of non-organic and organic livestock is guaranteed by contract, then the waiting periods prescribed by Art. 16f, paragraph 5 and Art. 39f of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), and part II, section 4.4.3 apply only to non-organic animals. However, livestock from the organic farming operation section must remain on its premises (item 3 of the minutes of the working group ‘Arbeitsgruppe Vollzug Biotierhaltung’, Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG and Bio Suisse, 29 Jan. 2002).
If a takeover or merger between an organic farming operation and a non-organic one causes the organic operation to take on a new kind of livestock from the non-organic operation, then the following rule applies: The waiting period prescribed by the Bio Suisse standards must be observed before a new kind of livestock that was not previously kept on the organic farming operation can be considered organic and its products can be traded as organic (LCP 7/2003).

1.1.4 Connections to farming operations that are not 'Bud' operations

If any partners of the farming operation’s management (including spouses/domestic partners, members of an ordinary partnership or limited company/GmbH that runs the 'Bud' farming operation, and similar partnerships) manage or are involved in managing their own non-organic farming operations, Bio Suisse can tolerate the situation provided that the provisions of this directive are fully met and the operations concerned are registered with the competent office for agriculture as separate operations or production sites, or no more than one of the operations is a farming operation as defined by the Swiss Ordinance on Agricultural Terms (SR 910.91). No non-organic land parcels may be included on the field map of the 'Bud' farming operation.

Official recognition of a farming operation or production site will not necessarily be accepted by Bio Suisse. This means that Bio Suisse is entitled to refuse certification to an officially recognized farming operation or production site on the grounds of this directive or to set further conditions.

If an organic farming operation works with a non-organic operation (e.g., a propagation operation), then the organic farming operation is solely responsible for the organic production. Conditions regarding the workforce and inventory are governed as per part II, section 1.1.1. It is not permissible for managers of non-organic operations to carry out work on the organic farming operation under their own responsibility.

1.1.5 Supplementary sources of income and wage labour

In principle, 'Bud' farmers may pursue any non-agricultural line of work. Such work is not subject to inspection. However, in certain cases restrictions will be made to preserve the credibility of the organic operation. In conjunction with main or supplementary non-agricultural jobs, only auxiliary inputs that are included in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL may be stored, handled or used on 'Bud' farming operations.

Non-organic feedstuffs are exempted from this rule. They may be stored at a 'Bud' farming operation if the following conditions are met:
- the stored feedstuffs must be packaged and labelled
- careful storage records must be kept
- the storage room or site where non-organic feedstuffs are kept must be clearly identified
- the storage of GMO feedstuffs or medicated feedstuffs is prohibited

1.1.5.1 Supplementary paid employment

Definition: When the employer issues a pay slip and deducts Swiss AHV pension contributions.

Supplementary paid employment is generally permissible without restriction (e.g., work at LANDI Switzerland, in the chemical industry, as a sales representative for plant protection products or feedstuffs, etc.). Work that self-employed persons may not perform (e.g., using auxiliary inputs that are prohibited in organic farming) may not be performed under contract to a spouse or domestic partner either.

1.1.5.2 Supplementary self-employment income

Definition: When taxed as a self-employed person who pays his or her own Swiss AHV pension contributions. Supplementary self-employment is generally permissible.

Bio Suisse distinguishes between work that is related and work that is unrelated to farming.

a) Work unrelated to farming

There are no restrictions on work that is unrelated to farming. It is permissible to process and sell non-organic agricultural products on a 'Bud' farming operation as a source of supplementary income. For the exact conditions, see part III, chapter 17.

b) Work related to farming

It is permissible to work as an agricultural subcontractor, but not to apply auxiliary inputs that are prohibited in organic farming. Exception: Sowing dressed seed under contract is permitted, but the seed may not be stored at the 'Bud' farm, and the machines used must be cleaned off of the premises of the 'Bud' farm.

Trading non-organic livestock is permitted. The livestock trading section must be kept separate from the farming operation (it must be registered with its own number in the Swiss Stock Movement Database) and the animals may not be kept on the 'Bud' farm.

Landscape gardening: Prohibited auxiliary inputs may be applied to unfarmed land at the express wish of a client.
Organic farmers who run non-organic landscape gardening operations: Running a landscape gardening operation is classified by the LCP as a supplementary source of income. Therefore, it is exceptionally permissible to work with auxiliary inputs that are prohibited in organic farming if that is a client’s express wish. However, these substances may not be applied to farmed land, they must be stored directly with the client, they may not be itemized in the accounts of the farming operation, and they may never be present on the farming operation.

**Leasing/leasing out/using land and buildings**

Leasing out land and farm buildings (for agricultural purposes) to operations that are not 'Bud' operations is only permitted if the lease agreement has been approved by the cantonal authorities. Uses that do not conform to the Bio Suisse standards may not impair the recognizability and autonomy of the 'Bud' farm. This means that any leased out farm buildings may not be contained in or close to the farm’s centre of operations. This also applies to any transfer of building rights for land or farm buildings. Beehives are not affected by this regulation. They may be leased out to non-organic beekeepers even if they are near the farm’s centre of operations.

It is permissible to lease out entire storage or cold-storage rooms for the storage of non-organic agricultural products. However, the rooms leased out must be clearly identified, and they must be accessible to inspectors of the organic farming operation. Storage areas for feedstuffs may only be leased out if the ‘Bud’ farm does not store the same kinds of feedstuffs.

Products from land that does not belong to the operational acreage of a 'Bud' farm may not be sold under the 'Bud' logo (exception: products collected in the wild; see part IV of these standards).

If the use of a certain parcel or crop is transferred from a 'Bud' farm to a non-organic operation, then the management of the 'Bud' farm is still fully responsible for ensuring compliance with the Bio Suisse standards (e.g., harvesting rights to fruit trees in a Bio Suisse certified meadow).

It is permissible to lease stalls or pens (e.g., poultry coops) that were previously not managed organically as long as they are kept clearly and spatially separate from the non-organic farming operation, the work involved is performed by employees of the 'Bud' farm, and the legal circumstances are clearly defined (e.g., there is an authorized lease agreement that includes open-air runs).

There are no restrictions on work that is unrelated to farming. Processing and trading non-organic agricultural products is permissible on a 'Bud' farm as a source of supplementary income. For the exact conditions, see part III, chapter 17.

**Shareholdings**

A manager of a 'Bud' farm may not also hold a leading position on a non-organic farming operation, commercial livestock operation or section of a non-organic farming operation (whereby ‘leading position’ is defined as having a say in organizational decisions, having financial competences, etc.). Notwithstanding this regulation, the management of a commonly or cooperatively used non-organic summering operation is permitted.

If the management of a 'Bud' farm (e.g., a community of heirs, a public limited company, etc.) should have a share in a non-organic farming operation, this is not prohibited.

**Alpine pasturing and summering**

**1.1.8.1 Commonly or cooperatively used alpine pastures**

'Bud' summering operations (as defined by the Swiss Ordinance on Agricultural Terms, SR 910.91) are operations that are commonly or cooperatively farmed and therefore cannot be classified as a single operation or farming cooperative.

'Bud' summering operations are inspected on an annual basis. For each summering operation, the cooperative or corporation must nominate a person to be in charge (the Alpmeister). This person must be familiar with the Bio Suisse standards and should have training in organic farming. There is a two-year conversion period for summering operations.

The production contract is always concluded with the manager of the summering operation (in compliance with the Swiss Ordinance on Agricultural Terms, SR 910.91). It is permissible for some summering operations within a corporation to be converted to organic farming while others are not. However, these must be kept clearly and spatially separate.
1.1.8.2 **Private summering operations**

Private summering operations count as a section of the proprietor’s farming operation and are inspected as such. They must be organically managed (in accordance with the basic principle of the whole-farm approach to conversion).

A summering operation is defined as a private alpine farm if the buildings are the property of or are leased by an individual operation or farming cooperative, or if the rights to the unlimited use of the buildings and land have been otherwise transferred to a single operation.

For summering operations with private buildings or buildings assigned to the manager for a defined period and with commonly used summer pastures, the following rule applies: An alpine dairy can only be certified if a comprehensive ban on synthetic fertilizers and herbicides is agreed upon by contract for the entire common pasture. In cases where there are rotating grazing rights, the LCP will determine the status of the products.

Herding operations: If a ‘Bud’ farmer is obliged by a contract with an alpine farm owner (e.g., an alpine farm cooperative) to apply individual treatments to plants to combat dock on their summering acreage, this will be tolerated. However, no prohibited plant protection products may be stored, let alone applied, at the herder’s own ‘Bud’ farm. The plant protection products must be procured and stored by the alpine farm owner. (LCP 7 /2005)

This conforms with part II, section 4.4.5.

1.2 **Converting farming operations to organic agriculture**

1.2.1 **General provisions**

Those interested in converting their farming operations to organic agriculture must submit full details of their previous farming practices as well as soil analyses (regarding nutrient reserves) to an inspection body.

Individuals who wish to convert their farming operation or who are new to managing a ‘Bud’ farm are obliged to complete an introductory or continuing education course of at least two days duration on the history and methods of organic farming. A certificate will be issued upon completion of the course. The mandatory training requirement can be fulfilled by having completed an optional course in organic farming as part of an agricultural training programme, having completed an agricultural apprenticeship on an organic farming operation, or having had work experience on an organic farming operation for at least one vegetation period, provided it took place within the last four years.

1.2.2 **Timeline**

The conversion period takes at least two full calendar years. At the start of the conversion period, the farm operations manager must sign a written commitment to comply with the Bio Suisse standards. Full approval as a ‘Bud’ farming operation may be obtained after the third year from the start of the conversion period. Plant and animal products produced after 1 January of the third year may be traded under the regular ‘Bud’ logo. The (U2) ‘Bud’ in-conversion certificate issued in the previous year is sufficient authorization for trading under the regular ‘Bud’ logo.

A farming operation that is already certified organic according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) may be approved as a ‘Bud’ farm after one additional year of conversion according to the Bio Suisse standards. Organic farming operations that already comply with the standards of another label that are at least equivalent to those of Bio Suisse may be certified as ‘Bud’ farms without a conversion period. However, such farming operations must have paid Bio Suisse fees for at least two years prior to obtaining regular ‘Bud’ farm status. Farming operations that fully comply with the Bio Suisse standards and belong to a Bio Suisse member organization are exempted from this rule.

In the first conversion year and following certification (1 May at the earliest), all harvested products sown after 1 January may be marketed under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo. Crops sown before 1 January may be marketed under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo if the producer was registered for organic farming prior to the sowing date and confirms in writing that the crop in question was cultivated to organic standards from the date of sowing. The certification body determines what evidence must be furnished.

Feedstuffs harvested in the first year of conversion (feed grains, alfalfa, etc.) that is fed to the producer’s own animals may be counted as organic feed. Feedstuffs harvested on the farming operation in the year prior to the conversion period are considered non-organic feedstuffs after 1 May of the conversion year, with the exception of roughage.

Permanent crops from the first conversion year harvested after some certification (1 May) may be marketed under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo.
For certain kinds of crops produced without soil, deviations from some provisions of the standards may be permitted. However, the farming operation must be converted in its entirety. The LCP establishes the exact conditions on a case-by-case basis.

Registration deadlines
The Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) states that each conversion period commences on 1 January. According to the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13), the registration deadline is still 31 August of the previous year. Late registrants may be subject to a reduction or cancellation of their direct payments. The same applies to gradual conversion. Farm operations managers must also be sure to submit applications for gradual conversion and the necessary documents early enough to the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture and the LCP. For a list of conditions, see the ‘Catalogue of criteria for granting derogations to producers’.

Some cantons will accept late registrations submitted after 31 August. New applicants must register directly to Bio Suisse. The farm operations manager is solely responsible for timely registration as a Bio Suisse farming operation.

Trade during the conversion period
A farming operation that is in conversion may only market its products during the conversion period under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo (or as non-organic). This also applies to products that are cultivated by the in-conversion farming operation on land that it acquired from regular ‘Bud’ farms. Animal products are always considered in-conversion products during the conversion period, regardless of whether the purchased juvenile livestock or feedstuffs are from in-conversion or regular ‘Bud’ operations. (LCP 6/2011)

In-conversion livestock
The sale of livestock under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo is permitted after 1 May of the first year of conversion, provided that the farming operation is certified. ‘Bud’ farms may purchase ‘Bud’ in-conversion piglets before 1 May if they come from certified in-conversion farms in their first year of conversion and were born after 1 January. ‘Bud’ in-conversion hatching eggs may likewise be sold to hatcheries as in-conversion hatching eggs prior to 1 May if certification has already been achieved. However, they may not be sold as in-conversion eggs for human consumption. (LCP 6/2013)

Conversion period for farming operations certified according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18)
A farming operation that is already certified organic according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) may only be approved as a ‘Bud’ farm after one additional Bio Suisse year of conversion if the whole farm was managed in conformance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18). Otherwise, the conversion period lasts two full calendar years. (LCP 5/2016)

1.3 Gradual conversion
As a matter of principal, the Bio Suisse standards prescribe that the whole operation and the entire operational acreage must be converted to organic farming.

The principle of the whole-farm approach to conversion will continue to be upheld in the future.

Farming operations can be converted incrementally (= gradual conversion) in order to reduce risk to a manageable level without compromising the principle of credibility or the obligation to be inspected. As a rule, candidates for gradual conversion include farming operations with significant sections devoted to producing wine, fruit, or ornamental plants or that keep pigs or poultry.

Gradual conversion can only be authorized for newly converting farms. This means that already existing ‘Bud’ farms, including those in conversion, may not be gradually converted.

Farming operations under gradual conversion will be inspected at least twice a year. A maximum of two certification levels are possible for farming operations under conversion: non-organic products plus in-conversion products, or in-conversion products plus regular ‘Bud’ products.

1.3.1 Authorization
A conversion plan must be submitted to the LCP before the registration period expires. According to Art. 9 of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), gradual conversions must additionally be authorized by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture. The necessary application forms for federal authorization may be procured directly from the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture or downloaded from its website (German, French and Italian only): www.blw.admin.ch.
Crop production

Where the immediate conversion of the whole operation would impose unacceptably high risks, the LCP can permit farming operations producing wine, fruit or ornamental plants to convert gradually to organic farming. This requires a conversion plan that prescribes the conversion of the entire farming operation to Bio Suisse standards within a five-year period.

The conditions for gradual conversion are as follows:

a) There must be a binding conversion plan with full written details of the conversion steps and a timetable.
b) Evidence that production techniques, drift avoidance and the separate flow of products can be inspected must be furnished.
c) The production procedures and flow of products for the entire farming operation must be documented and will be inspected. The conversion plan must also cover the management of non-organic areas.

d) There must be a clear segregation of the differently farmed areas and their products, from farm to fork. Common boundaries between organically and non-organically farmed areas must be minimized.
e) Any non-organic interim use of the organically farmed areas is prohibited.
f) Authorization must be granted by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture.

The conversion plan must contain the following documents, which are detailed records pertaining to the entire farming operation and must be updated on an annual basis:

- The organic farming adviser’s report, or equivalent documents which must cover the following points:
  - previous farming practices (crops, crop rotation, use of auxiliary inputs, integrated production methods, etc.)
  - a timetable (listing which parcels and crops will be converted in what year)
  - the farm registration document in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Agricultural Terms (SR 910.91) and part II, chapter 1.1
  - a description of all production and storage sites
  - an inventory of all machines, application equipment and storage sites for auxiliary inputs (the organic parcels must have separate application equipment and auxiliary input storage sites)
  - a field map containing the following information: crops under cultivation, varieties, farming methods, the area under cultivation, its exposure, and the main direction of the wind
  - details of production techniques and the use of auxiliary inputs
  - details of the intended trade and declaration of the products

With the exception of viticulture products, the only products that may be marketed under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo are those which are clearly and easily distinguishable from ones produced non-organically at the same time.

In the case of viticulture, products produced from one and the same variety of grape may be separately certified and traded, provided there is complete traceability control (e.g., the quantities produced are recorded during the official cantonal grape harvest monitoring process).

Organically grown products may be traded under the ‘Bud’ logo after a conversion period of two years, provided that all other branches of production are under conversion.

1.3.2.1 Record keeping and inspections

Exact and detailed crop management records (regarding the use of fertilizers, plant protection products, etc.), records of yields and records of buyers must be kept. This applies both to organically farmed parcels as well as to those that are not yet organically farmed. Non-organic parcels, storage units etc. are also subject to inspection. Documentation of all products sold and all points of sale must be presented in a comprehensible form during inspections. The LCP or the inspection bodies may require residue analyses.

1.3.2.2 Length of conversion and waiting periods for crop production

Gradual conversion must be completed within a 5-year period, maximum. This means that by the fourth year at the latest, all areas of production and all operational acreage must be managed in conformance with the Bio Suisse standards, and that the farming operation can be certified as a regular ‘Bud’ farm after five years at the latest.
1.3.3 Animal husbandry

If the immediate and full conversion of the animal husbandry section is not feasible, the LCP and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture may permit the farming operation to convert its animal husbandry section gradually and by type of livestock over a three-year period.

Gradual conversion of the animal husbandry section also requires a conversion plan:

- previous farming practices (operational acreage statements, number of livestock)
- a conversion timetable (which types of livestock will be converted when)
- the farm registration document in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Agricultural Terms (SR 910.91) and part II, chapter 1.1
- a description of the stalls, pens, open-air runs, etc. (where applicable, include any existing RAUS inspection reports)
- storage of feedstuffs and auxiliary inputs (these must be kept separate)
- details of production techniques and the use of auxiliary inputs
- details of the intended trade and declaration of the products

Exact and detailed records must be kept regarding production techniques, the use of non-organic feedstuffs, livestock purchases, trade and buyers.

1.3.3.1 Livestock categories, requirements

With the exception of ruminants and horses, all categories of livestock may be gradually converted. It is not permissible to keep animals of the same livestock category according to parallel production methods. Permission to deviate from the standards may be granted with regard to feeding and purchasing specific categories of livestock, subject to the conditions imposed by the LCP for the individual farming operation. The basic aim is to work as quickly as possible to become as organic as possible. The requirements for general husbandry, breeding (ET) and livestock health must, however, be met from the beginning of the gradual conversion period.

1.3.3.2 Record keeping and inspections

Livestock that are not yet organically managed, storage units, etc. are subject to inspection. Documentation of all products sold must be presented in a comprehensible form during inspections.

1.3.3.3 Length of conversion and waiting periods

Approved livestock categories need not meet all requirements of the Bio Suisse standards during the first three years (maximum) following the commencement of conversion. By the end of the third year, all livestock categories must be converted, which means that the waiting periods must end by 31 December. Waiting periods are defined for each livestock category as per part II, section 4.4.3. In contrast to gradual conversion in crop production, waiting periods for individual livestock categories may end independent of the calendar year. During the waiting period, all terms of the standards must be fully met (including those pertaining to feeding and the provenance of livestock). After the end of the waiting period, the products may be traded under the 'Bud' in-conversion logo or the regular 'Bud' logo, depending on the status of the farming operation.

1.3.4 Beekeeping

The conversion period for beekeeping lasts at least one year. It only ends, however, once the wax has been replaced in accordance with the provisions of the directives. Products may not be traded with reference to organic agriculture during conversion.

1.3.5 Procedures for producers who wish to convert their farming operation gradually

a) All of the documents required according to the directive (as per part II, section 1.3.2) must be compiled, if necessary with the help of an organic farming adviser.

b) All of the documents must be punctually submitted to the LCP (the registration deadline is 31 August).

c) The LCP, which is responsible for imposing conditions on individual farming operations, will examine the documents.

d) Certification as a farming operation under conversion will not be received before the first inspection report by the inspection body.

e) Gradual conversion must be authorized by both Bio Suisse and the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (Art. 9 of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming, [SR 910.18]). The necessary application forms for federal authorization may be procured directly from the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture or downloaded from its website (in German, French and Italian only): www.blw.admin.ch.
1.4 Newly acquired land

1.4.1 Introduction
This section applies to newly acquired land that was not previously cultivated to at least the standards of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18). According to Art. 8, §1 of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), the conversion period always begins on 1 January, for both farming operations as well as for parcels of land.

1.4.2 Obligation to keep records
For land parcels that were registered in spring in the official agricultural survey, the current year is the first year of conversion. Records and farm maps must be available from the start of conversion.

1.4.3 Status of the farming operation
The acquisition of land parcels that were not previously farmed organically does not affect the approval status of a regular ‘Bud’ farm.

1.4.4 Product labelling
Products from parcels under conversion must always be labelled as ‘Bud’ in-conversion products and must be listed as such in the inspection report. If the same variety is produced in parallel on organic and in-conversion plots and the harvested products are not clearly distinguishable in appearance, then the entire harvest must be labelled as ‘Bud’ in-conversion products.

Exceptions:
- a) In the case of perennial crops, parallel trade (of in-conversion and regular ‘Bud’ products) is possible if the separation of the flow of goods and traceability are ensured and prior notification was given to the certification body.
- b) In the case of annual crops that are not clearly distinguishable in appearance, parallel trade is possible if prior approval was given by the LCP.
- c) Bread wheat and feed wheat are considered to be two different crops, as are grain maize and silage maize.

1.4.5 Approval status of the products

| Case 1: Conversion start of green areas with forage yield if there is evidence that they were under organic management by the farming operation from 1 January |
| Conversion start before the spring deadline: | The roughage yield is considered to be in-conversion feed; the land parcel counts as UAA. |
| Conversion start after the spring deadline: | The roughage yield is not organic; the land parcel does not count as UAA. |

| Case 2: Conversion start of green areas with forage yield if there is no evidence that they were under organic management by the farming operation from 1 January |
| Conversion start before the spring deadline: | The roughage yield is not organic; the land parcel counts as UAA. |
| Conversion start after the spring deadline: | The roughage yield is not organic; the land parcel does not count as UAA. |

| Case 3: Cultivation of fields and/or special crops on newly acquired land, whereby the crop is sown and the fields are tended by an organic farmer throughout the calendar year |
| Conversion start before the spring deadline: | The harvest is traded under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo. If the same crop is also grown on regular ‘Bud’ land parcels, then the entire harvest must be traded under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo. (Exceptions may be made as per part II, section 1.4.4.) The land parcel counts as UAA. |
| Conversion start after the spring deadline: | The harvested products may not be traded as organic; the land parcel does not count as UAA. |
Case 4: Cultivation of fields and/or special crops on newly acquired land if the provisions of part II, section 1.2.2 are not met

| Conversion start before the spring deadline | The harvest is not traded as organic; the land parcel counts as UAA. |
| Conversion start after the spring deadline: | The harvested products may not be traded as organic; the land parcel does not count as UAA. |

Case 5: Acquisition of greenhouses

| Crops that must be grown in soil: | These are treated the same way as special crops (case 3 and case 4) |
| Crops that need not be grown in soil (potted crops): | Their trade depends on the status of the farming operation (similar to leasing a barn or stable) |

1.4.6 Leasing, leasing out and using land parcels

Leasing out Bio Suisse certified land parcels

‘Bud’ farming operations may only lease out their own land parcels to non-organic farming operations on a long-term basis (i.e., for at least 6 years). Shorter-term contracts are permitted if they have been approved by the cantonal authorities. Short-term lease agreements for the purpose of ‘chemical remediation’ are prohibited. (LCP 5/2016)

Lease or use of non-organic land

If at some point during the year land is acquired from a non-organic farming operation (for lease or use), evidence must be furnished that the parcel was managed from 1 January in compliance with the Bio Suisse standards. Otherwise, the land parcel and its products are not organic. (LCP 7/2007)

It is only permissible to lease or use previously non-organic parcels if this does not involve an exchange of land and if the parcels have been managed by the ‘Bud’ farm for at least 3 years. (LCP 6/2014)

If land from a nature conservation area or area dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity is leased, this does not shorten the conversion period. (LCP 6/2009)

Land use agreements for parcels from non-organic farms that a ‘Bud’ farm intends to use will only be accepted if the land parcels are registered in the annual agricultural survey in the name of the ‘Bud’ farm (in other words, the ‘Bud’ farm receives any possible direct payments for the land). (LCP 6/2009)

For farming operations that have not been registered in the agricultural survey, all parcels that are tended by the organic farming operation must be identified in the land use plan and in the field map. (LCP 6/2010)

1.5 Farming cooperatives, cooperatives for specific areas of operation, and inter-operational cooperation

1.5.1 Introduction

The aim of this directive is to avoid making the founding of farming cooperatives and cooperatives for specific areas of operation (FCs; CSAOs) unnecessarily difficult, since such organizations are considered an efficient means of structural adjustment. However, any attempt to circumvent the conversion period by simulating such a cooperative must be precluded.

If an FC or CSAO is entered into between a ‘Bud’ farming operation and a hitherto non-organic farming operation, then no animals or feed may be exchanged between the operations involved before 30 April of the founding year. (LCP 5/2015)
1.5.2 Farming cooperatives (FCs)

1.5.2.1 Registration
An FC between 'Bud' farms can be founded at any time. The founding of the FC must be reported to the certification body as soon as the FC contract has been signed.

If a 'Bud' farm wishes to found a cooperative with a non-organic farming operation, then the non-organic operation must register to convert to organic farming before the end of the calendar year. The FC can then be founded at the beginning of the first year of conversion at the earliest. If this deadline cannot be met, then the regulations for the acquisition of new land will apply until the beginning of the first year of conversion of the non-organic farming operation.

FC contracts must be concluded for a period of at least 4 years (as per part II, section 1.5.2.4).

From the first date that the contract enters into force, the FC will be treated as a single operation for the purpose of inspections, certification and label approvals.

1.5.2.2 Formal requirements
Farming cooperatives must comply with article 10 of the Swiss Ordinance on Agricultural Terms (SR 910.91).

The farm operations manager of the previously non-organic farming operation must fulfill the mandatory training prescribed as a requirement under the basic principles in this chapter within the first year of conversion.

The land parcels retain the certification status of the former farming operation, just like newly acquired parcels. Land parcels coming from the non-organic members must be converted in the usual manner (U1, U2).

The land use plan must show the exact certification status of the individual parcels.

Livestock retain the certification status of the former farming operations. The livestock inventory ledger must show the exact certification status of the individual animals.

1.5.2.3 Trading status of the products
Plant products have the same certification status as the respective land parcels where they were grown. If there is parallel production on land parcels with different certification statuses, then the entire crop must be traded with the lower status (as per the provisions in part II, chapter 1.4).

The trading status of animal products is determined by the share of conversion feed consumed, as per part II, chapter 4.2.

Livestock retain their respective certification status. They count as organic livestock if the conditions as per part II, chapter 4.4 have been met.

1.5.2.4 Dissolution of farming cooperatives
The dissolution of an FC must be reported to the certification body without delay. If an FC is dissolved for no apparent reason before the four-year minimum period is over, then the LCP must investigate whether this was an attempt to circumvent the conversion period and thereby gain unfair possession of organic added value. Depending on the findings of the investigation, proportional shares of any unfairly gained added value will be recovered from the constituent farming operations.

1.5.3 Cooperatives for specific areas of operation (CSAOs)
In contrast to FCs, partner operations that form a CSAO always remain independent operations that are separately subject to inspection. It is not possible for a 'Bud' farm to enter into partnership with a non-organic operation. The partner operations must choose the same inspection body.

1.5.4 Other forms of cooperation
Other forms of cooperation between 'Bud' farms and non-organic farming operations with regard to crop rotation, animal husbandry, nutrient exchange and areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity must be reported to the certification body at the beginning of the inspection year, and the relevant contract must be submitted to the certification body for assessment and approval.

Forms of cooperation between 'Bud' farms must only be reported for assessment if the activity concerned involves provisions of the Bio Suisse standards, the 'proof of ecological performance' (PEP) prescribed by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) and/or the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18). These must be reported by 1 January. Commonly shared areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity are not permitted. Previously existing contracts of this kind should have been adapted by 31 December 2006.
2 General regulations for crop production

2.1 Soil fertility

In the knowledge that healthy soils, pure air, pure water and a rich diversity of flora and fauna are irreplaceable, organic agriculture constantly strives for a relationship with nature and the environment that conserves both to the greatest possible degree.

In the long term, only a living soil will yield healthy crops. Therefore, it is vitally important to maintain and improve natural soil fertility through appropriate cultivation practices. Anything that detracts from this goal must be avoided. In particular, the use of synthetic fertilizers and synthetic or genetically engineered plant protection products is prohibited.

Quantity must not be achieved at the expense of inherent quality.

Healthy soil is a prerequisite for healthy plants, healthy animals and healthy food. In organic farming, caring for the living soil and consequently maintaining and improving natural soil fertility are integral to all measures taken. Diverse vegetation and as continuous a plant cover as possible create ideal conditions.

Organic agriculture involves targeted humus management. Added and naturally accumulated organic substance should at a minimum replace the humus lost through decomposition. This can be achieved by cultivating leys and suitable green manure crops, limiting the proportion of root crops in the rotation and incorporating organic matter.

Soil cultivation must be carried out with care and restraint. The impact of each measure on soil biota and the soil structure must be taken into account. Deep ploughing should be avoided, as should any cultivation of the soil when wet. Nutrient losses resulting from overly intensive cultivation and unnecessary expenditures of energy must be avoided.

The intensity of use of natural meadows and permanent pastures in terms of the amount of farmyard manure applied and the frequency of mowing must be adapted to the natural site conditions and modulated to match the prevailing feed conversion ratio of the farming operation.

The crop rotation should be diverse and balanced to maintain long-term soil fertility and ensure healthy plants and products. In particular, the rotation must minimize erosion as well as the leaching or run-off of nutrients into groundwater and surface water. Legumes must be cultivated in the crop rotation to ensure that the minimum nitrogen requirement is met. A diverse and balanced crop rotation should also serve as a preventive crop protection strategy and enhance biological diversity.

‘Hors-sol’ crop production methods (hydroponics, the nutrient film technique or similar methods) as well as the complete separation of the root zone from natural soil (e.g., through plastic foil, liners, pots, containers or any other impenetrable materials) are strictly prohibited.

Crops that need not be grown in soil (potted crops)

In organic agriculture, plants may be produced without any root zone contact with natural soil in the following cases only (ICP 7/2002):
- Planting stock production (as per part II, chapter 2.2)
- Parent plants grown in pots for propagation
- Plants that are sold in the pot (as per part II, chapter 3.6)
- Plants forced in water (e.g., chicory, tulips)
- Forced vegetables (e.g., forced under casing soil, etiolated vegetables)
- Green and etiolated sprouts
- Ornamental plants

2.1.1 Crop rotation

Farming operations with more than 1 ha of open cropland must meet the requirements as per part II, section 2.1.2. Farming operations with less than 1 ha of open cropland and farming operations in mountain zones II–IV with less than 3 ha of open cropland must fulfill the basic targets as per part II, chapter 2.1. However, they may deviate from certain individual requirements as per part II, section 2.1.2. The situation of the entire operation will be taken into account during assessment.
The provisions contained in this directive have been recognized by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture since 1 Jan. 2006 as conforming to the 'proof of ecological performance (PEP)' prescribed by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13). Consequently, ‘Bud’ farms must meet the provisions of this directive, but not the provisions of the technical rules regarding soil conservation and crop rotation contained in the appendix to the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13).

2.1.2 The proportion of grassland in the crop rotation

2.1.2.1 Farming operations with at least a 20-percent share of grassland
At least 20 percent of the crop rotation area must be grassland in the form of leys, rotational fallow land or wildflower strips throughout the year (for at least 12 months between sowing and tilling). Every single parcel in the crop rotation must be grassland for 12 consecutive months at least once every ten calendar years.

In contrast to the provisions of the ‘proof of ecological performance’ (PEP), crop rotation reports must be kept for 10 years. (LCP 5/2015)

2.1.2.2 Farming operations with less than a 20-percent share of grassland
The following rule may be followed as an alternative to maintaining grassland year-round on 20 percent of the crop rotation area: At least 10 percent of the crop rotation area must be grassland year-round (as per part II, section 2.1.2.1). The following options count as year-round grassland on the other 10 percent of the crop rotation area:

a) If the grassland share consists of annual green crops (e.g., maize sown by strip-milling) on at least 60 percent of the cropping area, then this area may count as year-round grassland if the crops are in the field for at least 12 months and are sown at least 3 months before the main crops are sown.

b) Grain legumes may count toward year-round grassland if followed by a green manure crop that is sown before 1 September and worked into the soil no earlier than 15 February of the following year.

c) Catch crops, green manure crops or undersown crops with a cropping period of at least 5 months may count toward the area and length of time required for grassland.

Example (for a 10 ha crop rotation area): If 1 ha is planted in clover (= 10 percent year-round grassland in the crop rotation area) and an additional 2.4 ha are planted in a 5-month green manure crop, or 2 ha are planted in a 6-month green manure crop, or 1.5 ha are planted in an 8-month green manure crop, then the grassland requirement would be met.

The grassland period must be calculated in time intervals of at least 1/2 month (that is, the cropping period is counted as 5 months, 5.5 months, 6 months, etc.).

If the entire crop rotation area is always planted in a single crop, then the 20 percent grassland requirement may be fulfilled over a 5-year period (rather than every year). In that case, this section does not apply.

Counting leys toward the share of grassland: The entire cropping period of a ley (years, whole and half months) may be taken into account to calculate its proportion of grassland.

Shares of grassland that were higher than 20 percent in the previous year or that are being planned for the following year cannot be counted as compensation. (LCP 6/2010)

If the parcels are of different sizes, then the year-round grassland share is permitted to fall below the required 10 percent minimum in certain years if there was an average of at least 10 percent year-round grassland during the previous 10 years. In that case, the crop rotation report must cover 10 years. (LCP 6/2012)

2.1.3 Cover crops for open cropland
At least 50 percent of the open cropland (not counting strips sown in wildflowers and rotational fallow land) must have a vegetative cover outside of the growing season between 15 November and 15 February. Over-wintering crops, leys that were planted in the current year, catch crops, green manure crops, and harvested crops with intact root systems all count as vegetative cover. Crop rotation areas with year-round grassland do not count.

[1] The cropping period for undersown crops is counted as starting from the harvesting of the main crop.
2.1.4 **Rotation breaks**
Different rules apply to field crops and to vegetable crops. For field crops there must be a rotation break of at least one year between any two main crops of the same species on the same parcel of land. On farming operations with at least 30 percent year-round green cover in the crop rotation, the same crop may be planted on the same parcel for two consecutive years no more than once in a 5-year period. This rule must be followed at all times, i.e., during the current year as well as the four previous years.

Wheat and spelt are not considered to be of the same species and may therefore be planted successively. (LCP 5/2010)

For vegetable crops, the rotation break between two main crops of the same species must be at least 24 months long. A ‘main crop’ is defined as a crop that is in the field for more than 14 weeks or as several short-term crops of the same species grown in a given year. Overwintering short-term crops that are usually in the field less than 14 weeks (e.g., spinach, chiccorino, lamb’s lettuce and other kinds of lettuce) are not considered main crops.

2.1.5 **Crops that are not affected (perennial crops and protected cultivation)**
Perennial vegetables, herbs and ornamental plants do not count in the calculation of cropland and are therefore not subject to crop rotation requirements.

Likewise, there are no crop rotation requirements for protected cultivation.
2.2 **Plant breeding and plant propagation**

Organic plant breeding and varietal development are sustainable, foster genetic diversity and are based on the plants’ natural reproductive capacity. Organic plant breeding is a holistic, immanently creative and cooperative endeavour, open to research, intuition and new findings. Organic plant breeding respects natural reproductive barriers and is based on fertile plants that can form a viable connection with the living soil. Organic plant breeds are cultivated through an organic plant breeding programme.

Plant varieties that are used for 'Bud' products should preferably be derived from organic plant breeding operations.

If evidence is furnished that organically bred plant varieties cannot be obtained in the customary quality and quantity for the intended purpose and for the given cultivation season, then other varieties may be used. The LCP determines what evidence must be furnished and can issue derogations for individual species of crop plants.

Source material (seed, vegetative propagating material and planting stock) must always be of organic origin.

The crop varieties and species grown must be those best suited to local and regional conditions, least susceptible to disease, and of good nutritional quality.

The use of genetically modified source material is prohibited in organic farming.

'Bud' source material from Switzerland should take precedence.

Source material dressed with substances that are prohibited in organic agriculture may not be used.

