Click to view this email in a browser

OTCO News

Ensuring Integrity Through Certification

December 2008

Oregon Tilth Certifed Organic

Deadline for Comments on Pasture Rule Change Approaching!

The deadline for submission of comments to the proposed pasture rule are due December 23rd, 2008. As the 60 day comment period comes to a close it is imperative that you review the proposed changes and submit your comments in order for the NOP to adjust the final rule accordingly and make it functional to all producers. A summary of the proposed changes and Oregon Tilth's review of the proposal can be reviewed on our website. Comments can be submitted directly to Oregon Tilth for forwarding to the USDA or your comments can be submitted directly to the USDA. Be sure your voice is heard, comment today!

Get Your 606 Ingredients Listed!

Do you sell certified organic ingredients that are listed on 205.606? Items such as colors, gums, hops, starches or lecithin? If you currently carry and sale these products in certified organic form then consider having them listed on www.606organic.com. This new website now being hosted by the Accredited Certifiers Association is working to create a resource and verification site that both the industry and certifiers can use in checking for commercial availability of these ingredients. The USDA regulations currently require that any agricultural ingredient used in and "organic" labeled product be organic - unless that product is listed on 205.606 and not commercially available. Help the industry expand the listings on 606organic and use this site as a resource when looking for these ingredients. Get listed now!

Canada Organic Regulation Update

The Canadian Organic Program remains scheduled to become effective June 30, 2009. We encourage our clients to be patient as we are still waiting for publication of the Final Organic Rule and related policies. Delayed following Canadian elections, we expect the final rule to be different enough from the 2006 Draft Standard that making changes to your Organic System Plan now would be premature. Canadian authorities have recently released a draft proposal to address transition to the new standards and equivalency between US produced products. It is likely there will be plenty of time for producers to implement changes. Oregon Tilth remains on track to be accredited in Canada. We will amend our application and inspection forms for optional certification to the Canadian Program as soon as final regulations are released. Stay up to date on the latest news as it is released...

Aquaculture Recommendations Passed by NOSB

At their November meeting, the National Organic Standards Board passed two final recommendations to be added to their previous Aquaculture Recommendations. The first concerns the use of Fish Meal and Fish Oil in feed. The Board recommended that fish meal and oil collected from trimmings of sustainably caught wild fish can be used in organic fish diets. The recommendation sets limits on the source and inclusion rates including a 12 year phase out. The second recommendation pertains to the use of open water net pens and addresses siting, species selection, disease management and environmental impact. These recommendations go to the National Organic Program who will begin the rule making process which is expected to take at least three years.

NOP to Offer Web Trainings in 2009

At the November NOSB meeting in Washington DC, Barbara Robinson, Acting Director of the National Organic Program provided an update of NOP activities including:
• the hiring of 6 staff since May
• materials rulemaking
• redrafting final rule for §205.606

Upcoming Events

Organicology Feb 26-28
Portland, OR

Trade Show, Intensives, Workshops, Entertainment!

Join a full spectrum of participants in the organic foods trade, February 26-28, 2009, for 3 days of perspective enhancement, skill development, inspiration and celebration. Organicology will be like no other event, with a wide audience background, world famous speakers, highly intense trainings and entertainment like no other. Join us for this new event - that we as an industry will define!

Register Now!

Permaculture Design Course Jan 24, 2009
Portland, OR

Toby Hemenway and Guests Offer this Permaculture Certificate Course

A weekend intensive certificate program for Permaculture Design in Portland, OR starting January of 2009. A variety of permaculture design prinicples, soil ecology, community economics and more will be the focus of this program.

more information...

Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management Jan 21, 2009
Various Locaions in OR

Presented by OSU Extension

A workshop series designed to provide beginning farmers with the tools and

• continuing to address Canadian equivalency.

In addition Barbara discussed the program's intent to develop a web based training program for certifiers. This will also be available to the general public. NOP has contracted with the AMS Training Institute to develop the training model. An initial module will be developed and tested. Each module will be based upon a rule section. These module trainings will provide a great opportunity for certified operations to gain a deeper understanding of the regulation directly from the NOP.

Results of the November NOSB Meeting

The National Organic Standards Board met November 17 - 19, 2008, in Washington, DC.During the 3 days of meeting, listening to public comment and discussing items on their work plan the NOSB made several recommendations. Including:

- Final recommendation for certification of Multi-Site operations
- Commercial Availability Guidance specific for sourcing organic seed Final Recommendation
- Final Recommendation for Pet Food Standards
- 100% Organic Labeling Claims - Recommendendation withdrawn for further review.

Oregon Tilth commented on several of these topics. To review Oregon Tilth comments please visit the Oregon Tilth Advocacy and NOSB webpage. All NOSB recommendation will now go to the NOP for final rulemaking and guidance. Questions on any of these issues and how they will effect your operation can be directed to Oregon Tilth staff.

knowledge to manage the crop production and financial risks of farming. The series will be held in four regions of Oregon: North Willamette Valley, South Willamette Valley, Central Oregon, Southern Oregon.

more information...

More Events!

Ecological Farming Conference

Organic Farming Conference

Minnesota Organic Farming Conference

Forward this message to a friend | 503.378.0690

Emailed Using VerticalResponse Try It Free Today!