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General Guidelines for Production

Only the current version of the guidelines is valid.
It is always available for download at www.biokreis.de.



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Mission statement

Biokreis e.V. has stood for regional networks built around trust, as well as animal welfare and artisanal food processing in harmony with nature since 1979.

Biokreis – for the love of nature

Our farms operate across Germany and beyond in accordance with our guidelines, which go well beyond EU organic standards. The EU guidelines are a minimum standard and we believe that they don't go far enough. Biokreis members convert their entire farm to organic farming. Our food contains fewer additives and most of our produce is produced using traditional methods.

Biokreis – for the love of animals

The welfare of our animals is especially important to us. Our cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys, sheep and goats have more space in the barn than average and are allowed to run around or graze in the pasture. Biokreis members only keep as many animals as the available space allows. The animals are only treated and medicated in the event of illness and natural healing methods are preferred. Their feed is organic and is mainly sourced from their own farm.

Biokreis – for the love of the region

We have short transport routes and trusting relationships. The value we create stays in the local region, creating jobs and a sense of identity. We are not just passionate about organic farming – we also believe that fostering social interaction is extremely important. Each farm is assigned their own advisor to support the work on site. We meet at workshops, company visits and excursions. We are democratic from the grassroots upwards. Everyone is invited to get involved at our general meetings.

Our guidelines are clear and binding. They provide a framework to give our farmers the freedom that their profession has always demanded. They can market their products freely without paying marketing fees.

1. Foreword

Biokreis e.V. is deeply committed to the goals of climate protection, biodiversity, healthy nutrition, regionalism and developing organic farming. Biokreis was founded in 1979 and established as an organisation for consumers and farmers. Here at Biokreis, we believe that we have to work together to keep developing high-quality organic farming and to get the products to market. By increasing the sales of Biokreis products, we can inspire new farms to switch to sustainable organic farming. But, this will only work if we work together.

We also know that there needs to be an increased appreciation of organic products. We are working together to ensure that everyone knows that organic products are worth their price! People who take climate protection seriously and want to promote biodiversity should work together with our farms for the future.

Biokreis and its farmers stand for honest agriculture. We encourage people to look beyond the gates and stable doors. We are transparent and uncompromising. Biokreis farms do not need to be watered down and we don't need greenwashing. Biokreis products are as delicious and as natural as they can possibly be. Our farmers work towards this goal each and every day and Biokreis is committed to achieving this throughout Germany.

Our strength lies in the family farms that often sell their products locally, promote value creation in their region and thus demonstrate responsibility and a commitment to their local area. We are the association for all of those who are wholeheartedly committed to advancing organic farming and supporting agriculture that is sustainable, respectful, transparent, resource-friendly and as regional as possible, despite all of the challenges we face at the global level. The type of farming that we promote helps to protect the environment, strengthens biodiversity and offers realistic prospects for our family farms.

2. Basic principles

The legal regulations pertaining to organic farming must be complied with at all times – these form the basis of the Biokreis guidelines. The Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 and the associated legal acts apply. The Biokreis guidelines set higher requirements than the legal regulations of the European Union.

The guidelines are agreed upon and adopted at the General Meeting of Biokreis e.V. members. Amendments to these guidelines are drawn up by the Biokreis Guidelines Commission and brought to the attention of the Biokreis e.V. Executive Board. The Executive Board of Biokreis e.V. may decide on amendments to the guidelines, provided that the objectives and content of the guidelines are not so substantially affected that the General Meeting needs to rule on the amendments. If essential contents or objectives of the guidelines are affected, the Executive Board submits the changes to the General Meeting for resolution. Amendments to the guidelines enter into force upon publication.

Genetic engineering

Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and products produced from or by GMOs (GMO derivatives) are incompatible with organic farming. Products that are produced in accordance with the Biokreis guidelines must be produced without the use of GMOs and/or GMO derivatives.

Anthropogenic nanomaterials

The impact of anthropogenic nanomaterials on the environment and on humans is still not sufficiently known. Biokreis products must, therefore, be manufactured without the use of anthropogenic nanomaterials. This includes packaging that contains nanomaterials.

Biokreis understands nanomaterials as substances that are deliberately and intentionally designed, technically manufactured or produced by human intervention (anthropogenic) with the aim of obtaining very specific properties that exist exclusively at the nanoscale.

Naturally occurring nanomaterials found in the environment (e.g. volcanic dust), in food (e.g. monosaccharides, amino acids or fatty acids) and unintentionally formed nanoparticles (e.g. in flour) are excluded from this definition.

3. Conversion

3.1 Pre-requisites

In order to determine the pre-requisites for a farm to convert to organic farming, complete information on the previous management – including animal husbandry, soil condition and environmental conditions (e.g. proximity to busy roads, industrial plants, quality of irrigation water, etc.) – is required.

Biokreis e.V. may request an inspection, for example regarding contamination from the use of pesticides or the consequences of unusually harmful environmental influences, if the circumstances mean that contamination of the products cannot be ruled out. If sewage sludge has been applied to the land in the last 5 years, a soil analysis must be carried out and the results submitted to Biokreis e.V.. If the suspicion of high levels of contamination is confirmed, Biokreis e.V. can exclude such areas from Biokreis certification.

In order for a farm to be included in the Biokreis e.V. conversion process, there needs to be at least one on-site consultation with the Biokreis Advisory Service.

3.2 Converting an entire farm/farming unit

Conversion means: The development of an economically viable agro-ecosystem in accordance with the principles of organic farming over a certain period of time. The aim must always be to convert the entire farm, which must be set up as a largely self-contained, self-supporting unit.

The principle of the farming unit applies. Two requirements must be met for this:

- 1) The farm operator (he/she/they), as the natural or legal person, manages the operation independently and on their own responsibility.
- 2) The operational unit is defined as a spatially and legally clearly delineated, independently operating enterprise that can be distinctly identified through control and documentation. The same farm manager may not run both a conventional and an organic farm in the same region¹ at the same time. This also applies if a farm manager also runs a beekeeping business. This does not apply to keeping animals for personal use. Further exceptions to this are possible at the discretion of the Executive Board, e.g. for social institutions or experimental stations.

All unauthorised equipment and materials must have been removed from the farm prior to the start of the conversion. The Biokreis farm sign must be clearly visible on the outside of the farm (social control).

Contract farms are obliged to cultivate each area and all branches of production on the farm in accordance with the applicable Biokreis guidelines.

3.3 Conversion period

The conversion period for an existing farm – whether arable, pastoral or mixed – may not exceed two years. This does not apply to products that have a longer conversion period in accordance with the guidelines.

A gradual conversion is possible in individual cases. The Biokreis guidelines apply in full to the parts of the farm undergoing conversion right from the start. Please note: The provisions of some state funding programmes exclude a gradual conversion. A conversion plan is used to document the individual steps of the conversion. The parts of a farm that are farmed in accordance with the organic guidelines increase continuously over time. If livestock production is converted on a gradual basis, there must be a clear separation between conventionally and organically managed production units. All animals from one animal species must be kept and fed in accordance with the guidelines.

In arable farming, the same types of crops may not be grown in areas that are under conversion and areas that have already been converted. Exceptions to this require written permission from Biokreis e.V.. Different varieties of the same species must be clearly distinguishable. Exceptions may be agreed for permanent crops in individual cases. Particular attention must be paid to the traceability of product origins.

A conversion plan for crop cultivation and animal husbandry must be drawn up at the start of the conversion process. From this point onwards, the status of the fields and animals is to be documented annually. Biokreis e.V. may demand that the seed, soil or plants be tested.

¹This refers to a continuous cultural and geographical unit that is usually no more than 100 km away from the company's own operations.

3.3.1 Plant products

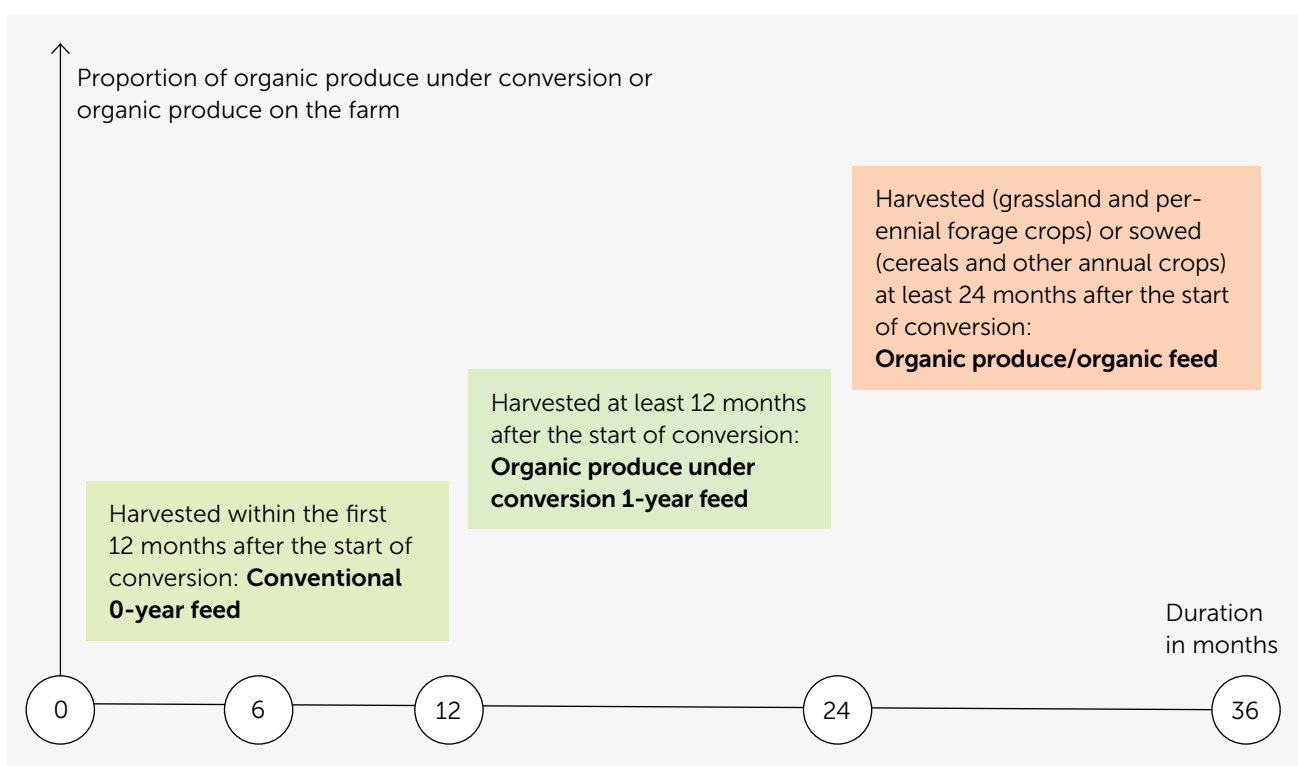
Plant products can be labelled as "originating from recognised organic farming" ("A-Ware" in German):

- prior to sowing for cereals and other annual crops;
- after at least 24 months of EU organic regulation-compliant management has elapsed before they are used as animal feed in the case of grassland and perennial forage crops.
- For permanent crops (not including crops for animal feed), the deadline is 36 months before harvest. Depending on previous farm management, shorter periods are permitted after a thorough case-by-case examination by the responsible organic inspection body.

Plant products can be labelled as "organic produce in conversion" ("U-Ware" in German) if:

- the product consists of only one ingredient of agricultural origin, and
- it is derived from an area that has been farmed in accordance with EU organic regulations and directives for at least 12 months prior to harvesting.

Both organic produce and organic produce under conversion can be marketed under the Biokreis trademark with a valid Biokreis certificate. It is essential that the correct designation is used, i.e. as organic produce (A goods) or organic produce in conversion (U goods) is used.



Conclusion of inspection contract = start of conversion

3.3.2. Animal products

If the entire farm (i.e. all pieces of land and livestock categories) is converted at the same time, all animal products from the animals present at the start of conversion and their offspring can be marketed as organic products, or using the Biokreis trademark, after 24 months, if the animals are fed predominantly with the farm's own feed.

If the farm is not all converted at the same time, animal products may only be sold as products "originating from organic farming" and using the Biokreis trademark if:

- the forage areas required for the animal species concerned have been in conversion for at least 12 months and
- the conversion periods according to Table 1 Transition periods for certain animal species and uses are also met.

During the product-related transition period shown in Table 1: Conversion periods for certain animal species and uses, the animals must be kept and fed in accordance with Biokreis guidelines. Animal products can only be certified if the entire animal species is kept and fed in accordance with the guidelines.

Feeding with in-conversion feed is described under **8.3. Animal feed**. The purchase of animals is regulated under **8.4. Purchasing animals**.

During the conversion period, the harvested products must be clearly labelled and stored separately based on their cultivation and certification level. Records must be kept of harvest quantities and further use of the products.

3.4. Operational changes

If a Biokreis member incorporates new farming areas into their organic farm, these areas must also follow the respective conversion period. If areas under conversion and previously converted areas are cultivated at the same time, different crop types must be grown to ensure clear differentiation. These changes must be reported to the inspection body immediately.