'Bud' farms are only permitted to grow varieties that are available to all 'Bud' producers in Switzerland.
### Definitions

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<tr>
<td><strong>Plant breeding</strong></td>
<td>Plant breeding: The term ‘plant breeding’ is understood to include all breeding techniques, including collection, crossbreeding and selection, that serve to develop new varieties that are superior to their source varieties in at least one respect. Organic plant breeding: The term ‘organic plant breeding’ is understood as all breeding measures that are specifically carried out, selected and reviewed for organic farming purposes and under organic farming conditions. The breeding process reflects the values of the organic farming sector and follows the standards for plant breeding established by IFOAM (August 2012).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Plant varieties</strong></td>
<td>The term ‘plant varieties’ is broadly understood. This includes varieties as defined by the Swiss Federal Protection of Plant Varieties Act (SR 232.16) and by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV); it also encompasses other plant genetic resources such as population varieties, niche varieties, farmers’ varieties, landraces, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Seed</strong></td>
<td>Sexually (generatively) obtained propagating material from plants, especially seeds and fruits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vegetative propagating material</strong></td>
<td>Asexual propagating material (e.g., tubers, buds, slips, cuttings, air layers, rhizomes, mushroom spawn [inoculated grain], permitted methods(^1) of tissue culture). The new plants are genetic duplicates of the mother plant and are identical in appearance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Planting stock</strong></td>
<td>Cultivated plants, usually annual crops that were grown from seed and are at an early stage of development.(^2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Propagating material**    | Collective terms:  
- seed  
- vegetative propagating material                                                                                                                                   |
| **Source material**         | Collective terms:  
- seed  
- vegetative propagating material  
- planting stock                                                                                                                                   |
| **Exclusive right to the commercial cultivation of varieties** | An exclusive right to cultivate a particular variety exists if a producer or association of producers holds the sole right to cultivate that variety in Switzerland and can exclude other producers from cultivating that variety for the commercial production of food, feed and renewable raw materials. |
| **Licence fees**            | In a license agreement, a licensor grants licensees certain rights of use that they would not otherwise have. In return, licensees must pay licence fees. This may apply, for instance, to the cultivation of protected or patented varieties. |

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\(^1\) Tissue cultures (in-vitro and meristem propagation) are tolerated for the production of organic propagating material under certain trade restrictions if no prohibited plant protection products are used after the resulting new plants have been planted in soil.  
\(^2\) Seed sown in vitro is treated the same as a tissue culture. If the seed is sown in a biocompatible substrate, then no trade restrictions are necessary.
2.2.2 Plant breeding

In this section 'plant breeding' will be defined.

2.2.2.1 Requirements for organic plant breeding

a) Disclosure of breeding techniques: Organic plant breeders must disclose information regarding the methods they used to develop a plant variety by the time the organically bred variety is brought to market at the latest.

b) The natural reproductive capacity of the plant variety must be respected and maintained. This precludes the use of any technology that reduces germinability (e.g., "terminator technology").

c) The cell is respected as an indivisible entity. The technical manipulation of isolated cells on an artificial medium (such as genetic manipulation or the destruction of cell walls and dissolution of cell nuclei via cytoplasmic fusion) is prohibited.

d) The genome is respected as an indivisible entity. The technical manipulation of plant genomes (such as ionizing irradiation or the transfer of isolated DNA, RNA or proteins) is prohibited.

e) Organic plant breeders may only develop plant varieties from genetic material that has not been genetically modified. The parental generation of organically bred plant varieties must, at the minimum, meet the criteria given in points 2–4 of the requirements.

f) When organic plants are bred, the selection of the varieties must take place under controlled organic conditions. Every reproductive step taken for the purpose of breeding and selection must likewise take place under controlled organic conditions, with the exception of meristem propagation.

g) Organic plant varieties can receive legal protection, but they may not be patented (nor may individual traits be patented).

2.2.2.2 Breeding techniques that are permitted for organic plant breeding

a) Producing genetic variations

- utilizing spontaneously occurring mutations and polyploidization
- inducing mutations and polyploidization through extreme temperatures, cosmic radiation and naturally occurring substances
- manual or mechanical castration by removing stamens
- self-pollination (pollination with pollen from the same plant)
- crossbreeding within the same species (pollination with pollen from another plant of the same species)
- utilizing spontaneously occurring male sterility and a restorer system
- interspecific hybridization
- bridge crossing
- mentor pollen techniques
- grafting
- audio frequencies
- eurythmics
- eco tillng (Targeting induced local Lesions in genomes)
- doubled haploids (development of unfertilized egg or pollen cells with subsequent chromosome doubling) produced in-vitro using natural substances
- artificial fertilization using natural substances
- embryo rescue in-vitro using natural substances

b) Selection

- phenotypic selection under organic conditions
- other types of selection under controlled conditions
- artificial selection stress
- indirect selection on a correlated trait
- descriptive methods
- organoleptic selection
- technological methods
- marker-assisted selection
- proteomics
- metabolomics
- in-vitro selection using natural substances (with subsequent field selection)

c) Reproduction

- reproduction via seeds
- vegetative reproduction
- apomictic reproduction
- thermal treatment
- stratification
- vernalization
- in-vitro reproduction (meristem cultures)
d) Type of variety
The following types of variety are permitted to be bred:
- clonal varieties
- inbred lines
- composite cross populations
- open-pollinated varieties
- multicomponent varieties (polycross varieties, family-intercross varieties)
- intra-population crossings
- F1 hybrids (Restrictions may be placed on certain species, and reproducible varieties of all species should be given preference.) (As per part II, section 2.2.9.)

2.2.2.3 Prohibited and undesirable breeding methods
a) Source material derived from the following breeding methods is prohibited in 'Bud' crop production:
- genetically modified source material and transgenic plants (direct and indirect methods of gene transfer, incl. cisgenic plants)
- targeted induced mutations
- synthetic biology
- RNA interference
- cisgenics (if this no longer falls under the legal definition of genetic engineering)
- plastid transformation
- artificial mini-chromosomes
- reverse breeding
- varieties to which transgenes have temporarily been introduced (e.g., early flowering: induced by splicing foreign early ripening genes from birch trees into apple trees and later removing them)
- agrofiltration
- other methods and varieties are subject to prohibition by the LCP
- breeding methods can be restricted for certain crops

b) Undesirable varieties for organic agriculture are those sourced from breeding programmes using controversial breeding techniques, for instance cytoplasmic male sterile (CMS) cauliflower hybrids produced by cytoplasm fusion or protoplast fusion. Such varieties must be clearly designated in lists of varieties (as per part II, section 2.2.2.6, category IV). In the intermediate term, these varieties will no longer be bred as organic seed and planting stock. The LCP will determine timelines for exit scenarios.

2.2.2.4 Criteria for prohibiting breeding methods for organic plant breeding
a) No techniques are permitted that involve the technical and physical modification of the genome of a plant.

b) No techniques are permitted that involve the technical and physical modification of an isolated cell.

c) No techniques are permitted that repress the species-specific mode of reproduction.

d) No techniques are permitted that overcome plant-specific reproductive barriers.

e) No techniques are permitted that restrict the further breeding of a variety by other breeders.

2.2.2.5 Approval of breeding programmes for organic plant breeding
Breeders must register organically bred varieties with Bio Suisse before trading and offering them. Approvals are issued at the variety level.

The LCP makes decisions regarding the approval of breeding programmes based on the following criteria:
- A permitted breeding method was employed.
- Organic plant breeding takes place within the parameters of clearly defined and delimited breeding programmes.
- Organic plant breeding takes place under controlled organic ('Bud' or 'Bud'-equivalent) conditions.
- The breeding objectives of the organic plant breeding programme cover the needs of producers, processors and consumers in the organic sector and also take the dynamic balance of the entire agrarian ecosystem into account.
- Selective breeding programmes can be approved as organic if at least three generations were bred under certified organic conditions and the selection clearly represents a breeding advancement in comparison to the starting population. Proof must be furnished by the applicant.
- Organic plant breeding programmes may not use any genetically modified source material.
- The parent generation may not be of a breed that violate the criteria as per part II, section 2.2.2.4.
- The entire breeding process must be disclosed, breeding records must be open to inspection, and the breeding nursery must be accessible.
- Varieties developed by organic breeding programmes and traits may not be patented nor may exclusive rights to them be held.
2.2.2.6 Categorization of varieties

The following categories of varieties have been defined:

I. Varieties from approved organic plant breeding programmes (e.g., Bioverita) or equivalent breeding sources

II. Varieties cultivated for organic farming according to methods that do not entirely meet the requirements of organic plant breeding programmes, for which no controversial breeding methods were employed, and which were at least partially selected under organic conditions. Such varieties must be tested under organic conditions.

III. Varieties that were non-organically bred or varieties from undeclared breeding methods

IV. Varieties from breeding programmes that involved controversial breeding methods (e.g., varieties of cauliflower that were bred using cytoplast fusion)

X. Heirloom varieties and rare sources (e.g., ProSpecieRara varieties, conservation varieties, niche varieties, farmers’ varieties, wild variants) which serve to maintain agrarian biodiversity

The LCP is responsible for sorting varieties into these categories. All varieties should be assigned categories by 1 January 2018.

If there are mainly just category IV varieties available for certain species or purposes, a Bio Suisse working group will be formed to draw up a species-specific catalogue of measures and a timetable for suspending the use of those varieties in the intermediate term (for instance in order to find and test varieties from alternative breeding programmes, to initiate specific breeding programmes, etc.).

Every four years the number of varieties assigned to the individual categories will be reviewed by the LCP in order to gauge progress and promote the availability and use of organically bred varieties.
2.2.3 Reproduction

2.2.3.1 General requirements for source material

As a rule, organic source material must come from Swiss 'Bud' plant-breeding operations. Source material that was produced under organic conditions should be preferred over source material that was organically propagated but non-organically grown (as per part II, section 2.2.2.6). However, this should not impair the use of heirloom varieties and rare sources (ProSpecieRara varieties, conservation varieties, niche varieties, farmers' varieties, wild variants) which serve to maintain agrarian biodiversity.

Propagating material should be acquired according to the following order of preference if it is listed by organicXseeds (www.organicXseeds.ch):
1. 'Bud' bred, from an organic plant breeding operation
2. Swiss 'Bud' quality
3. 'Bud' quality imported from an approved 'Bud' operation outside of Switzerland
4. certified according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18)
5. certified EU organic
6. non-organic, but from a Swiss operation with a 'proof of ecological performance' (PEP) prescribed by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13)
7. non-organic from outside of Switzerland

2.2.3.2 Obligation to keep records about the use of propagating material

Each purchase and delivery of propagating material must be documented. The following documents must be available during inspections:
- delivery note or invoice from the supplier of the propagating material
- an indication of the certification standards under which the organic propagating material was produced
- if necessary, derogations from the Organic Seeds Service/LCP
- if necessary, receipts for paid incentive taxes

2.2.3.3 Conditions for the use of non-organic propagating material

If no propagating material that is 'Bud'-certified or certified according to other organic standards is available, then derogations may be issued on the basis of crop-specific criteria. An incentive tax may be imposed on vegetative propagating material that is not of Swiss 'Bud' quality (as per part II, section 2.2.11).

Classification, proof of non-availability, and derogations

Source material for all species and subspecies is classified into four categories. The main classification criterion is the availability of 'Bud' or Swiss/EU organic seed, vegetative propagating material and planting stock in the required quality, quantity and range.

Applications for derogations for the use of non-'Bud' or non-organic propagating material from categories 1A, 1 and 2 must be sent to the organicXseeds information system or submitted in writing to the Organic Seeds Service according to the criteria listed below and before the source material is delivered. Incentive taxes will be imposed as per part II, section 2.2.11.

Classification in category 1A

If a sufficient range of suitable, high-quality varieties that were bred for organic farming is available, then category 1A may be introduced. This means that varieties from categories I, II or X must be used, as per part II, section 2.2.2.6. Category III varieties may only be cultivated in justified, exceptional cases. A prior derogation must be acquired. Category IV varieties will then be prohibited.
## Classification of propagating material

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification of propagating material</th>
<th>Criteria for classifying species</th>
<th>Conditions for exceptions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1A: The use of organic propagating material is mandatory. It must have been bred by an organic plant-breeding operation (category I variety) or have been bred for organic agriculture (category II variety) (as per part II, section 2.2.2.6).</td>
<td>This category includes all species and subspecies of which a sufficient supply of suitable, good-quality organic varieties (category I varieties) or varieties that have been bred for organic agriculture (category II varieties) is readily available. In commercial farming the use of organic propagating material bred by an organic plant-breeding operation (category I varieties) or propagating material that was bred for organic agriculture (category II varieties) is mandatory.</td>
<td>Exceptions which are subject to approval:  ■ variety trials in quantities of no commercial relevance  ■ basic seed from varieties of categories I, II or X for the production of organic seed  ■ varieties cultivated in quantities of no commercial relevance in order to conserve genetic diversity, or rare varieties (e.g., ProSpecieRara) Producers can inform the Organic Seeds Service if none of the varieties bred by organic plant-breeding operations (category I) or bred for organic agriculture (category II) meet their requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category 1: The use of organic propagating material is mandatory.</td>
<td>This category includes all species and subspecies of which a sufficient supply of organic varieties is readily available.</td>
<td>Exceptions which are subject to approval:  ■ variety trials in quantities of no commercial relevance  ■ basic seed for the production of organic seed  ■ varieties cultivated in quantities of no commercial relevance in order to conserve genetic diversity, or rare varieties (e.g., ProSpecieRara)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>----------------------------------------</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| Category 2: The use of organic propagating material is standard practice. | This category includes all species and subspecies of which individual, thriving organic varieties were offered for the current cultivation period. | Seed: Exceptions which are subject to authorization: as in category 1, and also if the producer can provide proof that none of the listed organic varieties or qualities of propagating material are adequate to meet his or her requirements. The following criteria may justify exceptions:  
- agronomic characteristics (especially the maturation period)  
- particular soil conditions  
- the climate or altitude  
- resistance or tolerance to disease or pests  
- yield  
- cultivation under contract (when the customer demands a certain variety)  
- particular market or processing requirements  
- kinds and quality of seed  
- storage properties  
Vegetative propagating material: Exceptions which are subject to authorization: as in category 1, and also if the producer can provide proof that none of the listed organic varieties or qualities of propagating material are adequate to meet his or her requirements. The following criteria may justify exceptions:  
- agronomic characteristics (especially the maturation period)  
- particular soil conditions  
- the climate or altitude  
- resistance or tolerance to disease or pests  
- yield  
- cultivation under contract (when the customer demands a certain variety)  
- particular market or processing requirements  
- kinds and quality of seed  
- storage properties  
If the desired propagating material is not listed under www.organicXseeds.ch, then an application for a derogation must be submitted to the Organic Seeds Service. |
| Category 3: The use of organic propagating material is preferred, but not mandatory. | This category includes all species and subspecies of which hardly any organically propagated varieties have yet been established in organic agriculture. | No individual derogations are necessary.  
- If a desired variety of this category is available from both non-organic and organic propagation, then the organic variety must be ordered.  
- If a variety is only available in non-organic, undressed quality, then the non-organic seed may be used without a special derogation.  
Availability must be checked by consulting the organicXseeds database. Written confirmation of non-availability (in the form of a print-out from the database) is not required. |

The classification of all crops (species and subspecies) may be found in the organicXseeds database www.organicXseeds.ch or in the lists of varieties published by FiBL/Bio Suisse.

Producers are obliged to check the current availability status of organic propagating material before placing orders by consulting the database (www.organicXseeds.ch) or by calling the Organic Seeds Service at FiBL.
Classification of available source material
Propagating material is classified into these four categories by Bio Suisse advisory groups on behalf of the LCP. The date of publication of these lists is separately determined for each crop. Short-term changes to the lists are published at: www.bioaktuell.ch 'Pflanzenbau' 'Saat- und Pflanzgut' 'Sortenlisten und Bezugsadressen' (in German) or under 'Cultures' 'Semences et plants' 'Listes variétales et adresses des fournisseurs' (in French). Subcategories are based on the results of comparison tests, information from plant breeders and producers' experience.

Organic share in fodder crop mixtures
Fodder crop mixtures contain a defined percentage of organic seed. This is determined by the LCP and is published in the lists of varieties (for fodder crops and other field crops) at: www.bioaktuell.ch 'Pflanzenbau' 'Saat- und Pflanzgut' 'Sortenlisten und Bezugsadressen' (in German) or under 'Cultures' 'Semences et plants' 'Listes variétales et adresses des fournisseurs' (in French).

2.2.3.4 No derogation required
No derogation is required for the following kinds of propagating material:
- a) non-organic mushroom spawn (inoculated grain) for the cultivation of edible mushrooms
- b) up to five non-organic, high-trunk fruit trees per farming operation and year
- c) onion sets, shallot and garlic cloves that are organic, but not 'Bud'-approved
- d) planting stock for ornamental plants and shrubs that is organic, but not 'Bud'-approved
- e) category 3 propagating material

2.2.3.5 Source material that has been treated with prohibited auxiliary inputs
Seed, planting stock and vegetative propagating material that have been treated with prohibited auxiliary inputs (chemically dressed) are not allowed in organic agriculture. Exception: species that the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture requires to be chemically dressed may be so treated if a prior derogation is obtained. The same applies to variety trials in quantities of no commercial relevance. Harvested crops from variety trials may not be traded as organic.

2.2.4 Conditions for the use of vegetative propagating material that is not Bio Suisse certified and is non-organic

2.2.4.1 Fruit, grapevines and berries
Vegetative propagating material for the cultivation of fruit, grapevines and berries must have been produced by a Swiss 'Bud' operation. In case of non-availability according to the organicXseeds list, the Organic Seeds Service can issue derogations for the purchase of propagating material of a different origin (non-Swiss 'Bud', Swiss organic, EU organic or non-organic).

Possible categories for fruit, grapevines and berries: 1A, 1 and 2.

2.2.4.2 Vegetables, herbs and field crops
If no 'Bud' vegetative propagating material is available according to the organicXseeds list, then EU organic or non-organic vegetative propagating material may be used if a prior written application was submitted to the Organic Seeds Service.

Possible categories for vegetables, herbs and field crops: 1A, 1 and 2.

2.2.5 Conditions for the use of planting stock that is not Bio Suisse certified
Planting stock for annual crops must be derived from a 'Bud' operation. No derogations will be issued for non-organic planting stock except for experimental variety trials (whereby sales of the batches involved will be prohibited).

Planting stock that is not Bio Suisse certified (but is certified Swiss or EU organic) may be used with a derogation from the Organic Seeds Service.
2.2.6 Conditions for the use of non-organic planting stock and vegetative propagating material for ornamental plants and shrubs

If they are verifiably unavailable in organic quality, then non-organic planting stock, non-organic semifinished products and non-organic vegetative propagating material may be used to encourage bulbs to sprout in the cultivation of ornamental plants. Non-organic batches must be clearly distinguishable from organic batches. The former must be traded as non-organic. Exceptions may be made for the trade of non-organic planting stock for perennial plants, as per part II, section 2.2.9.2.

If they are verifiably unavailable in organic quality, then planting stock grown from spores (ferns) and vegetative propagating material (including rooted propagating material with a minimal amount of soil, such as chrysanthemum cuttings) may be purchased as non-organic source material, and the sales products may be traded as ‘Bud’ products.

Possible categories for ornamental plants and shrubs: 1A, 1, 2 and 3.

Purchasing non-organic planting stock for the cultivation of ornamental plants and shrubs

a) (Category 2) If the ornamental plants and shrubs yield crops that will be harvested for trade (e.g., elderberries or roses), then ‘Bud’ planting stock is mandatory. If ‘Bud’ plants are not available (proof of non-availability the organicXseeds list), then non-organic plants may be used. The harvested crops may be traded as per part II, section 2.2.9.2.

b) (Category 3) If the ornamental plants and shrubs do not yield ‘Bud’ products for trade, then non-organic seedlings may be used (e.g., hedges planted with wild, native shrubs and individual trees.

2.2.7 Crop-specific requirements

Hybrid varieties are prohibited for the following species:
- grain (except maize)
- rapeseed

2.2.8 Exclusive rights to the commercial cultivation of varieties for the production of food, feed or renewable raw materials

Every variety that is grown by Swiss ‘Bud’ operations for the production of food, feed or renewable raw materials must be available to all producers. Varieties that are not available to all producers due to exclusive rights can be prohibited for cultivation by ‘Bud’ operations as soon as they reach a dominant market position. Restrictions on exclusive rights do not apply to the production of propagating material. Licence fees may be charged.

In case of any ambiguity or if there is reason to suspect the exclusive cultivation of a variety, this can be brought before the LCP via an advisory group for a decision. The responsible advisory group will be included in deliberations. Producers who grow varieties to which exclusive rights to commercial cultivation are attached must report their cultivation to the LCP.

2.2.8.1 Fruit cultivation and ornamental plants

Until further notice, no restrictions on the cultivation of varieties to which exclusive rights are attached will be imposed in these areas. However, as soon as a variety to which exclusive rights are attached reaches a dominant market position, the LCP can restrict its cultivation. ‘Bud’ producers can report to the responsible advisory group if they are disadvantaged in the cultivation of fruit or ornamental plants.

2.2.8.2 Field crops, vegetable crops and herb production

When a variety with exclusive rights for commercial cultivation attached is first approved for Switzerland or the EU list of varieties, it may be cultivated by ‘Bud’ operations for the first 5 years despite the exclusive cultivation rights. Advisory groups may request shorter time periods for individual varieties. If there is a sufficient supply of comparable varieties of the same species, then the holder of exclusive rights to the commercial cultivation of a certain variety may apply to the LCP for a temporary derogation for its cultivation on ‘Bud’ operations. The LCP will decide in consultation with the advisory group. If the derogation is not granted, then the applicant must either forgo his or her exclusive rights to its commercial cultivation, or the variety in question may not be cultivated on ‘Bud’ operations.

2.2.8.3 Viticulture

As long no exclusive rights exist in Switzerland regarding the commercial cultivation of grapevines, no concrete rules will be introduced.
2.2.9 Conditions for trading products grown from non-organic or in-conversion propagating material

2.2.9.1 Seed and annual vegetative propagating material from in-conversion operations
These may be used to grow 'Bud' products without a derogation, and the sales products may be traded under the regular 'Bud' logo.

2.2.9.2 Sales products grown from non-organic vegetative propagating material
As a rule, sales products grown from non-organic vegetative propagating material may not be traded under the 'Bud' logo. If the propagating material was grown by intermediate propagation, then the sales products may be traded under the 'Bud' logo without residue analyses. This restriction applies to sales products from perennial propagating material for the first two growing seasons after planting; it applies to sales products from annual propagating material for the year of cultivation. The LCP keeps a table on the organicXseeds website which clearly shows the trading status of the various propagation material stages.

Applications for derogations to trade sales products from annual and perennial species under the 'Bud' logo before the end of the conversion period may be submitted to the inspection body if a residue analysis can be furnished proving that the sales products or propagating material are free of residues. In-conversion propagating material must be sold under the 'Bud' in-conversion logo.

Strawberries harvested during the cultivation year that were grown from non-organic vegetative propagating material must be traded as non-organic.

In certain cases, the Organic Seeds Service can in consultation with the LCP impose conditions other than those given above, including additional trade conditions, or remove conditions for individual plant species.

2.2.9.3 Products grown from non-organic seed
Products grown from non-organic seed that was used upon receipt of a derogation may be sold under the 'Bud' logo.

Crops grown from tissue culture must be traded as in-conversion products for the first growing season.

Conditions for importing 'Bud'-conforming planting stock that is intended for sale under the Bio Suisse 'Bud' logo
Planting stock that was grown by 'Bud' operations outside of Switzerland may be sold under the Bio Suisse 'Bud' logo if at least one cultivation step (thinning out, repotting or planting) and at least half of the cropping period (from the time of sowing until the plants are ready for sale) takes place in Switzerland.

2.2.10 Applications for derogations and collective applications
Applications for derogations must be submitted via this website: www.organicXseeds.ch. In exceptional cases, written applications can be sent to the Organic Seeds Service at FiBL by e-mail, fax or post.

Please direct questions and applications for derogations to:
FiBL-Biosaatgutstelle Tel.: +41 62 865 72 08
Ackerstrasse 113 Fax: +41 62 865 72 73
5070 Frick E-Mail: biosaatgut@fibl.org
Switzerland

The following information is required:
The species, the name of the variety, the amount of seed/planting stock desired; the reason for a derogation (as per part II, section 2.2.3.3); and the identification number of the organic farming operation.
For cases in which crops are cultivated or sown by contract, the contractor or all parties to the contract (the customer, the processor, the contractor) can apply for a collective derogation for all of the farmers involved. Producers of planting stock can receive a derogation for an entire production batch.

Information about derogations can be obtained at the following websites:
www.bioaktuell.ch ↔ 'Pflanzenbau' ↔ 'Saat- und Pflanzgut'
2.2.10.1 **Fees**
Applications for derogations are subject to fees, and incentive taxes may be imposed. Administrative fees are annually determined by the LCP and are set forth in the catalogue of criteria for the approval of derogations.

2.2.10.2 **Testing for residues**
When derogations for the use of non-organic propagating material are issued, tests for residues may be ordered at the applicant's own expense.

2.2.11 **Incentive taxes**

2.2.11.1 **Basic principles**
If there is a shortage of Swiss 'Bud' propagating material and organic propagating material, the LCP may impose an incentive tax on EU organic propagating material, on 'Bud' propagating material from outside of Switzerland, and on non-organic propagating material. The incentive tax compensates at a minimum for the financial advantage that results from the difference in price between 'Bud' and non-'Bud' or non-organic propagating material. The incentive tax can be increased above the price difference between 'Bud' and non-'Bud' or non-organic source material if the aim of increasing the amount of organic source material purchased is not met.

2.2.11.2 **Use of revenue**
Revenue from incentive taxes shall be used to promote the use, propagation and breeding of Swiss 'Bud' propagating material, especially:

- a) to cover the administrative costs of imposing incentive taxes
- b) to promote the production of domestic propagating material
- c) to assume risk guarantees for seed producers
- d) to maintain the organic seed database
- e) to finance research projects concerning seed production, planting stock production and plant breeding
- f) for public relations work regarding seed and plant breeding

2.2.11.3 **Scope of application**
This incentive tax applies to the purchase of non-Swiss 'Bud' source material or non-organic source material (seed, vegetative propagating material and planting stock). The crops concerned are determined by the LCP.

2.2.11.4 **Amount of the incentive tax**
The amount charged for the incentive tax shall be determined by the LCP in such a way as to ensure that the purchase price for propagating material (non-Swiss 'Bud', EU organic or non-organic) is at least as high as the purchase price for Swiss 'Bud' propagating material.

**Incentive taxes for using 'Bud' planting stock from outside of Switzerland for the cultivation of fruit and berries**
Due to the many possible combinations of varieties and quality, incentive taxes are imposed on a case-by-case basis. They are at least as high as the real price difference between 'Bud' planting stock from outside of Switzerland, for which a derogation is required, and a reference price for Swiss 'Bud' planting stock. The reference price for Swiss 'Bud' planting stock for the cultivation of fruit and berries is determined annually (before the planting season: July to the beginning of August) by a steering committee composed of planting stock producers, members of the advisory group on fruit and berries and representatives of FiBL's Organic Seeds Service. Applicants for derogations must submit a binding offer for 'Bud' planting stock from outside of Switzerland to the Organic Seeds Service along with the application. They must also furnish statements from two plant breeders that are registered with www.organicXseeds.ch that the desired product is not available.

2.2.12 **Production and distribution of organic source material**
The basic principles, aims and directives (practical application instructions) as per part II, chapters 2.1 – 2.7 also apply to the following regulations for specific crops.

2.2.12.1 **Organic certification and timelines**
For the production of organic seed, the seed-producing plants must be grown by a certified organic farming operation.

For the production of organic vegetative propagating material for perennial crops, the plants must grow on a certified organic farming operation for at least two growing seasons.

For the production of organic vegetative propagating material via intermediate propagation, the parent plants must grow on a certified organic farming operation for at least one generation. Second-generation plants may be sold as organic products.
First-generation plants and harvested crops may be sold as 'Bud' products if a residue analysis of the parent plants has been made or if it can be verified that purchased parent plants were never treated with synthetic plant protection products.

Seed-producing plants and parent plants for the production of propagating material may be grown in containers.

### 2.2.12.2 In-conversion production of source material

Seed from in-conversion operations may be labelled and sold as 'in-conversion seed'. Producers may use it just like organic seed.

Planting stock for perennial crops may be sold as in-conversion products if traded before the end of the two-year conversion period or if there was no biological intermediate propagation. Producers must observe an additional conversion period for harvested crops until the end of the two-year conversion period. (Exceptions: as per part II, section 2.2.6.)

### 2.2.12.3 Breeding planting stock

**Substrate composition**

Pure peat substrates are prohibited for breeding planting stock. The proportion of peat substitutes (compost, bark humus, pine needle soil, wood fibres, etc.) must constitute at least 30 percent by volume. The composition of substrates for potted crops of kitchen herbs is regulated as per part II, chapter 3.6. Peat substitute products may only be blended with auxiliary inputs that are given on the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL. It is recommended that peat should be used with restraint for the cultivation of seedlings.

**Fertilizer use**

Organic substrates for planting stock may be fertilized with products that are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL. Synthetically produced trace-element fertilizers may not be added to substrates.

**Heating and lighting in propagation greenhouses**

Heating and lighting may be used according to the needs of the planting stock and without further restrictions. Propagation greenhouses should be well insulated.

### 2.2.12.4 Seed treatment

**Seed dressings**

Seed may only be treated with products that are given in the 'Saatgutbehandlungsmittel' ('Seed treatment products', German only) section of the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL.

**Physical seed treatment methods**

Physical seed treatment methods (e.g., mechanical or thermal methods) are permitted. The use of accelerated electrons to irradiate seed (also known as 'electron dressing') is prohibited.

**Seed processing and packaging**

Seed processing techniques such as priming (pregermination), colouring, coating and pelleting are permitted. The delivery note or cover letter must contain verification that the coating of the packaged seed contains no plant protection products or fertilizers. This rule does not apply to fertilizers and seed dressings that are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs.

### 2.2.12.5 Database registry

All organic propagating material that is available for sale in Switzerland should be listed in www.organicXseeds.ch, a publicly accessible database registry. Unlisted propagating material is considered unavailable in light of these provisions.

### 2.2.12.6 Prohibition against air freight

Seed, vegetative propagating material and planting stock that is sold under the 'Bud' logo may not be transported by air (see part V, 'Principles and objectives').

### 2.2.12.7 Wild collection

Pre-basic seed for seed propagation and vegetative propagating material may be derived from non-certified wild collection.
2.3  Enhancement of biodiversity

Organic farming should be integrated into a diverse, self-regulating ecosystem. Hedges, dry grasslands, headlands, high-trunk trees and other biotopes not only contribute to the natural scenery, they also help to maintain biological diversity and nurture beneficials.

'Bud' producers manage their whole farming operation in a manner that protects the environment and its plants, animals and microorganisms to the greatest extent. They endeavour to maintain as diverse an operation as possible, where there is room for a variety of organisms and habitats both on and beyond areas of production. 'Bud' producers go beyond the already high biodiversity standards set for organic agriculture by implementing further measures.

'Bud' producers maintain and enhance biodiversity throughout their entire operational acreage:

a) They carefully manage the whole farming area, and they follow the basic principles laid down in the Bio Suisse Standards, including:
   - careful cultivation and management of the soil, using organic fertilizers that promote soil life
   - maintaining a diverse and well-balanced crop rotation
   - keeping a share of at least 10–20 percent leys in the crop rotation
   - not using synthetic plant protection products (as per part II, chapter 2.6)
   - not using herbicides, growth regulators or wilting agents
   - not using synthetic fertilizers (as per part II, chapter 2.4)
   - not using genetically modified organisms

b) 'Bud' producers plant and manage areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity and implement measures to promote species and ecological communities.

The farm operations manager is obliged to maintain, enlarge or create near-natural habitats (areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity) and to care for them in a professional manner.

No mower-conditioners or mulching machinery may be used on areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity, except where special crops are grown.

2.3.1  Basic requirements

Every 'Bud' producer must implement at least 12 further enhancement measures in addition to meeting the biodiversity standards set for organic agriculture. He or she may decide which measures to implement.

2.3.2  Scope of application and transition period

Farming operations with more than 2 ha of utilized agricultural acreage must meet the requirements as per part II, section 2.3.1. Farming operations with a UAA of less than 2 ha, plant nurseries, ornamental plant growers, tree nurseries, fish farms and mushroom growers are not bound by part II, section 2.3.1. Farming operations with greenhouses need only comply with part II, section 2.3.1 if their total remaining UAA comprises less than 2 ha.

Farming operations with a large share of special crops and small farming operations that are unable to fulfil the required 12 further measures due to their specific situation can draw up an individually tailored plan for the enhancement of biodiversity in consultation with an advisory service and submit it to Bio Suisse for review.

The requirements as per part II, chapter 2.3 which exceed those imposed by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) must be fully met as of 1 January 2015.

2.3.3  Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity (ADEB)

Areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity must constitute at least 7 percent of the farming operation’s utilized agricultural area (including special crops). They must be situated in the same parts of the farming operation that are used for agricultural purposes and must be owned or leased by the producer. All of the elements defined by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) must be managed in such a way as to meet the requirements of that ordinance at the minimum.

The requirements of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) and the current version of the (German-only) ‘Wegleitung Biodiversitätsförderung auf dem Landwirtschaftsbetrieb’ (‘Instructions for enhancement of biodiversity on farming operations’) published by the AGRIDEA advisory service centre are binding. It is not permissible for several farming operations to form a joint partnership for the provision of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity.

At least 7 percent of the utilized agricultural area, including land that is leased to the farming operation (e.g., undeveloped building land), must be set aside as areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity. Bio Suisse standards go beyond the provisions of the ‘proof of ecological performance’ (PEP) prescribed by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13). Even where special crops are grown, 7 percent of the land must be set aside as areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity.
In the event that land is leased after the spring survey deadline at the beginning of May, the 7-percent rule does not apply to the new parcels during that year since they do not yet count as part of the operational acreage (products from those new parcels are not organic).

Vineyards may be counted as 'crop type 15' according to the (German-only) information note 'Wegleitung Biodiversitätsförderung auf dem Landwirtschaftsbetrieb' ('Instructions for the enhancement of biodiversity on farming operations') published by AGRIDEA if the land is recognized as such by the cantonal authorities. (LCP 8/2002)

PEP partnerships
A 'Bud' farm may enter into a PEP partnership whereby it provides organic farmland for a PEP partner's non-organic farm in addition to its own mandatory areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity. Any other forms of PEP partnerships with non-organic farming operations are prohibited. (LCP 7/2005)

2.3.4 Farming operations with multiple production sites
Farming operations with multiple production sites outside of the general range of operations must provide areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity for each production site in proportion to its size. Farming operations with land parcels in other countries must ensure that the areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity in Switzerland comprise at least 7 percent of the utilized agricultural area in Switzerland.

2.3.5 Edge strips
Green strips of at least 0.5 m width must be maintained along paths. No fertilizers or plant protection products may be applied to these strips. Green strips only count as areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity if they are part of the operational acreage, meet the relevant criteria for extensive or less intensively used meadows, and are at least 3 m wide. The first 3 m of strips perpendicular to the furrows may not be counted as areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity.

Extensively managed green strips or hay meadow strips of at least 3 m width must be maintained along hedges, copses, forest fringes and riparian woodland. No fertilizers or plant protection products may be applied to these strips. Green strips, hay meadow strips or strips of riparian woodland of at least 6 m width must be maintained around bodies of surface water. No fertilizers or plant protection products may be applied to the first 3 m of such strips. No plant protection products may be applied beyond the third metre.

2.3.6 Explanation key to the catalogue of enhancement measures
The following catalogue lists measures for the enhancement of biodiversity on 'Bud' farming operations. The enhancement measures are grouped into five categories:
   a) the proportion and quality grades of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity
   b) the structural diversity of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity and specific measures for the protection of species
   c) agrobiodiversity
   d) biodiversity in cultivated areas (grassland and field crops)
   e) biodiversity in special crops (fruit, wine, vegetables)

The following catalogue of measures lists individual enhancement measures along with the criteria that must be met. Explanations of each measure are given in the form of implementing regulations issued by the LCP (in cursive). If several enhancement measures are listed under one objective, these can be cumulated.

