

Current Temporary Variances



Temporary variances from the production and handling requirements of the USDA organic regulations may be granted by the Administrator for natural disasters declared by the Secretary, damage caused by severe weather, or other business interruption, or for the purpose of conducting research in organic production or handling. Procedures for requesting temporary variances are described in [NOP 2606: Processing Requests for Temporary Variances](#). 7 CFR Section 205.290 provides the full regulatory text regarding temporary variances.

The list of temporary variances that are currently in effect or that were denied are shown below. For a list of expired temporary variances, please visit <http://www.ams.usda.gov/rules-regulations/organic>.

2026 Allowed Temporary Variances

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Effective Date	Expiration	Certifying Agent	Remarks
Certified ruminant livestock producers in the State of Idaho	Idaho	07/09/2026	07/09/2026	2026 grazing season only	Those that certify operations in the State of Idaho	The temporary variance from 7 CFR 205.237(c)(1) and 205.239(a)(2) is based on drought and restricted to the following: • Applies only to certified organic ruminant livestock producers located in the State of Idaho. • All ruminants and classes of animals must be provided with at least 20 percent average dry matter demand from dry matter fed, during the 2026 grazing season. • All ruminants and classes of animals must be grazed on pasture throughout the grazing season for no less than 60 days during the 2026 grazing season.
Aurora Organic Farms – High Plains	Gill, Colorado	07/09/2026	07/09/2026	2026 grazing season only	Where Food Comes From Organic (WFCFO) and Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)	The temporary variance from 7 CFR 205.237(c)(1) is based on drought and restricted to the following: • Applies only to organic livestock producer Aurora Organic Farms - High Plains, located in Gill, Colorado. • Ruminants must be provided with at least 10 percent average dry matter intake from pasture, or no more than 90 percent average of the ruminant's dry matter demand from dry matter fed, during the 2026 grazing season. • All ruminants must be grazed on pasture throughout the grazing season for no less than 75 days during the 2026 grazing season.

Aurora Organic Farms – Platteville	Platteville, Colorado	07/09/2026	07/09/2026	2026 grazing season only	Where Food Comes From Organic (WFCFO) and Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA)	The temporary variance from 7 CFR 205.237(c)(1) is based on drought and restricted to the following: • Applies only to organic livestock producer Aurora Organic Farms – Platteville, located in Platteville, Colorado. • Ruminants must be provided with at least 10 percent average dry matter intake from pasture, or no more than 90 percent average of the ruminant’s dry matter demand from dry matter fed, during the 2026 grazing season. • All ruminants must be grazed on pasture throughout the grazing season for no less than 75 days during the 2026 grazing season.
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Harmony Organic Dairy, LLC	Twin Falls, Idaho	05/29/2026	05/29/2026	2026 grazing season only	Organic Certifiers (OC)	The temporary variance from 7 CFR 205.237(c) is based on drought and restricted to the following: • Applies only to organic livestock producer Harmony Organic Dairy, LLC in Twin Falls, Idaho. • Six- to eighteen-month-old heifers must be provided with at least 20 percent average dry matter intake from pasture or no more than 80 percent average of the ruminants' dry matter demand from dry matter fed, during the 2026 grazing season. • Six- to eighteen-month-old heifers must be grazed on pasture throughout the grazing season for no less than 60 days during the 2026 grazing season. • Milk cows, dry cows and pregnant heifers must be provided with at least 20 percent average dry matter intake from pasture or no more than 80 percent average of the ruminants' dry matter demand from dry matter fed, during the 2026 grazing season. • Milk cows, dry cows and pregnant heifers must be grazed on pasture throughout the grazing season for no less than 80 days during the 2026 grazing season.
Organic laying operations	United States	03/27/2026	03/27/2026	03/27/2027	Those that certify organic laying operations in the United States	The temporary variance from 7 CFR 205.238(c)(10) is restricted to the following: • Applies to all organic laying operations in the United States. • Organic laying operations inducing molting must continue to comply with all other applicable USDA organic regulations.

Joseph and Sara Mae Yoder	Stitzer, Wisconsin	02/20/2026	02/20/2026	05/20/2026	Nature's International Certification Services (NICS)	The temporary variance from 7 CFR 205.236(a)(2) is restricted to the following: • Applies only to organic livestock producer Joseph and Sara Mae Yoder. • Applies only to the 135 conventional dairy goats that will complete their transition on June 5, 2026. • Joseph and Sara Mae Yoder may not transition additional nonorganic dairy goats to organic production or source transitioned dairy goats unless granted a separate temporary variance allowing them to do so. • Given their transitioned, previously non-organic status, the 135 transitioned dairy goats will not be eligible for organic slaughter.
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2026 Denied Requests for Temporary Variances

Company / Producer	Location	Date of AMS Decision	Certifying Agent	Remarks

This table is updated when AMS Administrator decisions are issued.