



Certified Naturally Grown Livestock Inspection Forms

Farmer(s): _____ Farm name: _____

Inspector: _____ Affiliation (farm name, extension...) _____

Inspector is: CNG Farmer Farmer using natural practices Cert Organic Farmer

Extension Agent Sust Ag Educator Customer (1 of 3)

Date of the inspection: _____ How long did the inspection last?: _____

INSTRUCTIONS

The goal of the inspection is two-fold. In part, the inspection aims to verify that the CNG standards are being upheld. Equally important, the inspection offers an opportunity for producers to systematically review their practices with the inspector and reflect on how to improve sustainability in their operation. Before you get started we recommend you obtain a copy of the Livestock Standards from the CNG website (at CNGfarming.org/livestock), or ask the producer if they'll have one on hand.

The Inspector should:

- Determine compliance with CNG standards
- Offer feedback and recommendations
- Share insights and suggestions to help the farmer set sustainability goals
- Use the Worksheets to note highlights of what's reported and discussed
- Review List of Inputs and Sustainability Goals
- Carefully complete the Summary Inspection Report and Inspector Contact Information (final two pages)
- Return those two pages, plus the completed Inspection Worksheets, to CNG

The Farmer should:

- Before inspection: complete the List of Inputs on page 6 for the inspector to review on site
- During: walk through operation with inspector answering questions and sharing openly
- During or before: Complete the Sustainability Goals section (optional)
- After: make a copy of the completed Worksheets, Summary Report, Overview, and List of Inputs to keep on file at the apiary (optional but recommended)

PLEASE REMEMBER: It is easy to get side-tracked into specific conversations and discussions. Do that *after* the inspection is complete. Stay on track and perform a thorough inspection of the farmer's operation.

INSPECTION WORKSHEETS

I. Land Management

A. List the number and type(s) (beef cattle, dairy sheep, etc) of livestock to be certified.

B. How many acres are used for pasture/range? Used for feed grain? Used for hay?

C. Ask the farmer about their markets. Does it look like they grow all they sell? (E.g. does it seem that the land base is sufficient to support these?)

YES / NO

D. How long has the farmer managed the property?

E. Has synthetic fertilizer, pesticide or herbicide been used in the last 36 months? If yes, then the operation is considered transitional. What was applied and when?

Transitional /
Not Transitional

F. List any crops or livestock that are excluded from certification – please explain why they are excluded.

G. Do you practice rotational grazing? Please describe the rotation.

II. Feed

In order to meet CNG standards feed must not contain any of the following ingredients:

- crops grown with synthetic fertilizers or pesticides
- crops from GM seed
- medications
- post-harvest fungal treatments
- crops from chemically-treated seed
- animal byproducts

Purchased Feed [skip if not applicable]

A. Does the producer purchase feed? YES / NO

- (i) From where? If it's branded, is it certified organic? If it's branded, but not certified organic, it probably doesn't meet CNG standards. (i)
- (ii) If it's not branded, does the producer know that it's grown without synthetic fertilizers or pesticides? (ii)

Farm-grown Feed [skip if not applicable]

B. Ask the farmer about their tillage practices. What approaches does the farmer use to minimize erosion? And to minimize soil compaction?

C. Ask the farmer to describe his/her crop rotation practices. Does the farmer use a written plan or basic principles? Does the farmer feel s/he is meeting her/his rotation goals?

D. Does the farmer plant cover crops? What kinds and when? How else does s/he let the land recover between plantings?

E. Fertility Inputs

- (i) Does the farmer use fresh manure or compost? (i)
[Note: there is no restriction on use of raw manure for growing animal feed.]
- (ii) Does the farmer use other inputs for fertility? Make sure these are allowed. (See the List of Inputs on pg. 7 for additional resources.) (ii)

F. Weeds

- (i) What weeds are the farmer's biggest challenges? (i)
- (ii) What practices does the grower use to manage weed pressure? (ii)
- (iii) Does the farmer use inputs for weed control? Make sure these are allowed. (See the List of Inputs on pg. 7.) (iii)

G. Disease

- (i) What are the biggest plant disease challenges the grower faces? (i)
- (ii) What practices does the farmer use to prevent or manage these? (ii)
- (iii) Does the farmer use inputs for disease control? Make sure these are allowed. (See the List of Inputs on pg. 7.) (iii)

