

A herd of approximately ten horses, mostly brown and chestnut, with one white horse, are running across a lush green field. The field is dotted with small yellow wildflowers. In the background, there is a dense forest of green trees under a bright, slightly cloudy sky. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

CONVENTIONAL AND ORGANIC ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

In past, agriculture expressed **the personal relationship** of man to the land. In traditional family farming, most **ruminants** were expected to graze grass and other bulky forage and thus take care for themselves. **Chickens and sows** ran free, gathered some of their own food, and farmers saved the trouble of spreading of bedding and giving the manure away.

Conventional farmers have been under increasing economic pressure in recent decades to produce cheaper food.

The strongest argument in favour of livestock production is the ability of animals to feed on food sources that complement rather than compete with human needs. These are forage and feedstuffs that humans do not consume, as well as parts of plants grown for human consumption that they do not want or cannot eat and therefore feed to animals.

Extensive small farming - ruminants were expected to more or less feed themselves. Pigs and poultry eat household waste.

The last decades - *intensification of agriculture*.

Reasons of changes in agriculture:

1. Mechanisation in agriculture.
2. Increasing financial income in livestock production based on state support.
3. Increasing consumer income leading to an increased demands.
4. Increased investment in agricultural research leading to higher animal performance, more effective disease control with newly developed vaccines and antibiotics - enabling animals to be raised in higher concentrations.

Broilers

Chickens are commonly reared on intensive farms with no connection to agricultural land. The use of highly concentrated feeds, vaccines, coccidiostats, vitamins allow the animals to survive crowded in artificially lighted buildings.

Through genetic selection, fast-growing hybrids with good conformation have been bred, but they would not survive in natural conditions.

Today's hybrids need to reach a weight of **around 2 kg in 35-42 days or less**, half the time it took 40 years ago. The natural age of the domestic chicken is 7 years. Broilers are fed special compound feeds with the addition of feed additives and drugs. The growth of these chickens is so accelerated that bone development lags far behind muscle growth, leaving millions of chickens suffering from limb deformities, unable to move and often able to die from lack of access to water and feed. The lungs and heart also fail to keep up with the body's development and they die prematurely from failure of vital organs.

Laying hens

Battery cage breedings banned since 1.1.2013.

Laying hens are kept in enriched cages, where they cannot fully spread and shake their wings and clean their feathers. They spend about a year of their lives standing on a wire floor without litter, without the opportunity to display all normal behavioural patterns. Their toes suffer chronic injuries, their claws overgrow, curl and break.

It is natural for hens to live in a small flock consisting of a cock and several (10-20) hens. Here the individual animals recognise each other and develop a hierarchy which they continue to respect. Hens are quite active, spending most of the day foraging for food. Hens are also very mobile animals - they run, flap their wings, fly, stretch their legs. To remove their feathers of parasites, they take bath in the soil. They need to sleep on high places, i.e. in roost (their wild ancestors slept in tree branches), due to their instinctive need to protect themselves from predators. One of the hens' strongest instincts is the need to lay eggs in the nest. **Ethologists assume that if a hen cannot satisfy this and other needs, she is highly frustrated.**

Pigs

The big farms are equipped only with reinforced concrete pens with slatted floors without bedding, where pigs cannot display their natural behaviour, including sexual behaviour. Out of frustration and boredom, for example, cannibalism occurs - **tail-docking** is used as a prevention.

We can meet here other procedures such **teeth clipping in piglets**, **castration of boars**.

Pigs are intelligent, playful animals that form stable social groups in their natural environment and build resting places together.

They defecate as far away from these places as possible and spend up to 75% of their time exploring their surroundings, digging and foraging for food. Sows build nests before giving birth.

Pregnant sows are placed in narrow pens that prevent them from turning around for the entire 1 month of gestation. Crates were introduced for easier stall management and to prevent fighting between sows but have been achieved at the cost of drastically reducing welfare. Animals are stressed in cages and often develop stereotypic behaviour.

Cattle

It is one of the pillars of agriculture in wide areas of the world, providing milk, meat, leather, and in some countries as draught power and fuel.

