

October 2016

Standards Interpretation Committee

New public comment period

- Under section 7.5.5 d. of 32.310, how should the soil volume of 70 L/M2 be defined and how should the total growing area be defined?
- My sweet corn field is surrounded by GE corn. Since I do multiple plantings, I know that there are times when pollen from the GE corn contaminates my crop, but I have nowhere to locate the corn where this will not be the case. Can this crop still be compliant in light of the new GE risk management criteria in 4.4.4 and 5.2.2 d)?
- Can paper mill sludge be used on organic farms??
- Is streptomycin allowed in apple production to control fire blight?

...and many other question

The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) launches a new public comment period for addressing questions and comments issued by the industry.

[Click here](#) to read answers issued by the SIC and to submit your comments.

The Standards Interpretation Committee is now opening a public comment to answer questions and comments issued by the industry.

We want to inform organic stakeholders that, given the numerous questions that have been submitted to our attention during the summer, we will meet more regularly, every second week, to accelerate our work and satisfy the needs of the sector.

We invite you to continue submitting your questions; our objective will be to respond in a timely manner to support the work of the Canadian organic operators.

Nominations - SIC

Seven candidates were nominated for filling vacancies on the SIC. The OFC Board of directors will elect the new members that will be invited to join the SIC in November 2016

Amending the Canadian Organic Standards

30-day ballot will be launched soon

The CGSB Technical Committee on organic agriculture (TC) met September 27 to analyze the amendments proposed by the various working groups responsible for the modification requests issued by the Canadian organic sector.

Almost all proposed amendments will be balloted as presented by the working groups except the amendment related to greenhouse cops, that the TC has proposed to modify.

[Click here](#) to consult the proposed amendments to the Canadian Organic Standards.

The Organic Federation of Canada would like to thank the Chair of the TC, Hugh Martin, and the working group Conveners Jean Duval, Maureen Bostock, Anne Macey, Janine Gibson, Rochelle Eisen and Amy Kremen who are contributing competently to the amendment process. The objective of the TC is to publish the amended standard by November 25 2016.

The 2nd Canadian Organic Science Conference

A great success

Over 220 participants have shared organic knowledge at the 2nd Canadian Organic Science Conference held in Longueuil, September 19-21.

'Organic Agriculture offers the world an alternative to address global challenges: food security, climate change mitigation/adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable natural resources (water, soil).'

Markus Arbenz, Executive Director of IFOAM – Organics International – has opened the Conference by proposing future visions and strategy for the organic movement.



Crédit photo : Martin Ménard/TCN

Many Canadian researchers have attended the Conference to present their research, including [Martin Entz](#), [Steve Shirliffe](#), [Myriam Fernandez](#), [Martine Dorais](#), Derek Lynch, [Ralph Martin](#), [Gérald Chouinard](#), [Jean Duval](#), [Youbin Zheng](#), [Steeve Pépin](#), and so many others.

The Conference Proceedings can be [downloaded – here](#).

Participants have visited Quebec organic farms, such as Serres Lefort, La Ferme coopérative Tourne-Sol, les Fermes Longprés, la Ferme Steven Lalonde, Agri-Fusion, la Ferme des Belles Prairies, la Ferme Rheintal et la Ferme Bio-Œufs.

Dr Andy Hammermeister, with his team, held a research prioritization session to define research needs in organic agriculture. This is the first step of a larger national consultation that will help determining the research projects for the coming years.

Tomorrow's research

Concerned with the needs of the sector, the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada is launching a nationwide consultation to determine what will be tomorrow's research.

All organic stakeholders are invited to identify their research needs: to do so, visit OACC website - [CANADIAN ORGANIC RESEARCH NEEDS AND PRIORITIES ASSESSMENT PROCESS 2016-2017](#) where all information and directives can be found.

So, do not hesitate to do like [Guillaume Gosselin](#), [Julie Lefort](#) ou [Frédéric Jobin-Lawler](#): it is always interesting to express research needs and cooperate with researchers!



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