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THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

October 2nd 2018

Standards Interpretation Committee

New public comment period – October 2nd to November 2nd 2018

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

- In order for organic laying hens to be sold at the end of their laying life for organic meat or organic processing, are they required to meet the requirements in 6.13.1 h) that barn raised meat chickens have daily outdoor access by 25 days of age?
- Can beeswax be certified as organic?
- What forms of L-Lysine are permitted?

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 by November 2nd 2018.

REMINDER - September 5th to October 5th 2018

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

- What is the definition of ‘production unit’ for agricultural enterprises? Does each field or each greenhouse, each livestock building constitute a production unit or is it all fields, greenhouses, buildings managed by a company?
- What is the definition of “untreated seed” as it applies to 5.3 (32.310)? Can bleach be used on seeds?
- Is GE feed permitted in the 20% non-organic feed allowance for first time transitioning entire dairy herds (6.3.1 a)?
- If there is nothing showing in the "origin and usage" column of the PSL, does this mean that any form of the substance may be used? In previous versions of the PSL there were restrictions on ascorbic acid regarding its non-synthetic or synthetic nature and this is what gave rise to our question.

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 by October 5th 2018.

You are invited to submit nominations for the Standards Interpretation Committee

Deadline: November 9 2018

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency, in cooperation with the Organic Federation of Canada, has established a permanent system for the maintenance of the Canadian Organic Standards. An important element of this system is the [Standards Interpretation Committee \(SIC\)](#).

Since the SIC met for the first time on December 8 &9, 2009, more than 440 questions from the sector have been analyzed by the SIC and final answers posted [on the OFC website](#).

In accordance with [SIC Terms of Reference](#), the terms of two committee members, Rochelle Eisen and Amy Kremen, is ending in December 2018.

You are invited to submit nominations for these two positions. To be eligible, candidates should be experts in different sectors of organic agriculture including:

- Crop production;
- Livestock production ;
- Processing (food manufacturers);
- Importation , Distribution and Retail;
- Certification and inspection;
- Verification Officers (inspectors).

Other [elected members](#) of the Standards Interpretation Committee are François Handfield, François Labelle, Kelly Monaghan, Rob Wallbridge, Gavin Wright.

We will accept nominations until November 9th 2018.

SIC nominations should be sent to the OFC at info@organicfederation.ca

Please contact the OFC if you have any questions or require further information.