The adverse consequences of intensive farming are reflected in the increasing incidence of metabolic diseases such as **lameness and mastitis** - the result: many dairy cows are removed from the herd at a relatively young age (normally 20 years).

Reasons for culling: **low performance or fertility, chronic health problems.**

Natural cattle live in small herds of approximately twelve to thirty animals. The herd is divided into groups of **mothers with young calves and young bulls**. The old bulls are solitary. Life in the group is governed by strict, hierarchical rules to ensure the coexistence of the cattle. Social contact plays an important role in the herd, so the animals are not too far apart when grazing. In a social groups, cattle show their excellent memory: they can distinguish between 70 or more individuals.

The wild cows separate from the herd shortly before giving birth so that they can give birth to a calf in shelter. The mother stays for a few days and then returns to the herd. **The calves suckle milk for about 6 months**, with the cows letting them lie some distance from the herd and returning to them several times a day to nurse them. As the calves grow older, they usually keep company with the other calves during the day and with their mothers at night.

Fishes

In our country, there is the breeding of freshwater fishes in ponds and reservoirs. Fish are often kept in high densities, which poses the same problem for them as for other farm animals.

Many fishes consumed in our country are imported. In large farms in Scotland, for example, tens of thousands of fish can be crowded into cages located by the seaside. On salmon farms, for example, there can be a space the size of a sink for each fish. The fish swim around the edges of the cages all the time (this is known as 'movement stereotypy'), similar to the large animals in zoos that move back and walking in their cages).

Carps are farmed in large quantities for the Christmas market and for export. These fish are caught **about 2 months before Christmas** and have been kept ever since the time of their sale. (It is therefore inappropriate to buy carp for Christmas with the intention of releasing them into the water - they are weakened, have a weakened fat layer and would die in the water). The sale and killing of carp on the street in Christmas days can cause considerable suffering to the fish, most often because they are kept in tanks at **too high density**, the water is not at a suitable **temperature** and the fish are not getting enough **oxygen**, or the fish are being handled unkindly. They can suffer even more if they are subsequently kept at home in a bathtub and killed unprofessionally.

Higher welfare farms

There is not yet a widespread system of breeding in our country, the main purpose of which would be to establish and guarantee better conditions for the animals. Abroad - for example, '**Freedom Food**' in the UK (which covers all types of livestock and sets precise standards for how animals should be housed, treated, transported and slaughtered) or '**Label Rouge**' in France - for chickens. Traditional chickens are not slaughtered until they reach an age ranging between 81 and 110 days, according to the Label Rouge (this is at least twice as old as a standard chicken).

The only more widespread alternative method of breeding livestock in our country concerns poultry - breeding hens in halls or on litter.

Eggs from hens reared in this way are commonly purchased in shops and are labelled

"Litter eggs" - code 2 .

New technologies, genetic engineering

Since the beginning, humans have been changing the characteristics of livestock through conventional breeding methods - these are based on the basic biological principle that offspring inherit the characteristics of their parents. In general, people have bred animals to achieve certain favourable characteristics, even when this was not in the interest of the animals themselves. In recent years, advances in science and technology have enabled humans to break away from these methods. It is now possible to alter the characteristics of animals by manipulating their genes, **i.e. genetic engineering**. Several farm animals, including sheep and cattle, have been cloned from the cells of adult animals-one of the first was **Dolly, the sheep**. It is even possible to swap genes between plants and animals. When genetic material is transferred between species, a transgenic organism is created. Genetic engineering techniques are already widely used in agriculture and industry. **Advocates** of genetic engineering promise new medical treatments, increased crop yields, disease and pest resistant plants - no need for pesticides. **Opponents** are afraid that this power to create combinations of genes will become out of control and harm human and animal health.

New technologies, genetic engineering

Increased productivity - the first trials to create a fast-growing pig using a human growth gene (USA) resulted in a deformed animal.

Already conventional breeding methods have led to serious problems - pathological damage to the legs of broiler chickens. Other proposed goals of GI - increased disease resistance, increased ability of animals to adapt to higher temperatures...

Genetic engineering and drug production

Farm animals are also being modified by GI to produce products **for the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases**. For example, **sheep** have been genetically altered to secrete various pharmaceuticals in their milk, including a human protein used to treat haemophilia or alpha-1 antitrypsin to treat emphysema.

