



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

February 25 2015

## Review of the Canadian Organic Standards

# 1<sup>st</sup> ballot is launched

All proposed modifications to the Canadian Organic Standards have been inserted, editorial reviews have been done, and the voting members of the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture will now cast their votes: the first 30-day ballot was launched on February 24.

The Canadian organic sector can consult the two proposed drafts here:

### **Draft -Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standards**

<http://www.organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/B-0032-0310-000-E-NE0012.pdf>

### **Draft -Organic Production Systems Permitted Substances Lists**

<http://organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/B-0032-0311-000-E-NE0012.pdf>



Please note that this is not a public review. These drafts are accessible in order to inform the Canadian sector of the potential changes that could be included in the final revised version of the COS.

At the end of the ballot, the Working Groups (WGs) will resume meetings to analyze and resolve any negative votes. The WGs will present their recommendations at the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee that will be held May 11 -13 in Gatineau. A formal public review will be held after the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Technical Committee, allowing all Canadian stakeholders an opportunity to issue comments on the proposed modifications.

## It's time to meet!

The Canadian organic sector is very active at this time of the year. Do you need to get new information and meet with other organic stakeholders? You have many choices:

**2015 COABC Conference** - <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2015/>

February 27 - March 1, Chilliwack, BC

**2015 Organic Alberta Conference** - <http://organicalberta.org/conferences/2015-conference> -

February 27 & 28, Beaumont, AB

**Organics for All!** - <http://organic.cetab.org/en/conference>

March 5-7, Centre d'expertise et de transfert en agriculture biologique et de proximité (CETAB+) – Victoriaville, Québec

## Snowy days do not seem to bother cows in Eastern Ontario

Organic standards require at least weekly access to open air exercise areas while cows are kept indoors and pasture access during the grazing season. A study led by Elsa Vasseur and Renée Bergeron of the Alfred Campus of the University of Guelph, found that cows allowed to choose to stay indoors or outdoors under various winter weather conditions in Ontario chose to stay outdoors for at least one hour, with the majority staying up to 3 hours. [Read more.](#)



### *INVITATION!*

#### **The Organic Federation of Canada**

will hold its Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 2015, from 1:00 to 3:00, EST

by teleconference

**You are all welcome to participate!**

The OFC will present updates about the review and interpretation of the Canadian Organic Standards, the Organic Science Cluster II

Agenda will be circulated soon!

