

Comparing Meat Animal Production Practices Among Farming Systems (as defined by USDA)

	Conventional	Organic	Naturally Raised	Grass Fed			
Farm Production Methods							
<i>Type of Feed</i>	No specifications	Must be 100% organic; No plastic pellets, urea, or animal by-products in feeds	No animal by-products (animal, avian, aquatic) in feeds	Must be pasture & forage fed (No Grain or grain by-products) entire life			
<i>Access to Outdoors</i>		Required	Required	Required			
<i>Access to Pasture</i>		Required (120 days/minimum of 30% of Dry Matter intake)					
<i>Allows Pesticide Use on Farm</i>	No restrictions	Not allowed	Not allowed	No restrictions			
<i>Allows Synthetic Fertilizer & Sewage Sludge on Soils</i>			No restrictions				
<i>Use of Genetic Engineering</i>							
Animal Health, Welfare & Veterinary Care							
<i>Preventative Health Care/Management Strategies (vaccines, animal care, housing, etc.)</i>	Encouraged/ No restrictions	Strong reliance on prevention strategies; Living conditions & care standards are regulated; Veterinary care must be provided during illness	Encouraged/ No restrictions	Encouraged/ No restrictions			
<i>Use of Growth Hormones</i>	Not allowed for pork and poultry	Not allowed	Not allowed	No restrictions	Individual marketing programs may vary		
<i>Use of Antibiotics</i>	Allowed					Not allowed (with exceptions)	Allowed
<i>Use of Dewormers</i>						Not allowed	Allowed (must be labeled)
<i>Use of Ionophores</i>							
Product Processing, Marketing & Labeling							
<i>Federally Regulated Label</i>	No specifications unless under a related marketing label protocol	Yes	Yes; must be family farm raised	Yes			
<i>Certification & Label Verification Process</i>		Requires use of accredited USDA NOP certification process	Allows for 3 rd party verification process	Allows for 3 rd party verification process			
<i>Use of Irradiation</i>	Allowed	Not allowed	Allowed	Allowed			



Notes and On-line Resources:

Information for organic, naturally raised and grass fed marketing claims compared to conventional meat animal practices in this table was derived from current USDA-AMS marketing claim standards available at the USDA websites listed below.

US Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA-AMS)

National Organic Program (NOP):

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateA&navID=NationalOrganicProgram&leftNav=NationalOrganicProgram&page=NOPNationalOrganicProgramHome&acct=AMSPW>

USDA-AMS webpage of Marketing Claims for Naturally Raised, Grass Fed, Tenderness, Grain Fed, Small/Very Small Beef/Sheep Grass Fed Producers' programs:

<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateL&navID=MarketingClaimStandards&rightNav1=MarketingClaimStandards&topNav=&leftNav=GradingCertificationandVerification&page=PublicationsProposedMarketingClaimsRulemaking&resultType=&acct=lsstd>

