

SOIL ASSOCIATION ORGANIC STANDARDS

APRIL 2005

11.5 Rearing calves

11.5.12

If you need to disbud or castrate your calves, you must justify the need in your animal health plan and detail how you will do it.

11.5.13

If you disbud or castrate your calves, you should do this when they are under two months of age.

11.5.14

You must not:

- disbud calves over three months old
- castrate calves over two months old.

Note – only a vet can carry out these procedures on calves over these ages.

11.5.15 | New

You may use rubber rings for castration without anaesthetic only during the first week of life. After this time you must use anaesthetic.

12.2 Welfare of sheep and goats

12.2.1

Where you practise tail docking or castration for welfare reasons you must justify the need in your animal health plan and detail how you will do it. You may use the following methods:

- rubber rings, without anaesthetic during the first week of life, with anaesthetic after this time
- burdizzo method up to six weeks old
- a hot iron between three and six weeks old.

12.2.2

You must not cut or grind the teeth of your sheep or goats.

13.2 Welfare of pigs

13.2.2

You must not carry out, or allow anyone else to carry out, the following procedures on your pigs:

- tail docking
- teeth cutting or grinding
- castration
- ringing of any of your pigs, or
- prophylactic use of iron injections.

Note – with our permission and only following veterinary advice, you may castrate pigs in exceptional circumstances. We will consider this on a case by case basis with the information you provide us with. You may not market or sell castrated pigs as organic.

14.3 Deer health and welfare

14.3.2

You must not:

- remove hard antlers without our permission, which we will only give for reasons of stock and/or handler safety and welfare
- remove antlers in velvet
- use artificial insemination (AI) or embryo transfer
- castrate stock
- dis-bud stock, or
- use immobilon on deer intended for human consumption.

20.5 Welfare of poultry

20.5.4

You must not:

- clip primary flight feathers
- beak clip or tip
- caponise
- carry out any other mutilations.