Animal species / Use / Other	Conversion period
Cattle for meat production	12 months and $\frac{3}{4}$ of their lifetime
Pigs	6 months
KSmall ruminants (e.g. sheep, goats for meat production)	6 months
Milk (e.g. from cows, sheep, goats)	6 months
Poultry for meat production (e.g. broilers, turkeys, geese, ducks)	10 weeks (provided that the animal was introduced to the organic farm before it was 3 days old.)
Poultry for egg production	6 weeks
Beekeeping products	12 months
Products from pond farming	12 months

Table 1: Conversion periods for certain animal species and uses

4. Contract and monitoring

The valid statutes of Biokreis e.V. form the basis for all matters relating to these guidelines as well as the rights and obligations of members.

4.1. Monitoring

Biokreis e.V. monitors compliance with its guidelines at all member farms. Inspections are carried out at least once a year by independent and accredited inspection bodies commissioned by Biokreis e.V.. All Biokreis member farms are obliged to be inspected in accordance with the Biokreis guidelines. In the case of a gradual conversion, the audit will also include the areas that have not yet been converted.

In the event of suspicion, the management shall grant a representative of Biokreis e.V. access to the entire farm and to all relevant records in order to carry out checks. The Biokreis representative is obliged to maintain confidentiality towards third parties.

Farm managers must contact Biokreis e.V. immediately if:

- they fear that deviations have occurred from these guidelines (infringements) or
- they have reason to believe (suspected cases) that operating resources, feedstuffs or foodstuffs do not comply with the statutory regulations or do not comply with the organic guidelines or are not suitable for sale in any other way.

Changes to the farm address, a change of farm management and/or the inspection body must be reported directly to Biokreis e. V.. Additions and disposals of land or changes in the production process must be immediately reported to the responsible inspection body.

Animal welfare and management control

The quality of animal husbandry is monitored on the basis of animal husbandry and product-related criteria that identify animal welfare status and production quality. To this end, Biokreis e.V. draws up specifications that describe the main species-related test points and assessment criteria.

4.2. Certification

The certification documents compliance with the Biokreis guidelines. The pre-requisite for certification is that the entire farm is managed in accordance with the guidelines, i.e. conversion has already begun across all parts of the farm.

Certification is decided upon by a Certification Committee duly convened by Biokreis e.V.. It consists of at least 3 persons and is appointed by the Executive Board. A catalogue of sanctions issued by Biokreis e.V. is used as the basis for dealing with violations. Biokreis e.V. is entitled to collect, process and store all data from members for monitoring purposes and for recording data, e.g. the flow of goods.

4.3. Trading purchased good

Purchased products can be traded for direct sales, i.e. as part of "farm-gate sales", market stalls or similar. A separate record must be kept of all purchased goods. The labelling of the products must be clear in terms of origin and type of production. Self-produced and purchased goods must be declared separately.

4.4. Use of the Biokreis mark

The companies certified by Biokreis e.V. are obliged to use the Biokreis trademark. The sale of products under the trademark/association name "Biokreis" requires compliance with the conversion periods in accordance with 4.3. Conversion periods, as well as membership of Biokreis e.V., a valid producer contract and a valid Biokreis certificate. The Biokreis producer contract demands compliance with the Biokreis guidelines. When a producer contract is concluded, a binding conversion plan is created. Contract farms are obliged to cultivate all areas and branches of production in accordance with the applicable organic farming guidelines.

5. Storage and on-farm processing

5.1. Storage

When purchasing food and feed, an incoming goods inspection (e.g. sensory testing) must be carried out prior to storage. The valid certificates for the purchased goods must be available to the buyer. It is recommended that retained samples are taken.

All products must be stored in such a way that the product quality is not impaired by storage. The following is prohibited:

- The treatment of the products with synthetic chemical storage protection agents (e.g. storage protection with fungicides/insecticides, post-ripening with chemical substances, washing with chemical cleaning agents, treatment with germ inhibitors),
- radioactive irradiation and
- storage in containers made of materials containing substances that are hazardous to health.

Storage facilities must be cleaned using means that exclude any contamination with harmful substances as far

as possible.

If products of different certification levels (e.g. organic and organic products under conversion) are present on a farm, they must be clearly labelled and stored separately.

5.2. On-farm processing

All Biokreis producers with on-farm processing as well as contract processors must take appropriate measures to ensure the identity of Biokreis products by means of clear labelling on the product as well as on the packaging, containers, means of transport and accompanying documents. It must be ensured that mixing with other products, contamination by harmful substances and residues, or confusion of Biokreis products with other products is prevented.

All goods labelled with the Biokreis trademark must comply with the applicable Biokreis processing guidelines. The goods may not be labelled as organic goods if unauthorised substances or methods are used in production. Eggs may only be sorted and packed in purely organic packing stations, unless the packing is clearly separated in terms of space and time and has been approved by Biokreis e.V.. The corresponding separation must be documented so it can be verified in the future. Organic eggs and free-range or barn eggs may not be marketed under the same brand. The choice of packaging materials should always be based on ecological criteria.

6. Self-image and public image of organic farms

6.1. Promoting biodiversity

Principle

Protecting biodiversity is one of the core objectives of Biokreis e.V., alongside climate protection, healthy nutrition, regionality and the further development of organic farming.

By adhering to the principles of organic farming – for example by not using herbicides and synthetic chemical pesticides, through diverse crop rotations and low livestock numbers – Biokreis farms are making an important contribution to the promotion of biodiversity. Organic farms are also committed to promoting more natural diversity on their farms through additional, targeted measures.

Catalogue of measures

Biokreis farms choose different measures that promote biodiversity from a catalogue of measures.

The catalogue is based on effective nature conservation criteria for the protection and promotion of natural biodiversity. The catalogue can be continuously expanded and adapted based on new practical experience and/or the results of research.

- The catalogue includes measures from the following categories:
- Farm structure (field size, proportion of grassland, etc.)
- Crop cultivation measures on arable land and grassland (cutting time, fertilisation, catch crops, etc.)
- Integration of landscape elements (hedges, copses, deadwood, etc.)
- Agrobiodiversity (endangered or old varieties/breeds)
- Measures on the farm premises (nesting aids, green façades, cottage gardens, etc.)
- Further training (nature conservation projects, events, etc.)

In order to ensure that points are awarded fairly and no farm size is favoured, the measures are weighted in proportion to the total agricultural area of the farm where appropriate.

The catalogue of measures is available online in digital format (Biokreis Biodiversity Tool).

Implementation

Biokreis farms use the Biokreis Biodiversity Tool to record the measures implemented and the number of points achieved by 31st March the following year. At least 100 points' worth of biodiversity actions must be achieved each year.

6.2. Rural agriculture

Biokreis e.V. promotes rural agriculture. One of the statutory objectives of Biokreis e.V. is the preservation of a diverse cultural landscape and the promotion of rural areas. The aim is to strengthen and further develop the identity of the regions. This is expressed in the promotion of traditional foods and recipes, typical of specific regions. Sustainable habitats are created by strengthening economic cycles and creating corresponding value chains within the regions. This in turn makes the regions competitive economically and attractive to the general population.

Biokreis farmers must consider two aspects when it comes to their public image:

- The active impact of the farm on its local surroundings. The cultural landscape should be preserved and promoted within manageable structures. The typical regional landscape must be taken into account. Rural agriculture within the region contributes to the expansion of socio-economic structures.
- The passive impact of the company on its environment. Farm managers must ensure that the farm has an exemplary appearance to the public. The image of an organic farm has a major influence on the formation of public opinion. The association must be protected against damaging behaviour. Biokreis e.V. reserves the right to deny or withdraw membership of the farm in the event of deviations from these guidelines.

6.3. Social responsibility

Biokreis farms operate in an ecologically and socially sustainable manner. In addition to organic farming methods, social interaction with people is a fundamental concern of Biokreis producers. Social and employment laws must be honoured for all people working on organic farms. Here, employees include seasonal workers as well as permanent employees. As a minimum, the farm management undertakes to comply with the relevant statutory provisions. The following requirements must be demonstrably fulfilled:

- Written employment contracts must be available for all farm employees.
- The wages of all employees must at least comply with the requirements of the law regulating a general minimum wage and must be paid regularly and on time as is contractually agreed. Salary payments must comply with the German Continued Remuneration Law (Entgeltfortzahlungsgesetz).
- The working hours of all employees must comply with the provisions of the German Working Hours Act (Arbeitszeitgesetz). Overtime is paid or compensated with time off work. Time off and annual leave must comply with the provisions of the German Federal Leave Act (Bundesurlaubsgesetz).
- All employees are insured as required by law. Training, further education, courses and access to protective clothing and medical care ensure that employees' health and safety is protected.
- The employment of minors must comply with the requirements of the German Youth Employment Protection Act (Jugendarbeitsschutzgesetz).
- All employees enjoy the same rights.
- All employees work on a voluntary basis, can assemble freely, negotiate collectively, are consulted by the management and are well-informed about how they can complain about their employment relationship.

7. Crop cultivation

7.1 General information

The following provisions apply to all crops, unless special provisions are made.

Specific regulations for horticulture as well as for permanent and speciality crops can be found under **10. Horticulture**, permanent and speciality crops.

7.2. Location

For farmers, the location is a given. Numerous factors in the natural and human-influenced environment are not directly under their influence. In some cases, they shape and alter the location in accordance with the aspects mentioned above in **6.1. Promoting biodiversity**. If there is a risk of contamination due to contaminated sites from previous cultivation or due to environmental influences (e.g. drift of pesticides or entry of pollutants, etc.), this risk

must be countered with suitable measures (e.g. protective planting). If necessary, such areas are to be excluded from certification.

7.3. Seeds and planting material

The cultivated crop species and varieties should be adapted to the prevailing soil and climatic conditions so they are less susceptible to pests and diseases. Seed and vegetative propagation material must come from Biokreis-certified sources where available. If there are no seeds or vegetative propagation material available, association-certified seed has priority over seed that is certified in accordance with the EU Organic Farming Regulation. The use of non-organic seed and planting material requires special authorisation from the inspection body or authority. Seeds and seedlings treated with synthetic chemical seed dressings are prohibited. The electron seed treatment process is approved. The use of CMS hybrids is prohibited. In the agricultural sector, local varieties should be preferred to hybrids. CMS hybrids are hybrids with cytoplasmic male sterility. Appendix II – Permitted measures and active substances for plant treatment lists all the permitted treatment products.

7.4. Crop rotation

Rotation farming is an essential feature of environmentally friendly agriculture.

It serves to:

- secure yields by establishing long-term soil fertility,
- regulate weeds,
- protect against diseases and pests and
- supply farm animals with feed produced on the farm itself.

In order to fulfil these functions, the crop rotation – depending on the location and other farm conditions – must contain a sufficient proportion of green manure and legumes as main or catch crops or in mixed crops. The latter is particularly vital on livestock-free farms to ensure long-term soil fertility. An average of 20% of the arable land must be used to grow main crop legumes (e.g. field beans, annual clover grass, etc.) over a five-year period. Otherwise the farm will not be able to be self-sufficient in terms of feed and fertiliser over the long term.

7.5. Fertiliser and humus management

7.5.1. General information

Healthy plant growth requires harmonious plant nutrition from the biological activity of the soil. All fertilisation measures serve to maintain and increase the fertility of the soil. Organic material from the farm, in particular manure from farm animals and plant residues, forms the basis of the fertiliser. In order to ensure the biological activity of the soil in the long term and thus its yield security, particular attention must be paid to ensure a balanced humus as part of a varied crop rotation. Sufficient quantities of organic material must be added to the soil.

Farm fertilisers must be used with the utmost care. Sufficient storage capacity and appropriate application technology must be ensured. When storing, handling and applying farm manure, it is important to minimise the loss of nutrients, e.g. as a result of the release of gases or leaching. Structural damage and the introduction of fertilisers into surface and groundwater must be avoided.

7.5.2. Purchasing fertiliser

In principle, plants must be supplied with food and nutrients from the farm's own fertilisers or through a closed-loop system and a sufficient proportion of legumes.

Purchased fertilisers may only be introduced to the farm if there is a proven need for them.

The use of purchased materials must be precisely documented and is subject to special due diligence with regard to the quality of the products.

Farm manure from organic farms is to be preferred over that from conventional sources. Purchased materials must be declared as part of the annual company inspection.

When purchasing fertilisers, the requirements of **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers** and **7.5.3. Quantity restrictions** must be observed.

Conventional farm manure must not be sourced from industrial livestock farming, in particular due to possible

residues of pharmaceuticals or feed additives (see **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers**).

The use of green waste and organic waste compost is only permitted with prior approval. The specifications in **Appendix VIII – Guidelines for the use of compost on organic farms** must be observed.

Biogas digestate may only be used under the conditions specified in **7.5.4. Digestate from biogas plants**.

Synthetic nitrogen compounds, the nitrogenous fertilisers sodium nitrate, guano and urea, as well as easily soluble phosphates are not permitted under any circumstance. The use of faecal and sewage sludge is prohibited.

Mineral fertilisers listed in **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers** are only to be considered as a supplement, and not as a substitute in the nutrient cycle. The need for their usage must be proven prior to use (e.g. through soil analysis or feed testing). Precise documentation is required for use. In the case of phosphate fertilisers, particular attention should be paid to a low cadmium content.

7.5.3. Quantity restrictions

The nutrient input from the farm's own livestock is limited by the maximum permissible livestock stocking densities from **Appendix III – Permissible livestock** and by the stipulations of Regulation (EU) 2018/848.