Legend with an example: A farming operation with a hedge that is 10 a in size and rated as 'quality grade 2' according to the Swiss Ordinance on Ecological Quality (SR 910.102) fulfils two enhancement measures:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Enhancement measure, incl. criteria to be met</th>
<th>Unit of area measurement</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Example: Quality grade 2 hedge: Area: ≥ 5 a, incl. herbaceous fringe</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Example: Quality grade 2 hedge: Area: ≥ 10 a, incl. herbaceous fringe</td>
<td>are</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explensions (implementing regulations issued by the LCP)
Example: (...) The minimum area can also be met by an aggregate of smaller parcels. (...)

Effect on biodiversity
Example: Great structural diversity creates habitats for various animal and plant species. (...)
### Catalogue of measures for the enhancement of biodiversity

#### A: Proportion and quality grades of the areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>High proportion of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>7.5–10% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>&gt; 10–12.5% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>&gt; 12.5–15% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>&gt; 15–17.5% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>&gt; 17.5–20% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>&gt; 20–22.5% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>&gt; 22.5–25% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>≥ 25% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Farming operations with a high proportion of areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity as defined by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) can fulfil up to eight measures in this category. According to the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13), trees and structural elements may be counted, whereby 1 high-trunk tree = 1 are. Measures 1.1 through 1.8 can be cumulated. Example: 19% ADEB = 5 measures.*

#### 2 Quality grade 2 areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity and/or fallows, fringes, hedgerows and hay meadows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Quality grade 2 areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity and/or fallows, fringes, hedgerows and hay meadows</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1–2% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>&gt; 2–3% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>&gt; 3–4% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>&gt; 4–5% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>&gt; 5–6% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>&gt; 6–7% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>&gt; 7–8% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>&gt; 8% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*High-quality areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity can be classified in this category according to their share of the UAA. The following may be counted:
– all registered areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity as defined by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) (including quality grade 2 high-trunk orchard trees)
– particularly valuable enhancement areas such as quality grade 1 wildflower strips, fallows, conservation headlands, fringes, hedgerows and hay meadows

Measures 2.1 through 2.8 can be cumulated. Example: A farming operation with 4% quality grade 2 ADEB and/or fallows, etc. fulfils three measures.*

#### 3 Participation in a connectivity project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Participation in a connectivity project</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>At least 2.5% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>At least 5% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>At least 7.5% UAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*A farming operation fulfils this measure if at least 2.5%, 5% or 7.5% of its UAA are recognized as ADEB and are integrated into a recognized cantonal connectivity project.*
### B: Structural diversity and measures for the protection of specific species

Great structural diversity creates habitats for various animal and plant species, thereby promoting specific species and enhancing biodiversity.

#### 4 Enhancing meadows and pastures (ADEB) by means of small structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>At least 3 of the following small structures per ha of ADEB: ditches, brooklets, pools, stone mounds, dry stone walls, ruderal areas or open land, piles of branches or wood stacks, hedges or shrubs. The minimum size of small structures is determined as per the implementing regulations (see below).</td>
<td>on 50% of the ADEB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>At least 3 of the following small structures per ha of ADEB: Ditches, brooklets, pools, stone mounds, dry stone walls, ruderal areas or open land, piles of branches or wood stacks, hedges or shrubs. The minimum size of small structures is determined as per the implementing provisions (see below).</td>
<td>on 100% of the ADEB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At least 3 small structures must already exist or must be created per ha of ADEB (this applies to meadows and pastures only). In 4.1 this applies to half of the ADEB; in 4.2 this applies to 100% of the ADEB.

**Minimum sizes of small structures:**
- ditches or brooklets (at least 4 m long)
- ponds or pools (at least 4 m² each)
- hedges or shrubs (at least 4 m² each and 0.5 m high)
- ruderal areas or open land (at least 4 m²)
- stone mounds or piles of branches or boulders (at least 4 m² and 0.5 m high)
- dry stone walls (at least 4 m long and 0.5 m high)
- wood stacks (at least 2 m long, at least 0.5 m wide, plus a 0.5 m buffer strip)

Example: A farming operation with 6 ha of ADEB (meadows/pasture) needs a total of at least 9 small structures to fulfil measure 4.1, and a total of at least 18 structures to fulfil measure 4.2. The elements may be freely chosen and combined, depending on the situation of the farming operation, and should be distributed throughout the ADEB in whatever way makes the most sense.

**Small farming operations:** If the improved ADEB are less than 1 ha in size, there must be at least 3 small structures.

#### 5 Creating/maintaining a quality grade 1 hedge with small structures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>Hedges: covering 10 a, improved by means of small structures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quality grade 1 hedges can only be counted if they have been improved by means of small structures.**

Minimum hedge size: 10 a. May not be cumulated with measures 6.1 and 6.2.

Small structures are listed under measure 4, and the minimum dimensions count accordingly. There must be a total of at least 5 small structures per 10 a of hedge. The minimum hedge size can also be met by an aggregate of smaller hedges. Smaller hedges count if they are at least 10 m long.

#### 6 Planting/maintaining a quality grade 2 hedge

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>Quality grade 2 hedge: area: ≥ 5 a, incl. herbaceous fringe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>Quality grade 2 hedge: area: ≥ 10 a, incl. herbaceous fringe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quality grade 2 hedges that cover an area of at least 5 or 10 a (incl. an herbaceous fringe) may be counted.** The minimum hedge size can also be met by an aggregate of smaller hedges. Smaller hedges count if they are at least 10 m long. Hedges may also be counted under measure 2. They may not be cumulated with measure 5.1.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Graded, improved forest edge bordering an area dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>≥ 50 m of improved forest edge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>≥ 100 m of improved forest edge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Semi-natural forest edges, improved through grading and thinning out, at least 50 m or 100 m long, bordering an area dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity. The ADEB may not be separated from the graded forest edge by a paved road. This measure may also be counted if the forest does not belong to the farming operation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Herbaceous fringe along the banks of a brook, with a late harvest (after 1 August)</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>a 2-m herbaceous fringe along ≥ 50 m of a bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.2</td>
<td>a 2-m herbaceous fringe along ≥ 100 m of a bank</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The herbaceous fringe along the banks of a brook (at least 2 m wide and without wooded growth) may not be harvested before 1 August. Entire length: at least 50 m or 100 m, whereby the bank on each side of the brook is counted separately (if the brook is 50 m long, herbaceous fringe on both sides counts as 100 m of herbaceous fringe: 8.1 and 8.2).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Regular upkeep of dry stone walls</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>≥ 50 m of dry stone walls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>≥ 100 m of dry stone walls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The dry stone wall must be at least 50 m or 100 m in length, of 0.5 m average height, and built of loose stones in the traditional way. The length of 50 m or 100 m may be met by an aggregate of several smaller walls.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Pools, ditches and ponds</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>The total surface area (incl. banks) is ≥ 2 a.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pools, ditches and ponds with a total surface area of at least 2 a (incl. banks) may be counted. The banks correspond to strips of at least 3 m width.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Proper nesting sites/boxes for birds, bats and wild bees around the operational acreage or on buildings</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>≥ 20 nesting sites/boxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>There must be at least 20 nesting sites or boxes available for birds, bats or wild bees around the operational acreage or on buildings. Producers are recommended to seek advice from a local bird conservation organization on how best to place these.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Promoting pollinators: bee colonies</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>≥ 3 bee colonies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>At least 3 bee colonies are kept on the farming operation throughout the entire vegetation period. The bees need not belong to the farming operation.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Individual promotional measures</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>Includes special activities not listed in this directive that greatly contribute to biodiversity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Any special activity not listed in this catalogue of measures that greatly and verifiably contributes to biodiversity may be counted. Verification may be furnished by a biodiversity consultant or by a nature or bird conservation organization via a special form obtainable at: <a href="http://www.bio-suisse.ch">www.bio-suisse.ch</a> (in German)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### C: Agrobiodiversity

- Endangered and/or old varieties: A large genetic pool is essential for maintaining biodiversity and for breeding new varieties. Sicknesses and pests can be treated more effectively thanks to genetic diversity.
- Diversity of varieties: Using many diverse varieties in the cultivation of fruit, berries and wine helps to promote agrobiodiversity.
- Endangered breeds of farm animals: Preserving breeds also helps to maintain genetic diversity in our farm animals.

### 14 Cultivating endangered or heirloom varieties of field crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>Minimum area: 25 a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Endangered or heirloom field crops must be cultivated on at least 25 a. List of endangered or heirloom species of field crops:
- einkorn wheat
- emmer wheat
- khorasan wheat
- millet
- flax
- camelina
- buckwheat
- safflower
- poppy
- saffron
- lentils
Other field crop varieties may be counted if they appear on the list of varieties kept by Bio Suisse and ProSpecieRara.

### 15 Cultivating endangered or heirloom varieties of vegetables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>Minimum area: 10 a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heirloom varieties of vegetable crops that are registered in special lists kept by Bio Suisse and ProSpecieRara must be cultivated on at least 10 a (different varieties may be counted).

### 16 Cultivating endangered or heirloom varieties of grapevines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>One variety is grown on at least 5 a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>A further variety is grown; minimum area per variety: 5 a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each heirloom variety contributes to genetic diversity and should be grown on at least 5 a. The special list of varieties kept by Bio Suisse and ProSpecieRara applies.

### 17 Cultivating endangered varieties of fruit, berries, grapevines or vegetables on UAA in Switzerland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>At least 10 varieties; at least 1 a per variety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>At least 20 varieties; at least 1 a per variety</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These count if at least 10 or 20 endangered varieties that are registered in the special lists of varieties kept by Bio Suisse and ProSpecieRara are grown. Varieties of fruit, berries, grapevines and vegetables may be counted together. Each variety must be grown on at least 1 a, whereby a fruit tree counts as 1 a.

### 18 Diversity of varieties in fruit cultivation (on UAA)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>At least 20 varieties; at least 1 tree per variety.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.2</td>
<td>At least 40 varieties; at least 1 tree per variety.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farming operations with at least 20 different varieties of cultivated fruit (incl. pome and/or stone fruit) fulfil one measure; those with at least 40 varieties fulfil two measures. Endangered varieties of fruit listed under measure 17 may be counted again here.
### Diversity of varieties in the cultivation of berries and herbs (on UAA)

| 19.1 | At least 10 varieties; at least 0.5 a per variety on a total area of at least 10 a |
| 19.2 | At least 20 varieties; at least 0.5 a per variety on a total area of at least 20 a |

Farming operations which grow at least 10 or 20 different varieties of herbs and/or berries on an area of at least 10 or 20 a fulfill these measures. Each variety must be grown on at least 0.5 a. Endangered varieties listed under measures 17.1 and 17.2 may be counted here again.

### Diversity of varieties in viticulture (on UAA)

| 20.1 | At least 4 varieties; per variety at least 4 a |
| 20.2 | At least 6 varieties; per variety at least 4 a |

Operations that cultivate at least 4 different varieties of grapevines fulfill this measure if each variety is grown on at least 4 a. A further measure is fulfilled if 6 varieties are grown on at least 4 a each.

### Keeping endangered breeds of farm animals: cattle

| 21.1 | 5 LU or participation in a ProSpecieRara conservation breeding programme |

At least 5 LU of endangered cattle breeds (registered in the ProSpecieRara list of breeds) must be kept on the farming operation. These animals must come from a farming operation that participates in a ProSpecieRara conservation breeding programme. Farming operations that participate in a ProSpecieRara conservation breeding programme fulfill this measure without being bound to the minimum LU requirement.

### Keeping endangered breeds of farm animals: sheep, goats, woolly pigs, poultry

| 22.1 | 3 LU or participation in a ProSpecieRara conservation breeding programme |

At least 3 LU of endangered small animal breeds (sheep, goats, woolly pigs and/or poultry) registered in the ProSpecieRara list of breeds must be kept. These animals must come from a farming operation that participates in a ProSpecieRara conservation breeding programme. Farming operations that participate in a ProSpecieRara conservation breeding programme fulfill this measure without being bound to the minimum LU requirement.

### Land-use diversity: Wide variety of types of use

| 23.1 | 3 types of use |
| 23.2 | 4 types of use |
| 23.3 | 5 types of use |
| 23.4 | 6 types of use |

The following types of use count: Field crop production, hay fields, pastures, forest pastures, straw harvesting, fruit cultivation, vegetable cultivation, viticulture and the production of other special crops (such as berries, herbs, cut flowers, etc.). These types of uses count if they make up at least 8 % of the UAA. Alpine pasturing counts as a further type of use if at least 50 % of the animals are alpine pastured. If there are combined uses, e.g., hay harvesting and pasturing on the same parcel of land, then only the main type of use can be counted.

In fruit cultivation, high-trunk trees are counted as one are each, while the area on which low-trunk trees are grown is counted. High-trunk trees and low-trunk trees can be cumulated. Whether counted individually or cumulatively, they must make up at least 8 % of the UAA.

Since measures can be cumulated, a farming operation with 5 types of use fulfills three measures.

A wide variety of habitats enhances biodiversity. This can be achieved through land-use diversity or a wide variety of types of use.
### Grassland measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fulfillment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>Refraining from the use of rotary mowing equipment when mowing areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity</strong></td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.1</td>
<td>Refraining on 100% of the area dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity</td>
<td>ADEB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>This measure is considered fulfilled if no rotary mowing equipment is used on 100% of the ADEB. Exception: Brush cutters for use in steep areas.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>This helps to conserve insects, reptiles and small mammals.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td><strong>Refraining from the use of mower-conditioners</strong></td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.1</td>
<td>60% of a fixed area throughout the entire year</td>
<td>grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.2</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>No mower-conditioners were used on 60% or 100% of the grassland. Measure 25.1 pertains to areas that remain the same throughout the entire year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>This helps to conserve insects.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td><strong>Preservation of refuge strips for small animals in extensive or less intensively used meadows (ADEB)</strong></td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.1</td>
<td>Area of the refuge strips: at least 5% of the reference area Reference area: 25% of the extensive or less intensively used meadows</td>
<td>organically managed meadows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>Area of the refuge strips: at least 5% of the reference area Reference area: 50% of the extensive or less intensively used meadows</td>
<td>organically managed meadows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>For 26.1, the reference area comprises one fourth of all organically managed meadows (of at least quality grade 1) belonging to the farming operation; for 26.2 it comprises one half. Of this area, 5% of parcels in use must be allowed to grow high while the rest is mown. If the area is used multiple times, then different strips should be allowed to grow high each time. Example: A farming operation with 8 ha of meadows and pastures dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity fulfills measure 26.1 if 10 a are left as refuge strips (one fourth of 8 ha = 2 ha, of which 5% = 10 a). To fulfill measure 26.2, 20 a must be allowed to grow high.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>This greatly benefits insects which can find refuge in unmown meadows. Animals and especially birds will then find food.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td><strong>Refraining from the use of grass silage</strong></td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.1</td>
<td>100% until 31 August</td>
<td>grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>Farming operations that completely refrain from the use of grass silage as a means of conserving fodder until 31 August fulfill this measure. Purchased grass silage for use as feed is tolerated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>This promotes beneficials because the grass is mown later in the year.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td><strong>Refraining from the use of grass silage; using only field-dried hay (without ventilation)</strong></td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>100% until 31 August</td>
<td>grassland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>Farming operations that completely refrain from the use of grass silage and from ventilating hay as a means of preserving fodder until 31 August fulfill this measure. Purchased grass silage for use as feed is tolerated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>This promotes beneficials because insects can depart from dry hay.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
29. **Wild hay meadows in summering areas**

29.1 Minimum area: 20 a

29.2 Minimum area: 40 a

This refers to wild hay meadows in summering areas that are reaped with scythes or sickle bar mowers. Hay meadows and hay meadows in summering areas that are reaped with machines may not be counted. The required 20 or 40 a may be cumulated from several smaller areas.

† Wild hay meadows are particularly rich in species and are situated in steep and remote places in summering areas. They greatly contribute to regional structural diversity. Wild haying prevents meadows from becoming overgrown with scrub.

### Field crop cultivation measures

30. **Land-use diversity in mountainous areas:** Cultivating field crops in mountain zone II or higher

30.1 Minimum area: 25 a (small farming operations < 10 ha = at least 10 a)

Farming operations that cultivate grain, potatoes or vegetables on at least 25 a in mountain zone II or higher can fulfil this measure.

† This promotes open habitats and land-use diversity in mountainous areas.

31. **Wildflower strips and rotational fallow strips, flower strips, and/or edges in cropland**

31.1 ≥ 1 % of the crop rotation area, but at least 10 a

31.2 ≥ 2 % of the crop rotation area, but at least 10 a

This measure is fulfilled by farming operations that maintain wildflower strips, rotational fallow strips, flower strips and/or edges in cropland (as defined by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments SR 910.13) on at least 1 % or 2 % of the rotation area (open cropland or leys) or as permanent crops (as required by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments SR 910.13).

The minimum size of the ADEB is 10 a.

Example: If the rotation area is 15 ha, then at least 15 a or 30 a of strips or edges must be maintained.

† Strips and edges are valuable connectivity and refuge elements, and they create ideal winter hibernation quarters for many small animals.

32. **High proportion of leys in the crop rotation**

32.1 ≥ 30 % of the crop rotation area

The proportion of leys in the crop rotation area (open cropland and leys) must be at least 30 %.

The cropping period lasts at least 2 years, or at least 1 year for vegetable crops.

† This promotes small animals and soil organisms both in and above the ground.

33. **Refraining from using mechanical means of weed control in grain cultivation**

33.1 The minimum area for grain is 1 ha, whereby a minimum of 25 % or a maximum of 3 ha must be cultivated without using mechanical means of weed control.

Depending on the suitability of the farming operation, the producer can refrain from using mechanical means of weed control such as hoeing equipment or tine weeder on at least 25 % of the grain cultivation area or a maximum of 3 ha. For this measure to count, a minimum area of 1 ha must be cultivated in grain.

The eradication of individual plants by mechanical means is permitted.

Example: A farming operation with 5 ha of grain must refrain from controlling weeds by mechanical means on a total area of 1.25 ha. A farming operation with more than 12 ha of grain must refrain from using mechanical means of weed control on a maximum of 3 ha.

† Refraining from raking protects ground-breeding birds and rare field flora.
### 34 Undersown crops in annual crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>At least 10% of the open cropland, or a maximum of 3 ha.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A crop must be undersown on at least 10% of the open cropland in annual crops: clover, grass, a clover/grass mixture or a grass mixture is undersown.

Undersowing provides more breeding sites for ground-breeding birds and beneficials such as spiders, beetles and ants.

### 35 Mixed cropping in grain cultivation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>At least 10% of the open cropland, 25 a at a minimum, 3 ha at a maximum.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grain is annually mixed with other crops on at least 10% of the open cropland. The minimum area is 25 a. Suitable combinations in grain cultivation include grain mixed with field peas or broad beans. Only mixtures of different species count.

This improves the uptake of soil nutrients, prevents soil erosion and promotes agrobiodiversity.

### 36 Winter greening with catch crops or green manure during the winter season

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36.1</td>
<td>&gt; 75%, sowing by 15 September at the latest, next planting after 14 February.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Green manure or catch crops should be grown during the winter season on > 75% of the land where spring crops are sown. Latest date for sowing: 15 September; earliest date of next planting/mulching: 14 February

Winter greening is essential for the winter survival of insects, birds and small mammals.

### 37 Promoting soil organisms: Applying (manure) compost

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>At least 75% of the required nutrients are supplied by (manure) compost.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Farming operations that supply at least 75% of their required nutrients through compost as per part II, section 2.4.1 and through composted manure and composted solid digestate fulfill this measure.

This promotes soil organisms.

### 38 Field crop cultivation that is gentle on the soil: Refraining from ploughing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>On every plot, ploughs may only be used two times at a maximum during a ≥ five-year crop rotation cycle. If the crop rotation cycle is shorter, then only once (which means no ploughing approx. 60% of the time).</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ploughs may only be used once during a five-year minimum crop rotation cycle (which means no ploughing approx. 80% of the time).

This promotes humus growth and soil organisms, and it increases soil cover on cropland.

### 39 Cultivation methods for field crops that are gentle on the soil

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>On at least 20% of the open cropland, 50 a at a minimum.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cultivation methods that are gentle on the soil (direct seeding, strip tillage or mulch sowing in conformance with article 79 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments [SR 910.13]) are used on at least 20% of the open cropland. The minimum area is 50 a. Farming operations with more than 15 ha of open cropland fulfill this measure if they cultivate 3 ha accordingly.

This promotes humus growth and soil organisms, and it increases soil cover.
### E: Biodiversity in the cultivation of special crops

#### Fruit cultivation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>40</th>
<th>Alternately mowing/mulching alleys between the rows of intensive orchards</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40.1</td>
<td>On at least 50% of the fruit cultivation area. Minimum size of the fruit cultivation area: at least 25 a.</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>From 1 April to 31 August, 50% of the alleys between the rows of fruit are alternately mown or mulched. If there is danger of frost, extra mowing/mulching is tolerated. There is an interval of at least 5 weeks between mowing or mulching. The minimum area is 25 a.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✧</td>
<td>This promotes insects and small organisms which find refuge and a steady supply of pollen and nectar in unmown meadows.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>41</th>
<th>Wild plant strips in the alleys between the rows of intensive orchards</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>41.1</td>
<td>Establishing and extensively maintaining species-rich flora (wild plants between the tractor tracks in the alleys): Along at least 10% of the total length of all alleys in all orchards. Minimum length: at least 100 m (width: at least 50 cm).</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.2</td>
<td>Establishing and extensively maintaining species-rich flora (wild plants) between the tractor tracks in the alleys: Along at least 25% of the total length of all alleys in all orchards. Minimum length: at least 250 m (width: at least 50 cm).</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>Establishing and extensively maintaining species-rich flora (wild plants) between the tractor tracks in the alleys: Along at least 50% of the total length of all alleys in all orchards. Minimum length: at least 500 m (width: at least 50 cm).</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>Along at least 10% of the alleys of all orchards, wild plants must become established and be specifically maintained on an area that is at least 100 m in length (target width: 50 cm).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✧</td>
<td>This promotes insects and small organisms by providing refuge and a steady supply of pollen and nectar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>42</th>
<th>Promoting the growth of wild herbs in rows of trees in intensive orchards</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>Along at least 10% of the rows of trees in orchards, a species-rich flora (wild herb strips) must be established and maintained. Minimum row length: 100 m, 20 cm wide</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.2</td>
<td>Along at least 25% of the rows of trees in orchards, a species-rich flora (wild herb strips) must be established and maintained. Minimum row length: 250 m, 20 cm wide</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42.3</td>
<td>Along at least 50% of the rows of trees in orchards, a species-rich flora (wild herb strips) must be established and maintained. Minimum row length: 500 m, 20 cm wide</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‡</td>
<td>Wild herbs must be sown according to the 'sandwich system' or established as spontaneous growth along at least 10% of the rows of trees in all orchards and a length of at least 100 m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✧</td>
<td>This promotes insects and small organisms by providing refuge and a steady supply of pollen and nectar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Individual shrubs and thickets in intensive orchards

| 43.1 | ≥ 10 shrubs per ha of a parcel; there must be at least 10 shrubs. | fulfilled |
| 43.2 | ≥ 10 shrubs per ha of another parcel; there must be at least 10 shrubs. | |

Hedges and shrubs such as hazel, thicket rose (Rosa corymbifera), blackberry and raspberry bushes or other shrubs at the edges of rows or in orchard parcels may be counted. Shrubs should ideally be planted near anchors for hail nets or along the hail nets. There must be a total of at least 10 shrubs or groups of bushes per ha of cultivated fruit. The same applies to orchards that are < 1 ha.

Hedges and shrubs contribute to structural diversity and provide habitat for many plant and animal species.

### Extensive meadows and wild herb strips along and through orchards

| 44.1 | Strips must be at least 1 m wide and comprise at least 1 a/ha of the entire gross orchard area. Minimum area: 1 a | fulfilled |
| 44.2 | Strips must be at least 1 m wide and comprise at least 2 a/ha of the entire gross orchard area. Minimum area: 2 a | |
| 44.3 | Strips must be at least 1 m wide and comprise at least 3 a/ha of the entire gross orchard area. Minimum area: 3 a | |

An extensive, blooming meadow or wildflower strips of at least 1m width must be planted along or through the rows of trees. The area of this strip is counted separately from the ADEB and must comprise at least 1 a (44.1), 2 a (44.2) or 3 a (44.3) per ha of gross orchard area. The same applies to orchards that are < 1 ha. The strips may only be driven on rarely, they may not be located in areas where plant protection products or fertilizers are applied, and they must be managed as ADEB extensive meadows in conformance with the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13).

This promotes insects and small organisms by providing refuge and a steady supply of pollen and nectar.

### Cultivating resistant varieties of fruit in intensive orchards

| 45.1 | Resistant/highly tolerant varieties are cultivated, combined with a reduction in the use of plant protection products on at least 25% of the orchard. | fulfilled |
| 45.2 | Resistant/highly tolerant varieties are cultivated, combined with a reduction in the use of plant protection products on at least 50% of the orchard. | |
| 45.3 | Resistant/highly tolerant varieties are cultivated, combined with a reduction in the use of plant protection products on 100% of the orchard, which must comprise at least 100 a. | |

Resistant/highly tolerant varieties of fruit must be cultivated on at least 25% of the orchard, combined with a reduction in the use of plant protection products. In particular, products to control scab may only be used during ascospore discharge (the primary infection phase).

Growing resistant varieties and reducing the use of plant protection products conserves fauna, esp. beneficials.

### Reduced, eco-friendly pest control measures in fruit cultivation

| 46.1 | Refraining from the use of broad-spectrum pesticides on at least 50% of the orchard, which must comprise at least 25 a. | fulfilled |
| 46.2 | Refraining from the use of broad-spectrum pesticides on at least 100% of the orchard, which must comprise at least 50 a. | |

The use of broad-spectrum products such as Spinosad (‘Audienz’) and pyrethrum is prohibited on at least 50% or 100% of the orchard. Birds can augment pest control measures. See measure 48.

Reducing the use of plant protection products conserves fauna, esp. beneficials.
### Promoting soil organisms: Applying compost in orchards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>75% of the required amount of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) is supplied by compost, in accordance with the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- In orchards, 75% of the required amount of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) is supplied by compost in accordance with the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method (as per part II, section 2.4.1 also by composted manure, composted solid digestate and composted mushroom substrate).
- The use of manure compost takes the humus balance into account and improves soil fertility both physically and biologically.

### Nesting sites in orchards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>At least 10 nesting boxes are put within a maximum area of one ha.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Objective: Concentrating the nesting boxes within one ha provides potential nesting sites for rare bird species. Cannot be cumulated with measure 11.

### Viticulture

#### Enhancing biodiversity in viticulture: Alternately cultivating alleys between the rows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>≥ 50% of the viticulture area Minimum area: 25 a</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>≥ 50% of the viticulture area Minimum area: 50 a</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49.3</td>
<td>≥ 50% of the viticulture area Minimum area: 50 a Alleys between the rows of grapes are rolled at least once per year or left alone for two intervals instead of being alternately mulched or mowed.</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 50% of the alleys between the rows of grapes throughout the vineyard are alternately cultivated by various methods (mulching, mowing or rolling) between 1 April and 31 August. There is an interval of at least 5 weeks between mulching, mowing or rolling (the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments [SR 910.13] stipulates a 6-week interval). Parcels can be registered as ADEB in permanent crops ('viticulture parcels with a natural diversity of species'). The minimum size of the viticulture area is 25 or 50 a.

- Hedges and shrubs contribute to structural diversity and provide habitat for many plant and animal species.

### Hedges and shrubs in viticulture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50.1</td>
<td>≥ 5 shrubs on one ha</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50.2</td>
<td>≥ 5 shrubs on another ha</td>
<td>fulfilled</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The following may be counted: hedges, small trees (e.g., vineyard peach) and shrubs such as hazel, thicket rose (Rosa corymbifera), blackberry and raspberry bushes at the edges of rows or among the grape vines. There must be a total of at least 5 shrubs or trees on one ha of vineyard. The same applies to vineyards that are < 1 ha.

- Hedges and shrubs contribute to structural diversity and provide habitat for many plant and animal species.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Promoting the growth of rare bulbous plants in viticulture</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>Bulbous plants grow on one parcel.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>Bulbous plants must grow on many parcels.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>In rows that are 200 m or 400 m long, rare bulbous plants such as the wild tulip, field gagea, grape hyacinth, Star-of-Bethlehem and other species are cultivated in viticulture areas. This is achieved by preparing the soil in a particular way and by planting the desired species along individual rows of grapes on parcels that generally have permanent cover. To carry out this demanding but very valuable measure, a professional conservationist should be consulted.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This promotes the growth of rare bulbous plants.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cultivating resistant varieties of grapes</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>≥ 10% of the viticulture area, on a minimum of 10 a, combined with a reduction in the use of plant protection products.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>≥ 25% of the viticulture area, on a minimum of 25 a, combined with a reduction in the use of plant protection products.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>Fungus-resistant varieties (PIWIs) must be grown on at least 10% of the viticulture area, combined with a reduction in the use of plant protection products (for copper, max. 25% of the permitted dosage).</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Growing resistant varieties and reducing the use of plant protection products conserves fauna, esp. beneficials.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Refraining from the use of copper in viticulture</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>≥ 10% of the viticulture area, on a minimum of 10 a.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>≥ 25% of the viticulture area, on a minimum of 25 a.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>≥ 50% of the viticulture area, on a minimum of 50 a.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>No copper is applied to at least 10% of the viticulture area.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Careful insect control</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>On 100% of the viticulture area</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Insects must be controlled without the use of plant protection products (confusion technique, traps and bacterial preparations) on 100% of the viticulture area.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Leaving (unshredded) vineyard trimmings on the ground</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>≥ 50% of the viticulture area, at least 50 a.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Instead of shredding plant trimmings, they are left next to the vine stocks.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dry stone walls in viticulture</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>≥ 10 m²</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56</td>
<td>≥ 25 m²</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|   | Dry stone walls must be at least 10 m² or 25 m² in length and built of loose stones in the traditional way. The total length may be met by an aggregate of several smaller walls. This measure may not be cumulated with measures 9.1 and 9.2. | ☑         |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nesting sites in viticulture</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>At least 10 nesting boxes are put within a maximum area of one ha.</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>57</td>
<td>The same nesting boxes cannot also be counted for M 11 und M 48. The aim of concentrating the nesting boxes within a certain area is to promote rare bird species. Producers are recommended to seek advice from a local bird conservation organization on which nesting boxes to choose.</td>
<td>☑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Vegetable cultivation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>58</th>
<th>Maintaining or establishing a flowery meadow strip along polytunnels or greenhouses</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58.1</td>
<td>Flowery meadow strips must be at least 1 m wide and correspond to ≥ 2% of the total covered area, at a minimum 100 m².</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⊲</td>
<td>Along polytunnels or greenhouses, a strip of at least 1 m width must be sown with flowery meadow seeds (flowery meadow and flowery lawn mixtures are recommended). The size of the flowery meadow strip must correspond to at least 2% of the area under protected cultivation, at a minimum 100 m². The mowing times and mowing frequency should be determined by the instructions on the seed packages. Cuttings from the first mowing must be removed from flowery lawns.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☀</td>
<td>Flowery strips promote insects, beneficials and bees by providing pollen and nectar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>59</th>
<th>Sowing plants that promote beneficials among vegetable crops</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>Among at least one crop planted on at least 25 a</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.2</td>
<td>Among at least one crop planted on at least 50 a</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⊲</td>
<td>Plants that promote beneficials must be sown among at least one vegetable crop on an area of at least 25 or 50 a.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☀</td>
<td>This promotes insects and small organisms by providing refuge and a steady supply of pollen and nectar.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>60</th>
<th>Mixed cropping in vegetable cultivation</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>On at least 10% of the vegetable cultivation area.</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⊲</td>
<td>Mixed crops must be annually grown on at least 10% of the vegetable cultivation area (optionally in rows).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☀</td>
<td>This improves the uptake of soil nutrients, prevents soil erosion and promotes agrobiodiversity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>61</th>
<th>Cultivating a variety of botanical families of vegetables</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>At least 5 different botanical families of vegetables are grown on at least 8% of the vegetable cultivation area.</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>At least 7 different botanical families of vegetables are grown on at least 4% of the vegetable cultivation area.</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⊲</td>
<td>The measures listed under 61 may be chosen by farming operations that cultivate vegetables on ≥ 50% of their UAA. If the required 8% or 4% share of the vegetable cultivation area per family cannot be planted with one variety, then the missing share may be planted with a variety from a sixth or eighth family.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☀</td>
<td>Cultivating a variety of botanical families of vegetables increases agrobiodiversity.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>62</th>
<th>Sparing use of pesticides in vegetable cultivation</th>
<th>fulfilled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>62.1</td>
<td>On at least 10% of the vegetable cultivation area.</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.2</td>
<td>On at least 20% of the vegetable cultivation area.</td>
<td>□</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>⊲</td>
<td>No pesticides are applied to 10% or 20% of the vegetable cultivation area.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.4 Nutrient supply

Fertilizer use should promote soil life. Nitrogen must be supplied by organic fertilizers only. Mineral supplements may be applied according to site-specific needs, as indicated by soil analyses, observations of the farming operation and the nutrient balance of the entire farming operation, but they should be kept to a minimum.

The intensity of fertilizer use, particularly nitrogen fertilizer use, must not adversely affect the quality of the products (including their valuable nutrient content, flavour, aroma, shelf life and digestibility).

Moreover, the quantity of fertilizer applied must be adapted to the site and climatic conditions.

Two aspects must be considered with regard to the site-specific nutrient supply: The cultivation intensity limits (the maximum number of livestock manure units [LMU]1 and the maximum available nitrogen content as per part II, section 2.4.2.1) and the balance between nutrient requirements and the nutrient supply (the nutrient balance, as per part II, section 2.4.2.3).

2.4.1 Definitions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Farmyard manure (FYM)</th>
<th>Swiss Fertilizer Ordinance (SR 916.171), Article 5, § 2 a:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ Slurry, manure, manure effluents, slurry separation products, fermented slurry from biogas plants2, silage effluents and comparable waste from animal husbandry operations or from crop production on the producer’s own farming operation or from other farming operations in processed or unprocessed form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>■ The proportion of material of non-agricultural origin may not exceed 20 percent (FM)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recycled fertilizer</th>
<th>Swiss Fertilizer Ordinance (SR 916.171), Article 5, § 2 b(1): Fertilizer that is plant-, animal-, microbe- or mineral-based or derived from sewage sludge, such as:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) compost</td>
<td>properly aerobically decomposed plant, animal or microbial matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) solid and liquid digestate3</td>
<td>properly fermented plant, animal or microbial matter from anaerobic digestion in biogas plants, with a more than 20% share of non-agricultural co-substrate. Liquid digestate (containing less than 20% DM) is also called ‘biogas slurry’ and used to be called ‘liquor’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c) undecomposed plant matter</td>
<td>e.g., by-products of vegetable processing plants, distilleries and juice producers or extraction meal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) used mushroom substrate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Commercial fertilizer | organic or mineral | This includes all of the fertilizer products entered in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL, except for solid recycled fertilizer. |

2.4.2 Site-specific nutrient supply

Two aspects must be considered with regard to the site-specific nutrient supply: The cultivation intensity limits (the maximum number of livestock manure units [LMU] and the maximum available nitrogen content as per part II, section 2.4.2.1) and the balance between nutrient requirements and the nutrient supply (the nutrient balance, as per part II, section 2.4.2.3).

---

1 According to the Swiss Surface Water Conservation Act, one LMU is equal to 105 kg N and 35 kg P2O5.
2 Fermented slurry is composed of unseparated (liquid and solid) digestate from a biogas plant, and it counts as farmyard manure if no more than 20% of the matter fermented in the biogas plant is of non-agricultural origin.
3 In the Bio Suisse Standards, ‘digestate’ always refers to recycled fertilizer, not farmyard manure.
2.4.2.1 **Limiting cultivation intensity**

The amount of fertilizer applied must be adapted to the local topography and climate. The total nutrients applied per ha under optimum conditions may not exceed the equivalent of 2.5 LMU/ha in lowland areas (valleys). To calculate the average number of animals on a farming operation, the stocking intensity of the various plots must be taken into account. In covered crops, more than the equivalent of 2.5 LMU/ha (i.e., 135 kg available N) may be applied if it can be demonstrated that the crops require a higher input (in conformance with the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method, the official Swiss nutrient balance method).