Canadian Standards Interpretation Committee

### **Reminder - Comment Period - February 13 to April 13 2015**

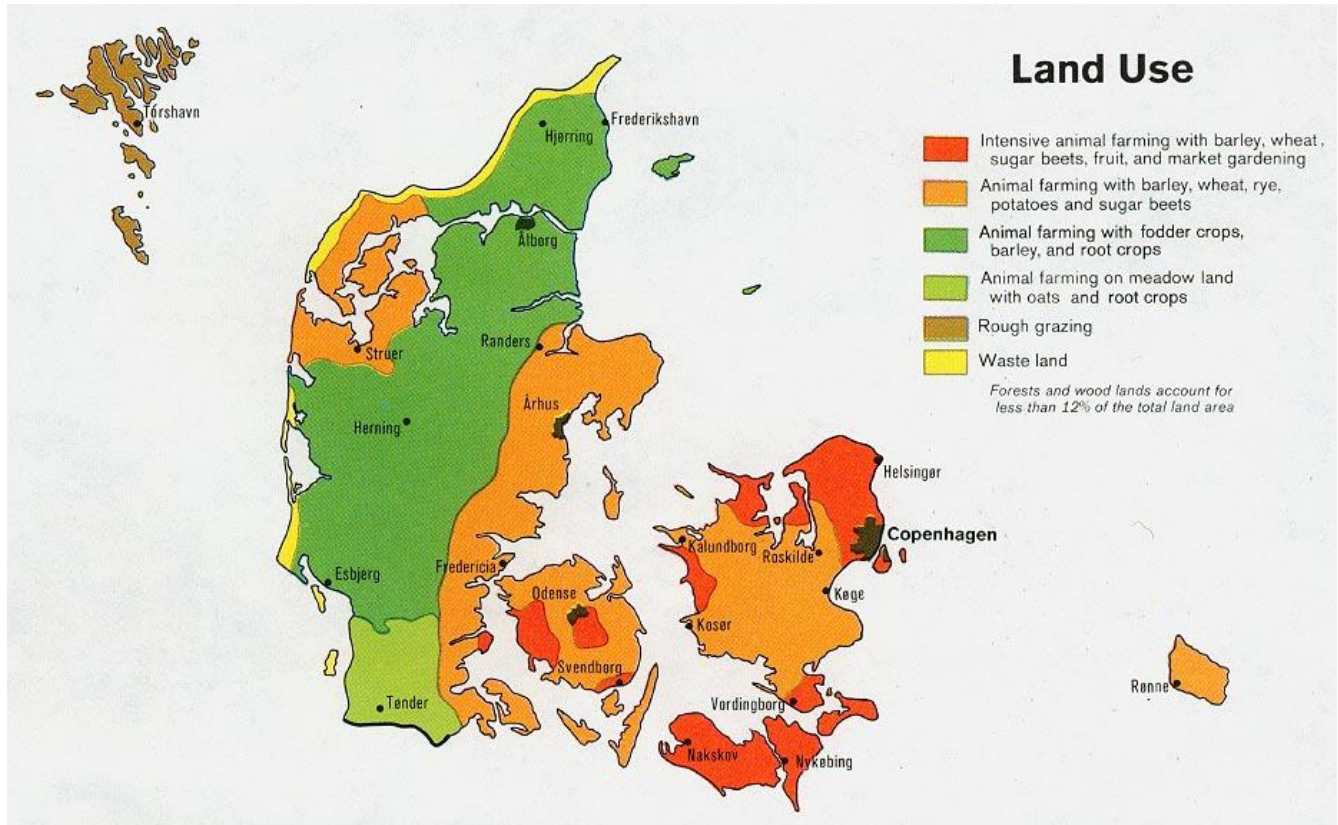
- Can wild seaweed meal be certified?
- Can bean sprout grown hydroponically be certified organic?
- Can citric acid be used as a pH adjuster during the extraction of Fulvic Acid?

The Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) provides interpretive guidance to the Canada Organic Office on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB 32.311). [Click here](#) to see the proposed answers to various questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture. **The proposed responses are subject to a 60-day comment period from February 13 to April 13 2015.**

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to [OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca)

## A great organic initiative

# Government of Denmark wants to double organic area



The Danish government has launched a **new Action Plan**: DKK400 million (about € 54 million) and 67 initiatives will contribute to reaching the government's target of doubling the organic area by 2020. Dan Jørgensen, Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries explains: "With our organic plan for Denmark we are strengthening the collaboration between local and regional authorities and various ministries through a series of new initiatives. Among those is a mutual commitment to have more organic products on the menus in canteens, hospitals and nurseries."

**The Ministry of Defence** is starting a pilot project to increase the use of organics in the armed forces' canteens in Eastern Denmark. In Western Denmark, organics already account for a minimum of 40% of products in the armed forces' canteens. The **Ministry of the Environment** is also involved - its work includes the active search for organic producers to lease land, as well as a focus on faster approval of special stables and breeding systems for organic producers. **The Ministry of Education** is contributing to the joint efforts by launching courses at various educational levels. The new Action Plan is available [here](#) (in Danish).

Organic Denmark has given their input to the new **Økologiplan Danmark 2015** and welcomes the final outcome. According to Per Kølster, President of [Organic Denmark](#), 'The interministerial aspect is ground breaking, and it is very positive that the contribution of organic farmers to nature, climate and job creation is recognized and will find the strong support of several ministries and municipalities.'