H. Insect Pests

- (i) What are the grower's biggest insect pest challenges in feed production? (i)
(Continued on next page)

| | |
|---|----------|
| (ii) What practices does the grower use to manage insect pressure? | (ii) |
| (iii) Does the farmer use inputs for insect control? Make sure these are allowed. (See the List of Inputs on pg. 7.) | (iii) |
| <p>Seeds <i>Seeds must be CNG, Certified Organic, or grown according to CNG methods whenever available. This includes cover crop seed. If the varieties the farmer wants are not available in quantity in this form, the farmer may use conventional seeds, though chemically treated and genetically engineered seeds are never allowed.</i></p> | |
| <p>I. Ask the grower about their source(s) of seeds.</p> <p>(i) Where does the farmer purchase seeds? <i>[The farmer should be able to show seed supplier evidence]</i></p> <p>(ii) Is it a company that also sells treated and/or genetically modified seeds?</p> <p>(iii) If yes, how does the grower make sure that they don't get treated or GM seeds?</p> | |
| <p>III. Water</p> | |
| A. Does the farmer irrigate their feed crops? | YES / NO |
| (i) If yes, what is/are the irrigation source(s)? | (i) |
| (ii) Has it been tested? When? (Answer for each source) <i>[Regular water testing is not a CNG requirement, but is considered best practice and encouraged]</i> | (ii) |
| <p>B. Water for livestock:</p> <p>(i) What is/are the source(s) for water for livestock?</p> <p>(ii) Has it been tested? When? (Answer for each source) <i>[Regular water testing is not a CNG requirement, but is considered best practice and encouraged]</i></p> | |
| <p>C. Ask the farmer about methods they use to conserve water.</p> | |
| <p>IV. Buffers <i>Buffers are important when a potential source of contamination is nearby. The standard buffer is generally 50ft, though adequate buffer size is context specific, determined largely by the method of application as well as prevailing wind patterns and slope of the land. For example, if synthetic chemicals on an adjacent property are applied by broadcaster or boom sprayer that stays close to the ground then a 20ft buffer may be adequate. In cases where chemicals are applied with high-pressure sprayers or aerially, then a distance greater than 50ft may be required.</i></p> | |
| <p>A. What is the land use on the properties adjacent to the growing area? Is there risk of spray contamination? If so, ask specifically,</p> <p>(i) What is sprayed?</p> <p>(ii) How frequently?</p> <p>(iv) How is it applied? <i>[If there is risk of contamination, the farmer should have these details]</i></p> | |
| <p>B. Does the farmer have an adequate buffer based on the spray concerns? Are there shrubs or trees that help to block drift? <i>[If there is risk of contamination, the farmer must have an adequate buffer.]</i></p> | |
| <p>V. Biodiversity Conservation</p> | |
| <p>A. Are there woodlands on the property? How are these managed?</p> | |
| <p>B. Are there wetlands or waterways on or near the property? <i>(Continued on next page)</i></p> | |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| (i) What steps does the producer take to minimize potential run-off of soil and if used, natural pesticides? (ii) In particular, how do they manage manure? | (i) (ii) |
| C. Is there habitat for birds or other wildlife on the property? How does the grower enhance/protect this habitat? | |
| D. How does the farmer provide habitat for beneficial insects and pollinators? | |
| VI. Livestock Housing and Outdoor Access <i>All animals must have access to the outdoors, as well as shade, shelter, fresh air, and direct sunlight, when climate and weather allow. In particular, ruminants must spend most of their time on pasture during the warm season, with a minimum of 120 days per year spent grazing. Please note that the 120-day minimum is based on the short growing season of the northeast US; in areas with longer growing seasons, the number of days on pasture should be correspondingly greater.</i> | |
| A. Are livestock on pasture/outdoors most of the time during the growing season? During what months? | |
| B. If the producer has ruminant livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) does she/he ensure that at least 30% of their dry matter intake comes from pasture? | YES / NO |
| C. If the producer has poultry, does the poultry have either (a) a <i>minimum</i> of five square feet per bird of natural, grassy outdoor space or (b) at least two square feet per bird <i>and</i> get moved at least one time per day to fresh new pasture? | YES / NO |
| D. Are there any hazards (sharp objects or tripping hazards) for the animals to get hurt with? | |
| VII. Livestock Health Management <i>Most conventional veterinary medicines are <u>not</u> allowed under CNG standards, though vaccines are an important exception. In particular, livestock products may not be sold as CNG if animals are treated with: antibiotics, hormones, or synthetic external or internal parasiticides [However, in dairy stock Ivermectin may be used emergency treatment only, but milk may not be marketed as CNG for 90-days following treatment, or in breeder stock as an emergency treatment, but not during the last trimester for the animal to be considered CNG]. Certainly, when necessary to prevent animal suffering and death, CNG encourages producers to use the most effective veterinary treatment available –whether synthetic or natural. If synthetic treatments are used, the animal cannot be marketed as CNG and should be removed from the flock or herd.</i> | |
| A. What external livestock pests does the producer encounter? How does the producer prevent and/or manage these? | |
| B. What internal parasites does the producer encounter? How does the producer prevent and/or manage these? | |
| C. What diseases does the producer encounter? How does the producer prevent and/or manage these? | |
| VIII. Origin of Livestock [skip if not applicable] <i>Livestock other than poultry should not be bought on a routine basis. No livestock that has been treated with antibiotics or hormones may be sold as CNG (there is no transition period). In general, livestock products sold as CNG must be from livestock under continuous CNG management from the last third of gestation, or for poultry, the second day of life. Livestock of new CNG farms (or if introducing a new herd) may transition into CNG after 9 months of continuous CNG management.</i> | |
| A. If livestock are purchased, from where? | |
| B. Were they raised according to CNG standards for feed and health management since birth or hatching? (Continued on next page) | |
| YES / NO | |