Cultivation intensity is limited by the prevailing topographical and climatic conditions. Cultivation intensity is determined by the N supply. The maximum amounts are therefore calculated in LMUs and kilos of (available) nitrogen per ha, averaged over the total area of the farming operation’s fertilizable land. The following maximum amounts apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disadvantaged zones</th>
<th>Maximum amounts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LMU/ha FL(^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowland zone</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill zone</td>
<td>2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone I</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone II</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone III</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone IV</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In justified cases, the certification body can grant applications for greater amounts. The certification body bases its decision on the following criteria: areas of favourable climate in favourable zones; farming operations with a high proportion of good soil (as evidenced by reported yields in comparison to the average yields for that zone); no sign of overfertilization. However, the maximum amount of 2.5 LMU/ha may not be exceeded.

Exception: There is no cultivation intensity limit for covered crops; a good nutrient balance must be maintained. Nutrients supplied to seedlings and potted plants that are destined for sale do not count in the nutrient balance calculation.

An even ‘Suisse-Bilanz’ counts as evidence up to the following levels of intensity: Mountain zone I: 2.3 LU/ha; mountain zone II: 1.8 LU/ha; mountain zone III: 1.5 LU/ha; mountain zone IV: 1.3 LU/ha. Higher levels of intensity require a written statement from an independent expert. (LCP 5/2016)

2.4.2.2 **Manure and feed exchanges**

Members of legally recognized organizations in clearly defined regions (e.g., cheese dairy cooperatives, producer associations and branch associations) which jointly trade products under the ‘Bud’ logo may exchange manure and feed.

2.4.2.3 **Nutrient balance calculation**

According to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) Article 12, § 3, fertilizer requirements must be established on the basis of an even nutrient balance. The phosphorus and nitrogen balance must be assessed by means of the current version of the ‘Suisse-Bilanz’ method, which is available from AGRIDEA, or by means of equivalent assessment methods.

Farming operations which do not apply fertilizer containing N or P are not required to perform the ‘Suisse-Bilanz’ calculation if their livestock density per hectare of fertilizable land does not exceed the following values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disadvantaged zones</th>
<th>Amount of fertilizer per hectare of fertilizable land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lowland zone</td>
<td>2.0 LMU/ha of fertilizable land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hill zone</td>
<td>1.6 LMU/ha of fertilizable land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone I</td>
<td>1.4 LMU/ha of fertilizable land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone II</td>
<td>1.1 LMU/ha of fertilizable land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone III</td>
<td>0.9 LMU/ha of fertilizable land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain zone IV</td>
<td>0.8 LMU/ha of fertilizable land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) FL = fertilizable land (not counting unfertilized areas such as extensive meadows, wildflower strips, rotational fallow strips, etc.).

\(^2\) N\(^{\text{avail}}\) = available nitrogen. More detailed information on available nitrogen is given in part II, section 2.4.2.4; e.g., cattle: 2.5 LMU x 105 kg N\(_{\text{total}}\) x 15 percent unavoidable losses x 60 percent intensity of use = 135 kg N\(^{\text{avail}}\).
2.4.2.4 Nitrogen
The nitrogen balance should be even at most (plans for farmyard manure purchase agreements, number of animals, etc. = 100 percent maximum). Shares of available nitrogen from permitted N fertilizers should be factored into the balance as follows:

- The effective nitrogen content in farmyard manure and recycled fertilizer should be calculated according to the 'Grundlagen für die Düngung im Acker- und Futterbau (GRUDAF)' (Principles of fertilizer application in arable and forage cultivation' published by AGROSCOPE, German only).
- 70 percent of the total nitrogen content of commercial fertilizer is counted as available.
- 10 percent of the total nitrogen content of green waste compost is counted as available. The N availability of manure compost and mushroom compost is considered comparable to that of hay manure.

2.4.2.5 Phosphorus
Phosphorus-based fertilizer should be applied according to need and as prescribed by the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method. The phosphorus balance should be even at most (plans for farmyard manure purchase agreements, number of animals, etc. = 100 percent maximum). The tolerated range of error is 10 percent.

The 110-percent limit may be exceeded in the following cases:

- Farming operations which can furnish confirmation of phosphorus deficiency from an approved laboratory on the basis of approved testing methods may claim a greater need for phosphorus application on the tested plots (in accordance with the 'Principles of fertilizer application in arable and forage cultivation' (GRUDAF) if there is a comprehensive fertilizer plan for the entire farm. Less intensively used meadows may not be fertilized.
- Phosphorus supplied by lime fertilizer and compost may be applied for a maximum of three years. Any excess amount of phosphorus applied in this manner must be carried over to the nutrient balance calculation of the following year.

2.4.3 Requirements for the purchase and sale of fertilizers
The use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizer, highly soluble phosphates, highly concentrated fertilizer containing chlorine, and pure potassium fertilizer is prohibited. Fertilizers permitted in organic farming are given in part II, section 2.4.4.5 and also in the annually updated list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL.

Brought-in organic fertilizers, composts and soils may not contain any additives that are not permitted under the general Bio Suisse standards. Particular attention should be paid to potential contaminants (heavy metals, antibiotics, pesticide residues, etc.). In case of doubt, appropriate tests must be conducted or ordered.

Exact records of brought-in fertilizers (including their source, amount and application) must be kept. In case of doubt, tests must be conducted and assessed by the certification body.

2.4.3.1 Farmyard manure
a) Brought-in farmyard manure: Residues and foreign substances
All fertilizer exchanges must be registered in HODUFLU (an online program for the uniform administration of farmyard manure and recycled fertilizer exchanges in agriculture) and must be confirmed in the system by the receiving producers. Only exchanges of farmyard manure and recycled fertilizer that are registered in HODUFLU count toward fulfilling 'Suisse-Bilanz' requirements. (LCP 6/2016)

Farming operations that annually buy more than 1 LMU of farmyard manure must have an approved purchase agreement (e.g., from HODUFLU).

As soon as a 'Bud' operation begins to source farmyard manure from elsewhere than another farming operation (for instance, from a biogas plant or fertilizer pool), then a farmyard manure purchase agreement must be concluded between the supplier and the receiving operation so that the nutrients can be added to the organic farmyard manure calculation. Registration in HODUFLU will suffice for direct exchanges between two farming operations. (LCP 6/2014)

Farmyard manure must be sourced from approved organic farming operations. If a farming operation does not have an adequate supply of farmyard manure from its own or other organic farming operations to cover its needs, then up to one half of the required amount of nitrogen or phosphorus may be supplied by non-organic farming operations, in accordance with the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method.

1 Template available at www.bio-suisse.ch → "Produzenten" → "Richtlinien und Merkblätter" → "Vorlagen & Formulare"
2 The nutrient that breaches the 50-percent threshold first is the one that counts.
Farming operations in areas where organic farmyard manure is scarce may be granted a derogation by the LCP to purchase greater amounts of farmyard manure from non-organic farming operations. Such a derogation would allow the farming operation to cover up to 80 percent of its nitrogen or phosphorus needs with farmyard manure from non-organic farming operations to supplement its own supply. Up to 50 percent of a farming operation's fertilizer needs may be covered with purchased fermented slurry.

The nutrient that breaches the percent threshold first is the one that counts. One hundred percent of the nutrients from a farming operation's own animals which are fermented in a biogas plant belonging to the farm or a different owner may be returned to the 'Bud' farming operation and calculated as organic farmyard manure.

Composted fermented manure counts as compost and is therefore not affected by the 50-percent limit.

Non-organic farmyard manure may only be sourced from the following types of operation:

- Farming operations with a label attesting that they are certified GMO-free. The LCP annually publishes an updated list of approved labels (see the LCP implementing regulations for delivery and receipt of farmyard manure below).
- Farming operations with animals that are not covered by one of the listed certified GMO-free labels if proof can be furnished that no GMO feedstuffs were used (feedstuff supplier receipts must be available). This condition is considered fulfilled if the farming operation does not purchase feed.
- Traditional cheese dairies with milk delivery obligations.

Approved labels for farmyard manure derived from non-organic farming operations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>All animals and crops</th>
<th>IP-Suisse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If any branch of a farming operation produces IP-Suisse products, then no GMO feedstuffs may be used anywhere on the entire operation. Therefore, farmyard manure from such an operation may be sold to a 'Bud' farm regardless of what branch produces under the 'IP-Suisse' label.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Pigs | QM-Schweizerfleisch, Agri Natura, Coop Naturafarm, SwissPrimPorc, Manor-Natura, TerraSuisse (M-7) |
| Calves and fattening cattle | QM-Schweizerfleisch, Agri Natura, Natura Beef, SwissPrimBeef, TerraSuisse (M-7) |
| Milk | QM-Schweizerfleisch |
| Lamb | QM-Schweizerfleisch, TerraSuisse (M-7) |
| Goats | QM-Schweizerfleisch |
| Eggs | Coop Naturafarm, Suisse Garantie |
| Pullets | Agri Natura, Coop Naturafarm, TerraSuisse (M-7), SEG-Poulets, Kneuss Güggeli, Frifrag Märwil AG, Micarna AG |
| Turkeys | TerraSuisse (M-7) |

(LCP 7/2004)

If there is any suspicion of elevated levels of antibiotics or the presence of genetically modified organisms, then the inspection body has the right to request a residue analysis.

Operations from which farmyard manure is sourced must also meet the requirements of the Swiss Surface Water Conservation Act, the Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO) (SR 455.1) and, if land is cultivated, the 'proof of ecological performance' (PEP). This must be confirmed by a copy of a valid attestation.

b) Selling farmyard manure

According to the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method, at least 50 percent of the farmyard manure that a 'Bud' farming operation produces should be applied to its own land. Small farming operations that produce less than 2 LMU of farmyard manure need not comply with this rule.

Contracts to sell farmyard manure may only be concluded with other organic farming operations.

Farmyard manure may only be sold to a fertilizer manufacturer if the manufacturer maintains a balanced flow of goods, in other words, if the manufacturer sells the same amount of fertilizer to organic farming operations as it receives. The maximum distances defined in 2.4.3.1 c) must also be observed when selling farmyard manure to fertilizer manufacturers. Farmyard manure sold to hobby gardeners or non-organic farming operations may not be subtracted from the nutrient balance calculation.
Enriched farmyard manure (e.g., with worm castings) may be subtracted from the nutrient balance calculation if a derogation is granted by the LCP.

Farming operations are permitted to deliver manure to a composting plant. However, the same amount of nutrients must be brought back to the farming operation in the form of compost. (LCP 5/2011)

c) Purchasing and selling farmyard manure: Maximum distances and energy consumption
The maximum aerial distance for purchasing or selling the following types of farmyard manure is as follows:

- slurry, fermented slurry: 20 km
- poultry manure: 80 km
- manure from all other kinds of animals: 40 km

The distance to be calculated is from one centre of operations to another or to the biogas plant. (LCP 6/2014)

Dried farmyard manure may not be purchased due to the high energy consumption involved in drying. The certification body may allow exceptions upon request if renewable energy or thermal discharge from production processes is used to dry the farmyard manure or if it is dried in an energy-efficient manner. If farmyard manure is dried, then the distance between the farming operation and the drying plant may not exceed the maximum permitted limits.

Receiving and delivering farmyard manure
When organic meadows are used by non-organic neighbours (e.g., leys in the crop rotation of vegetable producers), the non-organic neighbour may apply farmyard manure from his or her own operation if the amount is exactly recorded and factored into the nutrient balance calculation of the organic farming operation. All other requirements laid out in part II, chapter 2.4 must also be met. (Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission, a committee that preceded the LCP, 17 June 1997, part 2.3)

Slurry and manure may be exchanged between a non-organic farming operation and a 'Bud' farming operation under the following conditions:

- The delivery routes must be shorter than between two 'Bud' operations.
- The two farming operations must enter into mutual farmyard manure purchase agreements.
- No more than 50 percent of the slurry and/or manure required by the 'Bud' farming operation (according to the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method) may be exchanged.
- Slurry and manure must come from animals that are kept in accordance with the provisions of one of the labels listed above.
- The amount of nutrients in the LMU must be identical. (LCP 5/2005)

GRUDAF: Farming operations that are obliged as of 1 January 2011 to yield more than 50 percent of their accumulated nutrients according to the new GRUDAF calculation in order to meet the provisions of the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method must apply to the LCP for a derogation to deliver more than 50 percent of their nutrients. (LCP 6/2010)

The amount of farmyard manure to be acquired or delivered will be determined according to the targets set by the respective cantonal authorities. (LCP 6/2010)

2.4.3.2 Recycled fertilizer
a) Brought-in recycled fertilizer: Residues and foreign substances
If a farming operation does not have an adequate supply of nutrients from its own or from other organic farming operations to cover its needs, then up to one half of the required amount of nitrogen or phosphorus1 may be supplied by liquid or solid digestate, in accordance with the 'Suisse-Bilanz' method. Only the kinds of recycled fertilizer given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs may be applied.

'Bud' operations may cover up to a maximum of 50 percent of their total nutrient requirements1 (‘Suisse-Bilanz’ method) with brought-in nutrients (fermented slurry and digestate) from a biogas plant. (LCP 6/2016)

One hundred percent of the nutrients from a 'Bud' farming operation’s own animals which are fermented in a biogas plant belonging to the farm or a different owner may be returned to the 'Bud' farming operation and calculated as organic farmyard manure. The nutrient that breaches the percent threshold first is the one that counts. (LCP 6/2014)

If raw materials from non-organic farming operations are brought in for the purpose of composting or fermenting on the organic farming operation, then they must conform to the hygiene categories given in the list of source materials for fermentation and composting plants published by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG)2. Farming operations without special equipment may only apply class ‘A’ materials that pose no health risk.

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1 The nutrient that breaches the 50-percent threshold first is the one that counts.
2 For a list of source materials for fermentation and composting plants, see: www.blw.admin.ch – ‘nachhaltige Produktion’ – ‘Produktionsmittel’ – ‘Dünger’ – ‘Dokumentation’
Farmyard manure that is added to recycled fertilizer must meet the quality standards for farmyard manure as per part II, section 2.4.3.1 a). Farmyard manure from non-organic farming operations counts as non-organic farmyard manure as per part II, section 2.4.3.1. If there is any suspicion of elevated levels of heavy metals or the presence of genetically modified organisms, then the inspection body has the right to request a residue analysis.

Biogas slurry (liquid digestate): Purchased biogas slurry must meet the heavy metal concentration limit values set out in the Swiss Ordinance on Chemicals Risk Reduction (SR 814.81)1.

Brought-in compost and solid recycled fertilizer (digestate): Brought-in compost and solid recycled fertilizer must conform to the heavy metal concentration limit values set out in the Swiss Ordinance on Chemicals Risk Reduction (SR 814.81) and must meet the quality standards of the composting and fermentation sector2. The application rates given by the Swiss Ordinance on Chemicals Risk Reduction (SR 814.81) (25 t DM/ha every 3 years) may not be exceeded.

b) Maximum distances and energy consumption
The maximum aerial distance to a place where recycled fertilizer may be purchased or sold is:
- compost sold in bulk, mushroom substrate with farmyard manure 80 km
- raw material for compost, solid digestate 40 km
- liquid digestate 20 km

The maximum distances do not apply to composts, mushroom substrates and digestates that are components of commercial fertilizers or substrates.

Mushroom substrates without farmyard manure are mushroom substrate also exempt from the maximum distance limits. (LCP 6/2016) Vermicompost may only be imported as a component of substrates. The importation of pure vermicompost is prohibited. (LCP 6/2014)

2.4.3.3 Biogas plants
'Bud' farming operations are permitted to run biogas plants, hold shares in biogas plants and apply digestate as farmyard manure or recycled fertilizer (purchasing requirements as per part II, sections 2.4.3.1 and 2.4.3.2). 'Bud' farming operations do not necessarily have to produce their own farmyard manure.

a) Source materials (this applies to a 'Bud' farming operation’s own biogas plants as well as to any plant from which it purchases digestate).
No source material may exceed the official thresholds that have been established regarding GMO-free feedstuffs. It is permissible for non-organic farmyard manure to be added to a biogas plant that is part-owned by a 'Bud' farming operation or that is located on a 'Bud' farming operation. All participating farming operations must meet the standards of a label that prohibits the use of GMO feedstuffs.

Raw materials for fertilization must be fermented according to the requirements defined in the positive list3 of the inspectorate commission for the composting and fermentation sector. Food- and feed-grade products may not be fermented in biogas plants. The only exception to this rule is food- and feed-processing by-products (e.g., milling waste, separated whey) that cannot be used as feedstuffs in the region. These may be fermented in biogas plants.

b) Receipt and delivery
A 'Bud' farming operation must receive back from a biogas plant as many nutrients as it delivered in the form of organic farmyard manure. Any further purchases count as non-organic fertilizer. If other 'Bud' farming operations use the same biogas plant, then further amounts of fermented slurry/digestate may be distributed between them if this has been agreed upon in a mutual purchase agreement (e.g., HODUFLU) that is recognized by the cantonal authorities. In total, the amount of nutrients received and counted as organic fertilizer may not exceed the amount of farmyard manure that was delivered by the 'Bud' farming operations. Farmyard manure from a 'Bud' farming operation may not be delivered to a non-organic farming operation by a biogas plant. The nutrient amounts are calculated in kilos of phosphorus.

As soon as a 'Bud' operation begins to deliver farmyard manure to or receives nutrients from a biogas plant that count towards its amount of organic farmyard manure, a farmyard manure purchase agreement must be concluded between the supplier and the receiving operation. Registration in the HODUFLU programme will suffice for direct exchanges between two farming operations. (LCP 6/2014)

1 Heavy metal concentration limit values according to the Swiss Ordinance on Chemicals Risk Reduction (SR 814.81);
2 Verband Kompost- und Vergärwerke Schweiz, quality standard of 2010 of the composting and fermentation sector: www.biomassesuisse.ch
3 For a list of source materials for fermentation and composting plants, see: www.blw.admin.ch
2.4.3.4 Commercial fertilizer

Only commercial fertilizers that are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL may be applied. Commercial fertilizers are only accepted to the list of approved auxiliary inputs if they meet the criteria set forth in the Bio Suisse principles and as per part II, section 2.4.3 as well as appendix 2 of the Swiss EAER Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.181).

Further criteria for fertilizers to be accepted to the list of approved auxiliary inputs are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of fertilizer</th>
<th>Criteria for acceptance</th>
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| a) Fertilizers composed of manure and slurry 1 | Dried farmyard manure is not permitted.  
In exceptional cases, dried farmyard manure may be permitted if all of the conditions as per part II, section 2.4.3.1 a) have been met. |
| b) Fertilizers composed of mechanically processed raw materials derived from plants (legume flours, grape marc, algae, etc.) | From organic production as a first choice; if not available, then from non-organic production.  
Proof of freedom from GMOs must be furnished for at-risk crops (crops for which GMO varieties have been released).  
Of European and Mediterranean origin; from overseas only in exceptional cases if proof can be furnished that no comparable product is available in Europe. The LCP determines which products from overseas are acceptable during its annual revision of the list of approved auxiliary inputs. |
| c) Fertilizers derived from plant-based waste products (filter cakes from oil-bearing crops, vinasse, molasses, stillage and stillage extract, etc.) | The same criteria as under b) apply.  
Additional tests are required for processing residues (extracting agents, lubricants, etc.). |
| d) By-products of animal origin (feather meal, horn meal, etc.) | From organic production as a first choice; if not available, then from labelled production as a second choice and from non-organic production as a third choice.  
Every effort should be made to exclude by-products from systems of animal husbandry that are not permitted in Switzerland (caging, etc.).  
Of European and Mediterranean origin; from overseas only in exceptional cases if proof can be furnished that no comparable product is available in Europe. The LCP determines which products from overseas are acceptable during its annual revision of the list of approved auxiliary inputs. |
| e) Mineral fertilizers (rock phosphate, sulphate of potash, sulphate of potash magnesia, etc.) | Only thermo-mechanical processing is permitted.  
Of European and Mediterranean origin; from overseas only in exceptional cases if proof can be furnished that no comparable product is available in Europe.  
Synthetic chelates are prohibited. |

2.4.4 Provisions for the use of individual nutrients

2.4.4.1 Potassium and magnesium

A recent soil sample (not older than 4 years) must be furnished from an approved laboratory before applying sulphate of potash magnesia, sulphate of potash or Magnesia-Kainit® fertilizer.

2.4.4.2 Trace elements

The following provisions apply to trace-element fertilizers and other types of fertilizer containing water-soluble salts of boron, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum and zinc, as well as to foliar feeds containing Ca and Mg.

a) Usage

Trace elements and highly soluble foliar feeds may only be applied when the nutrients required by plants cannot be supplied by other means, i.e. through crop rotation, site selection and fertilization with organic fertilizers. In such cases, trace elements and foliar feeds may be applied under the following conditions:

- The need must be demonstrated. Proof of need may be established through soil and plant tests or visible deficiency symptoms in the crop.
- A portion of the crop must be left untreated as a frame of reference.
- The efficacy of the treatment must be documented.

1 Manure as a component of commercial fertilizer should preferably come from Switzerland. Manure from neighbouring countries is permitted if it originates from certified EU organic animal husbandry.
b) Exceptions
No proof of need is required to side-dress celery, broccoli, spinach, cauliflower and beets. No proof of need is required nor need there be visible deficiency symptoms to apply calcium fertilizer to apple trees. Fertilizer use must be documented and a portion of the crop must be left untreated as a frame of reference.

2.4.4.3 Products
Permitted products are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs.

2.4.4.4 Preventing nutrient losses
Proper measures must be taken to prevent nutrient leaching and losses when farmyard manure, compost, dirt and substrates are stored outdoors (covering, etc.). Quick-acting fertilizers (slurry, vinasse, etc.) must be carefully applied to prevent loss and groundwater contamination as far as possible.

Storing farmyard manure
In order for a newly converting farming operation to receive certification, 50 percent of the required farmyard manure storage capacity must already exist in the main stable, in accordance with the table in the inspection report by the inspection body or in accordance with the ‘Suisse-Bilanz’ method. Main stables are considered to be those where feedstuffs for winter feeding are stored and which are occupied for at least 10 weeks of the year. If the animals are kept in different stables during the winter feeding time and no stable can be designated as the main one, then there must be sufficient storage capacity proportionate to each stable, and the transfer of slurry from one stable to another during the winter must be guaranteed. This rule also applies to the storage of manure with effluent containment, whereby greater stack heights may be granted in justified cases. Should a canton require more than 50 percent storage capacity, then the stricter cantonal requirements will of course apply. Farming operations will no longer be recognized as regular ‘Bud’ farms if they do not completely meet cantonal storage capacity requirements. This means that no attestations containing remediation periods that extend longer than the conversion period will be accepted. In-conversion farming operations will retain their in-conversion status until the requirements have been met. [LCP 7/2002]

There must be a written lease agreement for leased slurry pits. They may be counted as storage capacity if they can be filled during the winter, which means that they must remain accessible no matter the snow or street conditions, or that the slurry can be transported there by pipeline.

Definition of effluent: Effluent is a liquid containing excreta that occurs when rainwater seeps into manure heaps during storage periods and removal times and that collects organic substances. To protect the environment, effluent may not be allowed to enter surface water or groundwater. [LCP 5/2011]

All organic farming operations with cattle and manure heaps must have a manure tray with effluent containment installed at the main stable. No effluent may be visible. At secondary stables, the manure must be kept covered with a sheet if no manure tray with effluent containment is available. Visible signs of long-term effluent leaching, which may include documented vegetation changes, soil saturation, softening of the soil, traces in gravel and rank patches, are punishable by sanctions. [LCP 5/2011]

Sheep, goat and horse manure require neither an installed manure tray nor a slurry pit if the manure is immediately covered in the event of effluent loss or if on-farm compost sites that conform to water pollution prevention regulations are maintained. Cantonal confirmation of water pollution prevention practices is required. [Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission, a committee that preceded the LCP, December 1997]

2.4.4.5 Permitted inputs for soil improvement and fertilization
In organic farming the following inputs are permitted as soil improvers and fertilizers:

a) Fertilizer from the producer’s own farming operation
- livestock manure, fresh or decomposed aerobically
- liquid manure/slurry after aerobic treatment (agitation and if possible aeration; separated or unseparated)
- organic wastes and crop residues, decomposed aerobically
- organic mulch
- green manure
- straw manure

Household wastewater is only permitted if generated directly on the farming operation and only when mixed with several times its volume of cattle or pig slurry and processed together with these.
b) Brought-in organic fertilizers
- compost
- animal manure/liquid manure/slurry as per part II, chapter 2.4.
- products and by-products of animal origin, such as horn, hair and feather waste*
- algae products
- organic by-products of the food processing industry (not containing chemical residues)
- sawdust and waste bark (not containing synthetic treatment agents)
*in conformance with the current regulations issued by the public authorities.

c) Brought-in mineral fertilizers
- rock dust, such as volcanic rock dust, quartz dust, basalt dust and powdered clays such as bentonite and others
- calcified algae
- slow-release liming products (dolomite lime, calcium carbonate, but not quicklime or slaked lime)
- rock phosphate, ground basic slag and basic lime (only if the heavy metal content is low)
- potassium-bearing silicate rock dusts (feldspars, mica)
- sulphate of potash magnesia, sulphate of potash (only if soil tests show a potassium deficiency)

d) Preparations to accelerate composting and soil metabolic processes
- Only measures and preparations that are based on a biological and methodological approach may be used to accelerate composting and soil metabolic processes. Permitted products include:
  - plant-based preparations
  - algae extract
  - bacterial preparations
  - bio-dynamic preparations

e) Plant tonics
- plant extracts and preparations such as infusions and teas
- algae extract
- rock dust, bentonite and other clay minerals
- bio-dynamic preparations

Further implementing regulations related to part II, chapter 2.4:

Slurry separation: 'Bud' farming operations are permitted to use purely mechanical slurry separation processes without thermal drying. (LCP 3/2005)

Empty sacks and containers that have held prohibited fertilizers may not be present at an organic farming operation.
2.5 Protection against contamination

Farming operations and/or plots which are at risk of being exposed to considerable immissions of prohibited auxiliary inputs or harmful substances (e.g., synthetic or genetically engineered plant protection products) may be excluded from sale under the 'Bud' logo. The LCP can impose measures for at-risk farming operations to prevent contamination.

2.5.1 No use of genetic engineering
Genetic manipulation and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and their derivatives are prohibited in organic agriculture (both in production and processing).

2.5.2 Coexistence with neighbouring GM crops
If GM crops of the same species as organic crops are grown in the vicinity, there is a risk of cross-pollination from the pollen of the genetically modified plants. Additional risks of contamination are posed by the joint use of machinery, equipment and means of transport by organic and non-organic producers. The tolerance threshold for harvested organic crops is 0.1 percent GM material (DNA or protein).

2.5.3 Spray drift of prohibited auxiliary inputs
All 'Bud' producers are obliged to prevent spray drift onto organic parcels to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Bio Suisse provides a tool to support farm operations managers'. Its purpose is to help them assess the risk of spray drift contamination and to offer concrete preventive measures. A risk analysis is required of every food-producing operation as per the Swiss Federal Act on Foodstuffs and Utility Articles (SR 817.0).

2.5.4 Harmful immissions
The inspector may request an analysis for problem areas that are subject to harmful immissions (e.g., vegetable crops growing next to streets). Whether the products may be sold will be determined according to the threshold levels given in the Swiss Ordinance on Foreign Substances and Ingredients in Food Products (SR 817.021.23).

(Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission, a committee that preceded the LCP, 12 November 1996, item 2.6)

1 Assessing the risk of spray drift in agricultural production – a checklist: www.bio-suisse.ch "Verarbeiter und Händler" "Rückstände" "Vermeiden von Rückständen"
2.6 **Crop health**
Healthy crops result from choosing climatically suitable, resistant varieties and species, balanced fertilization and appropriate cultivation and management practices (e.g., crop rotation, plant species, mixed cropping, planting density and green manuring). The use of synthetic or genetically engineered plant protection products is prohibited.

A diversity of habitats such as hedges, nesting sites and wetlands provides favourable conditions for the natural enemies of pests.

Control measures must be chosen and carried out in a manner that limits their impact on non-target organisms as much as possible. Weed control is performed through cultivation and by mechanical means. Flame weeding is permitted. Any use of herbicides or growth regulators (straw shorteners, chemical fruit thinning agents, soil disinfectants, stem weakening agents, etc.) and wilting agents is prohibited.

### 2.6.1 Products that promote the self-regulating ability and resistance of crops
To promote the self-regulating ability of crops and improve their resistance to potential infestation by harmful organisms (fungi, bacteria, insects, animals, etc.), certain regulatory products and plant tonics may be applied, as per part II, section 2.6.3.2 and the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL.

### 2.6.2 Direct control measures against harmful organisms
Mechanical and biotechnological direct control measures are permitted against harmful organisms, as are plant protection products as per part II, section 2.6.3.2 and the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL. These are particularly advisable when considerable crop damage is anticipated based on an assessment of the likely development of the pest/beneficial ratio.

### 2.6.3 Plant protection products
The use of synthetic or genetically engineered plant protection products is prohibited. There should be no detectable residues on organic products except as a result of general environmental pollution. Organic products from plots which are at risk of being exposed to elevated immissions of synthetic or genetically engineered plant protection products may be excluded from sale under the 'Bud' logo, or the LCP may impose measures to prevent contamination (see also the implementing regulations regarding spray drift as per part II, section 2.5.3).

Empty sacks or containers that have held prohibited plant protection products may not be present at an organic farming operation.

#### 2.6.3.1 Inclusion on the list of approved auxiliary inputs
The LCP determines which plant protection products will be included on the list of approved auxiliary inputs, which is binding for all Bio Suisse operations. Only substances that are permitted according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) can be registered.

→ For more information, see: www.betriebsmittelliste.ch (German and French only)

#### 2.6.3.2 Permitted plant protection products
Mechanical control measures such as protective netting, slug-proof fences, sticky plastic chromatic traps and sticky bands, and homemade plant tonics such as infusions, extracts and teas are permitted.

The following applies to all plant protection products (including biocontrol organisms and beneficials):
- Only substances that are permitted according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) may be applied.
- Only commercial products that are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL may be applied.
- Such products may only be applied to the crops given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs.

The maximum permitted thresholds for pure copper per treated ha and year are as follows:
- **pome fruit**: 1.5 kg (up to 4 kg if applied in conjunction with strategies to combat fire blight)
- **stone fruit**: 4 kg
- **soft fruit**: 2 kg
- **vegetables**: 4 kg
- **potatoes**: 4 kg
- **hops**: 4 kg
- **viticulture**: 4 kg (whereby this quantity may be applied over a 5-year period) However, the maximum threshold of 6 kg per ha and year may never be exceeded. Quantities exceeding 4 kg per ha and year must be reported to the certification body.
Mandatory spray test
Power take-off driven equipment and self-propelled equipment that is used for crop protection must be checked at least every four years by an authorized inspection station. Demeter farming operations that use their equipment only to apply bio-dynamic preparations are exempt from this rule (Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming [SR 910.18], Art. 11a). (LCP 7/2003)

2.6.4 Soil steaming
Soil steaming is prohibited in open fields. (Exceptions: as per part II, section 3.1.4.)

Flame weeding
Weed control is performed through cultivation measures and by mechanical means. As a rule, flame weeding may only be performed at the surface. Flame weeding during the operation of cultivation machinery is prohibited both in protected cultivation and in open fields.

Mice and storage pests
Controlling mice: Mice may be controlled in the open field by injecting carbon monoxide and an appropriate gas mixture (e.g., oxygen and propane) into their tunnel system and then lighting it. The LCP recommends using mechanical mousetraps to control mice. (LCP 5/2002)
2.7 **Energy efficiency**

Energy used for protected cultivation should be kept to a minimum. Maximum heating temperatures, maximum heating periods, energy-efficient methods of cultivation, the choice of heating system, the type of fuel used and good insulation should be prioritized for areas under protected cultivation. The minimum measures required are given in the following directives.

### 2.7.1 Period of validity

The requirements given in this directive are valid until 31 December 2016. Higher rates of energy efficiency will be required after 1 January 2017.

The previous requirements will remain in effect after 31 December 2016 until a new directive goes into effect. (LCP 6/2016)

### 2.7.2 General requirements

Greenhouses must have a building envelope with a maximum average U-factor of 2.4 W/m²K, or they must have insulated walls (double-layered or with a bubble-foil layer) and insulated roofs (double-layered or with a single layer of energy screen).

Assimilation lighting: Assimilation lighting is prohibited except for breeding planting stock and propagating material and for cultivating stock plants to produce cuttings.

Soil steaming: Shallow soil steaming is permitted for areas under protected cultivation. Deep steaming requires a special derogation.

### 2.7.3 Vegetable crops and potted herbs

Greenhouses which meet the building requirements as per part II, section 2.7.2 may be heated to a maximum of 10°C during the period from 1 December to 28 February.

Greenhouses which fail to meet the building requirements as per part II, section 2.7.2 may only be kept frost free (5°C maximum) during the cold months. Until 31 December 2014, this applied to the period from 1 December to 28 February. Since 1 January 2015, this applies to the period from 1 November to 31 March.

### 2.7.4 Forced crops and sprouts

Forced crops (varieties of chicory, chives, rhubarb, dandelion and bulbs) and green sprouts grown on substrates (e.g., soil) are considered a form of agriculture. They may be heated throughout the year up to a maximum of 18°C if the greenhouse meets the requirements as per part II, section 2.7.2.

Forcing chicory in water (without substrate) and producing sprouts without substrate (using only seed, water and light) are considered processing (for directives, see part III, chapter 4.7).

### 2.7.5 Ornamental plants

Ornamental plants grown in greenhouses may be heated throughout the year up to a maximum of 18°C if the building envelopes of the greenhouses meet the requirements as per part II, section 2.7.2.

Greenhouses which fail to meet the building requirements as per part II, section 2.7.2 may only be kept frost free (5°C maximum) during the period from 1 December to 28 February.

Since 1 January 2015, this applies to the period from 1 November to 31 March. In justified cases, the LCP can grant derogations for existing buildings for their remaining lifetime.

The LCP can permit higher heating temperatures for greenhouses that have particularly ecological heating systems (e.g., cogeneration systems, heat pumps or biogas heating systems).

### 2.7.6 Growing seedlings

Heating and lighting may be used according to the needs of the planting stock and without further restrictions if the building envelope meets the requirements as per part II, section 2.7.2.

### 2.7.7 Plant collections

There are no heating temperature restrictions for plant collections that serve educational purposes or that are of great public or scientific value if the building envelope meets the requirements as per part II, section 2.7.2.
3 Specific regulations for crop production

3.1 Vegetables and herbs

The basic principles and aims as per part II, chapters 2.1–2.7 and the directives (practical application instructions) contained therein apply in addition to the following requirements for specific crops.

3.1.1 Soils and substrates

Vegetables may only be cultivated in soil. The use of rock-wool substrates, hydroponics, the nutrient film technique and similar methods and techniques is prohibited. Chicory may be grown in water, but without added fertilizer.

The addition of peat to enrich the soil with organic matter is prohibited. The use of expanded polystyrene flakes (Styromull) and other synthetic substances in the soil or in substrates is also prohibited. Purchased organic fertilizers may only be used to supplement cultivation measures.

3.1.2 Substrate composition

Substrate analysis

Mixtures produced by the farming operation will be assessed during inspections and may be sent to FiBL for closer analysis. Substrates for planting stock may additionally bear the ‘Bud’ auxiliary input logo. Interested producers should contact the Bio Suisse head office for more information.

Fertilizer or substrate mixtures

Organic producers and contractors who blend fertilizers or substrates must adhere to the following rules:

a) Every batch must be traceable (give the date of production, the composition and the total weight or volume).
b) Components must be individually listed on the invoice, including name, weight and origin. The date of production, the composition, the total weight or volume and the origin of the ingredients must also be given.
c) Only components given in the current list of approved auxiliary inputs may be used. Plant-based raw materials used for substrate (incl. peat) must at a minimum meet the requirements as per appendix 2 of the Swiss EAER Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.181) (no use of wood fibres impregnated with urea).
d) Foliar feeds and trace-element fertilizers given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs may not be added as components.

