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May 2009

Oregon Tilth Certified Organic

Organic Agriculture Survey Announced

In early May, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Survey (NASS) will mail the Organic Production Survey to all known organic producers in the US. The survey will collect information from 2008 on topics ranging from production and marketing to income and expenses. Both organic farmers and farmers transitioning to organic production should fill out the survey by June 17. The information collected in this survey is part of a larger initiative to collect data on organic agriculture, and will help guide future farm policy, funding allocations, and the availability of goods and services, among other things. Participation in this survey is critical in helping the USDA to determine all the facts on organic agriculture. [Learn more and take the survey now...](#)

USDA Organic Products in Taiwan

The Agriculture and Food Agency of the Council of Agriculture (COA) has announced, that the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) has officially been recognized by the COA as equivalent to Taiwan's new organic standards. This announcement will allow U.S. organic food products to resume shipments into the Taiwan market. Shipments were blocked since January 31, 2009 when Taiwan's new organic standards went into effect. All shipments of NOP certified organic product will need to be accompanied by a TM-11 export certificate. Prior to shipping organic products to Taiwan please contact Oregon Tilth to receive the TM-11 request form. Further information on this agreement can be found on the NOP website. [See full announcement.](#)

EQIP Funding Available for Organic & Transitioning Farmers

The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has set aside \$50 million of funding for a special Organic Initiative, through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Eligible farms include those transitioning to organic production or expanding their organic production. Certified organic farms that implement new conservation practices to reach even higher levels of environmental performance are also eligible. Growers have just 3 weeks to apply for this funding, starting May 11 and ending May 29. [Learn more...](#)

Oregon Tilth Provides Comments to NOSB Meeting in May

Oregon Tilth Staff attended the May 2009 National Organic Standards Board Meeting. The multi day meeting was full of diverse agenda topics ranging from farm biodiversity guidelines to 100% label category and review and recommendation of many materials. The full agenda, discussion documents and recommendations can be found on the [NOSB website](#).

Oregon Tilth provided comments to the NOSB on the following topics:

- Biodiversity Guidances
- Soil-less Growing Systems
- Animal Welfare
- Petitioned Materials
- Ag vs. Non-ag
- 100% Organic Label Category

All Oregon Tilth comments were submitted in writing and presented during public comment.

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Upcoming Events

All Things Organic June 16-18, 2009

Chicago, IL

All Things Organic is a leading industry tradeshow providing education opportunities and a tradeshow. In three days, meet with over 300 organic suppliers offering organic products to grow your business. Network with thousands of business professionals, exhibitors and organic companies to obtain ideas and make business connections. Visit Oregon Tilth at the show!

[Get more Information](#)

IFT Annual Meeting June 6-9 2009

Anaheim, CA

Everything eaten is affected by food science and technology -- influenced during its production, distribution, storage, preparation, and elsewhere. Whether fresh or frozen, boxed or bottled, trucked, shipped, or flown, food science and technology is involved.

The Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting & Food Expo is the largest annual food science forum and exposition in the world.

[More Information!](#)

[Review Oregon Tilth Comments to NOSB.](#)

White House Food Safety Working Group

On April 24, the new White House Food Safety Working Group held a briefing with stakeholders to provide a very general introduction to the Working Group, its agency members, proposed work and timeline. Tino Cuellar, the White House Domestic Policy Council liaison to the Working Group, explained the structure of the Working Group, which includes a steering committee of representatives from the USDA, Health and Human Services (including Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control), Office of Management and Budget, and the Domestic Policy Council. The steering committee will be developing core recommendations on food safety to be vetted with other agencies and sent to President Obama by June of this year. They will be examining three areas for action - administrative actions as well as rulemakings under existing authorities, and legislative action.

Cuellar instructed public stakeholders to communicate with the Working Group, including suggestions, via a website at www.foodsafetyworkinggroup.gov

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