

OFC's Blog

Aquaponics – an organic production system?

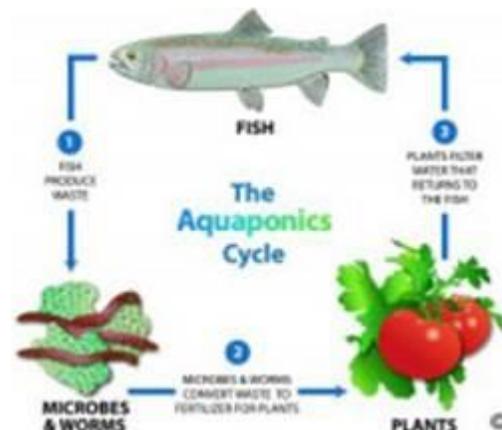
Aquaculture, including aquatic animal and plant production, as well as plants grown under aquaponics systems, will soon be integrated to the Organic Products Regulations (OPR). The OPR will reference the Organic Aquaculture Standard with which aquaculturists have to comply to have their products certified and labeled as organic.

Principles guiding organic aquaculture and aquaponics are similar to the principles established in organic agriculture production: GMOs, synthetic growth regulators, antibiotics, clones and other synthetic substances are prohibited.

But, there is also a significant difference. The roots of terrestrial plants grown in aquaponics systems are immersed in water. This contradicts clause 7.5.3 of the agricultural organic standard, CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015, which prohibits hydroponics and promotes soil fertility management, rather than the 'cultivation of plants in aqueous nutrient solutions without the aid of the soil' (Terms and definitions -3.29).

The OFC wants to know your opinion. Is aquaponics different from hydroponics?

Does organic lettuce grown in water in symbiosis with cultured fish meet organic consumer expectations? How can we reconcile the marketing of a the same product certified under two different organic standards that have contradictory clauses?



Aquaponics combines aquaculture with the cultivation of plants in a symbiotic relationship. Fish manure as well as feed waste are metabolized by bacteria and absorbed by plants grown on the surface of the aquaculture tank. When absorbing nutrients, plants also filter the water that is recirculated in the system.

Please comment - <https://ofcabc.wordpress.com/>

Standards Interpretation Committee

REMINDER - COMMENT PERIOD – May 5 to June 6 2016

- Are the seeds used to grow green manure crops, intended for incorporation into the soil, required to be organic? (269)
- Does the one-year period after the publication of the standard apply to requirements 1 & 2 of section of 6.12.1.1 b)? (291)
- What justification must be given in order for beak-trimming of day-old chicks to be compliant with the Standard? (275)
- How far and under what circumstances may the 3,000 m. buffer zone around organic apiaries be reduced? (276)
- Is there a transition period required between the last use of a potential contaminant and the time when the bees are feeding? (278)
- Does any use of a prohibited substance within the buffer zone automatically disqualify honey from achieving compliance with the Standard? (115a-277)
- In Table 4.2 blood meal is allowed only if sterilized. What does it mean for blood meal to be sterilized? (262)
- Can Zinc Sulphate be used as a treatment added to foot baths for livestock? (270)
- Is Zinc Oxide allowed as health remedy in organic livestock production? (279)
- Is colloidal silver allowed for use in livestock health care? (273)
- If a cheese producer makes cheese made with fermentation-produced chymosin FPC, can it still be labelled certified organic? (280)
- Can colloidal silver be used as a cleaning product for food contact surfaces? (274)

[Click here](#) to consult the proposed answers to the questions raised by stakeholders.

The proposed responses are subject to a 30 day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

REPORT- Comment period March 7 to April 7 2016

[Click here](#) to read the report on the Comment period held from March 7 to April 7 2016.



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