Currently, genetic manipulation is carried out in universities and research institutes.

GI products, e.g. from bacteria and viruses, are used in animals as vaccines and drugs to protect health or increase performance.

An example is the creation of bacteria that produce a **synthetic variant of the growth hormone** produced naturally in cows by the pituitary gland. This variant can increase milk production in cows by up to 15% when injected - serious welfare problems have been associated with this - increased incidence of mastitis, lameness and painful swelling caused by hormone injections have all been shown. The administration of this hormone is currently banned.

Environmentalists, animal protectionists and some breeders who are not just concerned with profit are opposed in principle to genetic manipulation of animals because it can cause them a great deal of suffering.

Organic agriculture

It is a very progressive way of farming, based on thousands of years of experience of our ancestors and taking into account natural cycles and interactions. It has been developing for several decades and has been part of EU agricultural policy since 1994.

In the Czech Republic, organic farming only started to develop **after 1990 and its greatest development took place after 1998**, when state financial support was restored. The structures of organic farming (advice, processing, marketing, etc.) were formalised. Research (specialised research institutes, universities, etc.) has also become intensively involved in OA methods.

The 1990s thus became the most exciting period for the development of organic farming, culminating at the turn of the millennium.

If a farmer wants to join an organic farming system, he must first go through a so-called "**conversion period**" or transition period. According to the Organic Farming Act, the transition period is the period during which the conversion of conventional farming to organic farming takes place. The purpose of the transition period is to eliminate the negative effects of previous farming activities on the agricultural land, the landscape and the environment and to introduce farming methods that respect the Act. Conversion to an organic system is either carried out on all areas (land specified in the conversion plan) or may take place gradually. Under the **Organic Farming Act, the length of the transition period is 2 years for crop lands, meadows and pastures, 1 year for pastures and grazing areas for non-ruminants and 3 years for existing permanent crops (vineyards, hops, orchards). This period is the minimum period.**

Organic agriculture

OA is a farming method that aims to produce high quality food with high nutritional value, using sustainable methods without the use of agrochemicals, minimising damage to the environment and nature and optimising plant, animal and human health.

Goals of organic farming

- Maintain and improve the long-term fertility of the soil and its ecological function - **increase the content of organic matter and humus in the soil**, improve its physical properties...
- Avoid all forms of **pollution** from agriculture - use of all wastes for the production of organic fertilisers.
- Work in as **closed system** as possible, use local resources, minimise losses.
- Produce food and fertiliser of high value and in sufficient quantity - the quality of food is not only determined by its nutritional value, but also by the absence of **foreign substances, good appearance, taste, suitability for storage...**

- Minimise the use of non-renewable energy sources - **reject synthetic mineral fertilisers and plant protection products.**
- Create conditions for farm animals that meet their physiological and ethological needs and ethical principles - the way how animals are kept **must allow for natural behaviour, including outdoor exercise, healthy growth, development and reproduction.**
- Allow farmers and their families economic and social development and job satisfaction - **eco-farming requires deep concern and responsibility.**
- Maintain rural settlement and traditional character of the cultural agricultural landscape.

Legal regulation of organic farming

- ❑ Act No. 242/2000 Coll., on organic farming and amending Act No. 368/1992 Coll., on administrative fees, as amended
- ❑ REGULATION (EU) 2018/848 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007



- ❑ The logos for organic farming are plural, as Czech organic food must bear the Czech logo, the **so-called biozebra**, and the **European logo**. The Czech national trademark for organic food may only be used by organic farmers who have been certified by one of the OF control organisations. The use of the EU logo has been compulsory **since 1 July 2010**, and since the same date it has also been obligatory to indicate on organic food **the place of origin of the agricultural raw materials from which the product is composed**.
- ❑ The "euroleaf" will now have to be displayed on packaged organic products that have been produced in EU Member States and meet the standards set. In addition to the EU label, **other private, regional or national logos** will continue to be allowed. The logo will be optional on unpackaged and imported organic products. In addition to the logo, the labelling rules also require **the place where the ingredients were produced and the code number of the body responsible for the control**.

IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ORGANIC FOOD IS CURRENTLY CONTROLLED BY THESE ORGANISATIONS WHOSE CODES APPEAR ON ORGANIC FOOD:

- ABCert AG, code on the package: CZ-BIO-002
- BIOKONT CZ, code on the package : CZ-BIO-003
- KEZ, o.p.s., code on the package : CZ-BIO-001
- BUREAU VERITAS CZECH REPUBLIC

Correctly labelled organic food



Incorrectly labelled organic food



Examples of logos for organic food some EU countries

Německo

Germany



Great Britain

Velká Británie



Slovak Republic

Slovensko



Rakousko

Austria

Netherlands

Nizozemsko



France

Francie



Livestock breeding plays an essential role in organic agriculture, because the important role of livestock for soil fertility as a producer of organic manure with the ability to use large amounts of biomass that humans could not use for their food cannot be overlooked. The concept of animal welfare in organic farming is based on these key values:

Holistic view sees all aspects of the world as interconnected, this includes natural systems, economic systems, social and cultural and political, sustainability and out of respect for nature - **ecocentrism** - prefers a systems approach and priorities the health of the whole system rather than individual animal welfare. This emphasisation of the total, on the other hand, has led to criticism related, for example, to the routine preventive use of antibiotics.

The ideal mixed organic farm with market crop production (both market crops and arable forage) and permanent grassland with associated herbivores and supplementary pig and poultry production - especially for waste recovery is shown in the diagram.

In general, organic farms have the best potential for animal welfare. This does not just mean avoiding mistreatment of animals, but requires raising animals with excellent health, whose physical and ethological needs are fully met. Organic farmers try to avoid the outbreak and spread of diseases and parasites without the use of conventional veterinary drugs.

Main principles in organic farming

- selection of a suitable breed adapted to local conditions and resistant to diseases,
- allowing animals to behave naturally in a predominantly free-range environment with outdoor runs,
- maintaining good hygiene conditions,
- the provision of suitable housing and healthy nutritious feed

These principles can be applied to small farms with a few hens and pigs as well as those with large herds of cattle or sheep.

In mountain areas, farmers should **use traditional breeds** used to long winters and cold weather.

Livestock must have access to enclosures, and **free movement of animals is essential** for animal welfare and health. Outdoor enclosures allow the animal to behave naturally and provide mental stimulation. Animals are exposed to pathogens and beneficial micro-organisms outdoors and this helps them to build up a natural immunity to disease. Animals can be infested with internal parasites and to prevent their spread mixed grazing should be practiced - one year cattle graze the pasture, the next year sheep graze the pasture - this will help break the parasite's life cycle. In general, animals in OA should be able **to exhibit all the behavioural patterns** of their wild ancestors - chickens should have access to pasture, woodland, pigs should be able to lay in the mud in summer.

- All practices must be natural. Reproduction and breeding of livestock must be based on natural methods, but artificial insemination is allowed. Other forms of artificial reproduction such as **egg transfer or hormonally controlled ovulation are strictly prohibited!**
 - It is strictly forbidden to cause pain to animals!
 - Castration is only permitted to preserve product quality and traditional production practices (e.g. for pigs, bulls, where hormonal production could block meat production), and here too all the above conditions must be strictly observed.
 - **The following list summarises all prohibited breeding methods:**
 - the use of elastic bandages and their attachment to the tail of sheep;
 - tail docking of pigs;
 - the cutting off of hooves;
 - beak trimming of birds and horns of animals to reduce stress or reduce disease caused by high concentrations of livestock on the land.
- All these interventions may only be carried out with the approval of the authorised authority!**

- **It is forbidden to tether animals,** but even here the authority may grant an exception for a limited period of time. Tethering of livestock is used for certain veterinary purposes, but only for a strictly necessary period of time.
- **The animals are kept in herds.** The size of a given herd depends on the age of the animals and the particular behavioural characteristics and needs of the species. Males may be kept separately for safety or production management reasons.
- **The animals must always have access to fresh air and open daylight.**

Animal transport

- **The movement and transport of livestock should be minimised.** The transport of finished products is preferred to the transport of live animals.
- The use of any type of **electrical stimulation or constraint is strictly prohibited.** The only permitted methods are the movement of animals from darkness to light and the use of feed as attractors during animal loading.
- However, if the animals have to be moved to another location, maximum safety and minimum stress must be ensured; this rule applies particularly to loading and unloading. We must avoid any possible type of injury to the livestock. Vehicles used for transporting livestock must be clean and must ensure the safety of the animals and provide sufficient protection from the adversity of the environment. Livestock must be fed regularly during prolonged transport.

