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OTCO News

Ensuring Integrity Through Certification

September 2009

Oregon Tilth Certifed Organic

Training: Oregon Tilth and AIB Team Up for Processing Training

AIB International and Oregon Tilth, have teamed together to bring you a unique seminar, Organic Certification with a Foundation in Food Safety. **Held in Portland OR, September 29th.**

Learn how you can protect the integrity of your organic products with the integration of an Organic Systems Plan and Food Safety Programs. Protect consumers, your brand name, and your company's image with the valuable information learned in this seminar. Companies with established Food Safety and Quality programs will find it easy to mesh the concepts of an Organic Systems Plan into their daily activities. With a little work, adaptation and documentation, Food Safety and Integrated Quality Systems complement organic production. Companies that intertwine their Organic and Food Safety Systems are bound to be successful! learn more...

NW Organic Farm Food Safety Summit

Oregon Tilth has teamed up with The Western Center for Risk Management Education at Washington State University, The Portland Farmers' Market Association, Organically Grown Company, and other organizations to assemble some of the leading nationwide experts to host an educational Summit open to all NW growers. This event, which is the first of a two-part series, is designed to provide farmers with:

- An update pending food safety regulations and industry mandates;
- A forum for discussing and exploring issues and concerns pertaining to establishing an on farm food safety program; and
- Specific information about identifying and addressing food safety risks on the farm.

Register or more information...

USDA Release: Ag Secretary Announces Funding for Value Added Producer Grants

Aug. 26, 2009 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA will soon be accepting applications for grants to assist agricultural producers seeking to add value to the commodities they produce. Approximately $18 million will be awarded nationwide. USDA plans to award planning grants of up to $100,000 and working capital grants of up to $300,000 to successful applicants. Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that use existing agricultural products in non-traditional ways or merge agricultural products with technology in creative ways. Businesses of all sizes may apply, but priority will be given to operators of small and medium-sized family farms - those with average, annual gross sales of less than $700,000. learn more...

Conservation Stewardship Program Announced

Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan has announced the first farmer sign up period for the new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The CSP will make payments to farmers for maintaining existing conservation practices and for adopting additional practices on cropland, grassland, improved pasture, rangeland, non-industrial private forestland and tribal lands. Payment will also be made for adopting resource conserving crop rotations.

Farmers can submit applications at their local Natural Resource Conservation District offices between August 10th and September 30th to be considered for this 12.8 million acre sign up. Enrollment for the new CSP is nationwide and the program is not limited to certain watersheds. learn more...

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Upcoming Events

Organically Grown in OR Week

Celebrate and Inspire Organic Agriculture Throughout OR.

September 14-20, 2009 has been declared Organically Grown in Oregon Week by Governor Ted Kulongowski. The week will celebrate, promote and demonstrate the importance or organic agriculture in Oregon.

Learn More!

World Dairy Expo

Madison, WI

Legendary Show, Legendary People, Legendary Cows

Be one of more than 68,000 dairy industry enthusiasts who make the trip to *World Dairy Expo* in Madison, Wisconsin Sept. 29th - Oct 3rd. It's the international meeting place for the dairy industry. Expo offers the most elite combination of dairy cattle and exhibits in the world.

Learn More!

Provender Conference

Bellingham, WA

From Dreaming to Doing

The 33rd Annual Provender Alliance Annual Conference will convene in

International: Upcoming Organic Regulations in Korea

The Republic of Korea (ROK) Ministry of Food Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (MIFAFF) has developed organic standards which are scheduled to take effect on January 1st 2010 after which all organic products in Korea must be certified to their regulation by a certifier accredited by the ROK. The ROK has recently agreed that organic products in transit to Korea and in the distribution/retail stream before December 31st 2009 may remain until their expiration date. OTCO clients exporting to Korea can do so until this date. As written there are some significant challenges with the Korean regulations, which will prevent organic products from entering the Korean market when they take effect. learn more...

Shipping Organic Products to Taiwan and the TM-11

A new agreement struck between the USDA and the officials of Taiwan have made it possible to continue to ship your organic products to Taiwan. In this agreement there is a requirement that the Accredited Certification Body issue a load specific certificate, commonly referred to as the TM-11. For those that have been shipping product to Japan this is a familiar document and process. If you are currently shipping product to Taiwan or are looking at doing so in the future please contact the OTCO office to learn more about requesting a TM-11 for Taiwan. learn more...

Bellingham WA Oct 7-9th, 2009. This years conference will highlight key information for retailers and the natural products industry. Don't miss out on this event and the wonderful line up of workshops and keynote speakers to inspire into action.

Get more Information or Register!

More Events!

Tilth Producers Conference

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