Organic fertilisers may only be introduced to the farm if the maximum permissible livestock densities specified in **Appendix III – Permissible livestock** are not reached. In this context, the maximum limit for purchased inputs of 40 kg N/ha/year must be observed (for horticulture, perennial crops, and special crops, the sector-specific limits for purchased inputs set out in Section 8. **Horticulture, Perennial and Special Crops** apply), as well as the requirements of the EU Organic Regulation. Biokreis farms that supply plant nutrients directly to another organic farm by means of their own forage (e.g. clover grass) or bedding (e.g. straw) can in return take back nutrients from this farm via organically produced (usually animal) manure. A nutrient return in the amount of the nutrient delivered as basic feed/bedding does not count towards the quantity limit (40 kg N/ha) for non-farm fertiliser within the meaning of these guidelines.

7.5.4. Digestate from biogas plants

The production of biogas must be sustainable. It is important that the use of biogas does not compete with food production. The focus is on the production of healthy food and the improvement of product quality as well as the sustainable safeguarding of yields.

Biogas plants on Biokreis farms

The following requirements must be met if a biogas plant is to be operated on a Biokreis farm². All fermentation substances must be listed in **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers**. At least 60% of the fermentation substances must come from organic production. A further 15% of the fermentation substances must come from organic production or consist of the following components:

- Conventional manure according to **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers**
- Plant growth from conventional leguminous grassland or leguminous mixtures or conventional grassland
- Plant growth from areas that are subject to nature conservation area regulations or comparable requirements

If fermentation substances are purchased for the operation of the plant and the fermentation residues are spread on the farm's own land, the purchased fermentation substances are deemed to be purchased fertiliser and must be taken into account when calculating the permissible purchased fertiliser quantity (see **7.5.3. Quantity restrictions**). If fermentation substances in excess of 0.5 dung units are purchased for the operation of the plant, a receipt must be kept documenting the delivery of the digestate in excess of this amount.

Purchasing digestate from external plants

As a Biokreis farm, it is possible to use digestate from an external biogas plant as fertiliser.

Nutrients that Biokreis farms supply to a biogas plant from their own production and then take back as digestate are not considered to be purchased fertiliser.

² This also applies to facilities operated by the manager of the Biokreis farm that have an independent legal status or joint facilities in which a majority shareholding is held.

Digestate from biogas plants on organic farms is considered an approved fertiliser if the plant meets the requirements listed above under Biogas plants on organic farms. The permissible quantity of purchased fertiliser (see **7.5.3. Quantity restrictions**) must always be observed.

The following requirements apply to the purchase of digestate from conventional biogas plants:

Digestate can only be taken back if own fermentation materials or purchased farm manure are delivered to the plant. A maximum of +50% of the nutrient equivalent may be taken up via the amount of fermentation substances introduced. The upper limit of 40 kg N/ha per year must be adhered to.

Filling the plant exclusively with non-organic fermentation materials or GMO additives is prohibited.

All fermentation substances used must be listed in **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers**. Soil fertility and a positive humus economy must be maintained. An annual humus analysis is recommended.

Please be aware that different German state authorities may have different regulations. These must be adhered to.

7.6. Crop protection

In organic farming, plant cultivation measures are designed to ensure that infestation by pests and diseases and the increased occurrence of weeds are of little or no economic significance. This is achieved through balanced crop rotation, a suitable choice of crop varieties, soil cultivation appropriate to the location and season, the correct quality and quantity of fertiliser, green manure as well as mechanical (e.g. harrow, hoe) and thermal (e.g. flaming) weed control methods.

Beneficial insects should be encouraged by means of suitable devices and measures, such as the creation of hedges, nesting sites, wetland biotopes, etc.

If direct measures beyond this are required to regulate insect populations, they may only be carried out with products listed in **Appendix II – Permitted measures and active substances for plant treatment**. The use of synthetic chemical pesticides to combat pests and plant diseases and the use of synthetic chemical herbicides is prohibited. In addition, the use of synthetic chemical products to regulate the growth of cereals, rapeseed, etc. is not permitted.

7.7. Use of shared machinery and equipment

If machines and equipment are shared with conventional farms, they must be carefully emptied and cleaned prior to use on an organic farm. These emptying and cleaning processes must be documented in detail. The management of the Biokreis farm is responsible for all machinery and equipment used on their farm.

8. Animal husbandry

8.1. Basic principles relating to animal husbandry

Animal husbandry is an important part of the cycle of an organic farm. The health and performance of livestock must be ensured through:

- species-appropriate care,
- animal-friendly husbandry,
- suitable breeding methods and breed selection and
- a wholesome feed that is predominantly produced on the farm.

Animal health must be maintained through prevention and diseases should be avoided through pre-emptive action.

Animal welfare

An annual animal welfare inspection forms part of the Biokreis guidelines for livestock and is undertaken on every livestock farm. This comprehensive animal welfare inspection is usually carried out as part of the regular inspection by the respective organic inspection body. The inspection is based on a species-specific checklist drawn up by Biokreis e.V. as part of the German Organic Associations' Animal Welfare Working Group (AG Tierwohl der Ökoverbände). This checklist is used to check mainly animal-related characteristics (animal welfare indicators) in the husbandry system and on the animal.

Land-based animal husbandry

Animal husbandry that is not tied to a specific piece of land is not permitted. The animal feed is to be predominantly produced on the farm itself. If Biokreis farms do not have a sufficient feed stock for the livestock they keep or have insufficient land as an individual farm, they are permitted to form a feed-manure co-operation with another Biokreis farm. The co-operating farms must be located in the same region³ and must exchange feed for manure. The manure produced on the co-operating farms must be spread evenly on the co-operating parties' land as part of the crop rotation. The exchange of farm manure and feed between the co-operating farms must be carefully documented. At least 50% of the feed used for each animal species (70% for ruminants) must be produced by the co-operating parties. In terms of compliance with Biokreis guidelines, farms with this type of co-operation agreement are considered as one operation. The "Co-operation Agreement" form, which is provided by Biokreis on request, forms the basis of a feed-manure co-operation. Other co-operation agreements must be looked at on a case-by-case basis and approved by Biokreis e.V. The co-operation agreement must be submitted to Biokreis e.V. before it is concluded.

Conventional animal boarding facilities / nomadic sheep herding

It is possible to keep conventional boarding animals on organic farms. The animal boarding must be carried out in accordance with the provisions of these guidelines. The following applies to liveries for sport and leisure horses: The animals must be kept in accordance with the requirements of the EU Organic Farming Regulation. All basic feed must comply with the requirements of the Biokreis guideline **8.3. Animal nutrition**. Concentrated feed, dietic feed, mineral feed and treats must comply exclusively with the requirements of the EU Organic Farming Regulation. Before admitting boarding animals, approval must be obtained from the responsible organic inspection body. Regulations specific to different German states must be observed. The same applies to the grazing of land by non-organic (nomadic) flocks of sheep.

8.1.1. Husbandry conditions – general information

Animals are kept in a way that is based upon their natural behaviour. The conditions must be such that the animals are not unnecessarily hindered in their species-specific behaviour (comfort, contact, rest, eating, etc.) and in their movements. The animals must be able to move around freely and stand up and lie down undisturbed. Fully perforated floors are forbidden, as is cage housing. At least 50% of the required permanently accessible floor area (according to **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs**) must be fully paved (i.e. no gaps or similar). Sufficient natural light and a good climate must be provided within the barn or stable.

All animals must be provided with littered and dry lying areas at all times. If conventional straw is purchased, it should come from areas with a low cultivation intensity. Conventional straw should only be purchased if no organic straw is available.

The animals must have access to outdoor space or a pasture. The number of animals allowed to access the outdoor space must be limited to ensure the sward is not disproportionately damaged. Overgrazing should be avoided. The outdoor area must always be used when permitted by:

- the physiological condition of the animals
- the climatic conditions and
- the condition of the soil.

If herbivores are given access to pasture during the grazing period and the animals have freedom of movement (free-stalls) as part of their winter housing, the obligation to give them access to pasture or exercise during the winter months can be waived. Depending on the needs of the animals, suitable protection against the weather and wild predators must be provided when grazing.

The minimum barn and exercise areas must be observed for all animals in accordance with **Appendix VI –**

³This refers to the immediate surroundings of a farm. The distance to a co-operating farm should not exceed 60 km.

Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barn and runs. The runs can be partially covered. Only the products listed in **Appendix VII – Approved products for cleaning and disinfecting barns and livestock buildings** may be used for cleaning and disinfecting barns.

8.1.2. Ruminants

Free-stall barns with access to pasture are the most suitable form of housing for ruminants.

In free-stall barns without access to pasture, the animals must have access to a run that can be used all year round. Dairy cattle and suckler cows as well as cattle must have the opportunity to graze during the growing season in accordance with **8.1.2.3. Grazing**.

In the case of free-stall barns with grazing during the vegetation period, uncovered housing areas that are permanently accessible and paved can be counted towards the minimum housing area in accordance with **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas**, provided that there is a sufficiently large, covered resting area for all animals in the relevant group.

Permanent tethering of cattle is not permitted (see **8.1.2.4. Tethering on small farms**).

Cattle trainers are strictly prohibited and must be removed.

8.1.2.1. Dairy cattle and suckler cows

Dairy cows, suckler cows and cattle must be given the opportunity to graze during the growing season in accordance with **8.1.2.3. Grazing**.

The areas designated for the cattle to rest must have plenty of straw. They must be sufficiently large. In free-stall barns, each cow must have a resting place and a feeding place. A slight reduction in the number of feeding places is possible if the feed is available at all times (storage feeding system). This requires the prior approval of Biokreis e.V.. The surfaces of the walkways in the barn should be non-slip and slip-resistant. They should also be wide and without dead ends. The exercise yard should be an attractive space for the animals. It should include feeding and drinking stations as well as scrubbing brushes, for example.

8.1.2.2. Offspring and fattening

Calves should be able to suckle from their mothers for the first few days after birth. Tethering calves and keeping them in isolated individual pens is prohibited. Calves should be kept in groups from the first week of life. Calves, as well as young and fattening cattle, must be given access to pasture during the entire grazing period in accordance with **8.1.2.3. Grazing** or a year-round outdoor run. The housing of the calves must meet the space requirements as stipulated in **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs** as well as the requirements of the German Animal Welfare Livestock Farming Ordinance (Tierschutz-Nutztierhaltungsverordnung). The exceptions mentioned there do not apply to organic farming.

Biokreis advocates either keeping animals that actually have horns or breeding genetically hornless animals. Dehorning of calves is not recommended. If dehorning is nevertheless carried out, the animals must be given (local) anaesthetic and a painkiller. It is also strongly recommended that the calf is sedated. The corresponding requirements and approval obligations of the state authorities for organic farms must also be observed.

8.1.2.3. Grazing

Herbivores must be given the opportunity to graze during the growing season. To enable grazing, the use of nearby arable land must also be considered in addition to pastures near the farm, including for temporary grazing as part of a sensible crop rotation, if the existing grazing area is not considered sufficient in light of the Biokreis Guidelines on Grazing. Should grazing not be possible, or not be possible to a sufficient extent in line with the requirements of the Biokreis guidelines for a permitted exceptional case (see Exceptions), a year-round usable outdoor run must be offered for the relevant animal groups in accordance with **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas**.

Deviating interpretations of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on grazing by the respective German federal states must also be observed.

Definition of grazing

For the purposes of these guidelines, grazing is deemed to be fulfilled if the animals concerned generally have access to pasture on a daily basis during the growing season. This must be with actual access to pasture (usually more than four hours a day) for a minimum of 120 days per year and with 600 square metres of permanently grassed pasture per livestock unit. The guidelines consider pastureland close to the farm to be pastureland whose access is no further than 500 metres from the barn.

Grazing must be offered within the appropriate systems if the condition of the ground and the weather conditions allow it. In line with this, grazing can be temporarily suspended during periods of extreme heat, after heavy/lasting rainfall and in the event of severe trampling damage.

Regulation on different categories of cattle

Where possible and feasible on the respective member farm, cattle of all ages should be allowed to graze. However, the following provisions deal with the special features of cattle rearing and care in specific phases of the cattle production cycle and describe fundamental exceptions within this context.

Suckling calves

For suckling calves (generally up to and including the third month of life), constant access to a paved run is sufficient.

Calves up to 6 months

For calves after weaning up to the age of 6 months, permanent access to a paved run is sufficient. However, if there is sufficient pasture close to the farm and directly adjacent to the barn, these animals should be given temporary access to a calf pasture when the weather is favourable so they can acclimatise.

Young cattle from 7 to 12 months

Young cattle up to 12 months of age are generally subject to intensive feeding and health monitoring during rearing. Grazing should therefore be offered if it can be reasonably reconciled with the necessities of rearing (including protection from the weather and parasite prevention) on areas close to the farm. If grazing is not offered, permanent access to a paved run must be provided.

Cattle over 12 months

Cattle over 12 months of age must always be given access to pasture. The only exceptions to this are male cattle over 12 months of age and animals in accordance with points 5 to 7 (see Exceptions).

Dairy cows

Dairy cows must be given access to pasture. Exceptions are listed below under Exceptions (see below).

Suckler cows and beef cattle

Cattle for fattening, suckler cows and their suckling calves must always be given access to pasture, generally in the form of full grazing. The only exceptions to this are male fattening cattle over 12 months of age.

The above provisions also apply to sheep and goats.

For all cattle over 12 months of age, suckler cows and fattening cattle as well as for dry dairy cows, suitable areas away from the farm must also be considered for grazing.

