



Certified Naturally Grown™  
 LIVESTOCK Inspection Worksheet  
 For Inspector Use Only - NOT a Public Document

**Ranch or Farm Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rancher(s) or Farmer(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Inspector:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Farm/Affiliation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Inspection Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions**

1. These questions often have subjective answers and may sometimes leave you with another question rather than an answer. That's okay! Ask the farmer! If you really get confused, don't hesitate to contact the office. (Contact info is at [www.naturallygrown.org](http://www.naturallygrown.org))
2. The first five pages here will NOT be scanned on the internet and will NOT be seen by the public. Feel free to write notes and questions to yourself in the margins... or just use this as a guide for your inspection. **ONLY THE LAST SECTION WILL BE SCANNED IN.**
3. PLEASE REMEMBER: It is easy to get side-tracked into specific conversations and discussions. Do that AFTER the inspection is complete. Stay on track and perform a thorough investigation of the farmer's operation.

**AS YOU WALK THROUGH THE FIELDS**

Do the plants look generally healthy? How about field edges and borders?	YES / NO
Things are not always so neat and tidy on a ranch or farm, but there shouldn't be lots of scattered junked vehicles or equipment all dripping oil or fluids. Are the general grounds tidy?	YES / NO
How does the producer keep his/her weeds under control?	
When was the last time a chemical fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide was used? If it has been less than 36 months, then the operation is classified as transitional.	At least 36 Months -or- Transitional
Does the farmer use rotational / intensive rotational grazing?	YES / NO / Notes
If the producer has ruminant livestock (cows, sheep, goats) does she/he ensure that at least 30% of their dry matter intake comes from pasture?	YES / NO / Notes
Does the pasture seem healthy with abundant growth?	YES / NO / Notes

Do the poultry (if any) have a minimum of five square feet per bird outdoors? Are they raised outdoors and allowed to roam free except for short periods (like overnight or during inclement weather)?	YES / NO / Notes
Does the farmer have soil tests done regularly? If so, ask to see them.	YES / NO / Notes
Does the farmer understand them, and can he explain them to you so they make sense? Is the farmer happy with the soil tests, or feel like there is more to work towards. If so, ask how he is working towards that goal.	
Are the livestock on pasture most of the time during the entire growing season?	YES / NO
During what months are they on pasture?	
Does the producer own his/her equipment?	YES / NO
If equipment is borrowed, does producer make sure that it is thoroughly cleaned before it is brought onto the land?	YES / NO
Do you feel the producer's water source is safe to use for irrigation purposes?  Questions to consider: What is the farm's irrigation source? Is it publicly and generally known to be too contaminated to irrigate from (this is rare)? Ask if other farms are irrigating from this water source. If the farmer isn't concerned, but you are, then feel free to contact your local State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (or equivalent) or USDA Soil and Water office and ask them (or let us know and we'll do it for you).	YES / NO / Notes

**FEED**

Does the producer grow livestock feed (either for sale, if to be sold as CNG, or for producer's own livestock)?	YES / NO / Notes
What are the primary insect problems and how are they treated?	
What are the primary disease problems and how are they treated?	
Where are the seeds from?	
How does the producer ensure that they are not genetically engineered or treated?	

## **BUFFERS/BOUNDARIES and SPRAY DRIFT**

*We get more calls and questions about this than anything else, so if you aren't sure, don't hesitate to contact us. Just take notes on what you see and why you are concerned or confused, and we can help with whether or not it's acceptable or if the farmer needs to think about changing something to make it more acceptable.*

Look at neighboring fields (if applicable). Ask what is growing over there, if it is sprayed, with WHAT, WHEN, HOW OFTEN and also specifically HOW it is sprayed. The rancher/farmer should know these things in detail if there is any chance of spray drift.	
Does the rancher/farmer have a buffer that looks adequate based on the acceptable spray concerns? For example, a hay field that is not sprayed with anything but a broadcast chemical fertilizer, low to the ground may not be much of a concern. Even a boom sprayer (which stays very close to the ground) on a tractor applying once a year herbicide may not require much of a buffer because there is so little drift. We prefer to have a minimum of 50 feet as a general rule, but there are USDA Certified Organic farms that have only 20 feet of space between sprayed fields of this type and the Organic fields because there is so little problem with drift.	Buffer for spray drift? Concerns? Other notes:
What do YOU think, though? Does spray drift look like it could be a problem here?	YES / NO / Notes
Are there shrubs or trees that help to block drift?	YES / NO / Notes
What if the neighbors use high-pressure sprayers that go 50-60 feet (for example orchard farmers) and could easily get blown longer distances if there is a breeze? In that case a much larger buffer area and/or significant trees or taller shrubs would become a factor in determining acceptable buffer widths, as would prevailing winds.	
Is the RANCHER/FARMER confident and comfortable with their buffer zones? Ask them to explain why or why not.	YES / NO / Notes

## **LIVING CONDITIONS AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**

As you look around the barn/shelter and/or living area, is it neat and clean?
Does it have any strong odors such as ammonia?
Are there any hazards for the animals to get hurt with? (any sharp objects or things to get tangled with?)
Do the animals seem content and happy or do they seem stressed out? (too close together, no clean water, fighting for food etc.)
What is the general appearance of the animals? Do they look healthy?

