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December 2009

Oregon Tilth Certified Organic

National Organic Standards Board November Transcripts Available

The transcripts from the National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) meeting November 3rd – 5th, 2009 are now posted. You can read the full transcripts and get completely up to date on topics of significant interest such as personal body care standards, nanotechnology, animal welfare, bivalve standards, guidelines for retailer certification, and clarification of National List Definitions. Oregon Tilth actively reviews work of the NOSB and advocates for a strong and transparent National Organic Standard. We encourage you to read the final recommendations and Oregon Tilth comments. You can view all of Oregon Tilth comments to NOSB topics both past and present on the [Oregon Tilth website](#).

[Read Full Transcripts!](#)

Pasture Rule to Arrive in January 2010

The Access to Pasture Rule is currently being reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Once the OMB completes the review, the final rule will be published. The NOP staff is hopeful that the final rule will be published in January 2010. Since the fall of 2008 the NOP staff has been considering thousands of comments submitted by livestock producers, certifiers and industry groups that were submitted as comments to the proposed pasture rule. The NOP will be developing training materials as part of the information that will be provided when the rule is finalized. Oregon Tilth will alert all livestock producers when this final rule is published and work to educate them on any new requirements.

[More Info!](#)

Corn Steep Liquor

The National Organic Program (NOP) is allowing the continued use of corn steep liquor as a nonsynthetic input in organic crop production. Corn steep liquor is a product of the corn wet milling process. For many years corn steep liquor has been considered nonsynthetic by the National Organic Program (NOP), the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) and accredited certifying agents. Recently questions have been raised of whether the addition of sulfur dioxide during the steeping process causes chemical changes to the corn and makes corn steep liquor synthetic.

The National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) is authorized to review and approve substances used in organic production and handling. The NOSB will review the corn wet milling process during their spring 2010 meeting and determine whether corn steep liquor is nonsynthetic or synthetic. If the NOSB determines that corn steep liquor is synthetic then future uses of the ingredient will be prohibited unless it is added to the National List. If the NOSB determines that corn steep liquor is nonsynthetic then it will continue to be allowed in organic crop production.

[Learn more...](#)

OTA Launches New Consumer Webpage

Something exciting is in store for consumers looking to learn more about organic agriculture and products. The Organic Trade Association (OTA) recently launched a new consumer web site, "Organic. It's Worth It," located at www.organicitsworthit.org. The site offers a wide range of



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Upcoming Events

EcoFarm Conference

Jan 20-23rd, 2010

Pacific Grove, CA

For three decades, EcoFarm's flagship event has brought food system stakeholders together for education, networking and celebration. With over 60 workshops featuring prominent speakers on the latest advances in agricultural techniques, marketing strategies, research and other important food system issues, along with organic meals and lively entertainment, the Eco-Farm Conference is the largest sustainable agriculture gathering in the western United States.

[Register Now!](#)

World Ag Expo

Feb 9-11th 2010

Tulare, CA

World Ag Expo, held in Tulare, California, on the second week of February is the world's largest annual agricultural exposition, with 2.6 million square feet of exhibit space, over 1,600 exhibitors and an estimated 100,000 attendees.

[Get more Information or Register!](#)

Organic Farming Conference

Feb 25-27th, 2010

informational resources, including basic facts about organic, tips on using organic around the house, and organic recipe ideas. The site also features the latest in organic news and trends, as well as a poll, allowing consumers to share their thoughts on a variety of issues related to organic agriculture and products. In addition, the site boasts a "Featured Expert" section, where consumers have the opportunity to learn directly from experts from across the organic community.

Oregon Tilth Signs Joint Letter on Food Safety Bill

On November 16, 2009, the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) submitted a letter to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions proposing recommendations on refining the Food Safety Modernization Act. Even though the Food Safety Modernization Act would help in the prevention of food-borne illness, it could unintentionally have a negative impact on family farms, environmental conservation, organic farming and emerging local and regional food systems. Oregon Tilth and dozens of other organizations signed on to show their support for a food system in need of significant reform.

[Learn more...](#)

LaCrosse, WI

The Organic Farming Conference is the largest organic farming conference in the U.S. Organized by the Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Service (MOSES), and held annually in La Crosse, WI, the OFC is an extraordinary, farmer-centered event.

With over 60 informative workshops, 140+ exhibitors, locally-sourced organic food, live entertainment and inspirational keynote speakers, the OFC is celebrated as the foremost educational and networking event in the organic farming community.

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