Exceptions

Exceptional situations that make grazing impossible or only allow it to a limited extent may include the following: (Important: Deviating interpretations of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 on grazing by the respective German federal states must also be observed.)

1. No pastureland available close to the farm (e.g. farm in a village/town location) or arable land that can be sensibly included in the crop rotation

2. Grazing areas close to the farm available, but due to traffic routes or development (housing estates, commercial development, etc.) at least one daily cattle drive (dairy cows, calves) not possible
3. Problematic land division on the farm (e.g. very small fields)
4. Specific and verifiably documented problems (e.g. repeated attacks by dogs or wolves despite adequate or reasonable herd protection)

Exceptions may also be possible for the following animals/animal groups:

5. Sick and injured animals
6. Animals due to calve for a period of approx. three weeks before calving (preparation/transit phase) and approx. two weeks after calving
7. Cattle and cows to be covered/inseminated as part of heat observation/control for a period of approx. 4 weeks

All animal groups that are not offered grazing as defined in these guidelines in accordance with points 1 to 4 and 6 to 7 and, in the case of male cattle over 12 months of age, are to be offered outdoor areas that are accessible all-year-round in accordance with **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs**.

The exceptions listed in points 1 to 3 are permitted until further notice for farms that were inspected for compliance with the Biokreis e.V. guidelines before 01.04.2018, usually for existing livestock buildings and only after consultation with the responsible organic inspection body and approval by Biokreis e.V.. The relevant exceptions usually relate to the grazing of lactating cows and calves/cattle.

As a rule, the exemptions listed under 1 to 3 are not to be granted for newly converting farms and new member farms.

Documentation

For all member farms where not all cattle and cows over 12 months of age are given access to pasture during the growing season, a grazing plan must be drawn up (in consultation with the advisory service) to maximise the possible grazing.

A grazing diary must be kept as part of the management plan for all animal groups that are given access to pasture. A grazing diary does not need to be kept for animals/age groups which, according to the management plan, are given permanent access to pasture during the growing season.

8.1.2.4. Combination Housing

Year-round and permanent tethering is prohibited. For new member farms (farms that become members of Biokreis on or after March 1, 2024), combination housing is not permitted. Subject to approval by the inspection authority, cattle on existing member farms (small-scale farms that became members of Biokreis before March 1, 2024) may be tethered, provided that the animals have access to pasture during the grazing season and have access to outdoor exercise areas at least twice per week when grazing is not possible.

8.1.2.5. Small ruminants

For small ruminants, the husbandry conditions for dairy cattle and suckler cows apply accordingly.

8.1.3. Pigs

The resting areas for pigs must contain sufficient bedding; fully perforated floors are not permitted. At least half of the specified minimum stall areas, as well as the minimum external areas, must be of solid construction. An outdoor run must be set up for pigs. Sows may only be restrained for farrowing for as short a time as possible (a few days). Sows must not be tethered. Sows must be kept in groups except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period. Piglets must not be kept in flat decks or piglet cages.

Pigs must be given the opportunity to root when in the barn. During the summer months, access to pasture must be guaranteed for breeding animals where possible. The pasture should be equipped with shaded areas and space to wallow.

Teeth nipping, preventive teeth grinding and tail docking are prohibited in piglets. Castration of piglets is only permitted with anaesthesia and the administration of painkillers. Castration by means of immunocastration is not permitted.

8.1.4. Poultry

The killing of male chicks from laying hen lines is prohibited. The purchase of animals from sources that do not comply with this requirement is not permitted.

For the rearing of male chicks (dual-purpose or "brother cocks"), at least the requirements of the EU Organic Regulation must be met. For selection methods based on in-ovo sex determination, the requirements set out in the document "Requirements for the Use of Sex Determination Methods" shall apply.

Buildings, housing facilities, and husbandry systems must be designed and maintained in such a way that animals are able to express their natural behavior, while also taking into account the health and well-being of both the caretakers and the animals. Particular attention must be paid to a good indoor climate, low dust levels, sufficient natural daylight⁴, etc. The specifications in **Annex VI – Minimum indoor and outdoor areas and other characteristics of housing and runs** must be observed. A continuous nighttime rest period without artificial lighting of at least eight hours must be ensured.

Beak trimming/beak treatment, as well as the housing of animals that have undergone beak trimming or treatment, is prohibited.

Barns

In the barn, one third of the area in which the animals are allowed to move freely must be covered with organic bedding material such as straw, wood shavings or husks and/or sand or rock flour of sufficient thickness for pawing. A sand bath must be available at all times.

Multi-tier systems can be used for parent birds of the *Gallus gallus* species, for laying hens, for pullets and for broilers. The raised levels must be built in such a way that no excrement can fall onto the animals below and the stalls must be equipped with an efficient waste removal system. In multi-level systems, no more than 3 levels may be arranged on top of each other. The floor counts as a level.

Poultry houses must have entry and exit flaps. These must have a combined length of at least 4 m per 100 square metres of stall area. From the warm area to the winter garden: 2 m per 100 sqm.

The biosafety of the stalls forms the basis for animal health and, as such, operational success. Poultry houses must, therefore, be cleaned and disinfected appropriately and regularly, but at least after the removal of one batch and before the introduction of the next batch of animals. Only the products listed in the Appendix VII – Approved products for cleaning and disinfecting stalls and livestock buildings may be used.

Winter garden

A winter garden in the form of an "additional covered outdoor area"⁵ or a "veranda"⁶ must be attached to the warm barn. This does not apply to flocks of less than 200 animals, mobile stalls, cold stalls, ducks and geese⁷. The winter garden is accessible all year round and offers the opportunity for sand and dust bathing. It must be covered with straw, have daylight and offer protection from wind and the rain, as well as from rodents and predators.

Green run

Poultry must be given access to green areas, weather permitting.

The green run must be designed with structural elements so that the animals can use all areas of the run. The

⁴ There must be windows covering an area equivalent to at least 5% of the barn floor area.

⁵ Additional covered outdoor area: An area that is isolated from the outside climate but does not have the same climate as the inside of the barn. It must have adequate insulation against heat and frost as well as sufficiently large wall openings. In contrast to the veranda, the additional covered outdoor area is permanently accessible and can be taken into account when calculating the stocking density.

⁶ Veranda: An area with an outdoor climate that is not accessible around the clock and whose usable area is not taken into account when calculating the stocking density and the minimum stable and outdoor areas.

⁷ A transitional period spanning until 2029 applies to existing Biokreis poultry houses without a veranda/additional covered outdoor area.

green run must have more than 50% plant growth and also offer sufficient protection from predators and the weather (if necessary, through the planting of trees or the use of other protective devices).

Care must be taken to ensure that a nutrient input of 170 kg N per hectare per year is not exceeded in the green run. To allow the vegetation to recover and for hygienic reasons, an occupancy-free period must be ensured between occupancies. It is also permissible to divide the exercise area, but a minimum exercise area per animal must always be maintained in accordance with **Appendix VI**.

8.1.4.1. Laying hens

The flock size is a maximum of 3,000 laying hens including cockerels. The flocks must be separated from each other using an opaque material. Where possible, 1 cock per 100 laying hens should be kept in each flock at the time of housing. At least 1 rooster per 150 laying hens must be housed. For smaller herds (<150 animals), at least 1 rooster can be kept. A maximum of 12,000 animals may be kept in one building. A maximum of 6 hens may be kept per square metre of accessible movement area in the warm barn area. The accessible movement area that can be taken into account for the animals is defined as follows:

- min. 30 cm wide / max. incline 14%
- the clearance height between tiers or perches must be at least 45 cm.

The movement area does not include the areas of laying nests, raised perches, approach perches or veranda areas.

If aviary space is provided, it is limited to 12 animals per square metre of floor space.

If the area of an additional covered outdoor area in floor housing systems is counted as housing area, a maximum stocking of 8 hens per square metre of walkable area may not be exceeded in the warm housing area (inside the barn). A maximum of 6 hens per square metre still applies to the entire barn. One third of the warm stall area must be set up as a manure pit or with manure removal. There must be at least 1 square metre of sand bath per 100 hens.

Each animal must have at least 18 cm of perch length with a cross-section of at least 30 mm x 30 mm.

The hens must be provided with sufficient littered laying nests or roll-off nests with soft rubber nubs or similar materials for laying eggs (see Appendix VI).

A green run of at least 4 square metres is required per hen. Only those areas whose distance from the henhouse does not exceed 150 m are taken into account for the calculation of the run areas⁸.

The minimum width of the green run is 4 m per 1,000 animals. For stocks below 1,000 animals, the minimum width of the run is 2 m. The run must be in use from 10 am at the latest.

8.1.4.2. Rearing pullets

The provisions under **8.1.4.1 for laying hens** apply accordingly to pullets. In addition, the following applies:

The maximum number of animals per housing compartment is specified in **Annex VI "Minimum indoor and outdoor areas and other characteristics of housing and runs"** – **Table 6**.

From the 11th week of life, a maximum of 13 birds per m² of accessible floor area in the warm housing area may be kept indoors. In multi-tier systems, a maximum of 24 birds per m² of floor area may be kept from the 11th week of life.

The selection of breeds or lines is based on the following criteria: the animals' adaptability to different environmental conditions, vitality, and resistance to diseases, parasites, and infections. Pullets are reared in floor or aviary systems. The housing system used during rearing should correspond to that of the later laying hen house. The flocks must be separated from each other by opaque partitions.

To implement a lighting program, appropriate equipment may be used to regulate light intensity and duration. From placement onwards, chicks must have continuous access to manipulable litter material.

At least half of the indoor usable area must be provided as littered scratching area. The litter must be at least 5 cm

⁸ Areas over 150 metres away can only be considered when calculating the required exercise area in cases where the areas close to the barn are excluded due to a time-limited regeneration phase

deep and kept loose, dry, and clean. Feeding space, feeding equipment, and litter areas for grain distribution must be designed so that all animals can feed simultaneously.

Elevated perching structures must be available from the first week of life. The cross-section of perches must be at least 30 mm x 30 mm, with rounded upper edges. Only perches with a horizontal spacing of at least 25 cm between them are counted towards the usable perch length. From the first week of life, animals must also have the opportunity to dust bathe.

Openings from the house to the winter garden or outdoor run must be sized to allow the birds to move freely and without restriction.

Pullets must be provided with a winter garden.

At the latest from the 10th week of life, the animals must have access to a green outdoor run of at least 1 m² per animal⁹.

8.1.4.3. Fattening poultry

The maximum number of animals per stall compartment is shown in **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs – Table 6**.

The minimum slaughtering age for poultry for fattening in accordance with **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs – Table 7** must be observed if the breeds are not slow-growing.

The maximum stocking density in permanent housing must not exceed 21 kg live weight per square metre for broilers, turkeys, ducks and geese.

The exercise area is the floor space available to the animals in the barn (for a definition of exercise area, see **8.1.4.1. Laying hens**). In mobile stables, a maximum animal population of 30 kg live weight per square metre is permitted. This only applies to mobile stables with a floor area of no more than 150 square metres. The same requirements apply for larger movable stables as for fixed stables.

- For guinea fowl, a perch length of at least 20 cm per animal is required.
- The housing compartments for fattening poultry other than *Gallus gallus* must be separated by solid partitions that provide complete spatial separation from floor to ceiling.
- Waterfowl must always have access to water areas (running water, ponds, lakes or paved water areas) while observing the hygienic conditions. The water in paved water surfaces must be replaced regularly. The water area cannot be counted as a minimum stall or exercise area (in accordance with **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs**).
- Broiler chickens (males from laying line flocks that are kept for meat production) can be reared in multi-tier systems. The maximum permissible stocking density is 21 kg live weight/sqm barn area. The animals must be provided with perches or raised seating levels in accordance with the requirements in Appendix VI.

8.1.4.4 Small poultry (quails/pigeons)

This requirement applies to all small poultry farmers who wish to market their animals or the meat of their animals under the Biokreis trademark. Herds of less than 20 animals that are only kept for private use (no intention to purchase) are exempt from this directive.

The regulations on the keeping of laying hens and fattening poultry also apply *mutatis mutandis* to small poultry, unless other regulations are set out below.

The conversion period for fattening animals or animals for egg production is 6 weeks. They may then be marketed under the Biokreis trademark. The conversion period begins as soon as the animals are fed and kept in accordance with the guidelines. A minimum slaughter age of 28 days must be taken into account for fattening poultry.

Housing

The animals are to be kept in the stall and run in such a way that they can behave in a way specific to their species. The maximum occupancy density in the barn (warm area) is 15 animals or 3 kg live weight per square metre

⁹ Barns that were built before 31.12.21 can be retained until 31.12.29, whereby at least 0.5 m²/animal must be available.

of movement area. The accessible area can extend to a maximum of one further level in addition to the usable barn floor area. All areas of the enclosures must be provided with structures that are as natural as possible and allow species-appropriate behaviour. For quails, these include retreat and protection options in the form of tubes, caves, etc.; for pigeons, resting options on boards, poles, branches, etc. should be installed in various shapes and heights. A dust bath should be provided.

There must be 1 square metre of nesting area available for 150 laying quails. A single nest has a minimum area of 600 square centimetres for 8 laying hens.

When keeping pigeons, there must be at least one separate nesting area of 0.5 square metres per pair, equipped with a littered incubation tray. The pigeons should be offered nesting materials such as straw, brushwood or leaves in the nest area.