Housing facilities

- They must meet the biological and ethological needs of the animals, be spacious enough for the animals to move freely and have good access to food and clean water.
- Buildings must be well ventilated and **dust, temperature and humidity** must be kept within a range of values that are not harmful to the animals.
- **The density** of animals shall always be lower than in conventional farms and animals must be kept in places where they have bedding where they rest (preferably organic straw).

These areas shall have a solid floor (not slates - often the limb problems).

Ranges, grazing

All livestock must have access to open grasslands and paddocks. However, they must also have access to internal space that:

- protect livestock on pasture,
- protect in adverse weather conditions,
- provide safe conditions at the end of the gestation period,
- protect young mammals,
- protect poultry from predators.

Feeding

- Animals may only be fed **organically grown feed**. The emphasis is on quality and animal health - not on maximising production!
- Only **natural feeds are allowed**, young mammals are fed only mother's or natural milk.
- Herbivores, according to their natural requirements, should be let out **to pasture** when the weather is suitable.
- In addition, herbivores are required to have a 60% fibre content in the dry matter of fresh or dried feed, silage.

- Feed for poultry and pigs must contain specific nutrients corresponding to these species - at least **65% of cereals in the daily ration + sufficient fibre**, - beneficial effect on the digestive tract of the animals.
- **All the feed and food requirements of animals can only be met with naturally based feeds, especially by grazing. Vitamins, pro-vitamins or nutrient additives can only be used if they are on the appropriate list. Artificial vitamins may only be used if they are chemically well-defined substances with effects similar to those of natural substances.**
- **A total ban on GM feed** in the feeding of livestock.

Animal health and vitality

In intensive farms, it is based **on the correct nutrition** - it is designed for quality production rather than maximising performance (emphasis on the needs of the animals in terms of their different stages of development).

Animals are fed with feed from the OA and **preferably from the farm where the animals live!**

Veterinary care in organic farming

Animal care from a veterinary point of view is characterized by a strong emphasis **on prevention**. In contrast to conventional breeding, where poorer health is more common, conditions can be covered by the prophylactic use of antibiotics and other drugs. Animals on organic farms are potentially more exposed to diseases. The organic farmer must therefore rely on preventive measures. Prevention is aimed at building up **high animal immunity**. **Treating animals must lead to saving their lives, eliminating suffering, healing quickly and preventing the spread of disease.**

Preventive measures:

- Choosing the right breed or line,
- well-constructed buildings,
- well-managed pastures and paddocks.

Therapeutic procedures in OF

It is necessary to **prevent the suffering** of the animal as efficiently and quickly as possible. It is unacceptable that the development of the disease should be negative, that the animal should lose weight, that it should become exhausted by the disease. The principle applies - **it is not the disease that is treated, but the animal as a whole.**

Preference is given to natural treatments -
phytotherapy, diet therapy, physical treatments
methods, acupuncture, homeopathy, etc.

Conventional therapeutic procedures

Conventional therapeutic treatment should be adopted for cases where their use will enable a rapid and effective process of recovery of the original state of health. Records of the treatment shall be kept, including records of products obtained from animals during the treatment period and during the protective period after the treatment has been completed – it should be observed **the double legal protection period for products** from treated animals.

Unacceptable methods of treatment

- Administration of drugs and **routine administration** of prophylactics to healthy animals (including growth promoters or tranquillisers prior to transport).
- Use of **hormonal treatment** to stimulate ovulation and estrus.
- Use of **gene manipulation** techniques in animal breeding and selection.
- **Tail docking in pigs**, use of elastic bandages and their attachment to the tail of sheep, cauterisation of bird beaks and horns for stress reduction or disease reduction.
- Keeping animals in conditions that lead to **anaemia** and providing them with nutrition that leads to anaemia.

