

PGS Farm Visit Checklist: Crops & Animal Husbandry

Visit to:	Date:
..... PGS group operates within the principles and guidelines of IFOAM-Organics International's definition of organic agriculture. Our <i>PGS Basic Production Principles</i> are based on the SAOSO Standard for Organic Production and Processing.	
I, ... am aware of/have read the Basic Production Principles YES NO	
I, ... am aware of/ have read of the <i>SAOSO Standard for Organic Production and Processing</i> YES NO	
Email address:....address:..... Contact Number:	

PARTICIPANT REPORT				
CATEGORY	OBSERVATION			COMMENTS
History of the farm				
First impression	Fenced clean & tidy	Open clean & tidy	Unkempt	
History of land	Fallow	Non chemical activity	Chemical agriculture	
Previous animal systems on the land	Similar to present	Very different to present	<u>none</u>	
Soil Fertility				
Compost	On farm	Sourced from outside farm	Both	
Animal Manure	Animal manures used	Animal manures not used		
Mulching	Mulch (dry)	Mulch (living)	None	
Crop control	Crop Rotation	Companion Planting	Green manure/Cover Crops	
Soil Type	Sandy	Clay	Loamy	
Organic Matter in Soil	Very visible	Somewhat visible	Not visible	
Additional material/inputs sources	Animal manures	Mulch	Green manures	
Soil	No-till	By hand or walk-behind tractor	Tractor	
Seed				
Source of Seeds	Purchased	Seed bank/ seed swop	Self-harvested	
Type of seeds	Organic	Conventional untreated	Treated	

Animals				
First impressions	Healthy	Fair	Poor health	
Living conditions	Freedom of movement	Grazing/foraging food source	Confined/caged / tethered	
Stocking density	High – too many animals	Comfortable		
Habitat	Extensive roaming	Paddocks with space for natural behavior	Paddocks restrict natural behavior	
List animals and main production objective				
Livestock <i>Can do social grooming and grazing throughout the season?</i>	Free ranging with unrestricted and daily access to pasture soil (how many hours/day?)	Tethered and able to graze easily / moved regularly	Tethering visually uncomfortable	
Pigs <i>Have suitable & separate areas for rooting, lying, dunging, feeding, farrowing?</i>	Free ranging with unrestricted and daily access to pasture/soil(how many hours/day?)	Pens with space for natural behaviour	Pens with unsuitable conditions (i.e lack of <i>suitable & separate areas for rooting, lying, dunging, feeding, farrowing</i>)	
Poultry <i>Can nest, wing stretch/flap, forage, dust-bath, perch and preen?</i>	Free ranging with unrestricted and daily access to pasture/soil (how many hours/day?)	Coops with space for natural behaviour	Artificial lighting with 8 h rest/day or with no period of 8 h rest/day	
Goats	Free ranging and browsing (how many hours/day?)	Tethered and able to graze easily / moved often	Tethering and visually uncomfortable	
Rabbits	Access to pasture, adequate housing /dark hiding place, raised platform / nesting material for nursing does	No access to pasture but raised platform/shelter and nesting materials	In cages	
Other animals				
Pest and disease management				
Veterinary medicine	Preventative Homeopathy/Ayurvedic /acupuncture	Mechanical, physical and biological methods Synthetic allopathic veterinary drugs (when?)	Application of substances (organic/non organic) Vaccinations (which ones? Are withdrawal periods doubled?)	
Animal handling facilities for inspection or treatment	Humane and sufficient	In development	Insufficient	
Facility for isolating sick animals	Humane and sufficient	In development	Insufficient	
Animal Husbandry				

Meat production	Offspring managed organically from pregnancy on farm	Offspring born on farm not managed organically	Offspring brought in from external /conventional source (% of herd/flock)	
Milk production	From organically managed pregnancy preceding lactation	From non-organically managed pregnancy preceding lactation		
Egg production	From organically managed chicks from 2 days old	From outside source but managed organically thereafter		
Mutilation	None	Mutilations for animal welfare only	Mutilations the norm	
Nutrition	100% organic forage and organic feed	Ratio of feed produced on farm or from local organic production	Some forage and feed brought from conventional source (what %)	
a)Fodder preservatives	Organic/natural	Non Organic/natural		
b) Strategy for improvement of grazing/browsing/foraging systems on farm	Sensible strategy in place, informed by best practice	Some improvements are being made	Uncertain how to improve or lack of resources/information/time to effect improvements	
c) Yearly/season feed flow plan	In place and able to plan forward and able to reflect on previous season/year	Challenges with the plan	Not in place	
d) Technique for assessing condition of animals	Confident and well experienced techniques that allow for insights and appropriate changes to be made	In development	None	
Feeding of young animals	Animals receive maternal milk till weaning	No early weaning	Early weaning	
Transport and Slaughter	Farm has oversight of transport and slaughter methods compliant with legislation	No oversight of transport and method	Carcass traceability	
Water				
Water Type	Municipal	Borehole / Spring	Rainwater/Tanks/dam	
Water Test	Yes/No	Results		
Water Management	Run-off water is regulated via flow patterns or other appropriate water conservation techniques	Water surrounding drinking troughs or animal living areas does not stand stagnant	Continuous improvement of water flow/storage across farm	
Water points for animals	Sufficient and troughs are spread so as to avoid competition or stress	Limited or challenged		

Biodiversity				
Wildlife / biodiversity areas/ecosystem management	Forest/fynbos/ riverine/mountain/ grassland/hedges	Invasive species management? Erosion rehabilitation	Percentage of land dedicated	
Diversity of plant species across farm	Eco-system support plants ie: hedgerows, plants on water edges, erosion restoration plants	Plants that support animal health i.e: self medication forage plants, pasture /grazing improvement plants	Very little plant diversity	
Newly cleared/ cultivated land	Signs of herbicide New areas identified for eco-system restoration	Burning New areas identified for cultivation	Chipped material Mowed material	
Plant Health				
Signs of pests	No signs	Visible		
Signs of disease	No signs	Visible		
Signs of weeds/ weed population	Low	High	Signs of herbicide use	
Methods for weed control	Removed by hand	Mowed		
Crop pest / disease control	Self-made	Purchased input	Both	
	Wildlife habitat	Biodiversity of plants/ companion planting	Preventative methods e,g, Traps predators	
Contamination Risk				
Adjacent land use	Wild/fallow	Organically farmed	Conventionally farmed	
Wind drift	None	Low risk	High risk (buffer)	
Run off	None	Low risk	High risk (buffer)	
Harvesting, clearing and packaging				
Harvesting & packing	By hand	Machine	Labels	
Packaging materials	Biodegradable	Recyclable	Neither	
Cleaning & sanitation	Washing area clean	Cleaning materials – type		
Social responsibility	Contracted staff	Informal labour / Cooperative	Children participation in farm work	
a) Ability to transfer ethics and care of animals effectively to staff	Regular training	Demonstration		

I am a....

In my opinion, this farm is...

