

Organic Acid Spray SOP

Currently there are three types of organic acid spray solutions available for use: acetic acid (vinegar), lactic acid, and FreshBloom® (a mix of citric acid, ascorbic acid and erythorbic acid). The type of acid used each slaughter day shall be recorded in the Organic Acid Spray SOP Log, along with the amounts of acid and tap water used to prepare the solution. The organic acid solution shall be prepared to yield the following concentrations:

Acetic Acid: 2.5% (vol/vol). Commercial vinegar is usually 5% acetic acid (label will be checked), so a 50:50 dilution in tap water will normally produce the 2.5% solution.

Lactic acid: 2 - 2.5% (vol/vol). Purchased lactic acid is usually 88% (label will be checked), so adding 3.25 fluid ounces of that solution to a gallon of water will result in a 2.1% solution, or adding 3.75 fluid ounces of that solution to a gallon of water will result in a 2.4% solution.

FreshBloom® will be prepared at a rate of 8 ounces (weight) per gallon of water to result in a final concentration of 5.9% (wt/vol).

Regardless of the acid used, the following basic steps shall be followed.

- a. Each carcass half shall be thoroughly rinsed with tap water (Final Wash step) before the organic acid spray is applied.
- b. Each organic acid spray solution shall be prepared fresh on the day of use with tap water (cold or hot) and stored on the slaughter floor for that day's use only.
- c. Each carcass half shall be sprayed thoroughly on the exterior (hide) surface from top to bottom and back to the top. Then the interior (gut) surface shall be sprayed from top to bottom and back to the top. Whole heads, removed head and cheek meats, livers, hearts, or tongues shall be sprayed in one application of the same organic acid spray used for carcass halves.

