



Notes from COO Liaison Committee Meeting of November 16th 2009

Present: Gunta Vitins (SunOpta), Rochelle Eisen (COABC), Stephanie Wells (OTA), Sally Blackman (CPMA), Sherry Casey (Loblaws), Jackie Crichton (CCGD), Betsy Hui (CHFA), Carl Carter (CHFA), Tomas Nimmo, Julie Belzile (FBQ), Claire Hanlon-Smith, Louise Burden (DFAIT),

COO office: Elizabeth Corrigan, Stephane O'Neil

Standards

Elizabeth Corrigan reported the Poultry Task Force and Livestock Working Group have held productive meetings and all the Working Groups are moving forward towards the 2010 ballot. The CGSB has announced the next meeting of the Organic Technical Committee will be held January 18-20 at the NAV CANADA Training and Conference Centre in Cornwall, ON. The nearest airport is Ottawa and a shuttle may be organized for attendees. Attendance via videoconference will be available. Voting members can expect an email from COO administrator Nicole Atkinson at COO, regarding travel arrangements. Travel costs are covered only for voting members of the committee or their alternates if they will be voting.

Standards amendments resulting from the 4th ballot: The amendments are still with the Standards Council of Canada for final ratification. The COO expects the standards amendments will be ratified by the SCC in the next two to four weeks

International

Stephane O'Neil reported that the CFIA met last week with the EU, to exchange information in negotiations towards a Canada-EU Equivalency Agreement. The EU representative has gone back to the European Commission to report on the meeting and seek further clarification. Timelines have not been established for the equivalency determination process, and dates have not yet been set for the next meeting.

Communications

Stéphane said the COO web site has updates on livestock slaughter rules and equivalency negotiations. There has been a technical problem around alerting the sector to new postings, but that is being addressed. At this time, changes have not been flagged when new information is posted, but the COO will look into flagging revisions/updates.

Standards Interpretation

The SIC has begun working, with committee chair Ted Zettel drafting responses to the first batch of queries. Those draft responses have been sent to the full committee.

Next Meeting at 1pm EST on Monday, November 30 or December 13: To Be Announced.
New call-in Number is: 877-413-4785 or 613-960-7512

Pass code is 7939430 #