- | | |
|--|------|
| (i) If no, in what ways? | (i) |
| (ii) Does the producer ensure that they were raised according to CNG standards for 9 months (or 6 for dairy) before being marketed as CNG? | (ii) |

INSIDE OFFICE, BARN, SHED, AND/OR GREENHOUSE

A. Has the farmer had the soil tested recently? If so, discuss the results and how the farmer will (or has) addressed them.
[CNG does not require annual soil testing]

B. Equipment

- | | |
|---|------|
| (i) Is the equipment properly stored to prevent leaking or contamination of soil and produce? | (i) |
| (ii) Does the farmer ever borrow equipment? If yes, do they clean it properly before using it on the farm? <i>[Equipment used on a conventional farm must be cleaned thoroughly before use on a CNG farm]</i> | (ii) |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| C. Are fuel and inputs properly stored to prevent leakage? | YES / NO / room for improvement |
|--|---------------------------------|

D. Energy

- | | |
|--|------|
| (i) How does the farmer minimize energy use? | (i) |
| (ii) Does the farmer use renewable energy sources? | (ii) |

INSPECTION OVERVIEW

A. Describe notable or outstanding aspects of the farm operation. Consider making this a farm tour site for a gathering of your local farmer's network. ☺

B. The inspector may find minor violations that aren't grounds for removal from the CNG program but that should be addressed in order for the farm's certification to be continued. Do you recommend any Corrective Actions be taken to bring the farm into stronger alignment with CNG standards and/or principles? (These should also be noted in the Inspector Contact Information page.) In what timeframe should they be addressed (eg. immediately, within two months, by next year's inspection, etc)?

Corrective Action

Time Frame

C. List any Corrective Actions from the last inspection and indicate if they have been acted upon.

SUSTAINABILITY GOALS: going beyond the core standards (Optional)

Sustainability is an ongoing process and is context specific. We are united by our commitment to improving the soil and caring for the earth and our families with the long-term view in mind. Certified Naturally Grown is largely focused on ecological sustainability; however, to ensure the continued success of any farm it's important to include the economic and social aspects of sustainability as well.

