

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Organic Equivalence Arrangements for Livestock Products
Open for Public Comment

Country: Japan

Post: Tokyo

Report Category: Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal, Trade Policy Monitoring

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Report Highlights:

On May 29, 2020, Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries opened a public comment period on the proposed new U.S.-Japan organic equivalence arrangement for livestock products. Comments are also being received for Japan's proposed bilateral organic livestock equivalence arrangements with Canada, Switzerland and Australia. Comments are due by June 29, 2020.

On May 29, 2020, MAFF opened a public comments period on the proposed expansion of the bilateral organic equivalence arrangement to include livestock products. The deadline for comments is June 29, 2020. All comments must be written in Japanese and submitted via (i) Japan's [e-Gov site](#), (ii) mail (to 〒100-8950 東京都千代田区霞が関1-2-1 農林水産省食料産業局食品製造課基準認証室規格第1班), or (iii) fax (+81-3-6744-0569). Further information on the submission of comments is available on the [e-GOV comment submission guidelines](#) site.

Background

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) enforces [Japan Agricultural Standards \(JAS\)](#), which regulate organic products sold in Japan. In 2001, MAFF established JAS organic standards for livestock products. However, these standards were not enforced due to very limited production and distribution of organic livestock products in Japan. Consequently, no certification was required for foods containing animal products to be labeled "organic."

As Japan's distribution of organic livestock products increased, along with the number of foreign visitors, MAFF decided to enforce organic livestock standards in Japan ([JA8025](#)). To comply with the new regulation, which will be enforced from July 16, 2020, U.S. organic livestock products will not be allowed to be sold as "organic" in Japan unless (i) they receive organic JAS certification for livestock products, or (ii) there is a U.S.-Japan organic equivalence arrangement in place for livestock products.

To avoid trade disruptions, USDA is working with MAFF to ensure market access for U.S. organic livestock exports to Japan. As part of that process, MAFF invited public comments to revise the existing U.S.-Japan organic equivalence arrangement to cover livestock products.

Since January 1, 2014, under the terms of the U.S.-Japan organic equivalence arrangement, all certified organic plant and plant-based processed products¹ produced in the United States or which have final processing, packaging, or labeling in the United States may access the Japanese market as "organic," without an additional JAS organic certification. The 2014 arrangement did not cover products that contained ingredients of animal origin. For additional details about the bilateral equivalence arrangement, see the [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service \(AMS\) site on Japan trade policy](#). The 2019 [Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards \(FAIRS\) report](#) contains further information about Japan's import requirements for organic products.

Attachments:

No Attachments.

¹ Eligible processed products contain at least 95 percent of certified organic ingredients.