

Whole-farm approach and definition of a farming operation

1 Whole-farm approach

All crops on a BSO operation must be produced in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards and inspected accordingly, regardless of the marketing intentions for the crop in question. In order to obtain certification according to Bio Suisse Standards for agricultural crops, animal husbandry on the same farming operation must be in compliance with the EU organic regulation for operations in the EU, and at a minimum with the IFOAM basic standards in all other countries as per Animal husbandry Part V, Chap. 4.4, Page 299.

2 Definition of a farming operation

A farming operation is defined as an enterprise or one or more production sites that constitute a comprehensive whole comprised of farmland, buildings, equipment and a workforce. The following criteria must be met for an operation to be certified according to the Bio Suisse Standards:

2.1 The farming operation must constitute a comprehensive whole comprised of farmland, buildings, equipment and a workforce:

- All buildings necessary for the running of the farming operation must be in place.
- The equipment must include at least all machinery and implements necessary for carrying out the daily work. The farming operation must have its own workforce, and most of the work in crop production must be carried out by regular employees.

2.2 The farming operation must have a clearly identifiable centre of operations:

- The centre of operations is the area where the main buildings are situated and where the bulk of the work is carried out.
- The centre of operations is where the most important operational decisions are made (about how the work is organised and the business is run) and where the operation's records and documents are processed and filed (including cropping plans, inspection reports, etc.).

2.3 The farming operation must be autonomous:

- The farming operation must have a flow of goods (e.g. agricultural products, feeds, auxiliary inputs, etc.) that is separate from other farming operations.
- The farming operation must keep its own accounts.
- It is managed by an independent and competent operations manager. The operations manager and persons with a managerial function (e.g. operations branch manager) may not hold a managerial position at a non-organic farming operation, a non-organic custom farming operation or a non-organic agricultural production site.
- The farming operation must have its own clearly recognisable and distinctive image (name, stationery, labelling and packaging material, business address).

2.4 The farming operation may not perform any custom farming activities that involve the use of prohibited auxiliary inputs:

- No machines that have been used to apply prohibited auxiliary inputs may be stationed at the organic farming operation.

If a farming operation is split into separately run operations, the whole-farm approach must be unambiguously defined at the outset of the conversion period by way of a written allocation of buildings, equipment and the workforce. Subsequent changes in farmland allocation between the already divided operations are only permitted after a five-year waiting period unless both operations have converted to organic farming in accordance with the Bio Suisse Standards.

Official recognition of a farming operation will not necessarily be accepted by Bio Suisse.