The members of the “Comissão de Pecuária Orgânica da Sociedade Brasileira de Medicina Veterinária” (Brazilian Veterinary Medicine Society’s Organic Livestock Commission) are veterinaries who work with organic animal production in several Brazilian states and regions.

The Commission is intended to divulge and foster organic production among consumers, scholars from Brazilian universities and the agricultural and livestock sector. Its work consists in promoting training courses and lectures in organic production at annual conventions, sponsoring awards for scientific research geared towards organic production and animal welfare, as well as mobilizing politicians and members of the Ministry of Education and Federal Veterinary Council to include organic livestock in the syllabuses of Brazilian veterinary faculties.

Because the organic production standards focused on the five freedoms aimed at animal welfare, and the General OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) Principles for animal welfare of animals in agricultural and livestock systems (version of 2014) share the same purposes, the professionals in this Commission understand that:

1. All investments and projects involving the use of animals must follow the basic animal welfare standards;

2. The term “animal welfare” should be explicitly mentioned in the Safeguards Policy text;

3. The Five Freedoms for the welfare of farm animals should be explicitly mentioned in the Safeguards Policy text.

Also, based on the experience of organic production development worldwide and in Brazil (20% on average over the 6 last years), note the importance for small farmers of making value-added products feasible through credit and development facilities, as is the case with organic products and those made in accordance with animal welfare standards, in higher demand all over the world.

Curitiba, March 15, 2016.