Barn

A maximum of 50% of the accessible area in the warm area may be fitted with a perforated floor appropriate to the age. The stalls must have a littered scratching area that covers at least 50% of the barn floor area. A barn for keeping quails can accommodate a maximum of 1,500 animals, whereby the maximum group size for laying and fattening quails is 300 animals.

The minimum size of an enclosure with a covered outdoor area for quails is 1.5 square metres.

A pigeon house can accommodate a maximum of 1,000 breeding pairs with offspring. The maximum group size is 25 breeding pairs with offspring. The minimum size of an enclosure with a covered outdoor area for pigeons is 7.5 square metres.

The ceiling height above the accessible area of the individual areas must be adapted to the respective management requirements but must be at least 50 cm for quails and at least 200 cm for pigeons.

Outdoor area and access

The paved, roofed outdoor area (winter garden), which is accessible all year round, comprises at least 50% of the accessible area in the warm area and is completely covered with loose bedding materials. When selecting bedding materials, care must be taken to ensure that the quails do not develop foot or toe ball ulcers. An outdoor area in the form of an integrated exercise area counts as part of the barn floor area if it is permanently accessible and usable; if this is not the case, it can only be counted as a maximum of 50% of the barn interior area.

Each animal must be provided with a protected green run of at least 0.4 square metres per animal.

8.1.4.5 Hatcheries

Only organic eggs from organic parent stock may be hatched in Biokreis-certified hatcheries. The use of conventional eggs is permitted when testing new organic breeds without organic parent stock and when breeding pedigree, waterfowl and special poultry. The origin and status of the hatching eggs and the chicks that hatch from them must always be fully documented and traceable at all times. The identity of the hatchling must be traceable at all times.

- Working and incubation rooms may only be equipped with light sources that do not create a “stroboscopic effect” .
- There must be sufficient daylight in workrooms.
- The incubators must have a stable and controlled climate.
- Only animals with recognisable physical abnormalities and which cannot be expected to be kept in a species-appropriate manner may be culled after hatching.
- Suitable vehicles must be used to transport the chicks.

8.1.5. Rabbits

This guideline applies to all rabbit farmers who wish to market their animals or the meat of their animals under the Biokreis trademark. Herds of less than two breeding animals or less than ten fattening animals that are only kept for private use (no intention to purchase) are exempt from this directive.

The conversion period for breeding and fattening animals is 10 weeks. They may then be marketed under the

Biokreis trademark. The conversion period begins as soon as the animals are fed and kept in accordance with the guidelines.

Housing

The animals must be kept in such a way that they can behave in a way appropriate to their species. Rabbits must be kept in groups (except during the suckling period of the dams). The maximum group size in the hutch is 40 fattening rabbits and 5 reproducing dams.

Barn

The hutches must allow for group housing and be designed in such a way that the rabbits can easily stand with their ears erect. Rabbits must be provided with material to gnaw on. The floor area can be made up of multiple levels. There should be a variety of floor materials. In any case, quiet areas and retreats must be provided. Each dam must be given its own nest to care for its litter. The minimum stall areas from Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs must be complied with.

Grazing

Rabbits must have access to pasture during the grazing period and access to a green run outside the grazing period. The minimum stall areas from Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs must be complied with.

8.1.6. Game

All game species (fallow deer and red deer) that can be kept on farms are classified as game. Fallow deer and red deer must be kept on pasture all year round. Herds must have a minimum of 5 females and one stag. The ratio of 1 stag to 25 females should not be exceeded. The recommended enclosure size for fallow deer is at least 3 hectares and for red deer at least 5 hectares. The stocking densities and minimum outdoor spaces described in **Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs** must be complied with. Paddocking is possible. Care must be taken to ensure that each paddock is sufficiently large. A sufficiently high (1.80 m), escape-proof fence that will not harm the animals must be installed around the enclosure. Hiding places and sufficient protection from the weather must be provided within the enclosure (e.g. hedges, trees, shelters). In order to meet the natural need for protection and rest, opportunities to stand must be available or created. Suitable floor coverings in frequently used areas (e.g. rough concrete or grass pavers) must be provided so the animals can scrape their hooves. Male game must be provided with sufficient species-appropriate fraying opportunities. A wallow must be available for red deer.

The feeding areas must be set up in places that are protected from the weather and easily accessible for both the animals and the animal owners. The ground at the feeding areas must be paved and the feeders must be covered. Biokreis must be informed if there is to be a single or mixed enclosure with wild boar. The removal of deer antlers is only permissible in individual cases (e.g. in the case of injuries to the antlers) and may only be carried out if advised by a vet. The prophylactic use of medication is prohibited. Parasite treatment is permitted no more than once a year. Fallow deer and red deer are to be killed by rifle shot in accordance with animal welfare legislation.

8.1.7. Pond management

The keeping of fish must be adapted to the requirements that the reared fish species place on their habitat (e.g. oxygen content, temperature, current, water replacement, natural soil conditions). Rearing in artificial containers is not permitted (polyester, concrete, etc.). Hatchlings up to max. 8 weeks old (carp) or 4 cm in length (trout), and food fish, may be temporarily kept in artificial containers. Caging should be as gentle as possible. Conditions should prevent injury (e.g. from rough concrete walls or sharp-edged stones).

Only materials and substances that have been proven not to have a harmful effect on the organisms kept or the environment may be used in the installation and operation of the husbandry systems.

The farm is obliged to leave biotope structures, retreats and shelters for flora and fauna in the pond. On average, at least 30% of the banks of the pond must have a siltation and reed zone at least 2 m wide and/or overhanging

trees, etc. Dams and banks are (preferably) to be mowed after 1st September.

Drainage and liming

If possible, the ponds should be drained in winter and then restocked by March/April. In critical weather situations (e.g. where there is a risk of bacterial gill rot) and for leech control, quicklime may be applied if the need can be verified in writing by a vet or the fish health service. The following requirements must be met: maximum annual application rate of 100 kg per hectare on the wet pond bottom (in the fish removal area); maximum annual water liming of 100 kg per hectare; amphibians and their spawning grounds must not be endangered. Precise documentation of the applications must be kept in the pond logbook.

Water quality

The inlet water must be at least water quality class II (no or only very low pollution of anthropogenic origin, e.g. heavy metals; no or only low wastewater pollution BOD5 < 6 mg). If contamination is suspected, an investigation must be carried out every 3 years with regard to possible contamination by heavy metals and organically toxic compounds using a mixed sludge sample. If there is any suspicion of possible contamination with heavy metals and pesticides, the edible fish must be tested. It is strongly recommended that an ecologically compatible management of the farmland at the water's edge is agreed with non-organic farmers owning land directly adjacent to the water. The inflow must also be taken into account. Any specific local conditions (e.g. sewage treatment plant at the inlet) must be clarified with Biokreis e.V..

Aeration of the water is only permitted for the purpose of maintaining life in extreme situations and not to increase growth.

Water protection

The quality class of the abstraction water must not be (significantly) worsened by the operation of the fish farm (max. 0.5 units on the saprobic index). Every three years, a comparative assessment of water quality (e.g. saprobic index) upstream and downstream of the operating site must be carried out and documented.

The discharge of nutrients from the system must be kept as low as possible. The nutrient load of the wastewater must be determined at least once a year during normal operation.

Sedimented metabolic products and feed residues must be removed and used for agricultural purposes.

The residual water volume in the original stream bed must not fall below 50% of the average low water volume as a result of water withdrawal from the supply water. Dams must be designed so they are passable for trout.

The fish farm must be secured against the escape of fish and the intrusion of wild fish.

Health and hygiene

A preventative approach to health and hygiene should be a key focus. Lime or table salt is permitted for the treatment of fish in immersion baths by the fish keeper. The use of other fish treatment products and antibiotics is only permitted if prescribed by a vet. The waiting time stated on the packaging must be doubled (and be at least 48 hours) before the fish are placed on the market. All treatments must be documented in the pond logbook.

If the production cycle is shorter than one year, only allopathic treatment is permitted. Otherwise, a maximum of two treatments per year are permissible. Vaccinations are exempt from this regulation.

The products used for cleaning and disinfecting ponds, tanks, equipment and premises must be listed in **Appendix VII – Approved products for cleaning and disinfecting stalls and livestock buildings**.

Pond logbook

The pond owner is obliged to keep a pond logbook. The following data must be recorded for each pond:

Stocking number and stocking weight for each fish species and age class

- Origin of the fish
- Date and application rate of liming
- Medical treatments given (where applicable)

- Fishing result
- Periods of draining and covering

Transportation and slaughter

Live fish must be supplied with sufficient oxygen during transportation and keeping. When animals are slaughtered, care must be taken to ensure that no unnecessary suffering is inflicted on the animals. The fish must be stunned before slaughter and must not be killed by suffocation. Stunning and slaughter facilities must be effectively maintained and records of the maintenance must be kept. The slaughter process must be carried out as quickly and as stress-free as possible.

Additional purchases

If a farm trades in fish, one species of fish may not come from both organic and conventional production. If conventionally produced fish species are offered as an additional assortment, the conventional origin must be clearly and comprehensibly labelled. When keeping non-autochthonous (native) fish species, it must be ensured that these fish species do not spread into native waters.

8.1.7.1. Carp pond management

Fertilisation

A maximum of 20 kg N per hectare of organic material may be added to the pond (e.g. solid manure, green cuttings) to control plankton growth. The material must originate from certified organic farms. If this requirement cannot be met in organic quality, organic material from conventional, extensively managed farms may be used after consultation with the advisory service (non-organic cattle, sheep, goat and horse manure as well as green cuttings from extensive meadows may be permitted).

Fish stocking/fish farming

Regional breeds and breeding strains should be selected for stocking and spawning fish. The stocking rate must be based primarily on the natural yield potential and the local conditions. With pure grain feeding, the available natural food limits the ecologically acceptable stocking rate. Consequently, no stocking limits apply. However, the requirement may only be set so high that at least 50% of the growth is achieved through the natural food supply. When using protein sources in feeding, the following stocking limits for the main commercial fish must be observed:

- 3,000-4,000 C1 (single-summer carp) or
- 600 C2 (two-summer carp) or
- 5,000-7,000 T1 (single-summer tench) or
- 2,500 T2 (two-summer tench) per hectare

When stocking tench, this stocking figure must be deducted from the carp stocking figures. In the case of stocking with C4, C5 etc., a separate arrangement must be made after consultation with Biokreis e.V.

8.1.7.2. Trout pond management

Ponds

The nature of the ponds should resemble a section of natural trout water in every respect. There must be areas with different flow rates. The ponds must be partially shaded and the bottom of the pond should have a natural texture. Artificial containers (e.g. concrete basins) are only permitted for short-term caging and for pre-stretching the brood up to 4 cm in length.

Fish farming

Eggs and seeds may be obtained artificially by stripping. To avoid excessive stress, the animals should be anaesthetised before stripping. The use of hormones for spawning is not permitted. When reproducing stock fish, the spawning period must be limited to the natural spawning time of the respective fish species.

8.2. Livestock

The number of livestock kept must be adapted to the ecology of the site and the farm conditions. The maximum possible livestock numbers are regulated in **Appendix III – Permissible livestock**.

8.3. Animal nutrition

8.3.1. General information

All percentages refer to the dry matter content (DM content) of the feed. All farm animals must be fed with high-quality organically produced feed. Feeding facilities and feeding tables must be kept in proper, clean condition. Feed for all animal species must be procured according to the following priority list:

1. Feed from own cultivation and own mixture
2. Purchase of feed from Biokreis farmers
3. Purchase of feed from farmers of other organic farming associations or purchase of Biokreis-certified compound feed or purchase of individual feed components via Biokreis-certified feed mills or traders
4. Purchase of compound feed or individual feed components, certified by other organic farming associations from Germany, via feed mills or dealers. In this case, a special permit must be obtained from Biokreis e.V. before additional purchases are made.
5. Purchase of feed that is certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848. In this case, a special permit must be obtained from Biokreis e.V. before additional purchases are made.

Mineral feed must comply with the legal provisions of Regulations (EU) 2018/848 and (EU) 2021/1165.

Use of shared grinding and mixing plants

If mobile and shared grinding and mixing equipment, which is also used on conventional farms, is used for feed preparation, it must be carefully emptied and cleaned before being used on an organic farm. The use must be documented. Further documents (mixing protocol template, contract processing agreement template) are available from Biokreis e.V..

Conversion feed

Conversion feed or feed from land under conversion may be included in the ration in the following proportions:

Additional purchases

- It is not possible to purchase feed from land in the first year of conversion.
- Purchased in-conversion feed (corresponds to feed from land that has been farmed in accordance with the guidelines for at least 12 months prior to harvest) may be included in the ration at an average rate of max. 25%.

Feed from the farm in question

If new, previously conventionally farmed areas are added to the existing farm, the feed can be utilised as follows:

- Feed from the first year of conversion from the farm's own permanent grassland, perennial forage crops (e.g. clover grass) or protein crops may be included in the ration up to 20% (zero-year forage – non-organic status). Protein plants must be grown under organic conditions throughout their entire cultivation period.
- Conversion fodder (corresponds to fodder from areas that have been used for at least 12 months before the harvest) from the farm's own land can be used at a rate of 100%.

The percentages are calculated annually as a percentage of the dry matter of plant origin feed.

