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Brief Info - Organic waterfowl husbandry

1. stable building:

- **Upper limit per poultry compartment (= flock):** maximum of 2,500 geese, 3,200 male ducks and 4,000 female ducks; poultry compartments must be separated by fixed partition walls; these fixed partition walls must provide complete spatial separation from floor to ceiling for each poultry compartment in the poultry house.
- **Total usable area:** maximum 1,600 m²
- **Stocking density:** Maximum 21 kg live weight/m²
- **Feeding place:** length at the trough or belt: 2.5 cm/animal; feeding trough at the round feeder: 1.2 cm/animal
- **Drinking troughs:** unhindered access to sufficient drinking troughs, at least:
 - Drinking trough inside: 2.5 cm /animal
 - Drinking trough on the round drinker: 1.2 cm /animal
 - Drinking nipple, drinking bowls: 1/15 animals
 - Drinking trough maxicup: 1/60 animals
- **Scuffing area:** At least 1/3 of the floor area must be level and strewn (straw, wood shavings, sand or peat).
- **Stable disinfection:** Is required, but only the permitted agents may be used.
- **Light:** The barn must be bright (minimum requirement according to the Federal Animal Protection Act: min. 20 lux in the light phase, max. 5 lux in the dark phase). When the light changes, smooth or staggered transitions must be observed. To ensure sufficient daylight, a window area of at least 3 % of the floor area of the stable is necessary. Artificial light is permissible for a maximum of 16 hours; a continuous night's rest without artificial light of at least 8 hours must be guaranteed.
- **Exit flaps, total length of outer perimeter of the pen:** A total length of at least 4 running metres per 100 m² of the minimum usable pen area required for animal stocking must be provided.
- **Exit flaps¹⁾, total length of internal boundaries of the barn:** Exit flaps between internal areas in the barn (e.g. between the barn and the veranda) must have a total length of at least 2 running metres per 100 m² of the minimum usable barn area required for the stocking of animals.
- **Excursion flaps, minimum dimensions of individual opening:** geese: 80 cm wide, 60 cm high; ducks: 60 cm wide, 40 cm high

¹⁾ Deadline for adapting stables that existed or were being converted by 31.12.2021: 31.12.2024

2nd outlet:

- Each herd needs its own separate exercise area so that the herds cannot mix.
- **Spill frequency:** at least 1/3 of the lifetime, spread over the whole year.
- **Time spent outdoors per day:** unrestricted during the day
- **Outdoor area:** at least 15 m² per goose and 4.5 m² per duck with predominantly plant cover
- **Rest period in the run:** 2 weeks **rest** period for the run between occupancies must be observed (not required for free-range poultry).
- **Run perimeter²⁾:** The run perimeter must not exceed a radius of 350 m from the nearest entrance and exit flap of the poultry house, if at least 4 protective elements per ha of run area are installed, otherwise the radius must not exceed 150 m.


²⁾ Deadline for adapting outlets of stables that existed or were under reconstruction until 31.12.2021: 31.12.2029

3. veranda:

A veranda is an additional, covered, non-insulated outdoor area, usually bounded on the long side by wire fencing or netting, in which there is an outdoor climate, natural and, if necessary, artificial lighting, and the floor is interspersed. The requirements for entry and exit openings must be met. Verandas are not counted as part of the house area and must not be taken into account when calculating the stocking density.

4. water access:

Where weather and hygiene conditions permit, waterfowl must have access to a stream, pond, lake or pool of water to meet their species-specific needs and to comply with welfare requirements. If weather conditions do not permit, the birds shall have access to water in which they can immerse their heads to clean their feathers.

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5. feeding:

- If organic feed is not 100% available, conventional protein components may be fed to young poultry up to a maximum of 5% of the total annual ration.
Conventional herbs and spices may additionally be fed to the extent of 1 % of the total annual ration.
- Purchased in-conversion feed may be fed at a maximum of 25 % of the annual ration. If it comes from the own farm, this share can be 100 %.
- Roughage must be offered in the daily ration.

6. animal access:

- Until further notice, 3-day-old chicks can be conventionally housed without prior approval. The conversion period of 10 weeks (exception: Peking ducks: conversion period 7 weeks) from the time of housing must be observed.

7. animal health:

- The **preventive** use of allopathic and chem.-synth. medicines is prohibited. Medicines may only be used after prescription by the veterinarian.
The treated lots must be identifiable through the records.
- The legal **waiting period** must be doubled for organic marketing; for medicines without a waiting period, a minimum of 48 hours applies.
- maximum **1 treatment**. In case of more than one treatment, the animals lose the organic status and have to go through the conversion period again. This must be approved by the inspection body.
- Comprehensive **records must be** kept: For details, please refer to the records booklet of the inspection body.

8. Other regulations:

- **Minimum slaughter age:**
 Peking ducks: 49 days
 Mulard ducks: 92 days
 Barbarie ducks: female 70 days, male 84 days
 Roasting geese: 140 days