

Trump axes Obama-era rule on organic farming

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The US Department of Agriculture said it lacked the legal authority to enact a much delayed Obama-era rule imposing more regulations on producers of organically raised livestock and poultry

The US Department of Agriculture announced Monday it is withdrawing a much delayed Obama-era rule that would have imposed more

regulations on producers of organically raised livestock and poultry.

The department said it lacked the legal authority to enact the rule, published in the closing days of Barack Obama's government. It was initially set to go into effect in March 2017.

But President Donald Trump's administration first froze it along with all other new regulations, then delayed it twice, and has now called it off altogether.

The USDA said Monday the rule would also have increased costs for producers and consumers.

The rule would have added new regulations for livestock handling and transportation for slaughter and avian living conditions in [organic production](#).

It would also have expanded current requirements for livestock care and production methods.

The Organic Trade Association, the main group in the sector, condemned the decision.

It said the administration was irresponsibly ditching regulations that had been prepared carefully and were backed enthusiastically by organic producers and by consumers.

The OTA had already sued the administration for delaying implementation of the [rule](#), and on Monday said it would push ahead with this lawsuit.

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