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April 2008

Oregon Tilth Certified
Organic

Upcoming NOSB Meeting

The agenda for the [National Organic Standards Board's May 20-22](#) meeting is now posted online. The very full agenda includes recommendations on materials petitioned for crops, livestock and handling, and recommendations on organic seed commercial availability, aquatic plants, and aquaculture. The Federal Register includes a [notice of this meeting and brief summary](#) of the agenda. Oregon Tilth will be commenting on some of the issues that will be discussed. Please contact Oregon Tilth with questions or comments on these recommendations. Written comments to any of the proposals are due by May 5th.

NOSB Requests Comments on Sunset Items

As part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's ongoing review of items on the National List, a number of crop and handling materials are currently being considered for removal. On March 14, 2008 the National Organic Program published an [advance notice of proposed rulemaking](#) in the Federal Register to alert interested parties about the substances that would be up for removal. The deadline for commenting on this preliminary proposal is May 13.

Commercial Availability Documentation

Here in the OTCO office we get many questions on a regular basis about commercial availability. Whether it applies to seeds you use on your farm, or ingredients you use in an "organic" product, the same general premises apply.

What does the regulation require?

Farms: you must find and use organic seed first!
Handlers: The ingredient must first be listed on §205.606.

What is commercially unavailable?

It means that you are unable to find the item, whether seed or ingredient, available in the form, quality or quantity you need.

How do you show Oregon Tilth it isn't available in one of these areas?

Quantity, contact suppliers (three to five) and either get statements from them or document your conversation that the item you desire is not available in the quantity you need.

Quality, you would have to show OTCO the item has been tested and it doesn't meet your quality standards in some way. Testing may have been done by other documented means; e.g. field trial, test results or research results that can demonstrate the quality is not what you need.

Form, provide information from three to five sources or documentation of your conversation with those sources that state they do not have the item you need available in the correct form; e.g. water soluble solution, pelletized seed form etc. Or provide research, extension information, contract arrangements, or on-farm

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Upcoming Events

All Things Organic Trade Show, April 26th-28th, 2008
Chicago, IL

Presented by Organic Trade Association

This show is packed with the tools and information you need to differentiate your business and achieve your financial objectives. Here you can source the hottest products and discover the latest trends in the fastest-growing segment in the industry. More than 7,500 attendees have already registered to attend this year's show. [more.....](#)

trial results that demonstrate that a specific variety is needed for your area or operation.

NOP Recognizes Material Review Programs!

On March 5th, 2008 the [USDA announced that accredited certifiers](#) can now accept material review decisions of other organizations, including OMRI or other certifiers. Operators wishing to use an input material that has been approved by OMRI need only submit the OMRI certificate for the product. Thanks to OMRI's hard work and diligence in keeping these discussions happening with the NOP. This will now save you a great deal of time when approving materials with OTCO.

Certification Tools

Farm Maps: Try the following places: [www.google.com \(maps\)](http://www.google.com/maps), www.gearth.google.com, [Farm Service Agency](#), [Natural Resource Conservation Services](#).

[Online CFR Organic Regulations](#): Online UPDATED regularly full Organic regulation. Ever get frustrated finding that reference number? try this [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations](#) , Bookmark it!

OTCO Mexico Grower Meetings April 30th - May 1st

Mexico, Various Locations

Oregon Tilth is Planning four grower meetings in Mexico between April 30th and May1, held in the states of Baja California Sur, Guanajuato and Nuevo Leon. Topics will include common challenges faced by growers, recent changes in the NOP, common noncompliances and how to avoid them, recent developments with respect to allowed seed treatments for Mexican importation, and general questions and answers. [Contact OTCO](#) for specific locations and times.

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