8.3.2. Feeding

The animals' diet must be tailored to their age, activity, health status and requirements. The aim should be self-sufficiency with the farm's own feed. In the case of cattle, sheep, goats and horses, at least 70% of the annual ration must be sourced from the farm itself (or from a co-operative agreement with another farm). In the case of pigs and poultry, at least 50% of the feed must come from the farm itself (or from a co-operative agreement with an-

other farm). In the case of rabbits, at least 70% of the feed must come from the farm itself (or from a co-operative agreement with another farm). Farms that keep a maximum of 10 dung units of chickens (equivalent to 1,000 laying hens or 2,000 broilers) and 10 dung units of pigs (equivalent to 30 sows or 60 fattening pigs) must source at least 30% of the feed for the respective animal species from the region.

In justified cases approved by Biokreis e.V., conventional feed may be fed to a limited extent as long as this is permitted under the EU Organic Farming Regulation, in accordance with **Appendix IV – Purchasing conventional feed**. This exception does not apply to ruminants.

Purchased feed from non-compliant production must be free of residues and GMOs. Chemically extracted and spoiled feed is prohibited.

8.3.2.1. Ruminants

The feed must contain at least 60% of the DM of structured feed at any time of the year.

Dairy cattle, suckler cows, sheep and goats that meet the grazing requirements according to **8.1.2.3. Grazing** must be given additional forage with a proportion of green fodder during the growing season. Year-round exclusive silage feeding is not permitted.

Concentrated feed must consist mainly of cereals and legumes. Protein feed should consist of grain legumes. Animal-based feed is not permitted – with the exception of milk and dairy products.

Calves, lambs and kids are fed on natural milk, preferably mother's milk, for a period of at least three months for calves and at least 45 days for lambs and kids.

Pure milk fattening without feeding roughage is not permitted.

Meat from transhumant sheep farms may only be marketed under the Biokreis trademark if at least 90% of the feed comes from organically farmed or extensively organically farmed areas (i.e. areas that have been farmed without synthetic nitrogen fertilisers and pesticides) or from corresponding nature conservation areas.

8.3.2.2. Pigs

The animals must be given a daily amount of roughage or succulent feed appropriate to their age. Exclusive concentrated fattening feed is not permitted.

The piglets are fed with natural milk, preferably their mother's milk, over a period of at least 40 days.

8.3.2.3. Poultry

If possible, 10% of the feed ration for laying hens should be whole grains (according to the priority list as per **8.3.1. General information**) distributed within the litter. It must be ensured that mussel shells, grit, etc. can be freely consumed. Feed components with low digestibility must be included in the feed ration.

The animals must be provided with sufficient drinking facilities. Waterfowl must be provided with moist feed (basic feed).

8.3.2.4. Rabbits

Rabbits should cover their food requirements mainly by grazing on grass. To this end, the animals must be given maximum access to pasture. If there is not enough grass available, roughage containing fibre such as straw or hay must be provided. Forage must make up at least 60% of the feed ration.

Rabbits must receive milk, preferably mother's milk, for at least 42 days from birth.

8.3.2.5. Game

Game should be fed from the pasture wherever possible. At least 60% of the dry matter in the daily ration must consist of fresh, dried or ensiled roughage. Additional feeding on the pasture is only permitted in the event of a lack of feed due to unfavorable weather conditions. Where available, purchased acorns and chestnuts should come from forests that are managed according to recognised ecological forestry guidelines. If acorns or chestnuts are obtained from conventionally managed forests, they may not exceed 10% of the dry matter of the annual average of the ration. The original forests must not be chemically treated. This requires a certificate from the forest manager(s).

Clean and fresh water must be available to the animals. If no natural water source is easily accessible to the animals, drinking troughs must be provided.

Game should be fed for at least 90 days from birth, preferably with mother's milk.

8.3.2.6. Pond management

Carp

Fish growth is based on the pond's food supply. At least 50% of the growth is achieved through the natural food supply in the pond. To ensure optimum utilisation of the protein-rich pond food, supplementary feeding with plant-based products is permitted.

Proteins of animal origin are not permitted for feeding carp.

Trout

The fattening of salmonids (salmon, trout, etc.) occupies a special position in food production due to the carnivorous (meat-eating) diet of the animals. The guiding principle of the closed-loop economy must remain recognisable in an organically managed trout farm when selecting the feed basis. All raw materials of agricultural origin used in the feed must come from organic farms or ponds.

8.4. Animal husbandry

In principle, natural breeding is to be preferred. Artificial insemination is permitted. The use of "sexed" semen is also permitted. Other forms of artificial reproduction are prohibited (e.g. embryo transfer and other biotechnical measures).

Ecological breeding aims for natural breeding methods – such as breeding for lifetime performance and according to overall ecological breeding value. Similarly, when selecting breeds, preference should be given to native breeds that have adapted to the location.

8.5. Purchasing animals

Animals must be purchased according to the following list of priorities:

1. Purchase from Biokreis farms
2. Purchase from farms belonging to other organic farming associations
3. Purchase of animals certified in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848
4. Purchase of non-organic animals

For the purchase of young poultry and piglets that are not certified by Biokreis, an application for their additional purchase must be submitted via <https://organicxlivestock.de/>. (No application is required for purchases of less than 500 laying hens, 1,000 broilers and 30 piglets).

Non-organic (EU organic and other associations) ruminants, breeding boars and breeding sows can be purchased without application via [organicxlivestock](https://organicxlivestock.de/).

Important: A conversion period of 3 months must be observed when purchasing EU animals. The animal or products from the animal may only be sold as Biokreis-certified after 3 months of keeping and feeding in accordance with Biokreis guidelines (i.e. when the animal has lived on the Biokreis farm for 3 months).

Poultry

Poultry must come from organic parent stock. An application must be made to the competent authority for approval to house non-organic chicks.

In the case of small poultry, unlimited numbers of non-organic breeding animals may be purchased to build up the initial stock. Otherwise, these numbers are limited to 10% of the stock per annum.

Mammals

Conventional animals may only be purchased for the following purposes with proof of non-availability and with

the prior approval of Biokreis Quality Assurance:

- for breeding purposes
- for the renewal of a herd or flock. For this purpose, the purchase of female animals that have not yet given birth is permitted (cattle up to 10% of the stock of adult animals, pigs, sheep and goats up to 20% of the stock). Purchases that exceed the above percentages require the approval of the responsible organic inspection body.

The conversion times as listed in **Table 1 Conversion times for certain animal species and uses** (see **3.4. Conversion periods**) must be observed.

Pond management: Carp

Fish stocks (eggs, hatchlings, fingerlings, etc.) may only be purchased from Biokreis farms or from farms belonging to recognised organic farming associations. Conventional goods may only be purchased if corresponding products from recognised organic or sustainable production are demonstrably unavailable. The products must then be clearly labelled as conventional/non-organic. The Biokreis trademark may only be used to label fish produced from conventional stocking if the fish have spent a minimum of two thirds of their lifetime under the conditions defined in these guidelines.

Spawning fish must come from recognised organic farms. Regional species are preferred for propagation. The spawning products must be obtained naturally, e.g. in Dubisch ponds. The use of hormones in spawning is not permitted (including species-specific hormones, e.g. pituitary glands and pituitary gland extract). In order to maintain and promote the natural reproductive capacity of the breeding strains, the spawning fish must come from vintages with natural spawn recovery.

Pond management: Trout

Neither the stocked fish nor the breeding strain may have been genetically or biotechnologically manipulated. The parent fish must be kept according to organic guidelines.

8.6. Animal health

8.6.1. General information

The animal owner is responsible for the health of the animals. They must create the best possible conditions for keeping the animals healthy. The health of the animals must be primarily ensured through the use of preventive measures. These include:

- attentive animal care,
- needs-based feeding,
- the most suitable housing conditions,
- the selection of suitable breeding methods and breeds and
- regular care of hair, skin and hooves.

The welfare of the animal is always our priority. If health problems occur, suitable measures must be taken immediately to eliminate or alleviate them. These measures must not be avoided due to economic reasons (e.g. putting the organic status at risk). The cause must be determined and remedied immediately by specialists. Sick and injured animals may need to be separated from the group and housed separately to ensure appropriate care.

8.6.2. Treatments

Treatment with natural remedies (phytotherapy, homeopathy, etc.) is generally preferable to chemical-synthetic allopathic therapy. The following principle should be applied: as much naturopathy as possible, as little allopathy as necessary.

The prophylactic and routine use of chemical-synthetic allopathic agents and hormone treatments is prohibited (e.g. to synchronise oestrus or to terminate pregnancies as a herd measure). This does not include products whose use is prescribed by law and vaccines. Prescribed vaccination measures are permitted.

Fattening aids and synthetic feed additives are prohibited (except vitamins and suitable preparations for the iron supply of piglets).

Chemically synthesised allopathic medicines may only be used if prescribed by a veterinary specialist.

The list of medicinal products whose use is prohibited or restricted in animal husbandry must be observed during treatment and taken note of by the competent veterinary staff (see **Appendix IX – Medicinal products whose use is prohibited or restricted in animal husbandry**). The vet must sign to confirm that they are aware of this list.

Parasite control should only be carried out after a specific diagnosis by a vet. Selective parasite control is preferred. Legal and official requirements must always be complied with.

All medicinal treatments of individual animals and herds must be recorded in the barn logbook. Biokreis e.V. recommends the conclusion of a veterinary herd management contract.

A period of at least 48 hours and at least twice the statutory withdrawal period must be observed between the administration of a chemically synthesised allopathic product and the production of organic products from the animal concerned.

If animals receive more than three courses of treatment with chemical-synthetic allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics within 12 months, the animal products may no longer be marketed with reference to organic farming or must once again undergo the conversion periods for the respective animal species. Animals with a productive life cycle of less than one year may receive a maximum of one treatment cycle, otherwise the products may not be marketed with the Biokreis/organic farming label. This provision does not apply to vaccinations, parasite treatments and statutory measures.

8.7. Transporting animals

Measures must be taken to avoid stress and unnecessary suffering for the animals from loading to slaughter. Transportation and slaughtering may only be carried out by persons who have the necessary knowledge and skills. If possible, the animal owner, the butcher or personnel instructed by them should accompany the transportation of the animals. Careful loading, littered transport areas and sufficiently large containers for poultry and adequate ventilation during transport are mandatory. The distances between the farm and the slaughterhouse should be kept as short as possible and regional slaughterhouses should be preferred. The transport time should not exceed four hours and the transport distance should not exceed max. 200 km.

Before loading, the animals must be watered sufficiently and fed appropriately. Animals for which pregnancy cannot be ruled out must not be sent for slaughter.

The means of transport must have suitable facilities for loading and unloading and offer the animals sufficient space so that all animals can lie down and stand up at the same time during transportation.

The different needs of the various animal species and the climatic conditions must be taken into account. Long idle times should be avoided, particularly during warm weather. The vehicle should be parked in the shade during necessary breaks in transportation and the animals should be given sufficient water. If possible, transportation should take place early in the morning or at night.

No medication or sedatives may be administered before or during transportation. The following guidelines apply to the individual animal species:

Cattle, sheep and goats:

- Appropriate feeding before loading
- Milk dairy animals before loading
- Gentle loading and unloading (e.g. without electric driver)
- Separation of sexually mature animals by sex (for lambs if possible)
- The transport area must be littered

Pigs:

- No feeding a few hours before transportation
- Gentle loading and unloading (e.g. with driving shields and gates for guiding, without sticks and electric drivers)
- Moving from a dark environment into a light environment if possible
- Separation according to fattening groups and origins; if necessary, install partitions for joint transportation

- The transport area must be littered

Poultry:

- Container dark, well ventilated and sufficiently tall

9. Horticulture, permanent and speciality crops

The general provisions in these guidelines, in particular the requirements in 7.3. **Seeds and planting material** and 7.6. **Plant protection** are also mandatory for horticulture and the cultivation of permanent and speciality crops. The specifications from 7.5. **Fertilisation and humus management** are supplemented below and are only valid to a limited extent. On farms without livestock, nitrogen must be sourced through the cultivation of legumes from the farm as far as possible. The remaining nitrogen requirement can be purchased in accordance with **Appendix I** (see **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers: Fertilisers and soil improvers purchased from organic farms and conventional organic fertilisers and soil improvers**).

9.1. Growing vegetables

9.1.1. Fertilisation, soil care and revegetation

In vegetable growing, particular care must be taken to ensure that the soil is supplied with organic matter and that the humus balance is stable.

In open-field vegetable cultivation, the amount of nitrogen fertilisation must not exceed an average of 110 kg N per hectare per year over the crop rotation of the areas used for vegetable cultivation. Where 50% or more of the nitrogen applied comes from compost, up to 140 kg N/ha per year can be used in the crop rotation on average. In greenhouses, higher quantities of fertiliser can be used, depending on the duration of cultivation and expected yield.

Areas that lie fallow for longer periods during the growing season (i.e. more than 12 weeks) must be revegetated.

9.1.2. Soils and substrates

The cultivation of vegetables is only permitted as a soil culture in the ground.

The water forcing of chicory is permitted, as is the production of sprouts and the cultivation of potted herbs and products where the plant container is sold together with the plant. Peat is only permitted as a component of growing media and potting soils (maximum 80% of the substrate), but is not permitted to enrich soils with organic matter due to nature conservation reasons. Preference should be given to ecologically compatible peat substitutes.

The use of synthetic soil improvers in soils and substrates is not permitted. Purchased soils and additives to substrates (e.g. ready-made soils, bark products, ready-made composts and compost material) may only contain additives that are permitted under these guidelines.

