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Ask us a question

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General FAQs

Please note that these FAQs are for general questions. If you are a Soil Association licensee, or thinking of becoming one, please contact the Soil Association Certification Ltd team who will be please to help you:
 » [contact Soil Association Certification Ltd](#)

The majority of questions we get asked are answered in our [standards guide](#) on this website. We can help you narrow your search if you follow these simple three steps:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>STEP 1:
» choose category</p> | <p>STEP 2:
» choose sub-category</p> | <p>STEP 3:
» select question</p> |
| <p>» STEP 1: choose a category » STEP 2: choose sub-category</p> | | |

Select the category that most closely matches your query.

- animal welfare
- environment
- farming and growing
- feeding the world
- health
- organic products
- putting on an event

Select the sub-category that most closely matches your query.

- chicken & turkey
- dairy & beef
- other animals
- pigs

- » **STEP 3: select a question**

Select a question

- How does an organic beef cow's life differ from an intensively reared beef cow?
- How does an organic dairy cow's life differ from a non organic dairy cow?
- What are the Soil Association's welfare standards for male dairy calves?
- Do you certify abattoirs and meat processing plants?
- Do you certify Halal or Kosher meat?
- What do you think about animal cloning?

- » **ANSWER**

Question: **How does an organic dairy cow's life differ from a non organic dairy cow?**

Answer: Organic farmers believe that stress is one of the primary causes of disease and welfare problems in intensive livestock farming. The

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Soil Association standards for organic farming are designed to reduce stress to farmed livestock through a variety of management techniques.

Farmers are encouraged to use native breeds of cow (like Dairy Shorthorn). These are rarely capable of yielding as much milk as modern dairy breeds (like Holstein), but are hardier and less susceptible to disease.

Feed for organic dairy cows has to consist mainly (a minimum of 60%) of home-grown grass or forage. This is because organic farming is an holistic, non-input based agricultural production system and so farmers try to grow what they need. The restriction on the amount of cereal organic dairy cows can eat usually results in them producing less milk and as a consequence, experiencing less stress. Studies have also shown a lower incidence of lameness on dairy farms - click [here](#) to read these.

Click [here](#) to access more information on Soil Association animal welfare standards.

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