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**Date:** 4/18/2018

**GAIN Report Number:** JA8025

## **Japan**

**Post:** Tokyo

### **Japan Proposes Date to Extend Organic Label to Animal Products**

**Report Categories:**

Special Certification - Organic/Kosher/Halal

Livestock and Products

WTO Notifications

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**Report Highlights:**

On March 15, 2018, Japan notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) that it will apply the organic Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) to foods that contain ingredients of animal origin on April 1, 2019. Japan is accepting comments regarding the enforcement date until May 15, 2018. As the current U.S.-Japan Organic Equivalency Arrangement does not include products that contain ingredients of animal origin, all U.S. animal products will need to be deemed equivalent or be certified to the JAS organic standard once Japan's revision enters into force.

Keywords: JA8025, organic, equivalency, animal products, livestock

**General Information:**

On January 1, 2014, the United States and Japan implemented a bilateral equivalency arrangement (Arrangement) for the trade of plant-based organic products. The arrangement did not cover products that contain ingredients of animal origin, livestock, or plant-based animal feed (such as hay). On April 26, 2017, Japan unilaterally accepted the use of organic animal feed from trade partners that have an organic equivalency arrangement with Japan (see [JA7059](#)).

Organic foods that contain animal products have been able to enter the Japanese market as the Japanese standard for organic animal foods was not in force. However, once Japan extends enforcement of the Japan Agricultural Standard (JAS) organic standard to animal products, all U.S. animal products will need to be deemed equivalent or be certified to the JAS organic standard. While the revised standard was notified to the WTO on January 10, 2018, Japan amended the notification ([G/TBT/N/JPN/580/Add.1](#)) to set the date of implementation as April 1, 2019.

While the United States and Japan are able to extend the Arrangement to cover livestock and animal products, the process to determine equivalency may not be completed before April 1, 2019. Japan is accepting comments with regard to the proposed date of implementation. Members of U.S. industry and the public are welcome to submit comments to <http://www.nist.gov/notifyus> or <https://tsapps.nist.gov/notifyus/data/index/index.cfm> no later than May 4, 2018, for compilation and provision to Japan.

**Enclosed:**

[https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2018/TBT/JPN/18\\_0224\\_00\\_e.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2018/TBT/JPN/18_0224_00_e.pdf)  
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