The farmer should take this opportunity to reflect on and set some goals for improving sustainability on his or her farm using the inspector as a sounding board. These may be short-term or long-term goals and could be in any of the following areas or others:

- **Soil:** preventing erosion and runoff, building organic matter, cover cropping, reducing compaction
- **Water:** Use efficiency, rain water capture, run-off prevention, protecting wetlands and waterways
- **Inputs:** Use efficiency, reducing use, replacing with local products and/or preventative practices
- **Biodiversity:** Protecting/providing habitat for wildlife, buffering wild areas
- **Supporting biological cycles:** Habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects
- **Energy:** Energy efficiency, renewable energy
- **Waste:** Reduction, reuse, recycling
- **Economic viability** Maintain/improve the bottom line; pay yourself and staff fair wages.
- **Engaging the community:** Educate the public, increase food access

For the farmer being inspected: What are 3 goals for improving sustainability of your operation in the short term and long term? Discuss strategies to achieve these goals. ****Write one above your signature on the Inspection Report****

| Goal | Time frame | Steps necessary to make it happen |
|-------------|-------------------|--|
| 1. | | |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |

INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Did you address these items?

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rotation & land management | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant pests, disease, weeds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil fertility | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor access | <input type="checkbox"/> Seeds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feed | <input type="checkbox"/> Buffers | <input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation & water use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock pests | <input type="checkbox"/> Manure management | <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity | <input type="checkbox"/> Out buildings |

----- ! WAIT ! -----

The NEXT pages are scanned in and made public! You may use the empty space below and the above worksheets to make notes and recommendations to the producer or recognize areas of excellence.

Please be sure to leave notes for the producer to file with their records about any areas of concern that should be reviewed by the next inspector.

Certified Naturally Grown LIVESTOCK SUMMARY INSPECTION REPORT

Farmer/s: _____ Farm name: _____

Inspector: _____ Affiliation (farm name, extension...) _____

Inspector is a: CNG Farmer Farmer using natural practices Cert Organic Farmer

Extension Agent Sust Ag Educator Master Gardener Customer (1 of 3)

Date of the inspection: _____ How long did the inspection last?: _____

Based on my observations and interview with the producer(s), I feel confident in making the following declarations about the operation:

The farmer engages in sustainable agricultural practices that promote the long-term fertility of soils and conserve water resources on their farm. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

I saw no evidence of synthetic chemical insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizers, nor that antibiotics or prohibited synthetic parasiticides were used. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

The farmer demonstrates a commitment to the health and welfare of the animals under his/her care and conscientiously raises them according to Certified Naturally Grown standards. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

I am confident that the livestock feed and/or forage is either certified organic, Certified Naturally Grown, or grown according to these standards. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

The fields and pasture under consideration look to be surrounded by an adequate buffer to protect from chemical or spray drift contamination. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

The farmer demonstrates a commitment to the protection of the air, soils, waters, and biodiversity of the surrounding land. Agree / Disagree _____
(Your initials)

I feel confident in recommending that the above listed producer(s) and their farm

be included

not be included

in the Certified Naturally Grown program.

Signature of Inspector

Date

Signature of Farmer

Date

Witnessed by these Community Stakeholders:

Stakeholder Signature

Stakeholder Name

Title or Role

Stakeholder Signature

Stakeholder Name

Title or Role

INSPECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

This information will be kept completely confidential but is required for this form to be valid. It is only so we have the option to contact you with any follow-up questions and/or to confirm that you conducted the inspection and filled in this form.

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Farm or Ranch you inspected: _____ | |
| Your Name: _____ | Affiliation: _____ |
| Your Phone: _____ | Your Email: _____ |
| Your Mailing Address: _____ | |
| _____ | |

- I recommend this farm I recommend the farm with minor corrective actions I don't recommend this farm for CNG certification

You're almost done! But FIRST:

- Did you sign the Summary Inspection Report at the bottom?
- Did the farmer sign too?
- Did you initial the agree/disagree statements?
- Did you indicate your farm/affiliation on the summary report?

Please return all these Inspection Forms to CNG using one of these three methods:

We encourage you to email scanned images of your report. Doing so will help us reduce paper waste, and support our shift to more efficient electronic record keeping. (Free apps for scanning using your smart phone are noted below). We prefer it when all pages are merged together into a single PDF.

Mail to:

Certified Naturally Grown
540 President Street, Third Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11215

OR

Fax to:

718-596-4697

OR

Email to:

forms@naturallygrown.org

Free phone apps:
iScanner or **DocScan**

Kindly merge all individual pages into a single PDF file

Inspection forms can be downloaded at <http://CNGfarming.org/CNGforms>

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions: forms@naturallygrown.org or 845-687-2058