Soils and substrates may be steamed. Surface steaming of the soil for weed control or soil decontamination is permitted. Depth steaming is not permitted.

9.1.3. Cultivation under glass and plastic

The use of efficient thermal insulation and energy-saving heating systems in greenhouses is required in order to conserve non-renewable resources. In winter and early spring, the cultivation areas may be kept frost-free at most (approx. 5 °C), but not at higher temperatures. This does not apply to the cultivation of young plants, potted herbs, cress and forcing. If greenhouse areas are converted to organic having previously been cultivated conventionally, a soil analysis must be submitted with regard to contamination from pesticides (e.g. chlorinated hydrocarbons).

9.2. Herb cultivation

As speciality crops, medicinal and aromatic herbs place high demands on cultivation and processing. In order to adapt the location, fertilisation, crop rotation and preparation to the respective needs of the individual species, it is advisable to seek advice prior to growing medicinal and aromatic plants. The distance between the cultivated are-

as and roads should be at least 50 m, and at least 5 m from farm tracks if no suitable protective planting is present. The application of liquid manure and slurry to crops is prohibited during the harvest year; solid manure may only be applied prior to the start of vegetation.

Only equipment and processes that ensure the greatest possible protection of the harvested crop and prevent contamination with undesirable substances may be used for processing. The crop must be dried immediately after processing. No materials that pose a health risk (e.g. treated masonite) may be used for drying. Direct heating with oil or wood and chemical dehumidification are also prohibited. Use low, gentle drying temperatures. The plants must be dried down to such an extent that optimum shelf life is guaranteed (approx. 8% moisture content). Different types of plants must not be dried over or under each other at the same time. The storage room must be dry, protected from light and relatively cool. A weekly check for fungal and pest infestation as well as the moisture content of the stored goods is essential.

Different herbs must be stored in such a way as to avoid mutual interference and mixing. Post-processing and packaging of the herbs should take place as soon as possible after cooling. Excessive crushing is undesirable. Only opaque, harmless materials may be used for packaging.

9.3. Mushroom cultivation

The organic source materials, components and additives of the substrate (wood, straw, grain, bran, etc. as well as manure and compost) must come from organically managed farms. If wood is not available in sufficient quantities from organic farming, other sources of supply are possible after careful examination for possible contamination. Wood must not be chemically treated. In order to obtain material that is as uncontaminated as possible, the origin of the wood must be traceable when selecting logs, shavings and sawdust. If necessary, analyses must be carried out to prove the materials are harmless. Non-organic substrate components must comply with **Appendix I – Approved fertilisers** from the Biokreis guidelines.

Non-chemically treated peat can be used for the cover soil in mushroom cultivation. Apart from composting, only thermal processes are permitted for disinfecting the substrate. Tools can be sterilised with alcohol or acetic acid. The basic principle for keeping crops healthy is preventive plant protection (e.g. hygiene, climate control, mechanical pest control, etc.). The use of pyrethrum agents is not permitted in mushroom production.

Mushroom spawn and organic grain for the farm's own spawn production must be sourced from Biokreis-certified farms¹⁰.

9.4. Fruit and viticulture

Orchards and vineyards must be planted all year round. For this purpose, species-rich mixtures with plants typical of the location are preferable. Planting can be interrupted for soil maintenance measures, soil loosening, reseed-ing and during dry periods in summer.

A stable humus condition must be maintained by adding organic matter. The total amount of nitrogen fertiliser used in fruit growing must not exceed 100 kg N/ha per year.

In viticulture, nitrogen fertilisation must not exceed a total quantity of 200 kg N/ha in a three-year cycle (of which max. 170 kg N from farm manure), of which a maximum of 100 kg may be available to plants in the year of fertilisation.

9.5. Speciality crops

Speciality crops include ornamental plants, perennials and shrubs and trees (e.g. hazelnuts, walnuts, elderberries, etc.), Christmas trees and hops.

Depending on the crop, the soil should be vegetated all year round wherever possible. Greening is mandatory on fallow land. For this purpose, species-rich mixtures with plants typical of the location are preferable.

A stable humus condition must be maintained by adding organic matter. The use of nitrogenous fertilisers is limited to 110 kg N/ha per year.

¹⁰ If Biokreis-certified goods are not available, goods certified by other associations can be purchased. Permission to purchase non-association-certified goods must be applied for from Biokreis.

10. Exceptions

Biokreis e.V. may grant exceptions to the association's guidelines in important exceptional cases to be applied for by the member farm.

These exemptions are granted in agreement with the advisory and certification bodies of Biokreis e.V. and are limited in time.

APPENDICES

Appendix I – Approved fertilizers and soil improvers as well as substrate components

If a fertiliser is NOT listed below, it may not be used unless it has been approved on a case-by-case basis.

When using fertilizers and soil improvers, the legal provisions must be observed, in particular the requirements of the EU Organic Regulation (especially those set out in Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165), as well as the provisions of fertilizer law.

Fertilisers and soil improvers from organic farms

- Stable manure, poultry manure, slurry, liquid manure (treated)
- Green compost and organic waste (crop residues and similar following a safety check)
- Substrates of fungal cultures
- Straw
- Biogas digestate from biogas plants in accordance with **8.5.4. Digestate from biogas plants** – Biogas plants on Biokreis farms.

Organic fertilizer of conventional origin

Cattle, sheep, goat, and horse manure that does not originate from industrial livestock production in accordance with Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165.

Organic supplementary fertilizers

- Algae and algae products (should only be used sparingly for nature conservation reasons)
- Worm excrements (vermicompost) and substrate mixtures from insect excrements
- Digestate from biogas plants in accordance with **8.5.4 Digestate from biogas plants**
- Plant composts (green waste compost) and composted household waste from separate collection (organic waste bin): in accordance with the requirements in **Annex VIII – Guidelines for the use of compost on Biokreis farms**
- Leonardite (only as a by-product of mining activities)
- Biochar
- Products and by-products of plant origin are generally permitted. The following restrictions apply:
 - Vinasse: only permitted in horticulture/permanent crops
- Products and by-products of animal origin are only permitted as follows:
 - Leather meal, bristles, hair meal, wool: in the case of conventional origin only permitted in vegetable production, herb cultivation, ornamental plant production, potato cultivation (maturity group 1), and permanent crops
 - Feather meal, horn shavings and horn meal, hoof shavings and hoof meal
- Bark compost, bark mulch: only quality-assured (only from wood that has not been chemically treated after harvesting)
- Sawdust, wood cuttings and wood ash (only from wood that has not been chemically treated after harvesting)
- Peat without synthetic additives is only permitted for the horticultural purposes listed below and subject to the following restrictions:
 - Substrates for nursery stock and perennial crops: max. 50% by volume peat until 01/01/2027, thereafter 0%
 - Substrates for young plant propagation: max. 70% by volume peat, until 01/01/2027 max. 60%
 - Substrates for herbs and potted plants: max. 80% by volume peat, until 01/01/2027 max. 30%
 - Casing soil in mushroom cultivation

Mineral supplementary fertilizers

- Calcium carbonate (CaCO₃), e.g. dolomitic lime, shell lime, algal lime, chalk, marl
- Calcium chloride solution (CaCl₂), only for foliar treatment on apple trees in cases of proven calcium deficiency
- Calcium sulfate (CaSO₄), e.g. gypsum, only of natural origin
- Industrial lime from sugar production, e.g. carbolime
- Raw potassium salts, e.g. kainite
- Potassium chloride (KCl), only of natural origin
- Potassium sulfate (K₂SO₄), e.g. patent potash, potassium magnesium sulfate derived from raw potassium salts, possibly containing magnesium salts
- Magnesium carbonate (MgCO₃), e.g. magnesium lime, magnesium limestone flour, only of natural origin
- Magnesium sulfate (MgSO₄), e.g. kieserite, only of natural origin
- Ground natural phosphate, soft rock phosphate, not partially acidulated
- Elemental sulfur
- Selenium salts, only in cases of deficiency in soils used for livestock farming and/or grazing or for the production of fodder crops
- Micronutrient fertilizers
- Thomas phosphate (basic slag)
- Clay and clay minerals
- Recovered struvite and precipitated phosphate salts

Microorganisms

Preparations of microorganisms for use in soils, composts, and substrates, e.g. to accelerate decomposition processes, provided their composition complies with these guidelines.

Appendix II – Permitted measures and active substances for plant protection

If a plant protection product or plant strengthening agent is **NOT** listed in the lists below, it may not be used unless it has been approved on a case-by-case basis. When using plant protection products and plant strengthening agents, in addition to the requirements of the EU Organic Regulation (in particular Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165), the legal requirements of plant protection law must also be observed.

Biological and biotechnical measures

- Conservation, promotion, and use of natural enemies (beneficial organisms) of pathogens and pests of crops (e.g. predatory mites, parasitic wasps, etc.)
- Pheromones and other semiochemicals (confusion technique and attractant traps), only in traps and dispensers
- Colour traps, sticky traps
- Mechanical control methods (crop protection nets, traps, slug fences, etc.)
- Repellents: quartz sand, sheep fat (only on non-edible parts of the plant), hydrolysed protein (only on non-edible parts of the plant)

Basic substances

These are substances that may be used as plant protection products but are not primarily intended as such. They include plant- or animal-derived substances used as food, such as vinegar or whey, as well as other substances such as hydrogen peroxide or sodium chloride.

All basic substances listed in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 are permitted. The conditions and restrictions specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 apply. Basic substances must not be used as herbicides.

Low-risk active substances

- COS-OGA
- Cerevisan and other products based on cell fragments of microorganisms (non-GMO origin)
- Iron(III) phosphate (iron(III) orthophosphate) and iron pyrophosphate for slug control
- ABE-IT 56 – lysate components of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strain DDSF623 (non-GMO origin; not produced using GMO-derived culture substrates)
- Laminarin (seaweed must be obtained from organic/aquaculture or collected sustainably according to **Annex II Part III point 2.4 of the EU Organic Regulation**)
- Sodium hydrogen carbonate
- Aqueous extract from germinated seeds of white lupin (*Lupinus albus*)

Microorganisms

- Virus, fungal and bacterial preparations (microorganisms), e.g. *Bacillus thuringiensis* products, granulosis virus preparations, not produced from GMOs.

Active substances and methods not included in the above categories

- Aluminium silicate (kaolin)
- Azadirachtin ("neem") derived from neem tree seeds (*Azadirachta indica*)
- Fatty acids (e.g. potassium soap). All uses permitted except as herbicides
- Potassium hydrogen carbonate
- Diatomaceous earth (kieselguhr) – only for stored product protection
- Garlic extract (*Allium sativum*)
- Carbon dioxide – only for stored product protection
- Copper preparations in the form of tribasic copper sulfate, copper hydroxide, Bordeaux mixture (copper lime mixture), copper oxide, copper oxychloride. Only permitted in horticulture/permanent crops and potatoes (max. 3 kg copper per hectare per year; in hops max. 4 kg per hectare per year)
- Maltodextrin
- Paraffin oils
- Plant oils (citronella oil, clove oil, rapeseed oil, spearmint oil, orange oil, tea tree oil). All uses permitted except as herbicides
- Pyrethrins from *Chrysanthemum cinerariaefolium*. Only permitted in horticulture/permanent crops with the following restriction: without the synergist piperonyl butoxide (PBO)
- Sulfur. Only permitted in horticulture/permanent crops
- Lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide). Only permitted in horticulture/permanent crops
- Terpenes: eugenol, geraniol, thymol

Plant strengthening agents

All products are permitted that are approved according to the list of the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety (BVL).

Appendix III - Permissible livestock

Animal species or animal class	Maximum permitted number of animals per hectare of agricultural land
Equidae from 6 months	2.0
Fattening calves	5.0
Other cattle under 1 year	5.0
Male cattle between 1 and 2 years of age	3.3
Female cattle between 1 and 2 years of age	3.3
Male cattle from 2 years of age	2.0
Breeding heifers	2.5
Mast heifers	2.5
Dairy cows	2.0
Cows for slaughter	2.0
Other cows	2.5
Ewes	13.3
Goats	13.3
Piglets	74.0
Breeding sows (without piglets)	6.5
Fattening pigs	10.0
Other pigs	10.0
Broiler chickens	280.0
Laying hens	140.0
Pullets	280.0
Fattening ducks	210.0
Fattening turkeys	140.0
Fattening geese	280.0

Table 3: Maximum permitted livestock numbers per hectare of agricultural land

Additions and deductions must be made for animals with different excretion quantities due to their breed.

If animals are not kept for an entire year or if they can be allocated differently due to age or change of use, the livestock population is calculated according to the average number of animals kept during the year.

Appendix IV – Purchasing conventional feed

Insofar as is permitted under the EU Organic Farming Regulation, the use of conventional (non-organic) protein feed for pigs and poultry is permissible if it is not possible to supply the animals with organic protein feed. The restrictions specified here and the maximum proportions of the feed ration must be observed. The use of these feedstuffs must be precisely documented.

Permitted conventional feed of agricultural origin for pigs

- Potato protein, max. 3%, only for young animals up to 35 kg (from 31.12.2026, conventional/non-organic components will no longer be permitted in pig feed)

Permitted conventional feed for poultry

- Corn gluten, max. 5%, only for young animals, where permitted under the EU Organic Farming Regulation
- Potato protein, max. 5%, only for young animals, where permitted under the EU Organic Farming Regulation
- Fish meal, max. 5%, only for young poultry for fattening, to ensure adequate and healthy nutrition during rearing

Appendix V – Permitted supplements and additives in feeding and feed production

The supplements, additives and processing aids listed in Appendix III of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/1165 are permitted, subject to the restrictions on use specified therein.

