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THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER



INVITATION!

The Organic Federation of Canada will hold its
Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 4th 2018, from 1:00 to 2:30 EST
By teleconference, toll-free from anywhere in Canada

Please join us!

Full agenda will be circulated soon!

Short news...

New link for filing a complaint on CFIA website

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has added a section to the website of the Canada Organic Regime OR Standards– [File a complaint related to the Canada Organic Regime \(COR\)](#).

For any product sold in Canada with a suspected fraudulent organic claim, complaints can be filed against the operator (company) holding certification under the COR scope, CFIA-designated Conformity Verification Bodies (CVB), CFIA-accredited Certification Bodies (CB), and the Canada Organic Regime (COR) team.

Review of the Canadian Organic Standards

Not launched before amendments approved in April 2017 are published and full budget is secured

Minister MacAulay has announced late January that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) will cover the CGSB fees incurred under the review process of the Canadian Organic Standards that has to be completed in November 2020. But that announcement does not cover the full cost of the review; the industry consultations and recommendations that are issued before the CGSB enters the process also need to be funded. OFC, in cooperation with COG and COTA, is pursuing discussions with AAFC to apply for funding under a relevant program. More to come.

OFC Strategic Planning session at Abbotsford

Jim Robbins, President of OFC, led a strategic planning session at the 1.5-day in-person meeting held by OFC in Abbotsford on February 26-27, 2018. [All OFC directors](#) participated with great enthusiasm at the session in providing answers to the critical question of 'What Should the Organic Federation of Canada do in the next five years?' The answers were clear: OFC will continue fulfilling its mandate – maintaining and reviewing the Canadian Organic Standards and managing the Organic Science Clusters, while looking for stable funding for its member organizations.

Maintaining/advancing synergy with other national organizations – COG, COTA, OACC – was also underlined as a key factor for developing the Canadian organic industry.



Jim Robbins (SaskOrganics) , Rebecca Kneen (COABC) et Bart Bounds (GoOFY) sharing ideas at the strategic planning session held in Abbotsford.

ABOUT ORGANICS IN THE US ...

A new Regenerative Organic Certification program



A new certification program ‘adding’ to organic certification is being launched in the US. Farmers, scientists and activists are converging on the idea that organic agriculture must be not only sustainable but also regenerative: [farmers must nurture the soil](#)—the fundamental medium on which agriculture depends.

‘The driving force behind this movement arises from tensions about whether alternative farming techniques such as hydroponics should be included in what is called organic’.

[Read more.](#)

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) decides to withdraw the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices (OLPP)

A rule published in January 2017 under the Obama administration that increased federal regulation around animal housing, healthcare, transportation and slaughter practices of organic livestock and poultry is withdrawn; The USDA determined that the rule exceeds the department’s statutory authority, and that the changes to the existing organic regulations could have a negative effect on conversion to organic production and on real costs for producers and consumers.

The [withdrawn rule](#) was addressing the following points :

1. Requires that producers provide animals with daily access to the outdoors and that outdoor areas include vegetation and/or soil. Additionally, exit doors must be distributed to ensure animals have ready access to the

outdoors. It does not allow enclosed porches to be considered outdoors or to meet the requirement for outdoor access.

2. Specifies the amount of space required indoors for chicken broilers and layers, prohibits forced USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | National Organic Program 2 molting, restricts the use of artificial light, limits the amount of ammonia in the air indoors, and requires perching space for laying chickens indoors.
3. Describes when producers can confine animals indoors temporarily and codifies flexibility for producers to confine animals when their health, safety or well-being could be jeopardized.
4. Adds humane handling requirements for transporting livestock and poultry to sale or slaughter, and clarifies humane slaughter requirements.
5. Prohibits several kinds of physical alteration, like de-beaking chickens or docking cows' tails.
6. Provides a phased implementation plan, allowing producers reasonable time to implement the rule.

The Canadian Organic Standards already include such requirements. What will be the impact of the withdrawal of the US OLPP rule on the negotiation of equivalency agreements between the two countries that are already entangled in the NAFTA negotiations? A dossier to follow.

Organic Science Coming to you soon!

The magazine **Organic Science Canada**
will soon be available in French and English.
Stay tune!

