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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**EQUITY COOPERATIVE LIVESTOCK  
RECEIVES ORGANIC CERTIFICATION**

BARABOO, WI – Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association is pleased to announce that it has received organic certification. The certification was approved by Nature’s International Certification Services (NICS), an organization this is accredited by the USDA’s National Organic Program (NOP). In an effort to provide produces with an alternative livestock marketing option, Equity sought for organic certification.

With this certification, Equity’s Sparta market will provide an opportunity to sell organic livestock. “The organic certification is another step we’ve taken toward meeting our producer’s livestock marketing needs,” says Curt Larson, President and CEO. “Our Sparta market sales will offer organic producers a premium price with quality services.”

Once employee training has been completed that will require special market preparation on how to process these sales and additional paperwork which will be audited by the certification service, dates for first sales will be scheduled. Organic producers are asked to please call Sparta at (608) 269-3104 for additional information.

Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association is a federated cooperative headquartered in Baraboo. Equity operates 12 auction markets, and services producers in Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Equity assists producers with the marketing, managing and financing of their agricultural businesses.

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*“on the farm ~ in the market ~ working together”*