Regarding sections 3.1.1–3.1.2, see also the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL, part I ‘Dünger’ (‘Fertilizers’; German and French only)

3.1.3 Seedlings

Seedlings must either be produced by the farming operation or purchased from farming operations that produce to ‘Bud’ standards. In the event of unforeseeable shortages, the LCP will decide on the application of this rule within the legal framework.

Non-organic planting stock

Pursuant to the provisions of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), only organic planting stock [seedlings] may be used.

Sale of potted vegetable crops

Only young (not ready-to-eat) vegetable crops (including lettuce) may be sold as potted plants. (LCP 6/2007)

Vegetables harvested from potted plants may not be sold. (LCP 6/2013)

3.1.4 Soil steaming

Shallow soil steaming is permitted for areas under protected cultivation and in the production of seedlings. Soils and substrates may also be steamed. Soil steaming must be kept to a minimum, however.

Deep steaming requires a special derogation.

Soil steaming in open fields is permitted for the propagation of seedlings.

3.1.5 Protected cultivation under glass and plastic

The use of plastic foil, plastic sheets, etc. should be kept to a minimum. Used plastic foil, plastic sheets, etc. should be recycled.
3.2 Fruit and berries

The basic principles and aims as per part II, chapters 2.1–2.7 and the directives (practical application instructions) contained therein apply in addition to the following requirements for specific crops.

3.2.1 Cultivation methods

The shape of the trees and their spacing should be such that sufficient light reaches the fruit throughout the growing season. The fruit species, cultivars and rootstocks should be appropriate to local soil and climatic conditions.

3.2.2 Pruning

To obtain good quality fruit, trees should be pruned to develop an open canopy with moderate growth, but with strongly developed fruit-bearing wood. Pruning should be appropriate to the condition of the trees as well as to their variety, shape, vigour and age.

3.2.3 Soil management

Orchards must have green cover throughout the year. Green cover should be managed in such a way as to promote a rich variety of flora and fauna species. Green cover should not consist of a monoculture.

Rows between trees, particularly in young orchards, may be kept open by mechanical means, by spreading organic matter (e.g., bark compost, rapeseed straw), or by robust plastic sheeting.

3.2.4 Fertilizing and mulching

Brought-in organic material should be spread as mulch, or it may be incorporated by shallow cultivation.

Fertilizing and mulching should be performed in a timely and restrained manner so that the physiological balance of the trees is not disturbed and the quality of the fruit is not diminished.

3.2.5 Crop protection and maintenance

All horticultural measures, including the choice of cultivation methods, the spacing of the trees, the choice of cultivars and general management practices, should also serve to stimulate the resistance of the fruit trees.

When planting new trees, robust cultivars should be given preference.

Plant protection products permitted in fruit production are given in part II, section 2.6.3 and in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL.

3.2.6 Thinning and regulating growth

Timely and targeted manual fruit thinning serves to improve the quality of the fruit and to prevent yearly fluctuations in yield (biennial bearing).

3.2.7 Soft fruit and other fruit species

These standards also apply to soft fruit and to other fruit species, as appropriate.

3.2.8 Quality and grading

Bio Suisse has established minimum quality and grading regulations (see the information note on 'Sortiervorschriften für Bioobst' ['Grading regulations for organic fruit'], German, French and Italian only).
3.3 **Viticulture**

The basic principles and aims as per part II, chapters 2.1–2.7 and the directives (practical application instructions) contained therein apply in addition to the following requirements specific to viticulture.

3.3.1 **Soil management**

Productive vineyards must have green cover throughout the year. The green cover may be replaced occasionally by a layer of mulch or by a sown cover crop. Shallow cultivation may be carried out by mechanical means on soil for newly planted vineyards. The green cover must be diverse so as to promote a rich variety of flora and fauna species (through the alternating pruning method and appropriate fertilizer use).

3.3.2 **Fertilizing and cultivating the soil**

Permitted soil improvers and fertilizers are given in part II, section 2.4.4.5 and in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL.

Brought-in organic material should be applied as mulch or incorporated by shallow cultivation. Soil compaction should not be addressed by turning the soil but by growing deep-rooting plants. Deep ploughing is permitted when new vineyards are established.

3.3.3 **Crop protection and maintenance**

All horticultural measures, including establishing and training vine plants, pruning, maintaining the height of the canopy and the space between rows, and general cultivation measures, stimulate the resistance of the vines.

Disease-resistant cultivars should preferably be grown.

Plant protection products permitted in viticulture are given in part II, section 2.6.3 and in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL.

3.3.4 **Quality improvement**

The natural sugar content should be optimized through appropriate cultivation measures such as pruning, canopy management and yield regulation. The operation should at the least achieve the cantonal or regional average sugar content for each variety.
3.4 Edible mushrooms

'Bud' mushroom cultivation is considered primary agricultural production, regardless of whether the mushrooms are grown indoors or out. All 'Bud' mushroom growers are therefore inspected and certified as farming operations, and they must follow the whole-farm approach.

The LCP can shorten the conversion period for 'Bud' mushroom growers to two years upon request. The conversion period may only be shortened if the operation no longer produces non-organic mushrooms and if the operations manager has received sufficient training in organic mushroom cultivation. Mushroom growers are not bound to the 1 January registration deadline.

Edible mushroom cultivation must fully comply with the general regulations for Bio Suisse crop production (as per part II, chapters 2.1–2.7). Growers should particularly take note that synthetic plant protection products and fertilizers are prohibited.

3.4.1 Conversion

The LCP can shorten the conversion period for 'Bud' mushroom growers to two years upon request. The conversion period may only be shortened if the operation no longer produces non-organic mushrooms and if the operations manager has received sufficient training in organic mushroom cultivation. Mushroom growers are not bound to the 1 January registration deadline.

3.4.2 Source materials

Only organic and/or mineral source materials which are permitted as per the Bio Suisse standards and the Swiss EAER Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.181) appendix 2, section 5 may be used to cultivate 'Bud' mushrooms. At least 75 percent by weight of each substrate component of agricultural origin must be organically produced.

3.4.3 Substrates

Substrate producers who deliver organic substrate to 'Bud' mushroom growers will be certified and inspected as processing operations. Substrate producers must conclude a licence agreement with Bio Suisse.

Licence agreements can only be concluded with Swiss substrate producers. Substrate producers outside of Switzerland must comply with the Bio Suisse conditions for processing and trade.

Mushroom growers who produce and use only their own substrates must submit the substrate formula to their inspector. The inspector will consult with the LCP in case of doubt. Growers must keep a chain-of-custody journal to record both the sources of received substrate components as well as the destinations of used substrate.

3.4.3.1 Substrates containing straw

One hundred percent of the straw used for substrates must be organically produced. Straw should preferably be sourced from 'Bud' farming operations (either completely converted or in conversion); as a second choice, straw from fully organic farming operations in or outside of Switzerland may be used. Each lot of imported straw must come with confirmation that the farming operation which produced it is certified as fully organic. This also applies to producers who import organic straw.

3.4.3.2 Substrates containing manure

One hundred percent of the manure used for substrates must be sourced from fully organic farming operations. If there is insufficient supply, the LCP (or the LCI) can grant a derogation for the use of up to 25 percent non-organic manure in the total amount of manure used (calculated in dry matter, before composting).

3.4.3.3 Rules for derogations for the use of horse manure

Non-organic horse manure may be added to the share of organic substrates with a derogation from the LCP under the following conditions:

a) The horse boarding stable uses 100 percent organic straw throughout the year (in compliance with the requirements as per part II, section 3.4.3.1).

b) The horses must be fed as per part II, chapter 4.2.

c) The provisions of these derogation rules must be laid out in a written contract between the substrate producer and the horse boarding stable. In the contract, the horse boarding stable must also grant the right of inspection.

3.4.3.4 Delivery of used substrates

Used substrates must be returned to the manure supplier or delivered to an organic farming operation. It is also permissible to deliver used substrates to hobby gardeners. During the delivery the requirements as per part II, section 2.4.3.2 b) must be met.

Mushroom substrates that do not contain farmyard manure do not necessarily have to be delivered to an organic farming operation, and no distance restrictions apply. (LCP 6/2016)
3.4.4 Edible mushroom cultivation

3.4.4.1 Sourcing mushroom spawn
High-quality organic mushroom spawn must be used if available. Non-availability must be confirmed by the Organic Seeds Service at FiBL.

3.4.4.2 Casing soil
The use of peat in casing soil should be kept to an absolute minimum. The LCP can issue requirements for casing soil.

3.4.5 Sterilization
Substrates and casing soil may only be sterilized by heat. The use of any synthetic plant protection products is prohibited, particularly in the substrate of the casing soil, in the water used in cultivation or in the air.

Growing rooms may only be disinfected by heat or by means of products that are permitted by Bio Suisse.
3.5 Sprout production

The production of sprouts using only seeds or other parts of plants, water and light is considered a form of processing. If further components are used (e.g., substrate), it is considered a form of agricultural production.

Basic principles
In contrast to mushroom cultivation, sprout production (seedlings and etiolated sprouts) was defined as a form of food processing as per a decision by the Bio Suisse Steering Committee on 22 December 1997. It therefore falls within the competence of the Label Commission for Processing and Trade (LCPT). The precise delineation is given under 'Basic principles' in this chapter (3.5). Sprout production can be performed by partly converted processing operations with traceability control systems, but they must first conclude a licence agreement with Bio Suisse. Parallel production of non-organic and organic sprouts is prohibited. Furthermore, no sprout production licences may be concluded with non-organic farming operations. Like on-farm processing, sprout production by farming operations must be certified and is subject to inspection (see also part III, chapter 17). The farming operations concerned must be registered with their inspection bodies as on-farm processors. Inspectors will then conduct inspections of both the operations' agricultural production and their sprout production. Operations that process seed with a purchase value of more than CHF 150,000 are obliged to conclude a licence agreement.

Questions regarding the technical aspects of sprout production and requests for a licence agreement should be directed to the LCPT.

The production of green sprouts (sprouts grown on substrate) is considered a form of agricultural production and may only be carried out by fully organic farming operations. The provisions governing vegetable production apply, and this falls within the competence of the LCP.

Seed
'Bud' seed must be used to produce both seedlings and green sprouts. The use of 'Bud' in-conversion seed is prohibited.

If not enough 'Bud' seed is available on the market, then a derogation for the purchase of EU organic seed may be issued by the Organic Seeds Service at FiBL. (LCP 5/2009)
3.6 **Ornamental plants and potted herbs**

The basic principles and aims as per part II, chapters 2.1–2.7 and the directives (practical application instructions) contained therein apply in addition to the following requirements for specific crops.

### 3.6.1 Definitions

#### 3.6.1.1 Native wild plants

These are plants which have not been bred and which have been indigenous to Switzerland for a very long time. A standard reference work for plants that are not 'escaped', 'cultivated', etc. is: Flora Helvetica by K. Lauber, G. Walker and A. Gygax (current edition; now also available as an app).

#### 3.6.1.2 Potted herbs

These are medicinal and kitchen herbs for human consumption that are grown and sold in pots.

### 3.6.2 Soils and substrates

The use of peat to propagate plants should be kept to an absolute minimum. The following maximum amounts of peat apply:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Maximum amount of peat</th>
<th>Minimum amount of compost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Propagation substrates for seedlings and substrates for acidophilic plants</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing media for plant clusters and perennials</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing media for potted plants (incl. herbs)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native wild plants</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Formulas of substrates for special crops (e.g., acidophilic plants or succulents) may deviate from the general requirements and must be approved by the LCP on a case-by-case basis. Casing soil used to force plants counts toward the total amount of substrate.

Purchased commercial substrates must be given on the list of approved auxiliary inputs. Formulas produced and used by farming operations will be assessed during inspections. These may only contain components from the current list of approved auxiliary inputs and plant-based and mineral-based raw materials (incl. peat), as per the EAER Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), appendix 2).

### 3.6.3 Fertilizer use

Fertilizers and soil improvers given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL may be used. Liquid fertilizer should be applied sparingly to prevent nutrient loss. It should be applied to potted crops in a targeted manner.

### 3.6.4 Crop protection

Producers should focus on preventive measures such as good climate control, balanced fertilization, promoting beneficials and choosing appropriate varieties. Permitted plant protection products are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL.

### 3.6.5 Propagation and purchase of source material

Seed, cuttings and other forms of propagating material must come from certified organic production. Exceptions to this rule are governed as per part II, chapter 2.2.

Additional requirements for native wild plants: Propagation should be generative (from seed) if possible. Producers must keep a record of the provenance of all seed and parent plants used. The recommendations of the Swiss Commission for Wild Plant Conservation regarding geographic provenance (including collection site and altitude) apply. The collection of basic seed is governed as per articles 19 and 20 of the Swiss Federal Act on the Protection of Nature and Cultural Heritage (NCHA, SR 451). Parent plants should preferably be from a wide genetic pool. The genetic diversity and vitality of parent plants can be augmented by seed from wild collection sites.
3.6.6 Propagation sites
During the winter (1 December to 28 February), cropping areas may only be kept frost free (approx. 5°C). Exceptions to this rule are permitted in the following cases:

a) when breeding planting stock and propagating material (defined as per part II, chapter 2.2) and growing parent plants for the production of cuttings

b) in greenhouses that have particularly ecological heating systems (e.g., cogeneration systems or biogas heating systems) or extremely well insulated building envelopes. The building envelope must have an average U-factor of 2.4 W/m² K at the maximum. When buildings are renovated, particularly ecological heating systems and the best insulation should be chosen.

The exception as per part II, section 3.6.6 b) only applies to the production of ornamental plants and not to the production of vegetables and potted herbs!

The maximum heating temperature during the winter is generally 18°C. This restriction does not apply to breeding planting stock and propagating material or to plant collections for educational purposes.

Just as in vegetable and herb production, shallow soil steaming is permitted for areas under protected cultivation. Deep steaming requires a special derogation.

3.6.7 Assimilation lighting
Assimilation lighting is prohibited. Exceptions are made for breeding planting stock and propagating material and for cultivating parent plants to produce cuttings.

3.6.8 Producing potted herbs
Definition: Crops of medicinal and kitchen herbs that are meant for human consumption and are grown and sold in pots. The following stipulations and deviations from the requirements for organic vegetable crops apply:

a) It is prohibited to grow potted crops of medicinal and kitchen herbs for the purpose of cutting them into bouquets.

b) Greenhouses may not be heated outside of the growing season except during the seedling stage.

The seedling stage of potted plants is defined as up to half of the time period between planting seeds and selling the product, at the maximum, and it may not exceed 5 weeks. Example: It takes 10 weeks for a pot of basil to grow from seed to a saleable size. The plants are seedlings during the first 5 weeks.

3.6.9 Growing potted cut flowers
Cut flowers that were grown in pots may be sold without containers.

3.6.10 Trade and marketing

3.6.10.1 Selling organic ornamental plants, seedlings und potted herbs
Producers who sell organic ornamental plants, seedlings and potted herbs to retailers must follow the guidelines given in the LCPT information note 'Verkauf von Biopflanzen und Bioblumen mit der Knospe' ('Selling organic plants and flowers under the 'Bud' logo', German and French only).

3.6.10.2 Trade and direct marketing of non-organic ornamental plants
The trade and direct marketing of non-organic ornamental plants (not including vegetable seedlings and potted herbs) by 'Bud' nurseries is permitted under the following conditions:

a) Each labelled plant must be clearly marked as 'non-organic', and non-labelled plants must have special colour-coded stickers or pots.¹

b) The original producers must be named.

c) Non-organic plants must be separately offered in appropriately climatized zones or sales areas (e.g., in a lath house, aquatic plant zone or heated greenhouse). The zones must be clearly designated as 'non-organic'.

d) Delivery notes and invoices must bear the word 'non-organic'.

¹ If colour coding is used, then exact product declarations (incl. producers' names) must be available at the checkout or entrance and at the respective zone.
4 General regulations for animal husbandry

4.1 Animal husbandry

The species-specific needs of all domestic animals must be respected. Ethical and ecological considerations must be taken into account. High production rather than maximum output is the goal over the animal’s lifetime. Embryo transfer is not permitted.

The needs of different species of animals must be taken into account by providing appropriate housing and the opportunity for movement and activity. The Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO) (SR 455.1) must be fully observed. Bovines, including buffalo and bison species, equines, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry must be kept in accordance with the provisions on sufficient access to range and/or pasture as laid down in article 61 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) and its implementing regulations. Rabbits must be kept in compliance with the especially humane “high welfare livestock housing (BTS)” standards as laid down in article 60 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) and its implementing regulations.

The stocking density must be appropriate to the utilized agricultural area (UAA), and to site and climatic conditions. In lowland areas (valleys), the number of animals must not exceed 2.5 LMU/ha UAA. In mountain areas or under marginal conditions, the stocking density must be reduced.

4.1.1 Animal housing

Lying surfaces for all animals must comply with the Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture (SR 910.132.4). Stalls and pens must have natural light. Fully slatted and fully perforated floors are prohibited.

The cantons are responsible for enforcing animal welfare. Animal housing that does not fully meet animal welfare requirements but is only used for limited periods, such as alpine sheds or barns that are only used in summer, is tolerated in cases where the canton has granted approval and the animals are at pasture every day. This is because the animals are only kept in the housing for a short time. (Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission, a committee that preceded the LCP, Dec. 1996)

When an operation converts from a beef fattening operation, but animals that were received before the conversion date are still being fattened, a derogation may be granted to continue operating with fully slatted floors for a maximum of three months. An extension of this derogation is explicitly prohibited. The derogation must be sought before 1 January of the first year of conversion. (Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission, a committee that preceded the LCP, Jan. 1997)

4.1.2 Tethering

Animals may not be tethered or kept in tie stalls. However, the certification body may approve the use of tethers or tie stalls in the following cases:
- individual animals, for reasons of safety or animal welfare and for a limited period
- bovines, as long as the provisions laid down in article 61 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) specifying regular access to range and/or pasture are complied with
- goats, until 31 December 2018 when kept in buildings existing prior to 1 January 2001, provided the animals are kept in areas with sufficient amounts of bedding and are individually cared for

Access to range and pasture

The provisions of the Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture (SR 910.132.4) must be strictly complied with. Applications for derogations must be addressed to the department designated by the responsible canton (office for agriculture, PEP department, etc.). The producer must be able to furnish the written derogation to the inspector.

When the canton grants a producer a derogation within the parameters of Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme (SR 910.132.4), this derogation automatically applies to trade under the ‘Bud’ logo. (LCP 4/2002)

4.1.3 Cleaning and pest control

4.1.3.1 Materials and paints in stables, barns and sheds

Materials and paints in stables, barns and sheds must be nontoxic. As far as possible, the cleaning agents and disinfectants used must be nontoxic and biodegradable.
4.1.3.2 Cleaning milking equipment
The use of cleaning agents and disinfectants containing quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs or Quats) on milking equipment is prohibited. Cleaning agents and sterilization products that are included in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL are free of QACs. These should preferably be used. If other products are used, confirmation from the supplier that they are free of QACs must be furnished.

4.1.3.3 Pest control
Farming operations which have mice infestations in their buildings may submit an application to the LCP with a description of the situation. This must include a description of measures which have been tried to date and how the producer believes the problem should be solved. Each case will be decided individually by the LCP. The LCP does not grant a general authorization for the use of mouse poison in buildings. (LCP 7/2005)

→ For part II, section 4.1.3 see the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL, esp. ‘Agents to control flies’, ‘Cleaning agents, disinfectants and hygienic products for livestock housing’ and ‘Cleaning and sterilization products for organic dairy operations’

4.2 Feeding
Animals must be fed in accordance with the needs of their species. Livestock feeding should not pose direct competition for human nutrition.

As a rule, the animals must be fed with ‘Bud’ feed, and the feed must be produced by the farming operation. In-conversion feed produced by the farm may comprise a maximum of 60 percent of the ration (in-conversion operations: up to 100 percent). Brought-in feeds are only used to supplement the feed produced by the operation and, where possible, should be organically cultivated.

Suckling animals must be fed on natural milk, preferably their dam’s milk. All mammals must be fed natural milk for a defined minimum period based on their species.

At least 90 percent of dry matter (DM) consumed by ruminants must be supplied as fresh, ensiled or dried roughage, calculated by livestock category.

The feed components must be unadulterated and the feed processing methods must be as natural and as energy-efficient as possible. Feeds may not contain any traces of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or GMO derivatives which exceed the legal limits.

As of 1 January 2018, all ruminants must consume a minimum portion of grass (fresh, ensiled or dry), calculated on the basis of their total annual ration. The minimum portion is set at 75 percent in lowland areas (valleys) and 85 percent in mountainous areas.

4.2.1 Definitions

4.2.1.1 Definition of livestock categories for the calculation of feeding parameters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock category</th>
<th>Annual consumption per LMU (100kg DM)</th>
<th>Annual consumption per animal or feeding station (100kg DM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruminants (dairy cows: 5,000kg milk)*</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equines</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other roughage eaters (including rabbits)</td>
<td>55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding pigs and piglets</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>17 per station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fattening pigs (3 cycles/year)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2 per animal or 6 per station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laying hens</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.4 per station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broiler pullets (5.5 cycles/year)</td>
<td>84 (at 5.5 cycles/year)</td>
<td>5.5 kg per animal or 30 kg per station</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*LMU factor for dairy cows: 1 LMU corresponds to an annual milk output of 5,000–5,999 kg. The LMU factor increases or decreases by 0.1 per 1,000 kg higher or lower milk output (4,000–4,999 kg = 0.9 LMU; 6,000–6,999 kg = 1.1 LMU; 7,000–7,999 kg = 1.2 LMU; etc.).
4.2.1.2 **Definition of roughage for Bio Suisse farming operations**

- straw and bedding materials used as animal feed
- fresh, ensiled or dried feed from permanent meadows and leys, (from Switzerland or bordering countries)
- arable crops of which the entire plant is harvested: fresh, ensiled or dried (whole maize plants are considered roughage, whereas cob meal is considered a concentrated feed)
- sugar beet pulp
- fodder beets, unprocessed
- potatoes, unprocessed
- wastes from fruit and vegetable processing (apples, grapes, carrots, beets, etc.)
- spent grains (malt) from beer brewing: a signed InfoXgen form must be furnished (this can be downloaded at: www.infoXgen.com)
- husks of spelt, barley, oats and rice
- husks of soy beans, cocoa and millet

This list is conclusive.

Calculating roughage amounts in compound feeds: When compound feeds consist of at least 50 percent roughage (DM), the effective percentage of roughage in the mixture can be included in the calculation of roughage amounts.

4.2.2 **Suckling mammals**

The minimum period in which young mammals must be fed natural milk is three months for bovines (including buffalo and bison) and equines, 35 days for goats and sheep, and 42 days for pigs.

'Bud' milk powder may only be fed as a supplement during this period. Ruminants must be provided with roughage. Veal calves must be fed at least 1,000 litres of whole milk (natural cow’s milk). Milk-powder substitute is not permitted.

4.2.3 **Brought-in feeds**

'Bud' farming operations are permitted to supplement feed grown on their own farm with purchased feed. Different requirements apply, depending on the type of feed.

4.2.3.1 **'Bud' feed**

The purchase of 'Bud' feed is permitted. At least 90 percent of the feed ration of each livestock category must consist of 'Bud' feed. When 'Bud' in-conversion feed is brought in, the percentage of in-conversion feed may not exceed 30 percent of the ration of each individual livestock category.

'Bud' feed purchased outside Switzerland must be re-certified by Bio Suisse. Otherwise it is counted as part of the non-'Bud' percentage of the feed ration.

Operations which import feed grain directly from abroad must cover at least 30 percent of their total grain consumption with domestic (Swiss) feed grain. (LCP 6/2014)

Brought-in silage bales must bear a label with the following information: 'Bud' logo; product name; name; address and organic identification number of the producer; and certification body code.

4.2.3.2 **'Bud' auxiliary input feeds**

For the purposes of calculating the percentage of non-'Bud' feed, 'Bud' auxiliary input feed is considered the same as 'Bud' feed. Because non-organic components are permitted for specific livestock categories, the percentage of these components contained in 'Bud' auxiliary feed must be considered in the calculation of the total feed ration. The exact percentage is declared on the feed label or delivery note.

4.2.3.3 **Organic feeds in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18)**

The use of feed certified under the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) is permitted. However, the total feed ration of each livestock category must always consist of 90 percent 'Bud' feed. Specific provisions are listed under each livestock category. In cases in which non-organic feed is permitted and is also used, the percentage of feed certified under the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) decreases accordingly.
4.2.3.4 Non-organic feed

When non-organic feeds are used, the provisions of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) and the Swiss EAER Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.181) always apply. The permitted non-organic feeds may only be used on the farm as single components or as ingredients in a certified feed (‘Bud’ auxiliary input feed). When feeds are blended on the farm, the relevant directives must be followed.

In the case of demonstrable yield losses in feed crops, in particular those caused by extreme weather conditions, the affected livestock producer is entitled to use non-organic roughage for a limited time following written consent from the certification body. Where entire areas are affected by yield losses in feed crops, the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) may also grant regional approval.

Feeds made from dressed seed, even when re-sown after damage by crows or wild boars, are considered to be non-organic. The only exceptions to this rule are feeds made from seed that must be dressed by order of the authorities. Feed from crops grown from dressed seed which was sown before conversion, e.g. winter barley, is considered in-conversion feed when fed to animals on the producer’s own farming operation (LCP 5/2013).

Feed stored or used on the farm (raw products, single components and additives) and silage agents must comply with the requirements as per appendix 7 of Swiss EAER Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.181) and as per the Bio Suisse standards. Exceptions:

- Non-organic stale bread is tolerated in very small amounts as a treat to lure animals.
- Operations in the first year of conversion are permitted to use up stocks of purchased non-organic concentrated feeds, supplementary feeds and mineral feeds until 31 January of the first conversion year. Stocks of feeds that were produced by the operation from the previous year’s harvest and roughage purchased before conversion may be used up until the end of the winter feeding period (30 April).
- Non-organic feeds for boarded horses as per part II, section 4.2.4.2 and feed sales that are a source of supplementary income clearly separate from the main operation are permitted.

Non-organic pasturing

Transhumance herds and animals summered on alpine pasture are permitted to temporarily graze on non-organic pastures. The amount of feed ingested, calculated on the basis of dry matter, may not exceed 5 percent of the total annual feed (in all cases the total annual ration must consist of at least 90 percent ‘Bud’ feed).

4.2.3.5 Mineral and supplementary feeds

Mineral and supplementary feeds must comply with the requirements of the Bio Suisse/Agroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds. Only products included on the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL are permitted for use. The only exception is base materials (silicon, clay, etc.), which are not required to be included on the FiBL list.

In the animal husbandry sector, there are supplementary feeds which are not listed as special-diet feeds by Agroscope, but which have physiological effects which go beyond nutritional value. These products are treated as supplementary feeds and must correspond with the Bio Suisse/Agroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds. Supplementary feeds which, according to their recommended use, exceed maximum content limits for the ration in the short term but which comply with the Bio Suisse standards may be used for a limited period of time. Use of such feeds must be recorded in the treatment log. Special-diet and supplementary feeds that do not correspond to the Bio Suisse/Agroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds may only be used if prescribed by a veterinarian. Use of such feeds must be entered in the treatment log.

Non-permitted feeds may only be used for a limited time and only with a derogation from FiBL (from the FiBL feedstuffs delegate for Bio Suisse). Use of such feeds must be entered in the treatment log. Organic excipients and co-formulants in mineral feeds, premixes and supplementary feeds that are unavailable in certified organic quality due to the manufacturing process or without expending a disproportionate amount of effort may be used in non-organic quality. Decisions about derogation requests are contingent on the product’s inclusion in the list of approved auxiliary inputs and the producer’s registration of premixes. All non-organic components must comply with the requirements of the Bio Suisse/Agroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds. And the organic excipients must be plant-based products (straight feeds) from the list of straight feeds. (LCP 6/2014)

There is currently no iron paste suitable for supplying iron to young piglets included on the Bio Suisse/Agroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds. If a one-year prescription is supplied by the veterinarian, regular iron pastes can be used. However, such iron pastes may not contain GMOs, as verified via an InfoXgen form.
4.2.4 Specific regulations for individual categories of livestock

4.2.4.1 Provisions for ruminants

At least 90 percent of dry matter (DM) consumed by ruminants must be supplied as fresh, ensiled or dried roughage, calculated by livestock category. Ruminants must be fed 100 percent organic feed. As per part II, section 4.2.3.1, at least 90 percent of this feed must be 'Bud' feed. The following feeds, which comply with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) or Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007, may be used for the remaining 10 percent:

List of permitted feeds for ruminants according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) or Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007
- roughage (as per part II, section 4.2.1.2)
- linseed
- dextrose
- molasses from sugar production
- fruit syrup
- potato protein
- maize gluten
- brewer's yeast

Molasses

When no organic molasses is available, Bio Suisse licensed mills are permitted to use non-organic molasses as a dust binding agent or pressing aid within a 3-percent parameter (max. 1 percent in the total ration).

Operations that blend their own compound feeds may also use up to 3 percent non-organic molasses if the following conditions are met:
- No organic molasses is available.
- Their use is limited to 1 percent of the feed ration of any specific type, calculated annually as a percentage of the dry matter in feed of agricultural origin.
- Ready-to-use feed may contain a maximum of 3 percent non-organic molasses.
- When feed is produced, precise written records of the amounts of all components must be kept.
- Concentrated feeds blended by farming operations may only contain a maximum of 20 percent roughage (as per part II, section 4.2.1.2).
- The use of non-organic molasses in TMR feed mixers or straw cuttings is expressly forbidden. 'Bud' molasses must be used to manufacture roughage pellets.

4.2.4.2 Provisions for non-ruminants

Non-ruminants must be fed 90 percent 'Bud' feed. In cases in which feed for pigs and poultry must be purchased to supplement the feed produced on the farm and organic feed is not available in sufficient amounts, non-organic protein feed may be purchased until 31 December 2018 in consultation with the certification body. The percentage of non-organic protein feed, calculated in terms of dry matter, is only permitted to make up a maximum of 5 percent of the total feed consumed by pigs and poultry per year.

List of permitted feeds for non-ruminants according to the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) or Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007
- roughage (as per part II, section 4.2.1.2)
- linseed
- dextrose
- molasses from sugar production
- fruit syrup
- potato protein
- maize gluten
- brewer's yeast
- dairy waste products for pigs (as per part II, section 5.4.2)

List of permitted non-organic feedstuffs for non-ruminants
- potato protein
- maize gluten*
- brewer's yeast*
- dairy waste products for pigs (as per part II, section 5.4.2)

A signed InfoXgen form must be furnished for the components marked with an asterisk (*).
Special provision for boarded horses
For boarded horses, non-organic feed components may not comprise more than 10 percent of their total feed consumption. The feed may not contain any GMO components (as defined under Swiss law).

Molasses
When no organic molasses is available, Bio Suisse licensed mills are permitted to use non-organic molasses as a dust binding agent or pressing aid up to a maximum of 1 percent in complete feeds. Provision for operations that blend their own compound feeds are as per part II, section 4.2.4.1.

4.2.5 Prohibited feeds and feeding methods

4.2.5.1 Prohibited feeds and feeding methods for all animals
- synthetic additives (urea, anti-microbial performance enhancers, enzymes, synthetic amino acids, etc.)
- meat and bone meal (MBM)
- kitchen scraps and waste
- fattening methods involving force-feeding or keeping animals in conditions that could lead to anaemia

Use of silage additives
Only silage additives that are included on the list of approved auxiliary inputs or a saline solution with water compression (or a covering) may be used as silage additives or to ferment feed in a silo. The use of acids (e.g., Luprosil), enzymes and other synthetic agents is expressly prohibited. (LCP 5/2016)

4.2.5.2 Prohibited feeds for ruminants
Animal proteins, animal fats, protected fats, protected proteins, propylene glycol, propionic acid and other substances and additives that are not suitable for digestion by ruminants may not fed to ruminants. Minerals, trace elements and/or vitamins may be supplemented to meet dietary requirements. Natural products are recommended.

4.2.6 Feeding without the use of GMOs

4.2.6.1 Definitions
GMO products: For the purposes of this section, the definitions for food given in the Swiss FDHA Ordinance on Genetically Modified Foodstuffs (SR 817.022.51) issued on 23 Nov. 2005 (in the version dated 1 May 2011) apply to livestock feed:

Art. 2 GMO products
GMO products are foods, additives or processing aids which:
a) are genetically modified organisms (GMO)
b) contain GMOs
c) are derived from GMOs
d) are hybrids of different GMOs or hybrids of GMOs and other organisms

The definitions given in the Swiss FDHA Ordinance on Genetically Modified Foodstuffs (SR 817.022.51) also apply to feed.

All raw materials and straight feeds that are also cultivated in GMO form anywhere in the world are considered at-risk feed components. A list of at-risk components can be found on the Bio Suisse website. Raw materials and straight feeds which are permitted in Switzerland are given in the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture Ordinance on GMO Feed Lists (SR 916.307.11).

'Organic-conforming' raw products and straight feeds are those which comply with the requirements of the Bio Suisse/Agrroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds, but are produced using non-organic primary components.

'In-house compound feed producers' are 'Bud' producers who blend their own compound feeds. 'Bud' producers who commission the blending of compound feeds to subcontractors are also considered 'in-house compound feed producers'. The directive 'Hof- und Lohnverarbeitung, Handel und Direktvermarktung' ('On-farm Processing, Sub-Contracted Processing, Trade and Direct Marketing', German only) must be complied with.

For the feed terminology used (e.g., primary components, straight feeds, etc.), the definitions given in the Swiss Ordinance on the Production and Marketing of Feedstuffs (SR 916.307) and the Swiss Feedstuffs Book Ordinance (SR 916.307.1) apply.
4.2.6.2 Declarations of compliance

In the case of at-risk feed components, compliance with prohibitions on GMO products must be ensured. It is also essential to ensure that no (intentional or accidental) commingling with GMO products has occurred.

To guarantee compliance with these requirements, each individual at-risk component and every at-risk feed additive that is intended for feeding to 'Bud' livestock must have an InfoXgen declaration of compliance (www.infoXgen.com).

The InfoXgen declaration of compliance is the producer's declaration that the at-risk feed component is not a GMO product. The declaration must be worded as follows:

a) Plant and animal products in an unprocessed state, fresh or preserved:
   'This (these) product(s) is/are neither a genetically modified organism (GMO) itself, nor does it/do they contain any such organism. Neither do we have any information that would implicate that this statement is incorrect.'

b) Plant or animal products that have undergone industrial processing:
   'This (these) product(s) is/are not produced from or by genetically modified organisms (GMOs).
   Neither do we have any information that would implicate that this statement is incorrect.'
   'For all components contained in the above-mentioned product, written declarations of compliance by the producers having the same scope and the same content as (a) have been provided to us.
   These declarations are in our hands and have neither expired nor been withdrawn.'

4.2.6.3 Implementation

At-risk components can make their way into the feed of 'Bud' animals in a variety of ways. Depending on the situation, the requirements as per part II, section 4.2.6.2 should be met as follows:

a) 'Bud' auxiliary input feed:
   Manufacturers of 'Bud' auxiliary input feeds must provide documents as per part II, section 4.2.6.2 every time they take receipt of at-risk components in their operation which will be used for the manufacture of 'Bud' auxiliary input feeds. These documents must be furnished at the annual inspection.

b) 'Organic-conforming' straight feeds:
   Manufacturers of 'organic-conforming' straight feeds must provide documents as per part II, section 4.2.6.2 every time they take receipt of at-risk components in their operation which will be used for the manufacture of 'organic-conforming' straight feeds. These documents may be requested from the manufacturer of 'organic-conforming' straight feeds when the 'Bud' producer is inspected.

The manufacturer of 'organic-conforming' straight feeds declares to the 'Bud' producer their compliance with this directive as well as with the Bio Suisse/Agroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds in one of the following ways:

- Labels: The following information must be declared on the packaging or on a label affixed to the packaging, and in the case of non-packaged items on the accompanying documentation or on the invoice:
  'This product complies with the Bio Suisse/Agroscope/FiBL list of approved feeds.'

- Declaration of compliance for feed: The 'Declaration of compliance for feed' form issued by the certification body must be signed.