Permitted procedures on animals

- **Artificial insemination** in the classic form, i.e. sperm transfer, not embryo transfer.
- **Castration** to preserve traditional breeding practices, improve the quality of the final product and increase the safety of the animals and staff.

Animal Welfare and the Consumer

Consumers have extraordinary power to force rapid changes in farming. Because conventional intensive farming does not provide a good living environment for millions of farm animals, it is in the hands of consumers to push for change.

If the consumer is willing to pay a higher price for better animal welfare, the following will be achieved:

- better welfare for farmed animals,
- improved animal health,
- the production of better quality food,
- reducing environmental pollution,
- more employment opportunities in rural areas.

Non-governmental organisation of animal protection abroad

WSPA - World Society for Protection of Animals



www.wspa-international.org (proti utrpení zvířat)

CIWF - Comparisson in World Farming

www.ciwf.co.uk (ochrana hospodářských zvířat)



RSPCA - Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

www.rspca.org.uk (ochrana zvířat proti týrání)



RSPB - Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

www.rspb.org.uk (ochrana ptáků)



Non-governmental organisation of animal protection– CZ

- Nadace na ochranu zvířat
www.ochranazvirat.cz



- Společnost pro zvířata
www.spolecnostprozvirata.cz



- **Liga na ochranu zvířat**

<http://www.lozcr.cz>

- **Ochránci hospodářských zvířat**

<http://www.ohz.cz/>

- **První společnost za práva koček**

<http://www.kocky-online.cz/jportal/>

- **Pražský spolek ochránců zvířat**

<http://www.psoz.org/>

- **Přátelé přírody**

<http://www.prateleprirody.cz/>

- **Svoboda zvířat**

<http://www.svobodazvirat.cz/>



Organic cattle farming

The organic beef cattle farming system is based on natural conditions in which the natural behaviour of the animals is fully expressed.

The cattle are kept **untethered, fed on natural forage and fed mainly on grazing and green feeding.**

Milking is carried out gently with milking machines in milking parlors or separate cubicles.

The methods of reproduction **are natural or artificial insemination.**

Extra care must be taken during transport.

Avoid animal suffering and unnecessary handling during slaughter - beating, extreme density.

- **Castration of calves** allowed only in the most urgent cases - meat production.
- **Providing sufficient space** - an expression of natural behaviour.
- **The housing area** must meet strict rules for the stable environment.
- **The most suitable housing method** is a shelter covered on three sides, open on the south side with an open enclosure with a solid floor with several non-freezing watering troughs. It is recommended to divide the stall space with sections.
- The stalls are divided into individual compartments according to cattle categories.
- Cows and heifers can be kept **on open pasture**.

Organic pig farming

The general principle of housing organically reared pigs is to ensure the greatest possible comfort and satisfaction of the animals, natural living conditions and sufficient profit.

Castration is allowed for quality meat production - only a veterinarian can perform it!

Providing sufficient space, comfort, place for watering, feeding, avoiding stress.

Only permitted products for cleaning stalls and equipment, hot steam, water is preferred.

Need to provide ventilation in stalls, pigs tolerate cool but not hot. Beware of draughts!

- Allowing for **grazing in pastures**, each pasture must have watering troughs, shelter.
- **Straw bedding** is used inside the housing area - animal comfort.
- Pigs can be kept in open areas where only **shelter is available, pigs create their own resting place** - positive for reducing stress. There must also be places **for rooting and digging**.
- **Indicators of the subjective condition of individual pigs** are reactivity, feeding, digging, curiosity, movement, social behaviour, cleanliness, provision of comfort and convenience, choice of favorite territory and rest.

Feeding and reproduction of pigs

The organic farming system prefers **troughs** in which both dry and liquid feed can be fed. Feeding systems in pastures need to be constantly maintained and cleaned. The pigs must also be provided with supplementary feed when necessary.

Sows should be farrowed at 7-8 months of age, and at 1 year of age for the regional breeds, when they reach sexual maturity. Use of natural (small farms) and artificial reproduction.

Need to take into account the higher heat requirements of newborn piglets. A nursing period of **at least 40 days** is recommended.

