

ORGANIC:

MORE THAN JUST "ANTIBIOTIC FREE"

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Under the Canadian Organic Standards, farmers must avoid giving livestock antibiotics. Antibiotics are only allowed for therapeutic purposes, never as a preventative measure, to promote growth, or to encourage lactating animals to cycle (a common practice in conventional dairy farming). If a farmer does use antibiotics, they must carefully document the process and, in some cases (i.e. for dairy cattle), if an animal receives more than two treatments in one year, it loses its organic status.

In the case of dairy farming, animals receiving antibiotics must be withdrawn from the herd for twice the amount of time specified on the label or for 14 days, whichever is longer. However, farmers are not allowed to withhold treatment from animals who require it. Eliminating antibiotics and other synthetic drugs goes hand-in-hand with a number of other practices that foster long-term ecologically sustainable farming futures.

Organic means:

- **The use of GE seeds or substances is not permitted**
- **Soil health is improved through crop rotation and organic matter inputs**
- **Dairy cows must receive 60% of their diet from pasture and forage**
- **Humane treatment practices encourage animal health**
- **A lower energy footprint than just local, because synthetic fertilizers aren't used**



OCO

Organic Council of Ontario
The Voice for Organics in Ontario