

# FairShare Organic Certification Policy

Adopted by the FairShare board on 5/14/08, amended 10/28/08, amended 5/25/2010, amended 6/25/15.

## I. Certification Requirement for Produce Produced by FairShare Farms

1. All FairShare endorsed farms selling shares of produce (vegetables and fruits) must adhere to the [National Organic Program](#) regulations.
2. All FairShare endorsed farms selling shares of produce must be certified organic by a federally approved certifying agency OR meet the exemption in 2.b below.
  - a. Farms that are newly endorsed and are not yet certified organic must apply for organic certification no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> of their first year of endorsement. In the event that prior applications of prohibited materials to the farm land prevent organic certification in the year of application, the farm must apply for transitional verification no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> of their first year of endorsement and must be certified as soon as possible and within 3 years of FairShare endorsement.
  - b. Exemption: As provided by federal law, farms that do not sell more than \$5,000 (gross sales) per year do not need to be certified but must meet all organic certification standards. Any FairShare endorsed farm claiming this exemption must provide a written statement to FairShare of such claim on a form provided by FairShare annually.
3. Certified organic FairShare endorsed farms that move to a new location or add additional land to their operations must be certified organic on the new land as soon as possible. In the event that prior applications of prohibited materials to the new land prevent full certification in the year of application, the new land must be certified as soon as possible and within 3 years of acquisition.

## II. Certification Requirement for Animal Products Produced by FairShare Farms

(See IX. Implementation)

1. All FairShare endorsed farms selling shares of animal products (eggs, dairy, meat) must adhere to the [National Organic Program](#) regulations. All animals must be certified organic up to the point of slaughter and slaughter eligible, but need not be slaughtered in an organic facility to meet FairShare's certification requirement.
2. All FairShare endorsed farms selling shares of animal products must be certified organic by a federally approved certifying agency OR meet the exemption in 2.b below.
  - a. Farms that are newly endorsed and are not yet certified organic must apply for organic certification no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> of their first year of endorsement. All animals must be certified organic up to the point of slaughter and slaughter eligible, but need not be slaughtered in an organic facility to meet FairShare's certification requirement. In the event that prior applications of prohibited materials to the farm land prevent organic certification of the farmland in the year of application, the farm must apply for transitional verification no later than March 15<sup>th</sup> of their first year of endorsement and must be certified as soon as possible and within 3 years of FairShare endorsement.
  - b. Exemption: Farms selling less than \$5,000 (gross sales) of animal products through CSA *and* having less than 50% of CSA income from animal products do not need to be certified for their animal products. Any FairShare endorsed farm claiming this exemption, must provide a written statement to FairShare of such claim on a form provided by FairShare annually.
3. FairShare endorsed farms that move to a new location or add land to their operations must be certified organic on the new land as soon as possible. In the event that prior applications of prohibited materials to the new land prevent full organic certification in the year of application, the new land must be certified as soon as possible and within 3 years of acquisition.

## III. Certification Requirement for Other Products Produced by FairShare Farms

Produce and animal products are required to be certified as detailed above. There is no certification requirement for other products produced by FairShare farms.

## IV. CSA Shares and Add-Ons Produced by FairShare Farms

1. Shares – All shares produced by FairShare farms must adhere to this certification policy. A share is a share if it has *any one* of the following characteristics:

- a. It is called a “share” in brochures, sign up forms, newsletters, or any other written or oral communications.
  - b. It is offered, claimed, or purchased with other shares such as “vegetable shares,” “half shares,” “fruit shares,” “cheese shares,” “chicken shares,” etc., even if it is not called a “share.”
  - c. It is paid for once and delivered multiple times through the season.
2. Add-ons – No add-ons produced by FairShare farms must adhere to this certification policy. An add-on is an add-on if it has *all of* the following characteristics:
- a. It is offered to existing CSA members after they have signed-up with the farm.
  - b. It is not available with the initial sign-up form but is offered through the season as products become available.
  - c. It is offered as a one-time delivery.

#### **V. Products Not Produced On the Farm**

This section applies to both shares and add-ons.

1. Produce (vegetables and fruits)  
If a FairShare endorsed farm provides any produce to its members which are not produced on the farm, those fruits or vegetables must be certified organic.
2. Animal Products (eggs, dairy, meat)  
If a FairShare endorsed farm provides any animal products to its members which are not produced on the farm, those animal products must be certified organic.
3. All other Products (coffee, bread, honey, etc.)  
There is no certification requirement for products beyond produce and animal products.
4. Communication with Members  
All farms providing members with products that are not produced on the farm must clearly communicate to members the origin, source, and organic certification status of those products. This communication must be in written form such as a newsletter article or other written format.

#### **VI. Proof of Certification**

All farms must provide FairShare the current organic producer certificate or other documentation from the certifying agency proving current certification annually. Failure to provide this documentation will remove the farm from the list of endorsed FairShare farms.

#### **VII. Failure to Meet Certification Standards as Determined by the Certifying Agency**

If a farm is decertified by a certifying agency, the farm must notify FairShare immediately. FairShare at its discretion may immediately withdraw the farm from the list of endorsed farms. To remain a FairShare endorsed farm, the farm must clearly demonstrate in writing how it will regain its certified status and state its intent and timeframe to do so. The farm will be removed from the endorsed list for a period of not less than one year unless the farm can clearly and without a doubt show the decertification was beyond the control of the farm (such as chemical drift).

#### **VIII. Annual Review**

This policy is subject to annual review and revision by the Board.

#### **IX. Implementation of Section II. Certification Requirement for Animal Products Produced by FairShare Farms**

1. Currently Endorsed Farms  
All farms endorsed by FairShare prior to 6/25/2015 must be in compliance with Section II of this policy as soon as possible and no later than 12/1/2018.
2. Newly Endorsed Farms  
All farms applying for FairShare endorsement after 6/25/2015 must be in compliance with the policy as written at the time of application. The policy as written already allows for a three year transition for produce and animal products as long as the farm applies for transitional status by March 15<sup>th</sup> of the first year of endorsement.