4.2.6.4 In-house compound feed producers and subcontractors

In-house compound feed producers and subcontractors must provide documents as per part II, section 4.2.6.2 every time they take receipt of at-risk components in their operation. These documents must be furnished at the time of inspection.
4.3 Animal breeding

The health and performance of the animals must be fostered through humane conditions, the choice of suitable breeds and the breeding methods adopted. Within the given ecological parameters, animals should be bred which are suited to the different requirements and conditions of the organic farms. The aim is high lifetime productivity. Genetic manipulation and hormonal oestrous synchronization are prohibited. Artificial insemination is permitted. All other forms of artificial or otherwise assisted reproduction (e.g., embryo transfer, sperm sorting, cloning) are prohibited. The certification body can authorize derogations in coordination with the LCP when necessary to preserve endangered genetic resources. Such animals and their products may not be traded as organic.

4.3.1 Animal breeding

On organic farms, natural mating ("live cover") is preferred whenever possible. When selecting animals, particular attention should be paid to the lifetime production of their forebears.

4.3.2 Embryo transfer, cloning

No animals conceived as a result of embryo transfer (ET) or cloning may be raised on the farming operation. Bosvines reared under contract with a non-organic farming operation are exempted from this rule. Such animals must return to the originating farm after a defined period stipulated in the contract. Animals conceived by ET which were raised on the operation prior to 1 January 2001 or prior to its conversion to organic farming may remain on the 'Bud' operation until their death. Bulls resulting directly from ET or cloning and their sperm may not be used.

Sperm from ET bulls and sex-sorted sperm: Non-organic, contract-reared animals which are returned to a non-organic farm after a defined period may be inseminated using sperm from ET bulls or sex-sorted sperm. (LCP 2/2009, LCP 4/2010)

4.4 Provenance of livestock, waiting periods and livestock movement

As a rule, the domestic animals, with the exception of equines not used for food production, male breeding animals and hobby animals must come from 'Bud' operations. To support this aim, the LCP may impose an incentive tax on non-organic animals for a limited period.

4.4.1 Purchasing livestock from organic farms that are not Bio Suisse operations

Organic animals purchased from non-‘Bud’ operations must be raised in accordance with the Bio Suisse standards for a period of at least three months in order to be traded as ‘Bud’ animals or as ‘Bud’ in-conversion animals. Animals categorized as laying hens, broilers and pigs may only be brought in from approved Bio Suisse operations.

Trading slaughter animals

Organic animals which have been sold cannot always be brought to another organic farming operation within one day. Under some circumstances, these organic animals might be kept on a non-organic operation for a few days. Animals lose their organic status if the period of time between loading at the operation of origin and unloading at the receiving farm or slaughterhouse lasts more than 24 hours. (LCP 5/2016)

'Bud' animals which are purchased by a Bio-Suisse licensed cattle broker at public, monitored markets for the purpose of slaughter may be kept for a maximum of three days (72 hours) in the barn of the cattle broker or market hall without losing their ‘Bud’ status. This exception only applies to large livestock (VK and RV cows, MA bulls, RG cattle, MT bulls, OB oxen), sheep and lambs, but not to KV calves and all organic animals that were not purchased at public markets.

The trading operation must participate in a programme which prohibits GMO feeds, e.g., QM-Schweizerfleisch.

Trading non-organic cows

As per part II, section 1.1.5.2.

Trading livestock (trading calves: as per part II, section 5.1.2)

An organic animal can be kept at a non-organic cattle brokerage, a non-organic market or a non-organic fair for a maximum of 14 days without losing its organic status. If organic animals give birth during this period, the offspring retain their organic status for resale to organic farming operations within the 14-day period. If the animal has to be slaughtered within the 14-day period, it is considered a non-organic animal. Requirements for trading operations: These must be able to furnish proof of GMO-free feeding, i.e., the operation must verify its participation in a quality management programme such as QM-Schweizerfleisch.
When in-conversion operations trade regular 'Bud' animals, it is not a problem because from its first day on a regular 'Bud' farming operation, the animal is once again considered a regular 'Bud' animal. (LCP 6/2011)

Verification of the organic provenance of purchased animals: When a producer purchases an organic animal, the accompanying documentation with the 'Bud' vignette or the organic certificate with accompanying documents which show that the animal originated from an organic farm must be furnished to inspectors. (LCP 3/2006)

Imported animals may only be designated as 'Bud' animals if the majority of their weight gain occurred in Switzerland or if they have spent the majority of their lives in Switzerland. (LCP 1/2007)

4.4.2 Purchasing non-organic animals

If the number of animals available from Bio Suisse or other organic farming operations is not sufficient to meet requirements for the natural increase or replacement of stocks, livestock owners may, in consultation with the certification body, purchase young nulliparous animals (females that have not yet born offspring) from non-organic holdings in annual quantities not exceeding 10 percent of their stock of adult animals of the equine, porcine or bovine species (including buffalos and bison), or not exceeding 20 percent of their stock of adult sheep or goats. Only unmated non-organic pigs may be purchased. For organic farms with less than 10 bovines or equines, less than 10 pigs or less than five sheep or goats, such replacements are limited to one animal per year.

If the number of birds available from organic operations is not sufficient, poultry may be purchased from non-organic operations for the purpose of establishing a new flock, provided the chicks are brought in at three days of age at the latest. A derogation must be obtained from the LCP prior to purchasing non-organic chicks from hybrid strains of layers and broilers.

When purchasing nulliparous female breeding stock, the calculation of the allowable number of animals is based on the number of adult animals on the farm, not including the number of male breeding animals. Quantities are rounded up starting at 0.5 (e.g., if there are 15 to 24 adult animals on the farm, two animals may be purchased under the 10-percent rule).

4.4.2.1 Exceptions for the purchase of non-organic animals

Upon request and in agreement with the LCP, the certification body is entitled to authorize individual farming operations to purchase animals from non-organic farms in quantities of up to 40 percent of the existing stock if livestock from organic farms is not available in sufficient quantities, in cases in which:

a) there is a considerable expansion of the operation
b) there is a switch to a different breed
c) a new branch of livestock production is set up
d) it is necessary to replace the calf of a nursing cow
e) there is a risk of a particular agricultural breed being lost

In case of high mortality caused by an epidemic or natural disaster, the LCP will coordinate with the certification body to authorize the repopulation of the herd or the rebuilding of the stock with animals from non-organic farms if the number of animals available from organic farms is not sufficient. Male breeding animals from non-organic operations may be purchased at any time.

Article 16f of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) defines the term 'building up' (German: 'Aufbau') very broadly; it can also refer to a repeated action. However, non-organic animals may only be purchased if no organic animals are available.

4.4.3 Waiting periods for animals from non-organic farms

In order to be considered organic animals, livestock from non-organic farms which were purchased after the beginning of the conversion period must be raised in accordance with these standards for at least

a) 12 months in the case of equines and bovines (including buffalo and bison species) for meat production and for at least three quarters of their life in any case
b) 6 months in the case of small ruminants and pigs
c) 6 months in the case of dairy animals
d) 56 days in the case of poultry for meat production, whereby the birds must have been brought in before three days of age
e) 6 weeks in the case of poultry for egg production

If turkeys may only be brought in after a quarantine as an animal disease control measure, they must be raised for at least three-quarters of their life in accordance with these standards. If the turkeys are from an approved Bio Suisse operation, then the time of their quarantine counts as time lived in accordance with these standards even if they are brought in later than normally required. (LCP 5/2015)
As a general rule, animals must originate from organic farms that rear certified organic animals. For derogations, see the 'Catalogue of criteria for granting derogations to producers'. Definition of 'waiting period': In contrast to conversion periods, waiting periods refer to the individual animal concerned rather than the organic farming operation.

Trading livestock during the waiting period: Animals from non-organic farming operations must live on the organic farming operation for a defined waiting period before they may be traded as organic animals and/or before their products may be traded as organic. The animals and/or their products may not be traded as in-conversion quality during the waiting period; however, they may be traded as non-organic. If an animal is sold to another organic farm during the waiting period, the completed portion is counted towards the total, but the waiting period must still be finished at the new organic farm. The certification body must verify the status of the individual animals during the inspection.

Trading livestock from in-conversion farming operations: If an animal is sold from an in-conversion farm to a 'Bud' farm during the waiting period, the required waiting period must be finished before the animal may be traded under the 'Bud' logo. The portion of the waiting period completed on the in-conversion farm can be counted towards the total. (LCP 5/2004)

If a purchased non-organic cow calves during the waiting period on an organic farm, the calf is considered an organic animal. (LCP 7/2006)

It is not possible for a farming operation to sell livestock as 'Bud' in-conversion animals before it has received 'Bud' in-conversion certification and approval. (LCP 6/2013)

4.4.4 Rearing contracts, contract rearing and rearing in branch associations

Organic farming operations may raise bovines from non-organic operations under a rearing contract. These animals must, however, be returned to the original operation after the period stipulated in the contract and may not be marketed as organic under any circumstances.

Provisions for animals reared under contract:

a) Organic farming operations that contract to rear animals from other organic farms: no limitations (Minutes of the working group 'Arbeitsgruppe Vollzug Biotierhaltung', Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG and Bio Suisse, 20 March 2001).

b) Organic farming operations that contract to rear animals from non-organic operations: Still permitted, as long as it is guaranteed that the non-organic animals will return to the non-organic farm. A rearing contract must be in place stipulating that the animals will return to the non-organic operation and will not be traded as organic animals. All animals on an organic farming operation must be reared in full compliance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) (except with regard to the origin of the animals) (Minutes of the working group 'Arbeitsgruppe Vollzug Biotierhaltung', Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG and Bio Suisse, 12 Nov. 2000). The animal is not considered an organic animal, even if it spends two years on an organic farm (Minutes of the working group 'Arbeitsgruppe Vollzug Biotierhaltung', Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG and Bio Suisse, 23 Aug. 2001).

c) Organic farming operations that send their animals to non-organic operations to be reared under contract: After the animals return from the non-organic operation, they have the same status as non-organic purchased animals and are subject to the waiting periods as per part II, section 4.4.3, regardless of whether the animals were the property of the organic operation during the period in which they were reared on the non-organic operation. In addition, the returning animals are subject to the 10-percent limit for young animals.

d) Return of non-organic, contract-reared animals to in-conversion farming operations: Animals belonging to an in-conversion farming operation may return from a non-organic operation following a period of contract rearing as long as all of the following conditions have been met:

- The rearing contract must have been finalized before the in-conversion status of the operation was registered.
- The animals must have been sent to the non-organic operation for rearing before the beginning of the conversion period.
- The animals must return to the farming operation before the end of the conversion period.
- The waiting periods must be observed. (LCP 1/2012)
Absence of livestock from the home operation
(for alpine pasturing and summering)

Organic animals are often sent to other farming operations for pasturing. As long as all of the operations involved comply with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) or the Bio Suisse standards, the practice is unproblematic. This should also be standard practice. However, in many cases there are decades-long relationships with non-organic operations. These relationships often cannot simply be terminated, whether because of the ownership structure or for other reasons. In such cases, there is some uncertainty about the status of the animals and how the products should be traded. According to article 15b of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), organic animals retain their organic status when they summer on pasturing operations that meet the requirements outlined in articles 26–34 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13). Generally speaking, the legal provisions which apply today already ensure that summer pastures and communal grazing land are kept in as natural a state as possible. Brought-in nitrogen fertilizers are prohibited, and large-scale applications of herbicides require official authorization. Most summer pasture land is extensively managed.

Provisions
The tables below describe the different forms of pasturing operations and uses of grazing land. They provide information on the status of the animals and the status under which the products may be traded.

The following requirements must be met by every type of operation listed in this section:
- The animals remain the property of the organic farming operation and are returned to it.
- Within the nine-day grace period following the sale of an animal, the animal may be returned to the organic farming operation. The animals retain the status that they had prior to leaving the organic farming operation.
- In all other cases which are not listed, the organic animals do not retain their organic status.
- The rules apply to both milk production and meat production.

Livestock movement
- In cases in which the animals were moved to an operation which was not authorized for organic trade, starting on the day on which the animals are returned to the organic farming operation, their milk may again be traded as organic milk.
- In cases where the summering operation is not certified organic, meat-producing animals which are to be traded through organic channels must be returned to the organic home operation prior to slaughter. The documentation that accompanies the animal to the slaughterhouse must be issued by the organic farm.

Rules for calculation
- During the periods when cattle are absent or are being received, they must be subtracted from or added to the operation’s livestock count (LMU), with the exception of cases 1 and 16, where the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), article 16a, paragraph 8 applies.
- For the calculation of the total feed consumption, the total livestock count is used without any applicable reductions.
- Other areas such as building plots, railway embankments, roadsides, airports, shooting ranges and recreational areas are treated as UAA.

Defined cases

Roughage eaters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case 1: Home operation; animals exclusively from organic farms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type and status of grazing areas</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trade as ‘Bud’ animals/products while the animals are being grazed in these areas</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Case 2: Home operation; animals exclusively from organic farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>UAA, non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>Organic animals are pastured on non-organic UAA during the summer months; in principle, comparable to summering on summer pastures.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>For the animals to retain their organic status, contractual provisions must be in place which ensure compliance with the requirements of articles 26–34 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>During this period the milk cannot be traded as 'Bud' milk, just as when the animals summer on non-organic summer pastures.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 3: Summer mountain pasturing (Vorsass, Maiensäss); spring grazing; animals exclusively from organic farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>UAA, 'Bud'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>The spring grazing area is leased or owned by the 'Bud' operation and, together with the home farm, forms a single operation. It is inspected together with the home operation, but is in principle a summer pasture (only used for grazing).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>The milk may be traded as 'Bud' milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 4: Summer mountain pasturing (Vorsass, Maiensäss); spring grazing; animals from organic farms, some non-organic cattle also accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>UAA, 'Bud'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>The spring grazing area is leased by a 'Bud' operation. Together with the home farm, it forms a single operation. The lease includes provisions requiring that non-organic animals belonging to pasture owners, e.g., the municipality or citizens of the community, must be allowed to graze on the land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>Non-organic animals are moved onto the 'Bud' operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>For the trading of milk, as per part II, section 4.4.5.2. If, in addition to the organic dairy cows, only non-organic juvenile or suckler cows are accepted, the milk may be traded as 'Bud' milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Case 5: Summer mountain pasturing (Vorsass, Maiensäss); spring grazing; animals exclusively from organic farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture, 'Bud'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>Belongs to one or more 'Bud' operations; is inspected along with them; is not contractually obliged to accept non-organic animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>The milk may be traded as 'Bud' milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 6: Summer mountain pasturing (Vorsass, Maiensäss); spring grazing; animals from organic farms, some non-organic dairy cattle also accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture, 'Bud'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>The spring grazing area is leased by a 'Bud' farm. It is considered a summering operation and is not directly connected to the home farm. The lease includes provisions requiring that non-organic dairy animals belonging to pasture owners, e.g., the municipality or citizens of the community, must be allowed to graze on the land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>Not 100% organic dairy animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>As per part II, section 4.4.5.2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 7: Non-organic summer mountain pasturing (Vorsass, Maiensäss), spring grazing; animals from organic farms and non-organic dairy cattle

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture, non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>Animals from the 'Bud' operation go to non-organic summer mountain pasture. It is considered a summering operation and is not directly connected to the home farm. The summer mountain pasture is not subject to organic inspections. The provisions outlined in articles 26–34 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) are complied with. The organic farm operations manager can be hired as a herder by the owners of the pasture. Animals from the 'Bud' operation retain their status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>An organic farmer is responsible for a non-organic operation. However, since he or she is an employee and there is no further association with the organic farming operation beyond the organic animals in the summer pasture, the situation is tolerated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>During this period the milk cannot be traded as 'Bud' milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Case 8: Alpine pasturing; animals exclusively from organic farms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture, 'Bud'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
<td>When the summering operation (owned or leased) is managed by one or more 'Bud' farm operations managers who take care of their own cattle themselves, inspection is carried out together with the home farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</strong></td>
<td>The milk may be traded as 'Bud' milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Case 9: Alpine pasturing; animals from organic farms, some non-organic dairy cattle also accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture, 'Bud'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
<td>The alpine pasture is leased by a 'Bud' farm. The lease includes provisions requiring that non-organic dairy animals belonging to pasture owners, usually the municipality or citizens of the community, must be taken on as well. Because responsibility for the pasture is in the hands of the organic farmer, compliance with the Bio Suisse standards is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
<td>Not 100% organic dairy animals on a 'Bud' operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</strong></td>
<td>As per Part II, section 4.4.5.2.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Case 10: Alpine pasturing; animals from organic farms, some non-organic cattle also accepted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture, 'Bud'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
<td>The alpine pasture is leased by a 'Bud' farm. The lease includes provisions requiring that non-organic animals that do not need milking and that belong to pasture owners, usually the municipality or citizens of the community, must be taken on as well. Because responsibility for the pasture is in the hands of the organic farmer, compliance with these standards is required.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
<td>Non-organic animals are moved onto the 'Bud' operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</strong></td>
<td>For the trading of milk, as per part II, section 4.4.5.2. If, in addition to the organic dairy cows, only non-organic juvenile or suckler cows are accepted, the milk may be traded as 'Bud' milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Case 11: Alpine pasturing, communal grazing area; the barn or shed used by the 'Bud' operation is exclusively occupied by organic animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture; some alpine operations (Swiss German: ‘Senntum’) are ‘Bud’, others are non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>Communal grazing area. Animals are milked by each farmer in a separate barn or shed, while the grazing area is shared by all operations. The entire grazing area is subject to ‘Bud’ inspections. The ‘Bud’ farmers’ products are traded under the ‘Bud’ label; all others are traded as non-organic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>It is often not possible to enter into a contract if other pasture owners are not interested in ‘Bud’ status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as ‘Bud’ milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>A valid contract exists by which all parties agree to refrain from using any auxiliary inputs that are not permitted by Bio Suisse throughout the entire communal grazing area (only products on the list of approved auxiliary inputs are permitted). Milk from the ‘Bud’ operation may be traded as ‘Bud’ milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 12: Alpine pasturing, communal alpine pasture; the barn or shed used by the ‘Bud’ operation is exclusively occupied by organic animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture; some alpine operations are ‘Bud’, others are non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>Communal alpine pasture. Each alpine operation is separate; separate grazing areas and barns or sheds are assigned to each producer. Alpine operations belonging to ‘Bud’ farmers are subject to ‘Bud’ inspections. The ‘Bud’ farmers’ products are traded as ‘Bud’ products; all others are traded as non-organic.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>None. Every alpine operation (Swiss German: ‘Senntum’) uses only one method of production; the animals only graze in ‘Bud’ areas that are subject to inspection.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as ‘Bud’ milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>Milk from the ‘Bud’ alpine operation may be traded as ‘Bud’ milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 13: Alpine pasturing; not organically managed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>Summer pasture, non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description of situation</td>
<td>Animals from the ‘Bud’ operation go to non-organic alpine pasture. Animals retain their organic status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Problems</td>
<td>The requirements outlined in articles 26-34 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) must be met for the animals to retain their organic status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditions for trading the milk as ‘Bud’ milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</td>
<td>During this period the milk cannot be traded as ‘Bud’ milk. Meat animals cannot be traded as ‘Bud’ animals directly from a non-‘Bud’ alpine pasture (as per part II, section 4.4.5.1).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Case 14: Herding operations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>UAA 'Bud'; summer pasture area, non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
<td>Grazing areas for the herder’s animals (=UAA) are separately managed in compliance with the Bio Suisse standards (they comprise the 'Bud' operation). The summer pastures are managed in accordance with provisions outlined in articles 26-34 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) and are grazed by summering animals (usually cattle).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
<td>In terms of the operation, none, because the areas are kept separate. As an employee of the pasturing community, the herder is obliged to apply individual treatments to pernicious plants (e.g., dock) on the summer pasture. This is tolerated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</strong></td>
<td>Milk produced by the herder’s animals can be traded as 'Bud' milk as long as the animals graze on the organic UAA. If the animals graze on non-organic summer pastures, the trading conditions from case 15 and case 16 apply.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 15: Non-organic communal grazing areas; grazed from the 'Bud' home operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>UAA or summer pasture, non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
<td>The communal grazing areas are used from the home operation. The areas are not assigned to any specific operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</strong></td>
<td>A valid contract exists by which all parties agree to refrain from using any auxiliary inputs that are not permitted by Bio Suisse throughout the entire communal grazing area (only products on the list of approved auxiliary inputs are permitted). Milk from the 'Bud' operation may be traded as 'Bud' milk.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case 16: Non-organic communal grazing areas; grazed from the 'Bud' home operation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type and status of grazing areas</th>
<th>UAA or summer pasture, non-organic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
<td>The communal grazing areas are used from the home operation. The areas are not assigned to any specific operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
<td>A valid contract by which all parties agree to refrain from using any auxiliary inputs that are not permitted by Bio Suisse throughout the entire communal grazing area does not exist.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trade as 'Bud' animals/products while the animals are being grazed in these areas</strong></td>
<td>Transhumance herds and animals summered on alpine pasture are permitted to temporarily graze on non-organic pastures. The amount of feed ingested, calculated on the basis of dry matter, may not exceed 5 percent of the total annual feed (in all cases the total annual ration must consist of at least 90 percent 'Bud' feed).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special regulations for goats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Case 17:</strong> Common feeding and communal grazing areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type and status of grazing areas</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trading the milk as 'Bud' milk while the animals are being grazed in these areas and kept in the corresponding barns or sheds</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regulations applicable to all animals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Case 18:</strong> Fairs, markets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Description of situation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Problems</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conditions for trade as 'Bud' animals/products</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.4.5.2 Alpine pasturing and summering

When animals are summered on alpine pastures, it should be on organic operations as far as possible. In special cases the animals may be summered on holdings meeting the requirements outlined in articles 26–34 of the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13).

Animals on summer pastures do not lose their status as organic livestock, and the feed they consume on the alpine pasture is not included in the calculation of non-organic purchased feed.

Living animals and meat products may only be traded under the 'Bud' label if the animal in question was kept on the 'Bud' farm before and after summer pasturing.

The definition of commonly or cooperatively farmed alpine pastures and private alpine pastures is regulated as per part II, section 1.1.8.

**Commonly or cooperatively farmed alpine pastures**

'Bud' summering operations (as defined by the Swiss Ordinance on Agricultural Terms, SR 910.91) which are commonly or cooperatively farmed and therefore cannot be classified as a single operation or as a farming cooperative are regulated by this section.

**Storing farmyard manure**

Direct risk of groundwater pollution must be prevented. If there is no manure tray, the manure pile must be kept covered and brought out during the same growing season.

**Moor protection**

It is recommended that all moor areas be fenced off to reduce the risk of parasite infestation. The regulations of the responsible cantonal nature and heritage conservation authority apply.
Provenance of livestock

On 'Bud' summering operations, all dairy animals that belong to the operation must have organic status in order for their milk products to carry the 'Bud' logo.

In cases in which non-organic dairy animals must also be kept on a 'Bud' summering operation, the LCP can issue a derogation. All products must be kept separate at every stage (tagging the animals, milking, processing, storage, transportation and trade). The status of the summering operation always determines the designation under which alpine products are traded. Cheese produced on a summering operation must carry a casein label which displays the 'Bud' logo (as shown in part III, chapter 1.10). Pigs summered on 'Bud' alpine pastures must be of organic provenance.

The following provisions in the directives of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) have been in effect since 2015:

- Products from summering operations which keep non-organic animals cannot be certified as organic products whenever both non-organic and organic animals of the same species are being kept.
- On commonly farmed summering operations, organic certification in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) is possible in the following cases:
  - The entire grazed area and the farm buildings are organically managed and clearly allocated; or
  - When grazed areas are under mixed organic/non-organic management, each producer keeps his or her animals separately (animals must be housed in separate buildings), but the animals are grazed on common pasture areas. The products may receive organic certification as long as contractual provisions are in place stipulating that no plant protection products or fertilizers which are prohibited under the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18) will be used in areas accessible to the organic animals. A contract must be concluded between the organic producer and the non-organic operator (e.g., alpine farm cooperative, municipality, etc.).

Trading products from 'Bud' summering operations

Information on how products may be traded under the 'Bud' logo when the grazing area belongs to a non-'Bud' summering operation is provided in part II, section 4.4.5.1 as well as in part III, chapter 17.

Pigs summered on alpine pastures

Pigs summered on alpine pastures must be kept in accordance with the provisions as per part II, chapter 5.4. Feeding must conform to the Bio Suisse standards. The veterinary regulations stipulated by the Bio Suisse standards apply. Preventive treatments such as deworming and prevention of foot rot and panaritium must be administered under the direction of a veterinarian.

If organic piglets are summered on a non-organic pasture, the pigs lose their organic status. Piglets sent by the operation to summer on non-organic alpine pastures can originate from non-organic breeding operations. Pigs summered on the alpine pastures of non-'Bud' operations can be returned to the home operation. The keeping and feeding of pigs on 'Bud' farming operations must comply with the Bio Suisse standards.

Pigs of non-organic provenance summered on alpine pastures may not be traded as 'Bud' or 'organic' animals.

'Bud' alpine summering operations that keep a number of non-organic cows need not calculate the whey given to 'Bud' pigs as a portion of the non-organic feed total. However, the purchase of 'Bud' piglets is required.

Range for pigs summered on alpine pastures: On the alpine operation, the space allotted for range must also comply with the directive on 'Pig husbandry'. Whether or not the range must be hard-surfaced must be determined in consultation with the cantonal water conservation authority on a case-by-case basis.
4.5 **Animal health**

Injured or sick animals must be treated. Natural remedies and complementary therapies should be prioritized whenever experience shows that they are effective in treating the animal species concerned or they are known to be effective treatments for the illness in question. Synthetic allopathic treatments (treatments with synthetic substances which act directly on the pathogen) may be administered if prescribed by a veterinarian in cases when the disease or injury cannot be effectively treated with complementary therapies. Such treatments must be recorded in permanent ink in the barn or stable log.

The prophylactic use of synthetic allopathic medicines, antibiotics or hormones is prohibited. Veterinary medicines, vaccines and other immunological veterinary medicinal products which contain GMOs may not be used.

As a general rule, the waiting period between the last administration of synthetic allopathic veterinary medicine and the production of food products derived from the animal must be at least double the legally required period listed on the packaging.

Zootechnical procedures must be kept to a minimum. They must be carried out by qualified personnel when the animal is at the most appropriate age.

4.5.1 **Prophylactic treatments and permissible products**

Coccidiosis vaccinations are permitted for poultry. The use of coccidiostats and hormones or similar substances to control reproduction (e.g., induction or synchronization of oestrous) or for other purposes is prohibited. However, hormones may be administered to individual animals by a veterinarian as part of medical treatments. Synthetic dewormers and vaccines are permitted if prescribed by a veterinarian. Animals undergoing medical treatment must be unambiguously identifiable as such at all times.

The LCP can prohibit medicines that were produced under conditions that are contrary to animal welfare. If the situation is remedied, the prohibition can be lifted. The following medicines have been prohibited since 1 January 2016: PMSG hormone preparations. (LCP 6/2015)

Animals summering on alpine pastures may also not receive prophylactic treatments. Employees caring for animals summering on alpine pastures must keep treatment logs to document that treatments are only administered to sick or injured animals. Prophylactic treatment of all animals summering on alpine pastures is prohibited under the Bio Suisse standards.

Synthetic drying agents may only be used when a bacteriological analysis has shown that there are udder problems. This also applies to ‘Bud’ animals on non-organic alpine pastures.

The use of ruminal boluses for long-term deworming is considered a prophylactic treatment with a chemotherapeutic medication and is generally not permitted. Ruminal boluses may be administered to animals on alpine pastures and communal grazing areas where required by law. Deworming is permitted when a veterinarian has confirmed that animals are suffering from worms.

Use of liquid products that are applied to the backs of animals (pour-on products): Permitted products are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL. In problematic cases, other products may be used only when prescribed by a veterinarian. Products prescribed by a veterinarian must be recorded in the treatment log. (LCP 4/2000)

The use of non-organic milk powder is allowed for treatment purposes when it is approved by a veterinarian in each case for each individual animal and is recorded in the treatment log. After completion of the treatment, any leftover non-organic milk powder may not be used for normal feeding. (LCP 6/2011)

4.5.2 **Number of treatments**

If an animal or group of animals has been treated with synthetic allopathic veterinary medicines or antibiotics more than three times in a calendar year (or more than one therapeutic treatment if the productive lifecycle is less than one year), the animals concerned or products derived from them may not be sold as organic. Such animals must repeat the relevant conversion period as per part II, section 4.4.3.

This does not include treatments such as vaccinations, parasite control, anaesthesia during castration or ringing and castration (as per part II, section 4.5.5), or treatments carried out as part of government-run epidemic control measures.

Maximum number of treatments: A treatment may be administered multiple times in the same case of illness. In the case of an illness where a relapse occurs shortly after the first treatment and the treatment must be repeated, the first treatment and the treatment of the relapse can be counted as one treatment.
4.5.3 **Restricted use of antibiotics**

The following conditions apply in addition to the principles formulated in part II, chapter 4.5: Antibiotics may only be used as first treatments if they do not contain any potentially hazardous groups of ingredients (third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins, macrolides and fluoroquinolones).

Exceptions:

a) Only an antibiotic derived from one of the potentially hazardous groups of ingredients is approved for treating the indication in question and the animal species concerned.

b) An antibiogram indicates that only an antibiotic derived from one of the potentially hazardous groups of ingredients will be effective. When groups of animals are treated or stock problem have been diagnosed by a veterinarian, and the antibiogram for the same indication is valid for three months. An antibiotic derived from one of the potentially hazardous groups of ingredients may only be used to treat groups of animals or to treat udders if an antibiogram indicates that it alone will be effective.

4.5.3.1 **Milk samples and antibiograms**

When udders are treated, a milk sample must be taken prior to treatment and either analysed immediately or properly stored for later analysis and performance of an antibiogram. Analysis of the milk sample and an antibiogram are always recommended, particularly in the case of subclinical/chronic mastitis. As a rule, drying agents may only be used when a bacteriological analysis indicates their necessity. This also applies to ‘Bud’ animals on non-organic alpine pastures. In addition, ingredients must always be specifically selected on the basis of an antibiogram.

4.5.4 **Waiting periods**

Drying agents prescribed for animals with udder problems are exempted from the double waiting period.

At the end of the single, legally mandated waiting period, the milk of animals that have undergone treatment can be traded as non-organic. The milk may also be traded as non-organic during the waiting period for animals from non-organic farming operations (e.g., six months for cattle within the 10-percent limit for the purchase of non-organic animals). In cases where an operation sells all of its milk as non-organic, it can sell milk from animals subject to the waiting period along with the rest of the milk. If milk is sometimes collected as non-organic (e.g., because of excess supply) but is still invoiced as organic milk, all waiting periods must be fully observed. This is necessary because the organic milk purchaser may move the milk into the organic channel at any time. (LCP 8/2005)

4.5.5 **Zootechnical procedures**

Procedures such as tail-docking, tooth-cutting, debeaking, toe-clipping and wing-clipping of poultry, caponizing, and the dehorning of adult animals are prohibited. The use of nose rings for pigs is prohibited.

The following procedures are permissible in justified cases:

- dehorning of adult animals for reasons of safety, provided it is carried out under anaesthetic by a qualified veterinarian, and not during the months of May, June, July or August

The following procedures are permitted on a case-by-case basis:

- tail docking lambs when diarrhoea caused by their diet (on alpine pastures) cannot be prevented and the problem cannot be remedied by dagging
- dehorning of young animals using an anaesthetic, when necessary for reasons of safety
- castration to ensure product quality

On-farm trials of vaccinations to control 'boar taint' are prohibited on Bio Suisse operations.
5 Specific regulations for animal husbandry

The general regulations for animal husbandry (as per chapter 4) apply as appropriate to all categories of animals not covered in this chapter. The LCP can formulate implementing regulations for categories of animals that have not yet been covered.

5.1 Cattle

Cattle husbandry

Electric cow trainers are prohibited. Calves may be kept in individual igloos for a maximum of eight weeks. The Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture (SR 910.132.4) must be complied with, as per part II, section 4.1.1. In addition to the requirements of the RAUS programme, access to pasture is mandatory for cattle with the exception of male and female animals up to 160 days old, bulls, and calves for fattening. ‘Bud’ farming operations already existing prior to 31 December 2011 had a transition period until 31 December 2014 to meet the mandatory grazing requirement for beef cattle and fattened oxen. During this period, compliance with the RAUS programme sufficed for those categories of animals.

5.1.1 Calves

Starter calves must be transferred from the farming operation where they were born to their destination operation on the same day with no boarding in between. Calves that are being fattened and suckler calves before weaning that are together with animals from other farms may be kept in groups of up to twenty animals.

5.1.2 Feeding

Cattle must be fed primarily on forage. Concentrated feed may only be used as a supplement. Purchased feed is regulated as per part II, chapter 4.2.

Exception to pasturing requirements for beef cattle: Newly weaned animals may be kept in a barn for the first 10 days as long as they have continuous access to an exercise yard. (LCP 1/2012)

5.2 Sheep

Sheep husbandry

Sheep must be kept in flocks in paddocks or in pens with outdoor access. Ewes may only be kept in individual lambing pens for a maximum of seven days during lambing time or in case of illness. Rams may be housed in individual pens. Sheep must be pastured every day during the growing season. When the weather is bad, it would suffice to provide sheep with daily access to an exercise yard. During the winter, all of the animals must be allowed outdoor access at least 13 times a month.

5.2.1 Space requirements

Minimum space requirements for housing sheep are given in the ‘Richtlinien für die Haltung von Schafen’ (‘Standards for sheep husbandry’, German, French and Italian only) published by the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO). The minimum outdoor area in m² prescribed per animal for meat and dairy sheep are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Minimum Outdoor Area (m²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ewes without lambs</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ewes with lambs</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaned lambs/fattening lambs</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yearlings</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rams</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.2.2 Feeding

Sheep must be fed primarily on forage (roughage). Purchased non-organic feed is regulated as per part II, chapter 4.2. Lambs must be reared and fattened on their mothers’ milk.
5.2.3 Animal health

Sheep husbandry must be optimized to avoid the use of synthetic deworming drugs as much as possible. The use of synthetic deworming drugs is permitted if prescribed by a veterinarian. Hoof disease should preferably be treated individually (through trimming or disinfection). Footbaths in copper or formalin solutions should be used in moderation.

Mange and other ectoparasitic diseases may only be treated if there are evident symptoms and only in consultation with a veterinarian. Natural, non-synthetic remedies should preferably be used. Sheep may be treated with substances ordered by the authorities before being driven to alpine pastures.

Treating hoof disease in sheep: The LCP permits the use of zinc sulphur solutions, but urges caution in the use of copper products. (LCP 10/2001)

5.2.4 Zootechnical practices

5.2.4.1 Tail docking

As per part II, section 4.5.5, tail docking is permitted in exceptional cases and must be recorded in a treatment log that is subject to inspection.

5.2.4.2 Castration

Castration is permitted. The requirements of the Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO) (SR 455.1) must be met.

5.2.5 Migratory herding (transhumance)

Sheep from itinerant flocks may not be traded under the ‘Bud’ logo. Farming operations that practice both transhumance and indoor confinement during the winter months may sell farm-raised animals under the ‘Bud’ logo, provided the animals from itinerant flocks are not brought back to the farm.

Transhumance on non-organic pastures and trading under the ‘Bud’ logo: Sheep may also graze in summering areas during the winter months. If sheep from itinerant flocks meet more than 5 percent of their annual feed requirements on non-organic UAA, then the sheep remaining at the organic farming operation may only be traded under the ‘Bud’ logo if the itinerant sheep never come in contact with the home herd (to prevent commingling). Lambs that were born to the itinerant flock must be treated the same as non-organic young animals. Records of all livestock trading must be kept and are subject to inspection. (Bio Suisse Producers Approval Commission, a committee that preceded the LCP, July 1996)

5.3 Goats

The general regulations for animal husbandry (as per chapter 4) also apply to goat husbandry, as appropriate.

5.3.1 Goat husbandry

Goats must be pastured every day during the growing season. The requirements of the Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture (SR 910.132.4) apply to all goats, regardless of age. At kidding time, does must be able to move about freely for at least one day. Does may only be kept in individual kidding pens for a maximum of seven days after kidding or in case of illness. Bucks may be housed in individual pens. Hormonal heat synchronization is prohibited.

5.3.1.1 Space requirements for housing and pens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Kids 12–22kg</th>
<th>Goatlings 23–40kg</th>
<th>Does and bucks 40–70kg</th>
<th>over 70kg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tethering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor-space width (cm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor space length (cm)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual pens (m²)</td>
<td>Only untethered and in groups</td>
<td>Only untethered and in groups</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pens</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding area width (cm)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>40*</td>
<td>40*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total area/animal (m²)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lying area/animal (m²)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If the feeders have dividers, then 35 cm are sufficient.
All of the activity space in the pen counts toward the total area (including lying, feeding and exercise areas and permanently accessible exercise yards). It must be possible to keep animals separate in the event of sickness or during kidding. Groups of 10 or more animals must be provided with appropriate places of retreat such as niches for lying down and unlimited access to outdoor or enclosed areas.

5.3.1.2 **Outdoor areas**

In order for goats to enjoy the full benefits of outdoor pens, these should be built (where feasible) in places that are sunny, wind protected and dry. A partial shelter is recommended. Pastures where goats are kept all day should have protection against the elements (underwood, trees, rocky outcroppings, etc.). Outdoor pens and pastures for goats should be appropriately structured (with elevated areas, etc.). Goats may not be tethered outside. During very cold or wet weather conditions, an exercise yard will suffice.

5.3.2 **Feeding**

Goats must be fed primarily on roughage produced on the farm. The proportion of concentrated feed (non-organic or organic) may only comprise up to 10 percent of their total ration. Purchased non-organic feed is regulated as per part II, chapter 4.2.

5.3.3 **Animal health**

Goat husbandry must be optimized to avoid the use of synthetic deworming drugs as much as possible. The use of synthetic deworming drugs is permitted if prescribed by a veterinarian.

5.4 **Pigs**

The general regulations for animal husbandry (as per chapter 4) also apply to pig husbandry, as appropriate.

5.4.1 **Pig husbandry**

Lying surfaces for the animals may not be perforated. All of the lying areas must have bedding.

5.4.1.1 **Outdoor areas**

All pigs must have daily outdoor access from the 24th day of life. This does not apply to lactating sows during the first 24 days after farrowing. Pregnant sows may only be confined in feeding stalls; otherwise they must be kept in groups. Pregnant sows must have access to pasture or rooting areas. Pregnant or lactating sows may be kept in separate farrowing pens for one week up to parturition and during the suckling period. Pregnant or lactating sows may not be restrained. Piglets may not be weaned before the age of six weeks.

Pregnant sows, breeding piglets, fattening pigs, shoats and boars must have permanent outdoor access. For animals in barns already existing prior to 31 December 2011, outdoor access provided in compliance with the provisions of the Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture (SR 910.132.4) will suffice.

5.4.1.2 **Husbandry requirements for breeding sows**

Lactating sows and their piglets must have outdoor access for at least 20 days during the lactation period, after the piglets’ 24th day of birth at the latest. The lactation period lasts for at least 42 days. Confinement in individual stalls is only permitted for a maximum of 30 minutes during feeding times.\(^1\) Farrowing pens may not contain permanently installed means of restraint (farrowing crates). Separate pens must be available for animals that are injured, sick or otherwise incapable of interacting with a herd (e.g., those in heat).

5.4.1.3 **Space requirements**

The dimensions given below are mandatory for new and renovated buildings. Bio Suisse farming operations with barns already existing prior to 31 December 2011 have a transition period until 31 December 2020 to implement some of the new provisions. This deadline is given for each of the points concerned. These are minimum space requirements; housing should ideally be generously proportioned, particularly for non-lactating sows and fattening pigs. For husbandry systems that greatly deviate from the systems listed below (e.g., using Stolba family pens, feeding outside of the pen), the dimensions should be applied as appropriate. The principle of equivalence applies.

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\(^1\) Sows in breeding pens may not be restrained. There is a transition period until 31 December 2020 for barns already existing prior to 31 December 2011.
Minimum space requirements for housing and outdoor areas
For barns already existing prior to 31 December 2011, the dimensions given in the directive of 1 January 2010 apply. These dimensions are listed in the table in parentheses.

### Table 1: Lactating sows kept in individual pens until the 23rd day after the birth of piglets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pen size (m²/sow)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedded lying area, including a nest for piglets (m²/sow)</td>
<td>3.5 (2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heated nest for piglets (m²/litter)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 2: Lactating sows kept in individual pens until the 42nd day after the birth of piglets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pen size (m²/sow)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedded lying area, including a nest for piglets (m²/sow)</td>
<td>3.5 (2.9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially heated area for piglets (m²/litter)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total barn area, including exercise yard (m²/sow)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor area including exercise yard for piglets (m²/sow)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum size of unroofed open area (m²/sow)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3: Lactating sows kept in group pens after the 24th day following the birth of piglets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bedded lying area, including a nest for piglets (m²/sow)</td>
<td>3.5 (2.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partially heated area for piglets (m²/litter)</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total barn area, including exercise yard (m²/sow)</td>
<td>10.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor area including exercise yard for piglets (m²/sow)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum size of unroofed open area (m²/sow)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 4: Pregnant sows kept in group pens

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Size of group</th>
<th>≤ 6 animals (m² per animal)</th>
<th>7 to 12 animals (m² per animal)</th>
<th>&gt; 12 animals (m² per animal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lying area</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total barn area, including exercise yard</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor area</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum size of unroofed open area</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 5: Boars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total barn area, including exercise yard (m²/animal)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum size of unroofed open area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The proportion of perforated surface may not exceed 30% of the total area of indoor pens and outdoor exercise yards.
2 The size of a permanently accessible outdoor area may be counted towards the size of the pen.
3 There is a transition period until 31 December 2020 for barns already existing prior to 31 December 2011.
4 If there is no permanent outdoor access, the size of the pens must be at least 7 m² per sow.
5 The total area comprises the total area of the pens, including feeding troughs, perforated areas and rooting areas.
6 Smaller groups must have an exercise yard that is at least 6 m² in size and at least 2 m wide.
7 It is recommended to completely refrain from using slatted iron or perforated floors in pens for boars to minimize the risk of injury.
### Table 6: Piglets up to 25 kg LW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lying area (m²/animal)</th>
<th>0.25</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total barn area, including exercise yard (m²/animal)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum size of unroofed open area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum total size of outdoor area (m²)</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 7: Pigs in the early stage of fattening, 25–60 kg LW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lying area (m²/animal)</th>
<th>0.4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total barn area, including exercise yard (m²/animal)</td>
<td>1.3 (1.1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum size of unroofed open area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>0.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>0.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum total size of outdoor area (m²)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 8: Pigs in the finishing stage of fattening, 60–110 kg LW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lying area (m²/animal)</th>
<th>0.6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total barn area, including exercise yard (m²/animal)</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum size of unroofed open area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>0.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor area (m²/animal)</td>
<td>0.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum total size of outdoor area (m²)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the case of shoats, the space requirements for pigs in the early or finishing stages of fattening apply, depending on the weight of the shoats. Once shoats have reached 110 kg LW, the minimum requirements for pregnant sows apply.

#### 5.4.1.4 Free-range pig husbandry

Legal animal protection and water conservation requirements and the provisions of the Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture (SR 910.132.4) apply to all free-range animals. If the animals are seasonally kept in barns, then the minimum space requirements for pens and outdoor areas (as per part II, section 5.4.1.3) apply.

#### 5.4.1.5 Paddocks or rooting areas for pregnant sows

It is recommended that pregnant sows be kept in paddocks. If a paddock cannot be provided, then a rooting area is mandatory. A rooting area is an integral part of the husbandry system so that sows can satisfy their natural urge to root (for food). Rooting areas may contain well-decomposed compost, forest soil, branches, bark chippings, leftovers from the trough, etc. However, sawdust, wood shavings and woodchips are not suitable. It is recommended to shelter the rooting area to keep the material dry. Material that has been rained upon is more likely to become mixed with manure and must therefore be removed and replenished regularly. The minimum dimensions of a box for 10 lactating sows are 0.5 m x 2 m, whereby the minimum depth should be no less than 30 cm. Several rooting areas are recommended for groups of more than 10 pregnant sows.

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1 The lying area may be smaller in proportion to the relative weight of the piglets if this is compensated by an adequate amount of non-perforated surface area. The total area of the barn and exercise area is then correspondingly smaller.

2 At least 50% of the minimum outdoor area must have a solid (non-perforated) surface. For indoor pens, no more than 30% of the floor surface may be perforated. There is a transition period until 31 December 2020 for barns already existing prior to 31 December 2011.
5.4.2 **Feeding**

Pigs must have unchopped roughage or straw to keep them occupied.

The maximum permitted share of non-organic feed components (as per part II, chapter 4.2) may not be exceeded. The permitted quantity of non-organic feed components may, however, be augmented by dairy waste products up to a maximum of 35% of the total feed intake, calculated as a percentage of dry matter.

The maximum permitted quantities of minerals and selected vitamins in pig feed are given in the list of approved feedstuffs published by Bio Suisse, Agroscope and FiBL. Breeding sows and fattening pigs must be fed roughage on a daily basis.

5.4.3 **Integrated management system for piglet production**

Organic farming operations may participate in 'arbeitsteilige Ferkelproduktion (AFP)', a cooperative management system for piglet production. However, of the entire production process (which ranges from weaning sows to selling the next litter when the piglets reach 25 kg LW), each farming operation may only cover two steps maximum (for instance, 1 farrowing operation and 2 operations that raise pregnant sows).

**Ear tags**

Piglets must receive identifying ear tags that carry the 'Bud' label. The label is green, and it bears the 'Bud' logo, the operation's registration number in the Swiss Stock Movement Database, and other marks prescribed by public law. Such green 'Bud' ear tags may only be ordered by approved 'Bud' farming operations that raise pigs. For in-conversion operations, animal identification will be regulated on a case-by-case basis.

Transition period: As of 1 January 2015, slaughter pigs must have an ear tag carrying the 'Bud' label when they are slaughtered. For the time being, the transition period remains unlimited for breeding sows, but shoats must receive identifying ear tags that carry the 'Bud' label.

5.5 **Poultry**

The general regulations for animal husbandry (as per chapter 4) also apply to poultry husbandry, as appropriate.

A maximum of two housing units for laying hens are permitted per farming operation. Each housing unit may hold a maximum of 2,000 laying hens or 4,000 breeding layers. Farming operations are permitted to raise pullets for their own use in addition to the two housing units.

5.5.1 **Hatching**

The incubation process is considered a form of agricultural production.

5.5.1.1 **Provenance of the birds**

Parent chicks may be of non-organic provenance. The same requirements that apply to layers also apply to parent birds. Bio Suisse can issue a positive list for strains and breeds.

5.5.1.2 **Hatching eggs**

As a rule, hatching eggs must come from 'Bud' parent birds. However, the genetic diversity of strains must be ensured. If there is a scarcity of hatching eggs for hybrid strains of broilers and layers, a derogation may be granted to use hatching eggs from non-organic parent birds reared in Switzerland. Non-organic hatching eggs may be used for all other poultry species.

Chicks from non-organic hatching eggs which have been hatched by an organic hatchery are categorized as non-organic chicks. However, such chicks (up to 3 days old) may be brought into organic farming operations if the hatchery received a derogation for the non-organic hatching eggs. Purchasers (breeding/fattening operations) must be furnished with a copy of the Bio Suisse derogation along with the delivery note for the chicks. For purchasers, this serves as a permit to stock the non-organic chicks, to be shown during inspections. On the delivery note from the hatchery, the chicks must be designated as non-organic.

5.5.1.3 **'Bud' chicks**

As a rule, 'Bud' chicks must be supplied by a certified 'Bud' hatchery. The LCP can issue a derogation to stock non-organic chicks from hybrid strains of broilers and layers from a non-organic hatchery if 'Bud' hatcheries are unable to supply chicks of an equivalent quality. The following regulations apply to all other breeds and species of poultry: If the number of birds available from organic operations is not sufficient, poultry may be purchased from non-organic operations for the purpose of establishing a new flock, provided the chicks are brought in at three days of age at the latest.
5.5.1.4 **Provenance and traceability control**

Hatcheries must issue a passport for every group of chicks. The Bio Suisse advisory group on eggs and the Bio Suisse advisory group on meat work with rearers to define the relevant data for the passport. The passport guarantees traceability and contains information about the birds’ health and history (beginning with the parent chicks, including: the birds’ provenance, any unusual occurrences, their state of health, vaccinations, etc.). The passport accompanies layers and broilers until they reach the poultry house for laying hens or fattening pullets. A valid passport does not require an accompanying certificate.

Poultry database: Poultry passports were replaced by a poultry database on 1 September 2014. Starting at the hatchery, each delivery of chicks or pullets must now be recorded in the database and confirmed by the recipient.

Information that was previously contained in the passport can be recorded in the database under ‘Comments’. Database entries serve to ensure traceability. (LCP 6/2014)

5.5.1.5 **Hatcheries**

There must be sufficient daylight in all brooding rooms and work areas. Only light sources such as incandescent lamps or high-frequency lights that do not produce a stroboscopic effect may be installed. All disinfectants used must be given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs. Samples of meconium, ‘dud’ eggs (containing dead, unhatched chicks) and dust from the hatchery must be examined weekly or after each hatching at the latest for possible infectious pathogens. Poultry may not be sold or kept within a 250 m radius of an operation that performs contract egg hatching. In order to keep down the costs of ‘Bud’ chicks, hatcheries must also offer contract egg hatching, provided the parent birds and hatching eggs meet health regulations.

5.5.1.6 **Vaccination and health programme**

The requirements of breeding organizations can be met in consultation with hatcheries and the Bio Suisse advisory group on eggs.

Organic breeding organizations are currently developing vaccination and health programmes for breeding flocks and pullet rearing. The Bio Suisse advisory group on eggs is also involved. New findings from complementary medicine research will be integrated into the programme. Owners of parent birds that supply eggs for contract hatching must have samples of the birds’ manure and eggs examined for possible infectious pathogens such as Salmonella enteritidis and E. coli.

5.5.1.7 **Incentive taxes for non-organic chicks**

A derogation must be obtained from the LCP prior to purchasing non-organic chicks from hybrid strains of layers and broilers. An incentive tax must be imposed for the purchase of such chicks if the price per chick is lower than the price of ‘Bud’ chicks. Incentive taxes will not be imposed for any other chicks. The amount charged for the incentive tax shall be determined in such a way as to ensure that the purchase price for ‘Bud’ and non-‘Bud’ chicks is commensurate.

Use of revenues (from incentive taxes): Revenues from incentive taxes (excluding incurred expenses) will be used to benefit the sector concerned in the form of market development and promotional measures or for relevant research assignments.

Producers should follow this administrative procedure: ‘Bud’ farming operations must apply to the LCP for derogations to purchase non-organic chicks. They must submit the following information: the number of chicks, the breed or strain, and reasons for seeking the derogation. In justified cases, the LCP will issue a derogation and impose an incentive tax. During inspections, producers must furnish the derogation issued by the LCP and the receipt for payment of the incentive tax.

5.5.2 **Rearing pullets**

5.5.2.1 **General provisions**

Pullets should be reared in such a way that they learn natural behaviour, which they can continue to exercise in the laying house. During the rearing period, their natural resistance and natural immunity to disease should be developed and strengthened. In general, the same requirements that apply to laying hens as per part II, section 5.5.3 also apply to pullets. Part II, section 5.5.2 therefore only contains provisions that are different from those that pertain to laying hens. Space requirements are given in the tables in section 5.5.3.14.

5.5.2.2 **Housing and flock size**

The regulation adopted by the Assembly of Delegates on 13 April 2016 pertaining to the maximum number of poultry housing units per farming operation went into immediate effect. ‘Bud’ farming operations existing on 31 December 2016 that have poultry houses which do not comply with the regulation as per part II, chapter 5.5 regarding the maximum number of poultry housing units may continue to use these until 31 December 2031 at the latest if the erection of these additional houses was approved by the responsible authorities prior to 01 July 2016.
Houses with room for more than 900 pullets must be approved during the initial inspection by a specialized inspector who examines the housing system, stocking density and access to range.

The size of a flock may not exceed 4,000 pullets per housing unit. A housing unit is one or more buildings where up to 4,000 pullets are reared. A ‘housing unit’ encompasses all buildings, building parts and equipment necessary for breeding pullets.

A maximum of two housing units are permitted per farming operation if the following two criteria are met:

a) The two housing units must be freestanding, and there must be a distance of at least 20 m between them.

No above-ground building structures may exist in the 20-m space between the housing units, or the distance between the two housing units must be increased by the mass of those building structures. The LCP can issue a derogation in justified cases.

b) Ranging areas must be separated by a zone that is not accessible to the birds and that is at least 10 m wide. (There are no minimum distance requirements for within the housing units.)

If layer chicks are reared for use in the operation’s own pullet house, up to 8,000 (instead of 4,000) birds may be kept in the same housing unit during their first 6 weeks of life.

The maximum permitted stocking density (4,000 birds) may be exceeded by 4 percent when new stock is brought in. All requirements (regarding space, length of feeders, length of perches, etc.) apply for all of the birds (that is, for up to 4,160 pullets) in the house. When one-day-old chicks are brought in, the maximum permitted stocking density may be exceeded by 6 percent (no more than 4,240 chicks).

5.5.2.3 Stocking density

Pullet houses may contain no more than 8 pullets per m² of accessible surface area. Houses with an integrated covered outdoor area may contain 13 pullets per m² of accessible surface area during the night. The maximum permitted stocking density is 24 pullets (after 43 days of age) per m² of surface area in the pullet house.

5.5.2.4 Mucking out

Pullet houses must be mucked out by 6 weeks after being stocked at the latest.

5.5.2.5 Covered outdoor areas

In housing systems with lower-lying covered outdoor areas, the height difference between the levels may not exceed 1.2 m. Pullets must have access to covered outdoor areas as required by the breeding programme.

5.5.2.6 Range

Pullets must be given free range as appropriate to their age. In pullet and laying houses, the birds’ activity period can be adapted to the lighting programme prescribed by the breeding organizations until the birds’ 144th day of age. Their range must contain structural elements such as bushes, trees, protective netting and shelters that provide shade and protection from predators. The pullets must be able to reach such structures from within 15 m of any point in the grazing area. Each countable structure must offer at least 2 m² of shade. As of 1 January 2019, 50 percent of the structures must consist of bushes and trees, with the exception of portable housing units. Trees and bushes may be temporarily supplemented with artificial elements until they have reached a size to offer the required amount of shade.

Definition of shade: The shadow thrown by a structure when the sun is at its peak.

If turf rolls are used to improve the range, they must have been organically produced. (LCP 6/2014)

5.5.2.7 Open-air runs for inclement weather

The birds may be let into an open-air run at times when the soil of their range is soaked or during the period of dormant vegetation. This must be recorded in the range log. The open-air run must be sufficiently strewn with appropriate materials for scratching.

5.5.2.8 Feeding and watering

Pullets must be supplied with suitable grains appropriate to their age.

As of their 14th week of life, the birds must be allowed to drink from an open water surface.
5.5.3 Laying hens

5.5.3.1 Housing and flock size

The regulation adopted by the Assembly of Delegates on 13 April 2016 pertaining to the maximum number of poultry housing units per farming operation went into immediate effect. 'Bud' farming operations existing on 31 December 2016 that have poultry houses which do not comply with the regulation as per part II, chapter 5.5 regarding the maximum number of poultry housing units may continue to use these until 31 December 2031 at the latest if the erection of these additional houses was approved by the responsible authorities prior to 01 July 2016.

Only housing systems that have been fully or temporarily approved by the Swiss Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) and that bear the approval number issued by the FSVO may be used. Housing of the producer’s own design must be examined to ensure that it meets animal protection requirements prior to first use. Accessible surface area is calculated according to the FSVO’s basis of calculation, with the following exception: Landing grids and surfaces and perches in front of nests do not count as accessible surface area.

Housing systems with room for more than 450 laying hens must be approved during the initial inspection by a specialized inspector who examines the housing system, stocking density and access to range.

The maximum number of laying hens per housing unit is 2,000. A housing unit is one or more buildings where up to 2,000 laying hens are reared. A 'housing unit' encompasses all buildings, building parts and equipment necessary for breeding laying hens.

A maximum of two housing units for laying hens are permitted per farming operation in addition to a housing unit to breed pullets for the operation’s own use if the following two criteria are met:

a) The housing units must be freestanding and there must be a distance of at least 20 m between them. No above-ground building structures may exist in the 20 m space between the housing units, or the distance between the two housing units must be increased by the mass of those building structures. The LCP can issue a derogation in justified cases.

b) Ranging areas must be separated by a zone that is not accessible to the birds and that is at least 10 m wide. (There are no minimum space requirements for within the housing units.)

The maximum permitted stocking density for laying hens (2,000 birds) may be exceeded by 2 percent when new stock is brought in. All requirements (regarding space, length of feeders, length of perches, etc.) apply for all of the birds (that is, for up to 2,040 laying hens) in the house.

5.5.3.2 Stocking density

Houses may contain no more than 5 laying hens per m² of accessible surface area. Houses with an integrated covered outdoor area may contain no more than 8 laying hens per m² of accessible surface area during the night. The maximum permitted stocking density is 15 laying hens per m² of surface area in the laying hen house.

5.5.3.3 Daylight and lighting

Activity areas (scratching area, feeding and watering places) must have sufficient daylight of at least 15 lux. Standard lightbulbs and HCFL (hot-cathode fluorescent lamps > 1,000 Hertz) are permitted for lighting. The lighting period may not exceed 16 hours per day (except for daylight hours during the summer).

5.5.3.4 Bedding and mucking out

Thirty-three percent of the surface area of the house must consist of a bedded scratching area. All calculable surfaces of wire grid or mesh must have a muck removal system directly below (manure belt, manure scraper or droppings board for mucking out by hand, etc.). The droppings pit must be separated off. Houses with more than 100 laying hens must be cleaned at least every 14 days with the exception of scratching areas and covered outdoor areas.

The definition of a house with wire grid or mesh cleaning surfaces is as follows: A poultry house is a separate covered unit. If 75 laying hens are kept in two housing units that are only separated by a net, this is still considered to be one house containing 150 laying hens.

5.5.3.5 Perches and laying nests

Laying hens must have sufficient raised perches. Nests should preferably be strewn with straw or chaff. Nest boxes with soft synthetic padding or turf liners are permitted.
5.5.3.6 **Covered outdoor areas**
Laying hens must have access to covered outdoor areas. Covered outdoor areas afford sufficient protection against bad weather and predators (foxes, martens, hawks, etc.). They should be designed to include a dust bath and sufficient bedding. Hens should be able to freely circulate between the indoor housing area and the covered outdoor area. The minimum required headroom is 150 cm for permanent housing units and 120 cm for portable housing units.

Laying hens must have all-day access to non-integrated covered outdoor areas (exceptions are governed as per the Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture, SR 910.132.4). During extremely cold temperatures, openings of at least 35 cm width per 100 laying hens must be kept open.

In the case of integrated housing systems, the covered outdoor area can be counted toward the total amount of accessible surface area if the hens always have access to it through all openings throughout the activity period (i.e., when there is daylight or artificial light), and provided that the doors and lighting are automatic. During the night, the maximum number of birds may not exceed 8 laying hens/m² (15 pullets/m²).

The threshold of openings between the house and the covered outdoor area may not be higher than 30 cm. To overcome great differences in height between the level of the house and the covered outdoor area, the hens must be provided with suitable ladders or steps.

If the covered outdoor area is lower than the house, then the following criteria must be met:
- Steps may not be higher than 50 cm.
- If the difference in height is greater than 1.5 m, then the openings to the house must have bedded balconies that are at least 1 m deep. The balcony walls must be at least 10 cm high.
- Ladders or steps must be at least 35 cm wide per 100 birds.
- Balconies can be counted toward up to 20 percent of the floor space of the covered outdoor area if the clearance below constitutes at least 60 percent of the balcony depth. (Example: If the balcony is 1.5 m deep, there must be at least 0.9 m of space below). Areas with less than the required 60 percent clearance or that are less than 60 cm high may not be counted.
- Such areas may only be counted when balconies in covered outdoor areas serve to bridge the difference in height between the house and the covered outdoor area.

If the covered outdoor area is higher than the house, then the following criteria must be met:
- Wire grid surfaces that afford laying hens access to higher outdoor range areas must be kept clean.
- The horizontal distance from the outdoor enclosure to wire grid access ramps may not exceed 120 cm.
- If access is through the roof, then the ladders or steps must be at least 35 cm wide per 100 birds.

5.5.3.7 **Range**
There must be at least 5 m² of range per laying hen. Part of the range may be fenced off to allow it to regenerate. However, at least 70 percent of the required minimum range area must always be available.

The range must contain structural elements such as bushes, trees, protective netting and shelters that provide shade and protection from predators. Each countable structure must offer at least 2 m² of shade. As of 1 January 2019, 50 percent of the structures must consist of bushes and trees, with the exception of portable housing units. Trees and bushes may be temporarily supplemented with artificial elements until they have reached a size to offer the required amount of shade. The laying hens must be able to reach countable structures from within 20 m of any point in the grazing area. Range may be counted up to a maximum distance of 120 m.

Laying hens must have access to range after 12 o’clock in the afternoon and for at least 50 percent of the natural day. The range period should preferably extend into the evening hours. In the event of adverse weather conditions, particularly if there is strong wind or rain or if the temperature is too cold for the age of the birds, access to range may be limited to time spent in an open-air run or stopped altogether. For poultry houses existing prior to 1 January 2014 that have access to range from two opposing walls, so that laying hens can be let out to range by turns, the LCP can issue a derogation to the effect that the range on each side of the house may comprise 50 percent of the total range required.

Definition of shade: The shadow thrown by a structure when the sun is at its peak. (LCP 6/2014)

If turf rolls are used to improve the range, they must have been organically produced. (LCP 6/2014)
5.5.3.8 **Open-air runs for inclement weather**

The birds may be let into an open-air run at times when the soil of their range is soaked or during the period of dormant vegetation. This must be recorded in the range log. The open-air run must be sufficiently strewn with appropriate materials for scratching.

5.5.3.9 **Feeding and watering**

Laying hens must be supplied with suitable grain in the bedding or on the ground.

The proportion of grain in the feed ration must be 5 percent at the least. Nipple drinkers are prohibited.

5.5.3.10 **Roosters**

It is recommended to keep one to three roosters for every 100 hens in a flock.

5.5.3.11 **Forced moulting**

Moultmg may be forced in order to prolong the period of productivity, but not before the hens’ 60th week of age. The hens are put on a nutrient-poor diet for at least 14 days, during which they should not be allowed access to range to prevent them from supplementing their feed.

5.5.3.12 **Salmonella control**

All operations that sell eggs must conduct at least one test for Salmonella enteritidis per year, preferably when the birds are between 30 and 40 weeks of age (in the form of a bacteriological examination of a composite faeces sample or by testing 20 eggs for antibodies). Testing in operations where some of the older hens are retained and the stock is replenished by pullets (unlike in-and-out systems) must encompass all of the poultry. The examination report for pullets (between 15 and 20 weeks of age) must be furnished to the operation that rears the laying hens. Relevant examination reports must be shown during inspections.

5.5.3.13 **Small flocks**

Operations that rear no more than 20 laying hens must apply these requirements as appropriate.
## 5.5.3.14 Table of dimensions for laying hens and contract-reared poultry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pullets 1st–42nd day of age</th>
<th>Pullets 43rd–126th day of age</th>
<th>Laying hens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feeding and watering facilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding place at trough with automatic feeders</td>
<td>4 cm</td>
<td>8 cm</td>
<td>10 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding place at trough from raised perches</td>
<td>10 cm</td>
<td>12 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed tray, circular feeder</td>
<td>2 cm</td>
<td>3 cm</td>
<td>4 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nipple drinkers</td>
<td>15 birds</td>
<td>15 birds</td>
<td>Not permitted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watering cups</td>
<td>25 birds</td>
<td>25 birds</td>
<td>20 birds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water tray, circular waterer</td>
<td>1 cm</td>
<td>1.5 cm</td>
<td>2 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perches</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perches per bird (3.0x3.0 cm min.)</td>
<td>8 cm</td>
<td>14 cm</td>
<td>16 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance (horizontal)</td>
<td>20 cm</td>
<td>25 cm</td>
<td>30 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to wall (horizontal, axial dimension)</td>
<td>10 cm</td>
<td>20 cm</td>
<td>20 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual laying nests</td>
<td>5 birds</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communal laying nests</td>
<td>80 birds/m²</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stocking density/accessible surface area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire mesh or grid and scratching areas</td>
<td>15 birds/m²</td>
<td>8 birds/m²</td>
<td>5 birds/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocking density in houses with integrated covered outdoor areas</td>
<td>15 birds/m²</td>
<td>13 birds/m²</td>
<td>8 birds/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum stocking density per m² surface area of the house</td>
<td>30 birds/m²</td>
<td>24 birds/m²</td>
<td>15 birds/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proportion of scratching area in the house</td>
<td>at least 50%</td>
<td>at least 33%</td>
<td>at least 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stocking density in covered outdoor areas</td>
<td>(35 birds/m²)</td>
<td>16 birds/m²</td>
<td>10 birds/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>0.2–1 m²/bird</td>
<td>5 m²/bird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lighting</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum daylight incl. artificial light</td>
<td>16 h</td>
<td>16 h</td>
<td>16 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dust baths</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 15 cm deep</td>
<td>150 birds/m²</td>
<td>100 birds/m²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Entrees to covered outdoor areas and range</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum width ***</td>
<td>70 cm</td>
<td>70 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum height</td>
<td>40 cm</td>
<td>40 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width per 100 birds</td>
<td>50 cm</td>
<td>70 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open-air runs for inclement weather</td>
<td>at least 64 m² per 1,000 birds</td>
<td>at least 86 m² per 1,000 birds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\* An open water surface must also be provided from the birds’ 14th week of age.

\*\* Landing grids and perches above the scratching area may not be counted toward minimum space requirements.

\*\*\* Smaller openings are permissible for small flocks of less than 100 birds.
5.5.4 Quail

5.5.4.1 Housing and flock size
Quail pens and enclosures must be built and set up in such a way that there is little danger of harm to the birds and they cannot escape. Houses with an integrated covered outdoor area should allow the quail to freely exhibit natural behaviour. Each pen may contain a maximum of 150 quail or 33 kg LW. A house may contain a maximum of 1,500 quail. Japanese quail must be protected from extreme temperatures, wet and wind, as prescribed by the Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO) (SR 455.1). Proper ventilation and regular cleaning are necessary to prevent excessive dust exposure.

5.5.4.2 Stocking density
The total activity space of a pen, including the covered outdoor area, must comprise at least 2.5 m², regardless of the number of birds it contains. No more than 15 hens or 3.3 kg LW per m² may be kept in poultry houses. No more than 25 hens or 5.5 kg LW per m² may be kept in covered outdoor areas. Poultry houses that have permanent access to integrated covered outdoor areas during activity periods may contain 10 hens or 2.2 kg LW per m² in the entire activity area, not counting range. During dark periods, poultry houses may contain a maximum of 20 laying quail hens or 4.4 kg LW per m².

5.5.4.3 Daylight and lighting
The poultry house must be lit by natural daylight. The light intensity must be at least 15 lux where birds are housed. The lighting period may not be artificially extended to more than 16 hours per day.

5.5.4.4 Bedding
At least 50 percent of the poultry house must be strewn with bedding. Natural materials such as straw, straw cuttings, spelt or oat husks, etc. may be used for bedding.

5.5.4.5 Dust baths
Dust baths can be provided in covered outdoor areas. A 0.4 m² dust bath must be provided for each 100 quail or 22 kg LW. The minimum dust bath size is 30 x 35 cm. The following materials are suitable for a dust bath, which should be at least 5 cm deep: fine earth or fine, dry, unwashed sand mixed with fine earth.

5.5.4.6 Protected range
There should be green cover throughout most of the protected range, and it should contain structural elements such as bushes, boulders, logs, and places of refuge for the quail. To protect the birds quail from predators, poultry wire with 12 x 12 mm gaps should be used to fence the area that is accessible to the birds. The gaps may be larger beyond this area. The birds should not be able to stick their heads through the gaps. The total covered outdoor area must comprise at least 2.5 m², regardless of how many birds it contains. There must be at least 0.4 m² of range per quail. This equals 40 m² of range per 100 quail or 22 kg LW. (Example: 5 m² per hen with 10–12 chicks = approx. 0.4 m² per bird).

5.5.4.7 Shelter and nests
Quail must be provided with sheltered places of retreat. If these are bedded, they will also be used by the birds for laying eggs.

5.5.4.8 Feeding and watering facilities
Adult birds (LW 220g) must have feeding places that are at least 2 cm wide at round feeders, 5 cm wide at feeding troughs if manually fed, and 4 cm wide at automatic feed conveyors. Larger strains of quail must be given more feeding room in proportion to their body weight.

As gallinaceous birds, quail must be provided with open water sources. Watering cups are suitable for this purpose. Each pen must have at least 2 watering cups, or one watering cup for each 25 quail. At circular waterers, there must be 1 cm of room for each bird.

5.5.4.9 Rearing quail
These provisions and dimensions must be adapted as appropriate for rearing quail.
5.5.5  Poultry for fattening

5.5.5.1 Poultry strains
Extensive to semi-intensive strains and breeds must be genetically well suited for free-range pastured poultry systems. The LCP determines which strains are approved for 'Bud' production.

Only the following extensive to semi-intensive hybrid strains are approved for use as 'Bud' pullets for fattening: Sasso 451 LAB, Hubbard JA 657 and Hubbard JA 757.

The minimum fattening period for 'Bud' pullets is 63 days. The average daily weight gain may not exceed 27.5g up until the 63rd day of age.

In the case of turkeys, light and medium-weight hybrids are preferable. The birds must be in good physical condition in order to exhibit natural behaviour.

Pure-bred ducks and geese are permitted. Hybrid strains of poultry for fattening must be approved by the LCP.

5.5.5.2 Housing and flock size
A housing unit is one or more buildings where the maximum number of birds can be reared in two flocks (of geese, turkeys, ducks, or developing pullets) or in four flocks of finishing pullets. The maximum size of the flock depends on the kind of poultry for fattening. The maximum permitted flock size is 2,000 birds for developing pullets, 500 birds for finishing pullets, and 250 birds for turkeys, ducks and geese.

Several housing units are permitted per farming operation. Housing must be positioned in such a way that range areas can be used in rotation in order to prevent the build-up of parasites. The same range areas may be used by poultry no more than twice per year. There must be a break of at least 12 weeks between times.

When chicks are brought in, the maximum permitted flock size may be exceeded by 2 percent. All requirements (regarding stocking density, length of feeders, length of perches, etc.) apply for all of the birds in the house.

Housing systems with room for more than 450 fattening pullets must be approved during the initial inspection by a specialized inspector who examines the housing system, stocking density and access to range.

5.5.5.3 Stocking density
Houses for fattening pullets may hold 40 birds of up to 28 days of age per m². If the pullets are moved to different housing when they are 21 days old, then the stocking density may be increased to 50 birds/m².

The maximum permitted stocking density for houses with finishing pullets is 20 kg LW/m². If the housing unit has a calculable covered outdoor area, then the stocking density may be increased to 25 kg LW/m².

The maximum permitted stocking density for houses with turkeys, ducks and geese is 20 kg LW/m².

5.5.5.4 Daylight and lighting
Activity areas must have sufficient daylight of at least 15 lux. Standard lightbulbs and HCFL (hot-cathode fluorescent lamps > 1,000 Hertz) are permitted for lighting. The lighting period may not exceed 16 hours per day (except for daylight hours during the summer).

5.5.5.5 Bedding
The entire floor of the house must be strewn with ample bedding materials.

5.5.5.6 Perches
The size and shape of perches for pullets, turkeys, guinea fowl and Muscovy ducks must be adapted to each species and to the age of the fowl.
5.5.5.7 Covered outdoor areas, dust baths and surfaces of water

All species of poultry for fattening except for waterfowl must be given access to covered outdoor areas with a dust bath. The dust bath must be within the covered outdoor area and protected from getting wet. Dust baths must be at least 5 cm deep for pullets and 10 cm deep for turkeys. Waterfowl must have access to an open surface of water at all times.

