

September 5th 2018

The power of partnership

Research in organic agriculture continues and AAFC provides funding to ensure the sustainability of the Canadian organic sector



Lawrence MacAulay, Jim Robbins, Garth Patterson and Andy Hammermeister, getting ready for the announcement

On a smoky Friday morning, August 24th at 9:00 am in Mara, BC, Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, made a major announcement for the Canadian organic industry.

The Organic Federation of Canada receives a contribution of \$8,342, 222 from the Government of Canada for funding 28 research activities of the Organic Science Cluster 3 (OSC3) under the AgriScience Program of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Canadian Agricultural Partnership.

Minister MacAulay has also announced a contribution of \$292,555 for launching a study on the funding mechanisms that would ensure the sustainability of organic associations across the country. This contribution also supports the review of the Canadian Organic Standards (COS) that must be performed every five years to modernize and update the COS.

You can watch this interesting announcement on YouTube – <https://youtu.be/siDyorVhLlI>

Standards Interpretation Committee

New public comment period – 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.