

- #stopgmalfalfa
- Comment Period: Issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture
- Events

Thunderclap - 05May

#stopgmalfalfa

A limited amount of Alfalfa seed has been sold in Canada this spring. Over the last three years the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) has been working tirelessly with farmers and consumers to stop the approval of GMO Alfalfa in Canada. On 05 May a 'Thunderclap' Twitter storm was organized with the hashtag #stopgmalfalfa. Below were some of the tweets sent out, including many directed towards the Minister of Agriculture. Please view the CBAN website for more information about GM/ GE food in Canada, and the action CBAN is taking against GM foods in Canada : <http://www.cban.ca/>



Stout and Noble Farm @stoutnoblefarm · May 5

#stopGMalfalfa Farmers have a right to choose what's in their fields.
Consumers have a right to choose!



Non-GMO Project @NonGMOProject · May 5

Consumers & farmers want to #stopGMalfalfa—learn why at cban.ca/alfalfa
@biotechaction @L_MacAulay #cdnpoli



Organic Week @organicweek · May 5

Request for urgent action to stop further release of GM alfalfa seeds.
#stopGMalfalfa



Arzeena Hamir @arzeena · May 5

As an organic farmer, GMO alfalfa is a huge threat. #stopGMalfalfa!



CHFA @cdnhealthfood · May 5

Let's take action to protect Canadian farmers before it is too late
#stopGMalfalfa ow.ly/4nt61s



Cdn Biotech Action @biotechaction · May 5

Does one company decide our future? Forage Genetics International seed sale with Monsanto #GMO traits in alfalfa #stopGMalfalfa @L_MacAulay





The objective of the the Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is to provide, to the Canada Organic Office, interpretive guidance on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB32.311).

Questions (below) and answers can be found here: <http://www.organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/>

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

NEW 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)

For more questions and to submit comments please go to:

<http://www.organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/>

EVENTS

North Okanagan Organic Association

General Informational Meeting: May 31st at 7pm

Record keeping for your Organic operation

Location: Odd Fellows Hall, 3005 Wood Ave, Armstrong

Farm Tour 05 June:

Vale Farms and Grassy Gnomes Acres

Join the first NOOA farm tour of the year at Vale Farms and Grassy Gnome Acres to learn about their operation and view their dairy.

When: Sunday - June 05 at 10:00am

Location: 106 Dure Meadow Rd, Lumby, BC

BC Food Systems Network Gathering

Reconciling Cultures and Re-connecting Foodscapes

When: 15 July - 17 July 2016

The Gathering will be an opportunity for various cultures to come together with the Syilx and other Indigenous people to explore together what it means to truly reconcile with the first peoples of the land and water.

The 2nd Canadian Organic Science Conference

Sharing research that grows organic

19Sept2016- 21Sept2016

Two days of conference presentations at the Sandman Hotel Montreal-Longueuil, a banquet, and a field day of farm visits to organic farms in Quebec.

World renowned international and Canadian scientists will present their research in all aspects of organic agriculture, including crop and livestock production, soil science, and value change development.

Registration: www.craaq.qc.ca

Location: Hotel Sandman Montréal-Longueuil
999, rue de Sérigny, Longueuil (Québec)

Resetting the Table

Food Secure Canada's 9th Assembly

13-16 October, 2016

In Toronto in partnership with Ryerson University, Toronto Food Policy Council, Sustain Ontario, FoodShare Toronto, Community Food Centre Canada.

More information:



ThinkCanadaOrganic



NEWSLETTER LINKS

BC Agriculture Council COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat:

<http://www.bcac.bc.ca/>

OFC info-bio:

www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spc.bc.ca/>

REMINDERS

ISO operators are fortunate to be able to use the Canada Organic label AND the BC Checkmark side by side.

The logo of the BC Certified Organic program is a key tool to identify certified organic products in BC. It is important that the symbol is used correctly; here is a quick reminder, especially for websites and the exclusion zone (white space.)



The Program Symbol is enclosed by a black border. The border ensures that the appropriate white space or exclusion zone is provided around the composite mark. The Program Symbol must be enclosed by the

border if the Symbol is applied against colored or complex backgrounds. However, if the background is white or off-white, it may be desirable to omit the border while ensuring the appropriate exclusion zone.

Complaints Submission Form

Canada Organic Office complaint submission form can be found at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php.

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php "www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php"

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly mail to: OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

Social Media

COABC is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986 and on Twitter, username [coabccanada](https://twitter.com/coabccanada). Join our online community.

Remember...

Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.

If you change your address or contact information send it to your CB office as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on receiving a BCOG and other materials.

