

March 2017

Standards Interpretation Committee

## New public comment period

Below is the list of questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

### New public comment period –March 6 to April 6 2017

- Can stored livestock feed (6.4.4) be treated with PSL 4.3 and 5.2 listed substances?
- Clause 6.5 refers to the *Code of Practice for Care and Handling of Farm animals: Transportation*. It also references in a note the *Health of Animals Regulations* under the *Health of Animal Act* (CFIA). If these two sets of rules contradict one another, which one is to be referred to in evaluating compliance?
- Must young herbivores be given access to exercise yards outside of the pasture grazing season (6.11.1)?
- Is the small breed exemption in Table 1 of 6.11.2 of 32.310 restricted to 'Dairy cows - individual maternity pens?'
- Can non-organic spent brewers' grains be used as a soil amendment? As a compost feedstock?
- Can conventional wool be used as mulch?
- Is a full 36 month transition period required if PMRA list 3 formulants are found in brand name pesticides that otherwise comply with Table 4.3?
- Can juice containing added Vitamin C or D, or calcium be certified as organic?

The proposed responses are posted on [OFC website](#), and are subject to a 30 day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to [OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca)



## Organic Science Cluster III Call for Letters of Intent

The Organic Federation of Canada in collaboration with Dalhousie University's Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada are pleased to announce the Call for Letters of Intent for research in Organic Science Cluster III (2018-2023).

This Letter of Intent process is being conducted in anticipation that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's (AAFC) next Agricultural Policy Framework will include another Science Cluster Initiative. The organic sector has been consulting with AAFC regarding projected timelines and criteria for the next Science Cluster program. As such, the organic sector is working towards being prepared for the next call.

Please find in the links below:

1. [Letter of Intent Guidelines for Researchers](#). Please read this document carefully, as it provides details of the application process, priority research areas, and further guidance about what should be included in a Letter of Intent.
2. [Letter of Intent Submission Form](#). Please use this form for submitting a Letter of Intent, following the noted page limits and instructions.

For the latest updates and details related to Organic Science Cluster III, please see:  
[www.dal.ca/OACC](http://www.dal.ca/OACC)

Should you have any questions about this Call for Letters of Intent, or other Organic Science Cluster III related questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Margaret Graves - Program Manager, OACC: 902-896-3481, [gravesm@dal.ca](mailto:gravesm@dal.ca)

Nicole Boudreau - Organic Federation of Canada: 514-488-6192, [boudreau.nicole@videotron.ca](mailto:boudreau.nicole@videotron.ca)

Andy Hammermeister - Director, OACC: 902-893-8037, [andrew.hammermeister@dal.ca](mailto:andrew.hammermeister@dal.ca)

The deadline for submission of Letters of Intent is April 10, 2017.

*We invite you to share this Call for Letters of Intent with fellow researchers and colleagues.*



## **INVITATION!**

The Organic Federation of Canada will hold its  
**Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2017, from 1:00 to 3:00 EST  
By teleconference

**Join us!**

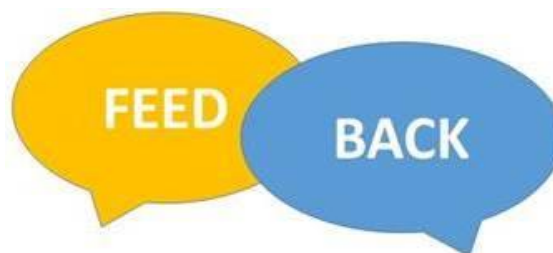
By telephone: toll-free from anywhere in Canada

[Agenda](#)



Hermann Bruns (COABC), Marc Schurman (PEI-COPC), Joanne Jackson Johnson (GOoFY), Charles Newell (Organic Alberta), Janine Gibson (MOA), Shannon Jones (NS WG ACORN), Jérôme-Antoine Brunelle (UPA), Tim Livingstone (NB WG ACORN), Jim Robbins (SaskOrganics), Tom Manley (OCO)

**OFC SURVEY**  
What about non-compliance?



**LAST INVITATION**

**ADD YOUR INPUT TO OUR PRELIMINARY REPORT !**

Canadian operators wishing to label their products as organic have to comply with the Canadian Organic Standards (COS), referenced by the Organic Products Regulations (OPR). The operators have to be

inspected every year to demonstrate that they apply the standards faithfully. The annual inspection is a very significant moment of their farming/processing activities.

In order to help operators succeed in their certification process, the OFC wants to know how easy or difficult the process is.

- Are there many non-compliances, and if so, is it difficult to resolve non-compliances?
- Are operators well informed about the Canadian Organic Standards and about the OPR requirements?

The partial preliminary report displayed below shows strong tendencies.

PRELIMINARY REPORT – Non-compliances	
Non-compliance description	% of operators
Lack of data in record-keeping system	81%
Parallel production	8%
Unefficient prevention of contamination (from pesticides or GMOs)	3%
Agricultural practice not allowed in organic production	0%
Issue related to buffer zone	15%
Use of a forbidden input	0%
Commercial unavailability not well documented	27%
Issues related to animal welfare	11%
Issues related to medical treatment of livestock	6%
Organic certificate not available for ingredient used in processed food	17%

**[Click here](#) to respond to the survey and add your input!**

Knowing the difficulties and challenges encountered through the certification process will help facilitating the process and provide better training.

**Please note that you do not have to identify yourself when you answer to the survey.  
So all information provided is strictly confidential.**

**Thanks for your participation!**

**[Organic Federation of Canada](#)**

**[info@organicfederation.ca](mailto:info@organicfederation.ca)**

**514-488-6192**