Covered outdoor areas must have roofs and, where necessary, offer wind protection. The birds must have access to them throughout the day. Daily access to covered outdoor areas may be restricted if the temperature is too cold for the age of the birds. Such a restriction is only possible as long as the stocking density of the poultry house does not exceed 20 kg LW/m². If the pullets weigh more, then the covered outdoor area must be accessible throughout the day.

When calculating the surface area of a poultry house, 50 percent of the area of the covered outdoor zone may be counted. It is advisable for newly constructed housing to be equipped with automatic doors between the poultry house and the covered outdoor area. The dimensions and distribution of openings to covered outdoor areas and range should permit the birds to circulate freely and easily.

5.5.5.8 Range

Range must be adapted to the needs of the species of poultry concerned. Birds of every species must be given access to range as appropriate to their age. Poultry for fattening must have access to range for at least 75 percent of the natural day. In the event of adverse weather conditions, access to range may be restricted or stopped altogether. The birds should preferably be given access to range during morning and evening hours. The distance to their range should not exceed 40 m for pullets. Range should contain structural elements that offer the birds shade and protection against predators.

If long periods of severe cold and frozen ground make it impossible to move portable poultry houses and electrical fencing, the same area may be used as range for a second fattening period.

5.5.5.9 Feeding and watering

Sixty-five percent of the feed for poultry for fattening must consist of cereals and grain legumes (or their products and by-products) and oilseeds (or their products and by-products). They must also be supplied with grain as appropriate to their age.

Birds for fattening that are capable of consuming grass must be allowed to forage on range for a significant portion of their diet.

The farm operations manager is free to choose what watering system to use.
### Table of dimensions for poultry for fattening

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Developing pullets</th>
<th>Finishing pullets</th>
<th>Turkeys</th>
<th>Geese and ducks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feeding and watering facilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding place at trough with manual feeding</td>
<td>4 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>2.5 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>1 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>2 cm/kg LW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeding place at trough with automatic feeders</td>
<td>4 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>2.5 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>1 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>2 cm/kg LW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed tray, circular feeder</td>
<td>1.7 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>1 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>0.5 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>1 cm/kg LW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feed tray</td>
<td>1.7 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watering cups,* number</td>
<td>30 birds</td>
<td>30 birds</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water tray, circular waterer</td>
<td>1.4 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>0.8 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>0.5 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>0.5 cm/kg LW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water tray sides</td>
<td>2.1 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>1.25 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>1 cm/kg LW</td>
<td>1 cm/kg LW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nipple drinkers, number*</td>
<td>15 birds</td>
<td>15 birds</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>–</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Perches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perches</th>
<th>6 cm/kg LW</th>
<th>5 cm/kg LW</th>
<th>2.5 cm/kg LW, at least 16 cm/bird</th>
<th>Muscovy ducks: 3 cm/kg LW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum height above ground</td>
<td>25 cm</td>
<td>30 cm</td>
<td>60 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance (horizontal)</td>
<td>20 cm</td>
<td>25 cm</td>
<td>50 cm **</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance to wall (horizontal, axial dimension)</td>
<td>10 cm</td>
<td>15 cm</td>
<td>40 cm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Stacking density**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Surface area of the house</th>
<th>50 birds/m² (~21st day)</th>
<th>40 birds/m² (~28th day)</th>
<th>20 kg LW/m²</th>
<th>25 kg max. LW/m², counting the covered outdoor area</th>
<th>20 kg LW/m²</th>
<th>20 kg LW/m²</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Range per kg LW</td>
<td>1 m²/kg LW</td>
<td>1 m²/kg LW</td>
<td>1 m²/kg LW; at least 10 m²/bird ***</td>
<td>4 m²/kg LW for geese; 1 m²/kg LW for ducks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Lighting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum daylight incl. artificial light</th>
<th>16 h</th>
<th>16 h</th>
<th>16 h</th>
<th>16 h</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Dust baths**

| 500 kg LW/m² | 300 kg LW/m² | **** |

**Openings to covered outdoor areas and range**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum width</th>
<th>70 cm</th>
<th>70 cm</th>
<th>70 cm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimum height</td>
<td>40 cm</td>
<td>60 cm</td>
<td>60 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width per 100 kg LW</td>
<td>30 cm</td>
<td>20 cm</td>
<td>30 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surface area of the covered outdoor areas</td>
<td>After the birds’ 22nd day of age: 50%</td>
<td>50% of the surface area of the house</td>
<td>50% of the surface area of the house</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These figures apply to poultry for fattening that weigh more than 2 kg. They can be appropriately reduced for smaller birds. An appropriate reduction is as follows: If there are sufficient feeding and watering facilities for the permissible number of birds weighing 2 kg (15 birds per m²), then the facilities will also suffice for smaller birds as long as the maximum stocking density of 30 kg/m² is not exceeded.

** The angle must not exceed 55°. It is recommended to stagger the position of the perches.

*** If the birds each weigh more than 10 kg LW, then 1 m² must be available per each additional kg LW.

**** If there is a water surface in place of a dust bath: at least 3 m² for up to 50 birds; 1 m² more for each additional group of 50 birds.
5.6 Rabbits

The general regulations for animal husbandry (as per chapter 4) also apply to rabbit husbandry, as appropriate.

5.6.1 Rabbit husbandry

Rabbits for breeding and fattening must be kept in groups (either in separate groups or in family groups). Housing for rabbits must be at least big enough to permit the animals free and natural movement as appropriate to their species (including jumping and capering). Rabbit housing must have bedded areas.

There must always be things for the rabbits to gnaw on (such as fresh twigs, non-poisonous softwood, dry maize cobs, turnips, and pressed hay or straw cubes). The animals must be able to exercise natural behaviour. They should not exhibit hereditary abnormalities. Rabbits in outdoor hutches should be able to find protection from draughts, storms and direct sunlight. The ground should be dry.

In contrast to other animal species, the Swiss federal RAUS (Regelmässiger Auslauf im Freien) programme on sufficient access to range and/or pasture (SR 910.132.4) does not apply to rabbits. Instead, rabbits must be kept in compliance with the requirements of the Swiss federal programme on 'besonders tierfreundlichen Stallhaltungssysteme (BTS)' ('high welfare livestock housing [BTS]') (SR 910.132.4, Art. 3).

In order to trade rabbits under the 'Bud' logo, young stock must be derived from breeding groups that are kept in accordance with these provisions.

5.6.1.1 Housing area, not counting outdoor area

Up to one third of raised surfaces (floors) may be counted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Livestock category</th>
<th>Space requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rabbits for fattening and kits:</td>
<td>at least 2 m² per group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>up to 76 days of age:</td>
<td>at least 0.15 m² per animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after 77 days of age:</td>
<td>at least 0.25 m² per animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shelter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>up to 60 days of age:</td>
<td>0.03 m² per animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>after 60 days of age:</td>
<td>0.05 m² per animal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding groups:</td>
<td>at least 1.6 m² per brood doe,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>including room for kits and bucks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.6.1.2 Housing environment

Rabbit hutches or pens must have daylight and proper ventilation. Draughts should be avoided.

5.6.1.3 Breeding groups

A breeding group consists of up to 5 does, one buck and their kits up to the age of removal. All of the animals must be free to seek or avoid contact with each other. This must be achieved by dividing and structuring the housing.

Rabbit housing must have a feeding area, a nesting area and a communal area. The areas must be physically separate (out of sight from each other). The communal area should feature attractive lounging spots and a shelter where the does may retreat. The nesting area, by contrast, should not have any elements that would attract the rabbits. Where feeding is restricted, the feeding area should have two feeding sites.

Brood does must be able to make their own nests out of hay or straw in nest boxes. After giving birth, does must be able to block the entrance to the nest. The floor in front of nests must be strewn with straw. There must be one nest box per brood doe. There must be a raised area to which does can retreat and which the kits cannot reach except with difficulty. As soon as the kits have left the nest, there must be an area reserved just for them, comprising at least a dark resting area and a well-lit feeding area.
5.6.1.4 **Kits and rabbits for fattening**

Rabbits for fattening must meet all of the requirements as per part II, sections 5.6.1 and 5.6.1.3. Kits must be raised like animals for fattening.

Each hutch or pen must have a solid-walled area of retreat (out of sight) where the animals can rest and find refuge from disturbances.

Before 31 December 2001, producers were permitted to buy up to 80-day-old kits for breeding. Since then, part II, chapter 4.4 applies.

Herds of rabbits for fattening may contain a maximum of 60 animals of up to 60 days of age. Herds of older rabbits for fattening may contain a maximum of 15 rabbits.

5.6.1.5 **Keeping rabbits in traditional rabbit cages (cage husbandry)**

Keeping rabbits in traditional rabbit cages is no longer tolerated on 'Bud' farms. Where rabbits are kept strictly as a hobby or for self-sufficiency purposes, the provisions of the Swiss federal programme on 'besonders tierfreundlichen Stallhaltungssysteme (BTS)' ('high welfare livestock housing [BTS]') (SR 910.132.4, Art. 3) must be met. According to the BTS programme, it is possible to modify a traditional cage to meet the requirements by connecting two or more sections and installing a raised surface. However, the minimum space requirements per animal as per part II, section 5.7.1.1 must also be met.

At a minimum, the particular requirements of the Swiss Animal Protection Ordinance (AniPO) (SR 455.1) that pertain to rabbits kept in cages must likewise be met. Cages must have bedding. There are no transition periods. The general feeding provisions as per part II, chapter 4.2 must be met. Rabbits must have regular access (at least once a week) to a place where they can freely exercise (outdoor or indoor run).

Please note: The Swiss Federal Veterinary Office (www.blv.admin.ch) has published a brochure with valuable recommendations for rabbit keeping (in German, French and Italian only). For the German version, see: www.blv.admin.ch ↔ 'Tiere' ↔ 'Heim- und Wildtierhaltung' ↔ 'Kaninchen'

5.6.2 **Feeding**

All rabbits should constantly be provided with sufficient roughage of good quality. Rabbits must only be fed a vegetarian diet. Concentrated and compound feeds must meet Bio Suisse requirements. Rabbits must constantly be provided with fresh, clean drinking water.

Feeding facilities must be easily reached by the animals. They must be installed in such a way as to limit the possibility of pollution through faeces or urine, and they must be easy to clean. The rabbits should not be able to harm themselves on them.

5.6.3 **Zootechnical practices**

The castration of male animals in herds of rabbits for fattening is prohibited.

5.7 **Food fish**

The general regulations for animal husbandry (as per chapter 4) also apply to the production of food fish, as appropriate. Producers should particularly note the sections on feeding, provenance and health.

In aquaculture, the ecological balance may not be disturbed, natural populations may not be threatened and the basic principles of sustainability must be upheld.

The specific requirements of the fish species concerned must be met (with regard to the pond/facility, habitat structure, stocking density, water quality, etc.). The fish may not be exposed to unnecessary strain or stress during rearing, transport or slaughter.

As a rule, only endemic fish species adapted to regional conditions may be farmed. Derogations to this regulation are subject to approval and special conditions. The use of genetically modified or triploid fish is prohibited. Parent fish and juvenile fish may not be and may never have been treated with antibiotics, growth promoters or hormones.

For salmonides and other carnivorous fish species, the addition of fish meal and fish oil to their feed is permitted. Fish meal/oil must be derived from food-fish processing residues or from verifiably sustainable fisheries.

The entire aquaculture operation must produce organic fish. Parallel production of organic and non-organic fish is prohibited. All requirements as per part I, chapter 2 and part II, chapter 1 regarding conversion, contractual obligations and mandatory inspections must be observed as appropriate.
5.7.1 **Reproduction and breeding**

Purchased juvenile fish and eggs must be derived from organic operations. They must be produced either in Switzerland or in bordering countries. The certification body can issue a derogation for the purchase of non-organic juvenile fish or eggs in the event that organic ones are not available or in order to restock after significant losses. In such cases, there must be a statement from the supplier confirming that they meet organic requirements (see the template in appendix 1 to chapter 5.7).

Fish must spend at least the final two-thirds of their life on a ‘Bud’ operation before they can be sold under the ‘Bud’ logo. Operations in the first year of conversion may sell their fish after 1 May under the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo once they have received certification.

Heated hatcheries (for which an energy plan detailing ways to promote energy efficiency and use renewable energy must be furnished, and which must have a closed recirculating water system), controlled breeding and initial feeding of the fry are permitted.

Permitted anaesthetic agents used for expressing eggs are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs for aquaculture.

5.7.2 **Feeding**

Certified ‘Bud’ or ‘Bud’ auxiliary input feeds must be used. As an exception to the basic requirements outlined in part II, chapter 4.2, fish farms are permitted to purchase all of their feed. However, all other requirements pertaining to feeding must be met.

5.7.3 **Ponds and facilities**

Closed recirculating systems\(^1\) are prohibited in aquaculture, except for rearing fry and juvenile fish or for producing live feed organisms.

Facilities must be managed daily.

The pond or facility must be protected against escape or invasion by unwanted fish species, particularly in the case of non-endemic species (such as rainbow trout).

Like other farming operations, aquaculture operations must reserve 7 percent of their operational acreage as areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity (as per part II, chapter 2.3). ‘Operational acreage’ includes the entire area of the aquaculture operation, minus buildings, streets and forested areas. Aquatic areas dedicated to the enhancement of biodiversity (such as wetlands, reeded areas and frog ponds) should preferably be created. Net-cage farms in open water are exempted from this obligation.

The pond or facility must have sufficient places of retreat and cover to encourage the natural behaviour of the fish (such as forming swarms and territorial behaviour). For instance, basins can be structured with submerged screens (that can be easily removed for cleaning). The requirements for structuring ponds or facilities may become stricter in future to reflect new ethological findings.

If water for fish ponds is diverted from a brook, then the legal requirements regarding residual water volumes must be met. The brook must remain passable for fish, or new improvements must make it passable.

5.7.4 **Water quality**

5.7.4.1 **Inflow**

The inflow may not be anthropogenically polluted, or only to a very limited degree. In case of doubt, or if the inflow comes from intensive agricultural areas, water sample analyses must show that the water is safe to use. In such cases, water samples must be tested according to the parameters prescribed by the Swiss Waters Protection Ordinance (WPO) (SR 814.201, Annex 2, ‘Requirements on Water Quality’), and they must also be tested for nitrite and chloride. The LCP can issue further requirements for the inflow water quality. The certification body can decide upon a streamlined sampling procedure for small operations and operations that farm fish as a supplementary source of income with a yearly output of less than 1,000 kg of fish.

\(^1\) Indoor facilities with a high usage of energy and technology.
5.7.4.2 Outflow
Outflow water quality must meet the requirements of the cantonal and federal water protection ordinances. Operations must possess a valid cantonal water quality certificate. Where appropriate, suspended particles must be collected in a sedimentation basin.

5.7.4.3 Facilities and ponds
The temperature and the pH, oxygen and ammonia levels of the water must meet the specific requirements of the fish species concerned. (Standard values for trout: temperature 16°C max., pH between 7 and 8, oxygen at least 6 mg O₂/l, ammonia 0.01 mg/l max.). The values must be measured at regular, appropriate intervals (at least once a month) and at sensitive times of day. This applies to each individual pond or basin if no other procedure was prescribed during the initial inspection (e.g., if basins are directly connected, testing a sample from the final basin may suffice).

The following are permitted means of oxygenating inflow and ponds/basins: cascades, molecular sieve columns, paddle wheels, fountains and recirculating pumps. Artificial aeration with liquid oxygen is generally not permitted however, and may only be used temporarily in exceptional cases of extreme weather conditions (this must be reported to the certification body), for transport or for rearing juvenile fish in hatcheries.

Deposits of unconsumed feed and fish faeces must be utilized by the operation itself or delivered to another organic farming operation within a 20-km radius (unless a different form of utilization is prescribed by law). If there are no other organic farming operations within this radius, the certification body may permit the accumulated deposits to be delivered to a non-organic farming operation or to an organic farming operation that is further away.

5.7.5 Fish husbandry
Sorting, handling and the time fish spend outside of water must be kept to a minimum. The use of sorting machines is permitted. The fish and all surfaces and equipment with which they come into contact must be kept wet.

The fish must be able to find shade. At least 10 percent of the water surface of each pond/basin must be kept in constant shade. During the winter months (1 December to 28 February), large, natural bodies of water with vegetated margins and ponds that are deeper than 2 m do not require any additional shading.

The stocking density must be regulated to ensure that the health and natural behaviour of the fish are not impaired. Quantitative stocking limits are given in the rules for specific species (as per part II, section 5.8.11).

It is imperative that fish be reared for long periods in order to achieve high-quality flesh and to prevent intensive farming. The rules for specific species therefore prescribe minimum rearing periods. These pertain to the customary commercial weight. If underweight or overweight fish are traded, then the rearing period must be adjusted accordingly.

Artificial illumination is only permitted for breeding purposes. Simulated days may not exceed 16 hours in length.

5.7.6 Transport
Live fish must be supplied with sufficient oxygen during transport. They must be transported unfed. The maximum permitted transport duration is 10 hours. The maximum transport density of 1 kg fish per 5 litres of water or 1 kg fish per 8 litres of water if the transport duration is longer than two hours may not be exceeded.

5.7.7 Slaughter
Fish must be slaughtered in the water or immediately after being taken from the water. Asphyxiation is expressly prohibited. The following slaughter methods are permitted: percussive or electrical stunning. The fish must be gutted and processed immediately after slaughter.

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1 Swiss Waters Protection Ordinance (wPo) (SR 814.201), annex 3.3, 2 Special requirements, 27 Fish farms
5.7.8 **Hygiene and Health**

Cleaning should preferably be performed by biological or mechanical and physical means (e.g., high-pressure cleaning systems). Quicklime may be used to disinfect (only the dry bottoms of) ponds or basins. The use of chlorinated lime is expressly prohibited.

Permitted agents for disinfecting containers and equipment and substances for treating fish are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs for aquaculture (see appendix 2 to chapter 5.7). Fish may only be treated with unlisted agents in consultation with a veterinarian who specializes in the fishing industry, the Centre for Fish and Wildlife Health (FIWI) at the University of Bern, or the Fischgesundheitsdienst FGD des Verbandes Schweizerischer Fischzüchter ('Fish Health Service of the Association of Swiss Fish Breeders') (as per part II, chapter 4.5). In order to reduce the amount of medication used, fish should be isolated for treatment in smaller basins whenever possible (that is, if the fish can withstand the necessary handling and if isolated treatment is reasonable and feasible).

If fish are treated with chemothapeutic pharmaceuticals, then the following waiting periods must be observed before they can be traded under the 'Bud' logo: The number of degree-days of the waiting period indicated for the active substances must be doubled. If no waiting period is indicated, then a general waiting period of 1,000 degree-days must be observed (e.g., 100 days for a water temperature of 10°C and 66 days for 15°C). If only a waiting period for warm-blooded fish is indicated, then it must be multiplied by 36 (°C) to calculate the waiting period in degree-days. Fish traded during these waiting periods must be clearly marked as non-organic ('not reared organically'). The number of permitted treatments for fish traded under the 'Bud' logo is given in part II, chapter 4.5.

Dead fish must be removed from the pond or facility without delay.

5.7.9 **Record keeping and inspections**

Fish logs must be kept. These must contain records of all hygiene, treatment, sorting and handling measures, water quality parameters, and stocking or removal dates. Stocking density data must be recorded at least once a month. The fish log must be kept up-to-date, and it must be shown during inspections. The records must particularly show that the maximum permitted length of time in artificial containers, the maximum stocking density for individual ponds and the minimum rearing period stipulated in the rules for specific species (as per part II, section 5.7.11) have been observed.

During the initial inspection of a fish farming operation, the cubic contents of the ponds or basins and their stocking density thresholds are calculated and recorded.

5.7.10 **Processing and trade**

Processing must meet the requirements laid out in part III, particularly chapters 3 and 17.

Any use of colouring agents (for rainbow trout) must be declared when the fish are sold.

5.7.11 **Rules for specific species**

5.7.11.1 **Carnivorous freshwater fish and sea fish (shoaling fish, e.g., perch and arctic char) kept in ponds, basins and net cages**

Net cages may only contain species endemic to the body of water that they are in. Regular inspections must ensure that the ambient macrofauna remains intact. Nets may not be waterproofed with synthetic agents.

Maximum permitted stocking density: 20 kg/m³

Minimum rearing period: 6 months for perch; 18 months for Salmonidae
5.7.11.2 Carnivorous flowing-water fish (Salmonidae; e.g., brook trout, rainbow trout, Dolly Varden char) kept in ponds and basins

The fish should preferably be reared in natural ponds (with completely natural bottoms, at a minimum). Rearing in artificial containers (plastic or cement basins) is only permitted for half of the lifespan of the fish, at the most. Except for during their first four months of life, the containers must have additional habitat features (including places of retreat as well as flowing-water and still-water zones, as per part II, section 5.7.3).

Maximum permitted stocking density: 20 kg/m³. In flowing-water tanks, the stocking density may be increased to a maximum of 30 kg/m³, provided there is a maximum of 100 kg fish per l/sec of inflow.

Minimum rearing period: 18 months for Salmonidae (the customary commercial weight is 220–350 grams). If the stocking density is very low (under 5 kg/m³) and the stock is mainly bred by the operation, then the minimum rearing period may be shortened.

5.7.11.3 Cyprinids (carp pond culture)

The fish must be reared in natural ponds (with natural banks). Artificial containers may only be used for the initial feeding of the fry and to temporarily hold table-size fish.

Several fish species should preferably be stocked.

Only organic fertilizer from an organic farming operation may be used if fertilization becomes necessary. Rock dust or calcium carbonate may also be used in exceptional cases.

Maximum permitted stocking density for carp and tench: 3,000 C1/7,000 T1 or 600 C2/2,500 T2 or 1,500 T3 per ha.

Feeding: Fish growth depends on the productive capacity of the pond. At least 50 percent of fish growth must be achieved from the consumption of natural forage. The following feedstuffs are permitted for supplementary feeding:

- Plant-based 'Bud' feedstuffs; if these are not available, then up to 10 percent non-organic dry matter (DM) may be added to the total feed ration.
- Feed for fry and conditioning feed may be augmented by fish meal/oil up to a maximum of 10 percent of the total feed intake, calculated as a percentage of dry matter (DM). The provenance of the fish meal must meet the requirements as per part II, chapter 5.7. Fry rearing is restricted to the first summer, and conditioning feed is fed during the fingerling phase (C1 and C2), which lasts for up to 2 weeks in the spring and 3 weeks in the autumn (detailed records must be kept in the fish log).
Appendix 1 to part II, chapter 5.7

TEMPLATE: Statement of confirmation regarding non-organic juvenile fish and eggs

By signing this agreement, the supplier hereby confirms that the non-organic juvenile fish/eggs he or she has delivered were not subject to any of the treatments and do not exhibit any of the traits listed below. In the event of false information or a breach of this agreement, the supplier may become liable for damages. In particular, the supplier shall be liable for damages if the delivery of juvenile fish/eggs that do not conform to this agreement results in sanctions against the recipient.

Prohibited traits, treatments and feeds

- genetically modified fish/eggs obtained by means of polyploidization, irradiation (monosexing), or gynogenesis
- prophylactic treatment with chemotherapeutic agents, antibiotics or hormones
- feeds containing antibiotics, growth promoters, hormones, or genetically modified feedstuffs, feed components or additives

Provenance

- Fish eggs or juvenile fish must originate in Switzerland or bordering countries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Juvenile fish/eggs (species)</th>
<th>Quantity delivered</th>
<th>Date of delivery</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recipient of juvenile fish/eggs

First name, surname:

Operation No.:

Address, city:

Supplier of juvenile fish/eggs

First name, surname:

Address, city:

City, date and signature of the supplier:

This document must be kept at the fish farming operation.
Appendix 2 to part II, chapter 5.7

List of approved auxiliary inputs for aquaculture

1. Cleaning and disinfectant agents for empty fish basins and ponds as well as for equipment and footbaths

**Pure substances**
- alcohol (ethanol)
- formic acid
- quicklime (burnt lime, calcium oxide)
- acetic acid (ethanoic acid)
- sodium percarbonate
- caustic soda (sodium hydroxide)
- peracetic acid (peroxyacetic acid)
- soda (sodium carbonate)
- hydrogen peroxide
- citric acid

**Commercial products**
- Desamar K 30 (formerly: Actomar K 30)
- Désogerme 3A Aquaculture
- Detarox
- HD-Extra Bio aquatic
- Virasure aquatic
- Virkon S and Virkon aquatic

2. Disinfectants for undrained basins and ponds

All measures taken to disinfect undrained basins and ponds must be recorded in the fish log (as per part II, section 5.7.9). Such measures should be kept to an absolute minimum.

2.1 Agents permitted for use without a derogation or recommendation

The following agents may be applied by fish breeders at their own discretion:

**Pure substances**
- potassium permanganate
- salt (sodium chloride)
- sodium percarbonate
- hydrogen peroxide
- citric acid

**Commercial products**
- Detarox

2.2 Agents permitted for use with the recommendation of a veterinarian

If the agents listed under chapter 2.1 do not suffice, then the following agents may be applied. These agents may only be prescribed by the veterinarian who is responsible for the stock, possibly upon recommendation by the FIWI\(^1\) or by a veterinarian who specializes in the fishing industry. Any usage must be recorded in the fish log (as per part II, section 5.7.9). Waiting periods prescribed for organic fish farming as per part II, section 5.7.8 must be observed. Fish traded during these waiting periods must be clearly marked as non-organic ("not reared organically"). No fish may be sold before the legal withdrawal period.

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\(^1\) Centre for Fish and Wildlife Health (FIWI), Institute of Animal Pathology, National Reference Laboratory for Notifiable Fish Diseases (NaFUS), Langgass Strasse 122, PO Box 8466, CH-3001 Bern. Tel.: +41 31 631 24 65.
3. Pharmaceuticals for fish
Prescriptive pharmaceuticals may only be used by the veterinarian who is responsible for the stock, possibly upon recommendation by the FIWI1 or by a veterinarian who specializes in the fishing industry. Special waiting periods apply [see below]; any usage must be recorded in the fish log (as per part II, section 5.7.9). The written diagnosis or the examination report must be shown during inspection. Waiting periods prescribed for organic fish farming as per part II, section 5.7.8 must be observed. Fish traded during these waiting periods must be clearly marked as non-organic (‘not reared organically’). No fish may be sold before the legal withdrawal period.

In the event of an outbreak of disease, the instructions issued by public authorities apply.

In order to reduce the amount of medication used, fish should be isolated for treatment in smaller basins whenever possible (that is, if the fish can withstand the necessary handling and if isolated treatment is reasonable and feasible).

Such treatments should be kept to an absolute minimum. The possibility of vaccinating the fish (as soon as vaccines are permitted) as a preventive measure should be particularly noted.

4. Anaesthetic agents used for expressing eggs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pure substances</th>
<th>Waiting period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>clove oil</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ethyl-3-aminobenzoate and 2-phenoxyethanol</td>
<td>420 degree-days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commercial products</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aqui-S (active ingredient: eugenol; equivalent to clove oil)</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finquel MS 222 and Tricain S</td>
<td>420 degree-days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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1 Centre for Fish and Wildlife Health (FIWI), Institute of Animal Pathology, National Reference Laboratory for Notifiable Fish Diseases (NaFUS), Langgass Strasse 122, PO Box 8466, CH-3001 Bern. Tel.: +41 31 631 24 65.

2 Fish traded during this waiting period [e.g., fish that die when eggs are expressed] must be clearly marked as non-organic (‘not reared organically’). No fish may be sold before the legal withdrawal period.
5.8 Beekeeping and apiculture products

The general regulations for animal husbandry (as per chapter 4) also apply to apiculture, as appropriate.

Non-agricultural apiaries can produce and trade apiculture products under the 'Bud' logo. To this end, they must conclude a licence agreement with Bio Suisse. If a beekeeper maintains several apiaries, all of them must meet the Bio Suisse requirements, even if they are situated in different regions.

Beekeepers who are responsible for a non-organic farming operation cannot be approved for beekeeping under the 'Bud' logo.

Beekeeping on a 'Bud' farming operation cannot be organic if the apiary is leased to a third person who has no responsibility for a 'Bud' operation.

Bio Suisse may define certain areas or regions from which products may not be traded under the 'Bud' logo. However, the minimum requirements must also be met in such areas.

A 'Bud' farming operation can run its beekeeping operations in compliance with only the minimum requirements set out in these directives if the products do not bear the 'Bud' logo.

5.8.1 Minimum requirements

Individual apiaries may be kept at sites that do not meet the requirements as per part II, section 5.8.3 as long as all other provisions are met. Their products may not be labelled as 'Bud' products.

5.8.2 Provenance of the bees

Breeds should be chosen for their ability to adapt to environmental conditions, their vitality and their resistance to disease. European breeds of Apis mellifera and their local ecotypes should be preferred.

Up to 10 percent of the organic apiary stocks may be rebuilt per year with queens and colonies that do not conform to this directive if the queens and colonies are placed in beehives that contain organic combs or comb foundations. The conversion period does not apply in such cases.

In the event of high bee mortality caused by health factors or catastrophic circumstances, the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture can authorize the rebuilding of the apiary stock with non-organic colonies if colonies that meet the requirements outlined in this directive are not available. In such an event, a conversion period of one year applies.

5.8.3 Location of beehives

The following rules apply to the location of beehives:

a) Bee forage areas within 3-km radius of a beehive must mainly contain organic crops and/or wild plants as per chapter 2 of the Swiss Ordinance on Organic Farming (SR 910.18), as well as crops that do not meet the requirements of the ordinance, but whose cultivation fulfils provisions of the 'proof of ecological performance' (PEP) prescribed by the Swiss Ordinance on Direct Payments (SR 910.13) and which do not impair the quality of the organic apiculture products. 'Mainly' means that more than 50 percent of the bee forage area must consist of such parcels.

b) Beehives must be located at an adequate distance from potential sources of non-agricultural pollution that could contaminate apiculture products or harm the health of the bees. The certification body, in consultation with der LCP, determines which measures must be taken to meet this requirement. The above requirements do not apply to areas where plants are not blooming, nor do they apply when the bee colonies are dormant.

c) Hives must be located where there are sufficient natural sources of nectar, honeydew and pollen for the bees, as well as where they have access to water.
5.8.4 List of locations
Beekeepers must provide the certification body with a map of an appropriate scale on which the sites of the beehives are indicated, specifying the place (which field or piece of property), the forage supply, the number of colonies, storage areas for apiculture products, and, where appropriate, sites where processing and/or packaging steps take place. If such sites cannot be indicated, then the beekeeper must provide the certification body with appropriate documents and proof, and, if necessary, with appropriate test results showing that the areas within the flying radius of the bee colonies meet the requirements of this directive.

In the case of migratory apiaries, a continuously updated log of hive locations must be kept at the operation.

5.8.5 Bee colony log
Beekeepers must keep a log for each colony. It must contain the following information:

a) the location of the hive
b) identifying details of the colonies (in accordance with the 'Tierseuchenverordnung', the Swiss Ordinance on Epizootic Diseases [OFE] [SR 916.401] – ‘Bee colony inventory’)
c) details on supplemental feeding
d) records of honeycomb removal and means of extracting honey

5.8.6 Feed
At the end of the productive period, beehives must be left with ample reserves of honey and pollen to ensure that the bees in the brood combs survive the winter.

Supplemental feeding of the colonies is permitted if the supplies stored by the bees will not last. Bees may be supplementalley fed with organic honey, preferably from the beekeeper’s own apiary.

If necessary, and with the authorization of the certification body, bees may be supplementalley fed with organic sugar syrup or organic pollen patties in place of honey, particularly when the honey crystallizes due to climatic conditions (e.g., if melezitose honey or cement honey has formed).

Supplemental feeding is only permitted between the time of the final honey harvest and 15 days before the next nectar or honeydew flow period begins.

Supplemental feeding should be recorded in the bee colony log with the following information: kind of feed; dates of feeding; amount of feed used; which colonies were fed.

5.8.7 Disease prevention
Disease prevention in apiculture is based on the following principles:

a) Suitable, disease-resistant breeds must be chosen;
b) Appropriate measures must be taken to increase resistance to disease and prevent infection, including:

- regularly rejuvenating the colonies
- systematically inspecting the beehives to detect health problems
- drone brood management
- regularly disinfecting apiary materials and equipment, using agents that are permitted for organic apiculture according to the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL
- properly disposing of contaminated materials and sources of contamination
- regularly changing the wax (on average 25% annually)
- ensuring that the beehives have an ample supply of pollen and honey

Comb must be properly stored to prevent moth infestations.

The preventive use of synthetic, allopathic veterinary drugs is prohibited.
Veterinary treatment

Diseased and infested colonies must be treated without delay in accordance with the Swiss Ordinance on Epizootic Diseases (OFE) (SR 916.401). If necessary, affected hives must be placed in isolation.

Only veterinary drugs that are permitted by the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products (Swissmedic) and are given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL in the chapter on apiary products may be used.

Only hyperthermia (heat therapy), phytotherapeutic and homeopathic medicines may be used to control parasites, pests and disease, unless the colonies are in danger of being destroyed by an infestation or disease that such medicines cannot or are unlikely to eradicate. Synthetic allopathic veterinary drugs may only be used if absolutely necessary and when prescribed by a veterinarian.

Colonies that are treated with synthetic allopathic veterinary drugs must be kept in isolation in specially marked hives for the entire period of treatment. Following treatment, all of the wax must be removed and replaced with wax that meets the requirements of this directive. Treated colonies are subject to a conversion period of one year. This rule does not apply to colonies that were treated with products given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL in the chapter on apiary products.

If veterinary drugs must be used, the following information must be recorded and reported to the certification body: the product used (including the active pharmacological substances); details of the diagnosis; the posology (dosage); the method of administration; the duration of the treatment; and the legal withdrawal period. Apiary products from treated colonies may not be labelled as organic without prior authorization from the certification body.

In addition, the standards for controlling bee diseases set by the Swiss Centre for Bee Research of Agroscope in Liebefeld-Bern must be observed.

This does not apply to veterinary treatments or treatments of colonies, combs, etc. that are prescribed by law.

Thymol residues in beeswax: On Bio Suisse operations, thymol residues exceeding 5 mg per kilo of wax will lead to sanctions. Higher levels of residues will be tolerated on operations that are in conversion during the in-conversion period; however, the honey may not be sold under the ‘Bud’ logo (including the ‘Bud’ in-conversion logo). (LCP 7/2007)

Beekeeping practices; breeding and reproduction

The destruction of bees in the combs during the harvesting of apiculture products is prohibited.

Mutilation such as clipping the queen bee’s wings is strictly prohibited.

Old queen bees may be removed and replaced by new queen bees. Natural breeding and reproduction methods should be preferred, whereby the swarming instinct must be considered. Instrumental insemination is only permitted with a prior derogation from the LCP. The use of genetically modified bees is prohibited.

The destruction of drone brood is only permissible as a means of containing varroasis. The use of synthetic or genetically engineered repellents is prohibited.

Pollen may only be collected if there are sufficient reserves to supply the colonies. Pollen traps may not be installed at hive entrances.

Beekeepers must take particular care to properly harvest, process and store apiculture products. All measures taken to meet these requirements must be recorded.

The removal of honey combs and methods used to extract honey must be recorded in the bee colony log.
5.8.10 **Beehive qualities**
Beehives must be predominantly made of natural materials that pose no risk of contaminating the environment or the apiculture products.

Plastic systems for extracting honey from the combs are prohibited.

With the exception of agents authorized for controlling disease and infestations, only natural substances (e.g., propolis, wax and plant oils) may be used in beehives.

5.8.11 **Properties of materials used in beekeeping**
Beeswax used for new frames must be of organic provenance. In consultation with the certification body and particularly during the conversion period, wax from non-organic sources may be used if no wax from organic apiaries is available on the market. Bio Suisse sets tolerance thresholds for residues in such wax.

Honey may not be harvested from combs containing brood.

Only substances given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs may be used to protect materials (such as frames, beehives and combs) from pests.

Physical treatment methods such as steaming or using direct flame are permitted.

Only agents given in the list of approved auxiliary inputs published by FiBL may be used to clean and disinfect materials, buildings, equipment, tools and products used in apiculture.

5.8.12 **Processing**
Requirements pertaining to the processing, storage and trade of apiary products are given in part III.