They belong to the following substance groups (according to Regulation (EU) 2018/848)

- Carriers of plant origin
- Bulk and trace elements
- Silage additives
- Vitamins, without the use of GMOs
- Binders, anti-caking agents and coagulants
- Enzymes and microorganisms
- Antioxidants
- Preservatives
- Cattle salt
- Brewer's yeast

Appendix VI – Minimum stall and free-range areas and other characteristics of barns and runs

	Live weights (kg)	Minimum stall area (net area available to the animals) (square metre / animal)	Minimum outdoor area (outdoor areas not including pasture areas) (square metre / animal)
Breeding / fattening cattle and equidae ¹¹	up to 100 up to 200 up to 350 over 350	1,5 2,5 4,0 5,0 (min. 1.0 sqm per 100 kg)	1,1 1,9 3,0 3,7 (min. 0.75 sqm per 100 kg)
Dairy cows, suckler cows		6,0	4,5
Breeding bulls		10,0	30,0
Sheep, goats	Sheep / goat Lamb / kid	1,5 0,35	2,5 0,5
Suckling sows with piglets up to 40 days old	Sow	7,5	2,5
Fattening pigs	up to 50 up to 85 up to 110 over 110	0,8 1,1 1,3 1,5	0,6 0,8 1,0 1,2
Piglets	over 40 days old and up to 30 kg	0,6	0,4
Breeding pigs	Breeding sows Breeding boars Per boar when mating in Bay	2,5 6,0 10,0	1,9 8,0

Table 4: Minimum indoor and outdoor areas for ruminants and pigs

¹¹ For equidae, the barn must be at least "twice the height at the withers squared", whereby the narrow side must be at least 1.75 times the height at the withers.

	Stall area (net area available to the animals)		Nests	Outdoor area
	Number (animals / sqm)	Perch (cm / animal)	cm / animal	square metre / animal
Laying hens	6	18	Shared nest: 1 square metre for 80 hens Single nest: 35 cm x 25 cm (for max. 5 hens)	4
Pullets/ Brother cocks	max. 21 kg live weight per square metre	10 or 100 cm ² raised seating level/animal		1 for pullets and cockerels
Fattening poultry (in permanent housing)	max. 21 kg live weight per square metre	5 or 25 cm ² raised seating level per animal for broilers and guinea fowl 10 or 100 cm ² raised seating level per animal for turkeys		4 (broilers/guinea fowl) 10 turkeys 15 (geese) 4.5 (ducks) 10 (turkeys) or max. 170 kg N/ha per year
Fattening poultry (in movable stalls*)	max. 30 kg live weight per square metre	5 or 25 cm ² raised seating level per animal for broilers and guinea fowl 10 or 100 cm ² raised seating level per animal for turkeys		2.5 or max. 170 kg N/ha per year
Small poultry (in fixed poultry houses)	15 square metres in the warm area, maximum permissible live weight 3 kg per square metre		min. 1 square metre per 150 laying quails At least 0.5 sqm per pair of pigeons	(covered outdoor area = min. 50% of the accessible area in the warm zone)

Table 5: Minimum stall size and outdoor areas for poultry

Poultry species	Maximum number of animals/stall compartment
Laying hens	3,000
Fattening animals of the species Gallus gallus	4,800
Pullets, broiler cocks	10,000
Parent animals of the species Gallus gallus	3,000
Guinea fowl	5,200
Flying or Pekin ducks	female 4,000 / male 3,200
Capons, geese, turkeys	2,500
Maximum total stall area per production unit for fattening poultry	1.600 m ²
per production unit for fattening poultry	1,600 sqm

Table 6: Maximum number of poultry per individual stall

Poultry species	Minimum age in days
Chickens	81
Guinea fowl	94
Pekin ducks	49
Female flying ducks	70
Male flying ducks	84
Mulard ducks	92
Capons	150
Female turkeys	100
Male turkeys	140
Roasting geese	140

Table 7: Minimum slaughter age in days (for fast-growing breeds)

Appendix VII – Approved products for cleaning and disinfecting stalls and livestock building

- Potash and soda soap
- Water and steam
- Milk of lime
- Lime
- Quicklime
- Sodium hypochlorite (e.g. as lye)
- Caustic soda
- Caustic potash
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Natural plant essences
- Citric acid, peracetic acid, formic acid, lactic acid, oxalic acid and acetic acid
- Alcohol
- Nitric acid (milking equipment)
- Phosphoric acid (milking equipment)
- Formaldehyde
- Cleaning and disinfecting agent for teats and milking equipment
- Sodium carbonate

Appendix VIII – Guidelines on the use of compost on Biokreis farms

Preliminary remark

The use of compost is subject to approval and can only be approved for compost that meets the requirements for green waste and organic compost (see below). If the compost batch certificate states “suitable for Biokreis”, the batch is considered approved.

In order to avoid a deterioration of the contamination situation on the farm, a soil test for the levels of the heavy metals lead, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel, mercury and zinc must be carried out at least every 6 years if green waste and biowaste compost are used regularly.

Output quantity

The Biokreis guidelines limit the import of external nutrients to a maximum equivalent of 0.5 dung units per hectare per year. The availability of nutrients must be taken into account.¹²

The application rate is max. 20 t DM per hectare on average over 3 years.

Requirements for green waste and biowaste composts

- The requirements of the RAL compost quality mark are met as a minimum.
- Results from batch-wise compost analyses are available.
- The following heavy metal contents must be complied with:
 - o Lead (Pb) 45 mg/kg DM
 - o Cadmium (Cd) 0.7 mg/kg DM
 - o Chromium (Cr) 70 mg/kg DM
 - o Copper (Cu) 70 mg/kg DM
 - o Nickel (Ni) 25 mg/kg DM

¹² The calculation basis for compost is the annual nitrogen content. The annual nitrogen content is calculated at 20% (based on the total nitrogen content of the compost).

- o Mercury (Hg) 0.4 mg/kg DM
- o Zinc (Zn) 200 mg/kg DM
- Foreign matter > 1 mm may be present to a maximum of 0.3% (based on the DM weight).
- The degree of contamination (area sum) is a maximum of 10 cm²/l compost.
- Phytohygiene: 0 germinable seeds/sprouting plant parts per litre WM.
- Further investigations are necessary in biowaste composts. A non-batch-specific test for compliance with the following maximum levels is required every 3 years:
 - o Arsenic: 20 mg/kg DM
 - o Thallium: 0.5 mg/kg DM
 - o PAH: 6 mg/kg DM
 - o Dioxins/furans (PCDD/PCDF) and dl-PCB: 20 ng/kg WHO TEQ/kg DM
 - o Chromium (VI) must not be detectable
- In addition, a one-time classification test for thiabendazole, perfluorinated surfactants (0.05 mg/kg DM) and any other trace substances is required.
- The List of permitted materials must be adhered to (see below).

List of permitted materials

Garden and park waste incl. cemetery waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected separately • Only biodegradable substances
Plants and plant components from landscaping work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excluding material from roadside areas such as roadsides, railroad lines, airports, industrial sites
Domestic food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biowaste, i.e. organic waste collected separately from households (food waste bin), mixture of organic waste and green waste
Vegetable substances from kitchens and canteens (e.g. vegetable scraps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From restaurants, canteens and canteen kitchens • Exclusively plant-based materials • Only former food and luxury foods • Collected separately • In the case of packaged goods, unpacking and removal of the packaging materials is mandatory prior to treatment.
Market waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusively plant-based, untreated residues • Collected separately • In the case of packaged goods, unpacking and removal of the packaging materials is mandatory prior to treatment.
Stale bread	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains no animal materials • Only former foodstuffs • In the case of packaged goods, unpacking and removal of the packaging materials is mandatory prior to treatment.
Out of date food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contains no animal materials • Collected separately • In the case of packaged goods, unpacking and removal of the packaging materials is mandatory prior to treatment.

Out of date plant-based animal feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No compound feed; only feed from one substance group • In the case of packaged goods, unpacking and removal of the packaging materials is mandatory prior to treatment. • In the case of maize, soy, rapeseed and their processed products, a declaration is required that these materials were not obtained on the basis of or with GMOs.
Plant-based substances from agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If feed residues are present: In the case of maize, soy, rapeseed and their processed products, a declaration is required that these materials are not GMO-based or do not contain GMOs. • No residues or parts of compound feed permitted
Plant substances from horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Including plant substances from ornamental plant production • In the case of packaged goods, unpacking and removal of the packaging materials is mandatory prior to treatment.
Residues from the processing of herbal substances, incl. tobacco residues, medicinal and aromatic plant residues and residues of medicinal plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only residual materials, no production residues • From the processing of plant-based, agricultural raw materials • In the case of maize, soy, rapeseed and their processed products, a declaration is required that these materials are not GMO-based or do not contain GMOs. • Only to the extent that, for the processing of medicinal, aromatic and medicinal plants, only water or ethanol is used as an extraction agent
Pomace, marc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the production of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages • Feed quality • Free from GMOs
Reeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From gardening and landscaping or the processing industry • Only residual materials, no production residues
Thatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Untreated only • Not from cleared roofs
Wood, wood residues, sawdust and wood shavings, wood wool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only natural wood that has not been chemically treated after felling
Mushroom substrates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only from organic mushroom production
Cattle manure, horse manure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not from industrial livestock farming in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/848
Goat and sheep manure	
Iron salts, iron hydroxides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the precipitation of sulphur in upstream biogas plants
Stone powder, clay and clay minerals, for example zeolite	
Leonardite (organic sediment with a high humic acid content)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only as a by-product of mining activities

Appendix IX – Prohibited medicinal products and medicinal products with restricted use in animal husbandry

Prohibited

Active ingredients:

- Brotizolam (appetite stimulant)
- Fenvalerate (ecto-antiparasitic)
- Monensin (antibiotic)
- Piperazine (endo-antiparasitic)

Groups of medicinal products:

- Fluoroquinolones – gyrase inhibitors (antibiotics)
- Medicinal products containing formaldehyde as an active substance (formaldehyde-containing vaccines are permitted)
- Combination preparations of chemotherapeutics (antibiotics) and glucocorticoids (anti-inflammatory agents) for systemic treatment (oral or by injection)
- Estrogens (female sex hormones)

Restrictions on use¹³

A period of twice the statutory period, and at least 48 hours, between the administration of a chemically-synthesized allopathic product and the production of organic products from the animal concerned must be observed.

Active ingredients:

- Foreign materials > 1 mm may be present at a maximum level of 0.3% (based on dry matter weight).
- Deltamethrin only in cases of severe ectoparasite or fly infestation in sheep and ruminants.
- Dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO) (anti-inflammatory), only for horses that are not used for food production
- Gentamicin (antibiotic), intravenous only for injections (approved: gentamicin-containing vaccines)
- Metamizole (anti-inflammatory agent) only for colic in horses and calves.
- Neomycin (antibiotic) for local use only, systemic use not permitted (approved: vaccines containing neomycin, udder injectors)
- Thiabendazole (endo-antiparasitic agent), only if a waiting period of 6 days is observed

Drug groups:

- Antibiotics and chemotherapeutics (anti-infectives):
 - in the case of udder diseases, if possible only if a bacteriological examination with resistance test has been carried out (individual animal or quarter milk samples)
 - Conventional penicillin antibiotics are preferred due to efficacy
 - Short-acting antibiotics are preferable to long-acting antibiotics
- 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins (for repeated use only after resistance test)
- Antiparasitics only if parasites are detected or in proven endemic areas, in case of high infection pressure also before clinical symptoms occur (strategic control)
- Avermectins (antiparasitics)
 - Only permitted in cases of individually confirmed parasite infestation in goats and dairy sheep
 - Only permitted in cases of severe ectoparasite infestation in pigs and sheep (preferential use of moxidectin)
- Gestagens, gonadotropins, pituitary (HVL) preparations, and prostaglandins only for individual animals
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (only when indicated)
- Glucocorticoids (anti-inflammatory agents) only in acute life-threatening conditions, acute allergic reac-

¹³ Restricted substances and medicinal products may be administered by the vet in justified exceptional cases. The vet must document this justification in the Pharmacopoeia or informally. This justification must always be submitted to the respective annual inspection!

tions, non-infectious inflammations, and acute metabolic disorders. Local application is permitted in cases of severe inflammation.

- Neuroleptics and other sedatives for disbudding (dehorning) in calves and for individual animals based on medical indication

Single animal based on medical indication

- Organophosphates only as pour-on preparations for ectoparasitoses in pigs, as a wash preparation only in sheep for foot scabies
- Synthetic pyrethroids (antiparasitics) only as pour-on preparations or ear clips (approved: in individual cases with medical indication also as a solution)
- Tetracyclines (antibiotics) for injections preferably administered intravenously
- Long-acting tetracyclines (antibiotics) only for the treatment of chlamydial infections
- "Drying agents" (long-term antibiotics) only for problem animals with a medical indication and pathogen detection or herd problem; drying agents should be used according to the selective drying scheme

The farm vet must sign to confirm acknowledgement of this list.

Place, Date

X

Signature



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