Introduction:

This document is intended to give interested persons or companies an overview of the OCCP's Standards for Animal Husbandry. OCCP standards was adopted by the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture and Processing in 2005 after undergoing a series of public consultations

Minimum Requirements:

1. Animal Husbandry Management

- Husbandry management shall take into account the behavioral needs of the animals and provide for:
  - Sufficient free movement
  - Sufficient fresh air and natural daylight according to the needs of the animals;
  - Protection against excessive sunlight, temperatures, rain, and wind according to the needs of the animals;
  - Enough lying and/or resting area according to the needs of the animals. For all animals requiring bedding, natural materials shall be provided;
  - Ample access to fresh water and feed according to the needs of the animals.
- Use of artificial lighting is restricted

2. Conversion Period

- If livestock are to be sold organic products, the livestock must be reared according to the rules laid down in this standards for at least:
  - **Twelve months**- horses and cattle including buffalo for meat production and in any case three quarters of their lifetime.
  - **Six months-** animals for milk production; calves for meat production
  - **Two months-** small ruminants for meat production
- If there is simultaneous conversion of the complete production unit, including livestock, pasture areas or any land used for animal feed, the total combined conversion period for both livestock and pasture areas and any land used for animal feed, shall be reduced to **24 months**, subject to the following conditions:
  - The animals are fed mainly with products from the production units;
  - The existing animals and their offspring and at the same time also to the land used for pastures or animal feeding

3. Breeds and Breeding

- It is necessary to choose breeds which are adapted to local conditions
- Indigenous breeds should be preserved and promoted
- The use of genetically engineered species or breeds is not allowed
- Reproduction techniques should be natural

- Embryo transfer techniques and cloning are not allowed
- Artificial insemination are permitted

4. Brought-In- Animals

- When organic livestock is not available, conventional livestock may be brought in according to the following age limits and conditions:
    - calves up to four weeks which have received colostrums and are fed with a diet mainly consisting of full milk.
    - Sheep, goat and piglets until weaned
    - One or two day old poultry
- Breeding stock may be brought in from conventional farms with a yearly maximum of 10% of the adult animals on the farm

5. Mutilations

- Mutilations are not allowed
- The following exceptions are given <u>if</u> mutilations improve the welfare, health or hygiene of the animals or for safety reasons
    - tail cutting
    - trimming of beaks
    - Dehorning
    - Cutting of teeth
    - Ringing
    - Tattooing
    - Ear notching
    - Branding
- Keeping the animals tethered is forbidden. However this can be authorized upon justification by the producer

6. Animal Nutrition

- 100% organically grown feeds of good quality should be used
- Considering the low availability of organic fodder in the Philippines, the following maximum percentages (dry matter) of conventional fodder in the average diet of each animal are tolerated:
    - Year 1 --- 40%
    - Year 2 --- 20%
    - until year 3 : 10% for ruminants and 15% for others
- Each animal must have daily access to roughage
- Only approved materials listed in Appendix 3 can be used
- Young stock from mammals shall generally be raised using systems which rely on organic whole milk
- A minimum weaning time of 10 weeks shall be kept for calves

7. Veterinary Medicine

- All management practices should be directed at achieving maximum resistance against disease and preventing infections
- The use of synthetic drugs is allowed when no other justifiable alternatives are available. This always requires the approval of the certification body

- Where synthetic medicines are used, the withholding period shall be at least double the legal period and at least one week if not specified.
- Prophylactic use of allopathic medicines is not allowed
- Vaccinations shall be used only when diseases are known to exist in the region of the farm and cannot be controlled by other management techniques. This always requires the approval of the certification body

8. Transport and Slaughter

- Transport and slaughter should minimize any stress to the animal
- Animals should be watered and fed during transport depending on climatic conditions and duration of the transport.
- No chemically synthesized tranquilizers or stimulants shall be given prior to or during transport
- Each animal or group of animals shall be identifiable during all steps

9. Livestock Housing

- Housing conditions for livestock must meet the livestock biological and behavioral needs, as regards to freedom of movement and comfort
- Livestock housing must have smooth, but not slippery floors. At least half of the total floor area must be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction
- The stocking density shall consider the livestock units equivalent to 170 kilograms Nitrogen per hectare per year of agricultural areas. Stocking densities are defined in detail in Appendix 3 for different species
- All mammals must have access to pasturage or open-air exercise areas or an open-air run, which maybe partially covered
- Rearing conditions for different types of animals must be complied

10. Labelling

- Only products that are produced, handled and processed according to these Standards may be labeled as " produce of organic agriculture" or similar

Records:

The farmer must maintain updated documents of the following, containing key information to allow evaluation of compliance with standards:

1. Sources of animals
- breeds, sources, including birth dates and/or purchases
2. Feeding Record
- feeds and feed supplements harvested or bought; amounts and dates of feeding
3. Veterinary treatment records
- All medication and paraticides administered, including amount and sources; all sick animals treated; allopathic veterinary treatment with synthetic drugs, including details of the treatment and its duration, as well as all brand names of drugs used
4. Transportation records

5. Slaughter and sales records

These documents must be maintained for at least three years after following final sale of animals or it's product and be available for inspection at all times.

Knowledge:

The farmer has to study and keep a copy (hard copy or electronic file) of the respective standards
The farmer needs to have adequate knowledge on organic husbandry rules and technologies

Note:
Please be aware that this is only a selection of the essential requirements of the standards and everyone is advised to get a copy of the standards and study all the requirements of the standards. A copy of the OCCP standards may be obtained from the OCCP website www.occpphils.org while the Philippine National Standards may be obtained from the DA-BAFPS website