

Info-bio

THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

SHORT NEWS

September 2010

... **NOP in Canada for COO Peer Review...** The Canada-US Organic Equivalency Agreement has been in effect since June 30th, 2009. One of the conditions of the agreement is an on-site evaluation of respective organic regimes by both parties to the agreement, to determine whether or not appropriate controls are in place to ensure that organic certification is carried out as prescribed by the arrangement. The NOP will be in Canada from September 23 to October 01, 2010 for the COR evaluation. The COO peer review at NOP offices is planned for the week of November 8th, 2010.

... **Organic Aquaculture Standards...** The comment period for the draft [Organic Aquaculture Standards](#) closed August 30th. CGSB has received many comments from the industry, some of a general nature and others that are more specific. These comments are being translated for analysis by the Committee on Organic Aquaculture that will meet October 27-29th in Gatineau. The Organic Aquaculture Standards are currently voluntary; the regulatory environment for the implementation of an aquaculture standard has not yet been defined.

... The **Standards Interpretation Committee...** continues to work on a regular basis. The sector has issued nearly 100 comments in response to the [Q&As](#) posted on the COO website. SIC members will meet in Ottawa September 21-22nd to analyze these comments and answer new questions. Laura Telford has resigned from the SIC and OFC has offered her position to Rochelle Eisen, from BC, since she was the nominated candidate that was next in line based on the number of votes received at the original election held last year. Currently, the SIC is operating without funding from the CFIA but should hear soon whether an application for 3-year funding under the AAFC [CAAP program](#) was successful.

... The **Veterinary Natural Health Products List...** that provides a listing of substances commonly used in organic livestock husbandry is now posted on the [COO website](#). The substances listed in that directory are permitted under the Health Care Products and Production Aids, Table 5.3 of [CAN/CGSB 32.311](#), under various categories like "Anti-inflammatories, Biologics (including vaccines), Homeopathic and Biotherapies, Parasiticides and Anti-microbials, and Plant oils". The SIC has approved the Veterinary Natural Health Products List; it is a first publication that describes Canadian health care products in organic production. Your comments or suggestions can be forwarded to the COO at OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca.

... **National Organic Extension Planning Meeting...** A group of 20 organic extension professionals and other regional representatives, with excellent representation from across the country, met in Banff, August 9-10th, to develop a framework for a national platform for delivery of extension services to the Canadian organic sector. When the meetings adjourned after two days, the group had agreed on a definition of extension—*Communicate appropriate knowledge to meet the multi-dimensional needs of Canadian Organic Agriculture and Food Systems*—a vision statement—*No question goes unanswered*—and a mission statement—*To drive continuous improvement and innovation of the Canadian Organic Agriculture and Food Systems through knowledge transfer*. The group agreed not to form a new organization at this time but to operate as a working network of professionals. The meetings were motivated in part by the fact that Canada is losing some of its key organic extension staff—Rochelle Eisen, BC, and Brenda Frick, national—due to funding cuts.

... **Organic Week...** is coming up soon; visit [COG website](#) for more detail about this great initiative!

Questions? Suggestions?

Contact OFC at info@organicfederation.ca

And visit OFC website at www.organicfederation.ca