

June 2012



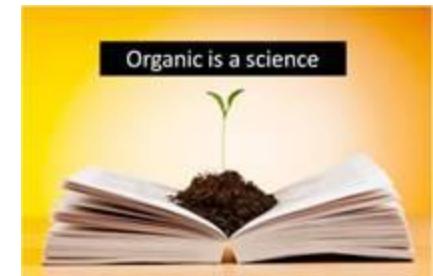
## Standards Interpretation Committee Activities

**CFIA signs with OFC a contract for the management of the Standards Interpretation Committee with the option to extend its term by up to 3 additional years**

Good news! The CFIA has decided to sign with the OFC a contract extendable by 3 years for the management of the SIC. It allows organic experts to answer questions issued by stakeholders while avoiding the need to renegotiate the budget every spring.

- The current public comment period is still underway and will end on July 10<sup>th</sup>. Visit the [OFC website home page](#) to read the Questions and Answers open for comment.
- The full SIC archives are already integrated into the final Q&As on the [OFC website](#) and will soon be posted as final responses on the [COO website](#).
- Anyone can ask a question to be dealt with by the SIC. Please read the [guidelines](#) before addressing your question.
- For a list of SIC members, please [click here](#).

**Organic Science Cluster Establishment of research priorities underway**



**If tomorrow morning a researcher knocked at your door to offer you help resolving some of your organic production problems, what would you ask him or her to investigate?**

OACC is now knocking at your door to know what can be done to facilitate your organic work. Please feel free to contact Andy Hammermeister ([ahammermeister@nsac.ca](mailto:ahammermeister@nsac.ca); 902-893-8037) or Valérie Gravel ([vgravel@nsac.ca](mailto:vgravel@nsac.ca); Ph: 902-893-6679) with your input and suggestions.

**To understand how research is supporting the growth of the organic sector, view the films about the first Canadian Organic Science Conference [All the links here](#)**

## Why organic?



**Because beekeepers are worried neo-nicotinoid pesticides  
-- used extensively on corn crops --  
are linked to the poisonings of the bees**

An Ontario apriarist witnessed a devastation May 24 -- an inch-and-a-half thick layer of dead honeybees covering some three feet of lawn in front of each of the hives in his home yard.

The full report is available at <http://www.thesudburystar.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=3583095>. The Canadian Honey Council is now calling on Ottawa to step in and help form a working group made up of government, the agriculture industry and beekeepers to investigate the events and find a solution.

While the sad effects of pesticides on our environment are being “homologated”, the Canadian government has not yet funded the necessary revision of the Canadian Organic Standards. The COS are currently under the management of the CGSB, the government agency that owns the intellectual property of the standard. The CGSB complies with international standardization procedures that require complete revision of any “competent” standard every 5 years. The COS were first published in 2006, and the full revision was due in 2011. But, the government is seeking industry money to review the standard. Organic agriculture is the application of farming practices that are safe for human, animal and soil health. It is about avoiding pesticides and synthetic fertilizers and promoting animal welfare. Organic farmers pay certification fees to have the right to put the Canada organic logo on their products. But, the government asks the farmers caring for the environment to pay the CGSB fees and pay for the management of the organic standard revision.

The US and EU are both supporting the development of their national organic standards. Canadian producers are clearly disadvantaged when not being supported by their government.

Organic farmers pay to be certified and to prove that they adhere to the organic standards. And they are then asked to pay for the revision of a standard that is owned by the government.

It probably should be the reverse: farmers applying agrochemicals should be closely monitored and certified. Bees may then have more chances to survive, and without bees, food production could be so negatively affected that the human population might not survive for more than a decade.

## Summer reading & viewing

- **Does reading about what is going on in other countries motivate you?**

There are many sites that provide bountiful information on organic markets and sector development. Visit <http://www.organic-market.info/> to find information about all aspects of organic production from all over the planet.

- **The short film [Seeds of Freedom](#)**  
narrated by Jeremy Irons, tells it all: the importance of local and sustainable agriculture versus the impact of monoculture and the industrialization of agricultural production. A nice film.
- **The NOSB debates on Webcast**  
Are you missing the long meetings of the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture? You can attend the meetings of the US National Organic Standards Board [online](#).
- And always keep an eye on the **websites of the provincial organic associations** who are working hard to update regional group about local organic issues and activities.

The links are :

[Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia  
\(COABC\)](#)

[Organic Alberta](#)

[Saskatchewan Organic Directorate \(SOD\)](#)

[Manitoba Organic Alliance \(MOA\)](#)

[Organic Council of Ontario \(OCO\)](#)

[Table filière biologique du Québec](#)

[New-Brunswick Working Group/ACORN](#)

[Prince-Edward-Island Certified Organic Producers Co-operative/ACORN](#)

[Newfoundland-Labrador/ACORN](#)

[Growers of Organic Food in the Yukon \(GOOFY\)](#)



**The OFC  
wishes  
all organic  
producers  
a good  
and fruitful  
season!**

**Nicole Boudreau**

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