<p>Ask the producer the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do you purchase any livestock?</li> <li>- Where are they purchased from?</li> <li>- How well do you know the source?</li> <li>- How do the sellers raise their animals?</li> <li>- Have you visited and looked around their farm?</li> <li>- Would you buy food from them? Why or why not?</li> <li>- Do they raise livestock according to CNG standards (without antibiotics, hormones, or feed that has been treated with pesticides/herbicides, or mixed with animal byproducts)?</li> <li>- Do they use the same methods to raise animals as you do? If not, how are they different?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>If</i> livestock is purchased from an operation that <u>does not adhere</u> to CNG standards, how do you ensure that the <u>purchased</u> livestock is managed according to CNG standards on your farm for at least 9 months – or in the case of dairy stock, for at least 6 months – before being sold as Certified Naturally Grown?</li> </ul>	
<p>Also ask the producer these questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What are your animal pest problems?</li> <li>- How do you control the pests? Is it with approved organic methods?</li> <li>- What are your animal illness problems?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How do you handle the animals who are ill or diseased?</li> <li>- Do you separate or confine them?</li> <li>- Do you use methods that prevent illness? If so, what methods?</li> <li>- Do you worm your livestock? With what?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Are animals ever confined?</li> <li>- For how long and why?</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do you keep breeding livestock?</li> </ul>	
<p>Finally, and most importantly, having interviewed the producer and observed the grounds, is this a place you would feel comfortable and eager to get your meat and poultry from? Why or why not?</p>	<p>YES / NO</p>

----- **! WAIT !** -----

This NEXT section (the Summary Inspection Report) is the one that is scanned in and made public! Please DO NOT write extra comments on the Summary Inspection Report, make notes on the above worksheet forms only.

**Certified Naturally Grown™**  
**SUMMARY INSPECTION REPORT - Livestock**

Farm Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Rancher/Farmer(s) (“producer”) \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector’s Farm/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection Date \_\_\_\_\_ Total Inspection Time: \_\_\_\_\_

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To the best of my abilities and based on my observations and interview with the producer(s), I feel confident in making the following declarations about the ranch or farm the above producer wants to have listed as Certified Naturally Grown™ :

I saw no evidence of prohibited insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, prohibited chemical fertilizer, hormones or antibiotics use. Agree / Disagree \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your initials)

The fields and pasture under consideration look to be surrounded by an adequate buffer to protect from chemical or spray drift contamination. Agree / Disagree \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your initials)

The producer is not irrigating or providing livestock with water from a source that I know or suspect to be chemically contaminated. Agree / Disagree \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your initials)

I have read the CNG livestock standards (online at [www.naturallygrown.org/livestockstandards.html](http://www.naturallygrown.org/livestockstandards.html)) Agree / Disagree \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your initials)

The producer demonstrates a commitment to the health and welfare of the animals under his care and conscientiously raises them according to CNG standards. Agree / Disagree \_\_\_\_\_  
(Your initials)

I certify that to the best of my abilities, observations, and based on my personal interview with the producer(s), I feel confident in recommending that the above listed producer(s) and their farm or ranch

**be included                      not be included                      (please circle one)**

in the Certified Naturally Grown™ program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Inspector

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## Inspector Contact Information

*This information will be kept completely confidential but is required for this form to be valid. It is only so we can contact you and check that you filled in this form.*

Farm or Ranch you inspected: _____
Your Name: _____
Your Phone: _____
Your Email: _____
Your Mailing Address: _____ _____

WAIT! Did you sign the summary report at the bottom and initial the agree/disagree statements?

IMPORTANT: Did you indicate your farm/affiliation on the summary report? This could be a farm name, a university department, an extension agency, a soil/water conservation district, or it could be "customer" if you're part of a group of 3 or more customers.

Please mail this page and the SUMMARY INSPECTION REPORT (or all the Inspection sheets, but only the Summary Inspection Report will be made public) to:

Certified Naturally Grown  
540 President Street, Third Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11215

If you need more copies of these forms, you can download and print them at [www.naturallygrown.org/programs/documents](http://www.naturallygrown.org/programs/documents)

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at [info@naturallygrown.org](mailto:info@naturallygrown.org) or call 877-211-0308.

Thank you!

Certified Naturally Grown