



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA NEWSLETTER

June 10, 2020

Revision of the Canadian Organic Standards No negative vote, but many comments

Members of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture have all voted YES! The draft of the Canadian Organic Standards submitted to the vote will therefore be referenced by the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations when it is published by CGSB this fall.

The voting members also submitted 166 comments. Most relate to wording or suggest practices to be reviewed during the 2025 revision work, and all comments need to be addressed.

Two comments proposed minor technical changes. One relates to the derogation in the case of catastrophic events that cause a shortage of organic livestock feed. The other suggests that citric acid be allowed not just as an ingredient in organic food but also as a processing aid in the Permitted Substances Lists. The CGSB shall submit these requests to the members of the Technical Committee. This short consultation will not delay the publication of the 2020 Standard.

The OFC is pleased with the unanimous vote of the voting members; the 706 comments received during the public review conducted in the summer of 2019 certainly helped to resolve many ambiguities and build consensus on the most contentious issues. The OFC has published numerous articles on the controversial issues that have fuelled the working groups' discussions; some of these issues will likely return in the 2025 round of review work.

The OFC is preparing webinars that will outline the changes to the Standards. After the publication of the 2020 Standards, operators have one year to adjust their practices to comply with the revised requirements.

To be continued...

Organic Cluster researchers are sharing their knowledge!

Podcasts and webinars to popularize research

OFC and OACC are pleased to publish the [Organic Science Conversations](#), a series of interviews with the researchers leading the Organic Science Cluster 3 research activities. It is always interesting to listen to OSC3 researchers as they talk about their research, the problem they are trying to solve, and how producers can benefit from the results of their research.

Transcripts of the French podcasts will soon be available in English.

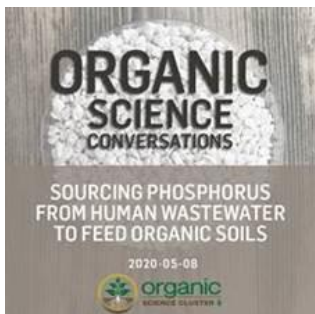


Berry byproducts in poultry feed: an alternative to antibiotics? [20:40]

What if we could replace the antibiotics used in broiler production with berry products? Dr. Moussa Diarra has found exciting results in his OSC3 research activity when feeding organic cranberry and wild blueberry pomace to organic broiler chickens. [Read more.](#)

To listen - [click here](#)

No time to listen? You can read the interview with Dr Moussa Diarra - [click here](#)

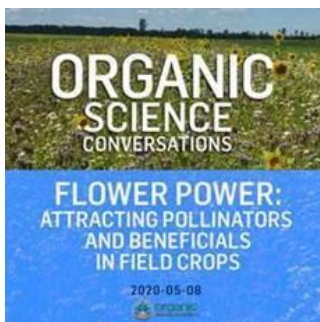


Sourcing phosphorus from human wastewater to feed organic soils [12:14]

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient which is often in short supply on organic farms, particularly Prairie farms. Dr. Kimberley Schneider and her colleague Dr. Henry Wilson are conducting a unique research activity: using struvite, derived from wastewater, to address the phosphorus deficit in certain organically managed soils and to provide a renewable source of phosphorus. [Read more](#)

To listen - [click here](#)

No time to listen? You can read the interview with Dr Schneider - [click here](#)



Flower Power: Attracting Pollinators and Beneficials in Field Crops [11:58]

Beneficial insects, such as pollinators, provide ecosystem services that can improve the sustainability of crop production. Jason Gibbs is assessing how strips of flowers can influence the abundance and diversity of beneficial insects on both organic and non-organic farms. He will evaluate how the change in beneficial organisms can enhance pollination and biological pest control in both organic and non-organic farms in Manitoba. [Read more](#)

To listen - [click here](#)

No time to listen? You can read the interview with Dr Jason Gibbs - [click here](#)

Here are some podcasts featuring French-speaking researchers from the Organic Cluster.

The English transcripts will be available soon.



Les saponines pour passer un savon aux nuisibles en serre [24:13]

Simon Lachance, chercheur à l'Université de Guelph, est à la recherche de biopesticides pour lutter contre les ravageurs en serre. Il extrait des saponines des résidus de la culture de tomates en serre afin de tester les propriétés antifongiques et insecticides de cette molécule bioactive dont le potentiel phytochimique est peu exploité en serriculture en Ontario. Bonne écoute ! [Lire davantage.](#)

Pour écouter, [cliquez ici!](#)



La guerre des punaises pour produire des fraises bio [33:03]

Caroline Provost et François Dumont, docteurs en biologie au Centre de recherche agroalimentaire de Mirabel, expérimentent l'utilisation des voraces punaises prédatrices Nabis et Orius afin d'éliminer la punaise terne qui ravage les fraisières et réduire l'utilisation de pesticides de synthèse non acceptables en production de fraises biologiques. [Lire davantage.](#)

Pour écouter, [cliquez ici](#)



Des jeunes pousses bio dans un jardin fleuri à l'IRDA [21:25]

Les pousses sont de plus en plus recherchées par les consommateurs : leur saveur et leur fraîcheur en font des aliments souvent consommés au quotidien. Voilà pourquoi une équipe de l'IRDA menée par Caroline Côté se penche sur la production des pousses sous régie biologique, de jeunes plants que les organismes nuisibles apprécient tout autant que les consommateurs. [Lire davantage.](#)

Pour écouter, [cliquez ici](#)

Organic Science Cluster 3 researchers participate in webinars organized by SaskOrganics.

Mixing it up: Covercropping & Intercropping Webinar – Dr. Martin Entz
June 19 @ 9:30 am - 10:30 am - [Information](#)

The Bee's Knees: Supporting Wild Bee Diversity on Farms Webinar – Dr. Jason Gibbs
June 26 @ 9:30 am - 10:30 am - [Information](#)

Phos for Us? Managing Phosphorus on Organic Farms Webinar – Johanne Thiessen Martens
July 30 @ 9:00 am - 10:00 am - [Information](#)

To view the complete list of webinars – [click here!](#)

An Interim Equivalency Agreement between Canada and Taiwan in force since May 30, 2020

Canada and Taiwan have reached an interim arrangement for the trade of organic food. This means that for one year certain organic products may be sold as organic in Canada or Taiwan while the equivalency of the organic production and certification systems are finalized.

The interim arrangement applies to agricultural and processed products of plant origin, livestock and livestock products as well as aquaculture products. This includes products grown or produced within either territory and products that have the final processing or packaging done within either territory.

The organic food equivalency arrangement came into effect May 30, 2020 and will remain valid for one year or until the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is able to travel outside Canada to conduct an on-site assessment and finalize the equivalency determination.

For more information please consult:

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/organic-products/equivalence-arrangements/taiwan-statement/eng/1591198178283/1591198178656>

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/organic-products/equivalence-arrangements/taiwan-overview/eng/1591124151481/1591124152027>

<https://www.inspection.gc.ca/organic-products/equivalence-arrangements/taiwan-letter/eng/1591126921883/1591126922368>



THE ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA

A strong alliance of provincial and territorial organic associations.

We manage organic research and organic standards, to keep organics thriving from sea to sea to sea.

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