Slaughter

Organically reared pigs are slaughtered at a live weight of 120 kg at about 9 months of age. The transport of live animals to the slaughterhouse must be carried out in conditions that ensure sufficient comfort for the animals and must not be stressful for the animals. The use of **electrical equipment** to herd pigs is prohibited.

- In the organic farming system, **it is forbidden to mutilate animals** in any way, i.e. to trim or grind their beaks or cut their nails. Organic farming conditions must be ensured from the 18th week of age for laying hens and from the 3rd day of age for chickens intended for subsequent consumption.
- Open-range poultry species must be more resistant and animals must have a **grassed enclosure**.
- **It is forbidden to damage the health** of the poultry in any way or to carry out irreversible forms of fattening (e.g. rapid over-stuffing of the stomach). Poultry should only be fed by organic feed grown on the farm.

Breeding facilities

- The basic requirements are **natural light and ventilation**, and **free-range areas** (the size of which depends on the specific requirements of each species) must be included in the buildings used for poultry keeping. For waterfowl, it is also necessary to provide **free water**.
- For laying hens, natural light may be supplemented by artificial lighting. Housing facilities must be emptied, cleaned and sterilised regularly, always after the end of the fattening period of one batch of poultry. This period must be long enough to allow the grass in the runs to grow back.

Organic sheep farming

Feeding

Grazing is the most appropriate and economical method. It is not only that grazing provides sheep with sufficient nutrients and active substances needed by their bodies, but fresh grass is the most tastiest type of feed for sheep, and the fibre contained in fresh grass is of higher quality than that contained in hay. Fresh grass is also easier to digest and more varied in terms of amino acids and microelements. In addition, grazing in the fresh air provides animals **with sunlight and exercise**, thus improving their physiognomy.

Breeding facilities

Sheep need to be given free access to open pasture at all times. **It is forbidden to dehorn** or otherwise mutilate sheep.

Sheep must also not be kept tethered and must instead be allowed **free movement** and constant access to watering troughs and feeding troughs.

The housing should be suitable for the animals and they may be kept indoors for a maximum of **3 months for fattening purposes only**.

In pastures, sheep must be provided with **shelter** and freshly born lambs and their mothers must be kept indoors for 5-6 days.

- **Ventilation and natural airflow** (light, not draughty) should be provided in the housing area by doors, windows or additional fans. In winter, on the other hand, the building must be well isolated and prevent the formation of higher concentrations of ammonia. A open roof or door are suitable for this purpose.
- To avoid damage to the wool on the door frames (at a height of 0.1 to 1.5 m from the ground), **rollers can be installed in the entrance, and a disinfection bath** is installed in front of the entrance door.
- Breeding areas intended for free-range rearing must have **a source of natural lighting**.
- Indoor resting areas must be lined with straw and at least half of the floor area must be solid.

Organic goat farming

- Goats should always be given **access to hills or slopes in optimal breeding conditions**, or other elevated areas should be prepared (e.g. straw packs in pastures). Goats must never graze on wet pastures for long periods of time because of the risk of hoof damage.
- **Their high resistance** and dietary properties make them ideal for extensive farming. Goats can graze on completely isolated pastures, grassland, grassy field margins or forest edges.
- Mother goats require a different feed composition and daily ration volume (depending on the amount and fat content of milk produced during lactation).

- Goats are not very demanding of ration supplements. Particular attention should be paid to the feeding of **lactating or long-pregnant females** - they may be deficient in vitamins from natural pastures at this time and need to be supplied with carotene (vitamin A-rich supplements). Artificial vitamins can only be given as a feed supplement.

Breeding facilities

- It is possible to use the same housing parameters, equipment and tools as in sheep farming, while strictly observing the rule that goats can only be **kept in enclosed spaces** for a limited period of time. There must be at least 1.5 m^2 per goat in enclosures (0.35 m^2 per kid) and at least 2.5 m^2 per goat in outdoor pastures (0.5 m^2 per kid). Shelters must be installed in pastures.
- It is important to ensure that the **animals are comfortable** and that their basic physiological needs are met, both in the enclosure and on the pasture. For this purpose, e.g. outdoor feed shelters, outdoor pens and watering troughs are used.

**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENTION**