

August 2012

ECOCERT CANADA



#### IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Canada's National Organic Week 2012

September 22 to 29, 2012



Canada's National Organic Week is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country. Hundreds of individual events showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its positive impact on the environment. Last year, events included anything from pickling workshops to recipes contests, farm tours, or organic food and drink tasting in retail locations across the country. Plan an event in your community!

[www.organicweek.ca](http://www.organicweek.ca)

[www.facebook.com/organicweek](https://www.facebook.com/organicweek)

#### Standards Interpretation Committee Questions and Answers

The Standards Interpretation Committee have published the proposed responses to questions raised by organic stakeholders for a comment period until September 17. For more information on how you can participate in the public consultation visit our website at [www.ecocertcanada.com/content/standards-interpretation-committee-questions-and-answers](http://www.ecocertcanada.com/content/standards-interpretation-committee-questions-and-answers). Subjects include: GMOs in input, fertilizer and amendment substrates, livestock treatment, and food preparation. Ecocert Canada considers the answers to be coherent and will not issue any comments.

#### Presence of didecyltrimethylammonium chloride (DDAC) residues in organic products

If you are exporting products to the European market, any detection of DDAC higher than 0.01 mg/kg will result in the automatic downgrading of a organic product to conventional. This chemical compound can be present in quaternary ammonium based cleaners such as *Agrilife*, *Biocit*, *Bioclean*, *Biolife*, *Citrex 100*, *Citrex Liquid I*, *Dipper*, *Lonlife 100*, *Preserve*, *VI-Care*, and *Procidic*. Please check if DDAC is present in the cleaning products you use. If so, please confirm with us that your cleaning procedures prevent all possible contamination of food.

#### TOOLBOX

#### The Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act applies to non-certified "organic" products

There are no intraprovincial organic regulations in the majority of Canadian provinces but the Canadian Food Inspection Agency is responsible for the administration of the Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act which applies to food and feed. The OFC and the Canada Organic Office are currently discussing how CFIA inspectors are trained to conduct an audit when a retailer, trader or producer is accused of falsely adding the "organic" designation to a non certified product that does not seem to comply with the organic standard. See part 7 of the Act at <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-38/page-2.html>

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**Updating your file...**

The CFIA, the CARTV and the USDA monitor the marketing of organic products within their respective territories. To avoid fines and product recalls, you must inform us of any changes to your production/preparation plan when adding new products or modifying recipes, ingredients or labels. Products that do not appear on your certificate cannot be marketed as organic.

**The study of your file**

Following inspection, certificates are issued only following payment. There are different payment options available to avoid any delays the issuance of your certificate (pre-authorized withdrawals, AccessD, post-dated cheques). Please contact Cathy at extension 211 or [cathy.begin@ecocert.com](mailto:cathy.begin@ecocert.com) for more information.

**Contacting us**

Just a friendly reminder that our old email addresses ending with @ecocertcanada.ca were cancelled in 2009. All Ecocert Canada email addresses are as follows: [firstname.lastname@ecocert.com](mailto:firstname.lastname@ecocert.com). As a security measure, any files sent by fax or email that are bigger than 5 MB will be blocked by our system. To ensure that your documents reach their destination, compress (zip) any large files and ask for a confirmation of receipt.

**Organic Hay**

Due to high temperatures and little rain this summer in many regions of Quebec and Ontario, there's a lack of organic hay for livestock feed. If you happen to foresee an organic hay surplus on your farm, please inform us by email at [office.canada@ecocert.com](mailto:office.canada@ecocert.com). We will maintain a list of organic hay supplies to help out the farmers who need it.

**Reminder: Certificate expiration date**

This is a friendly reminder that Ecocert organic certificates no longer include an expiration date. According to the Canada Organic Office Operating Manual, the certification of your products is continuously valid until certification is either abandoned or revoked. This means that your current certificate is valid until it is replaced by the new certificate following your annual inspection. We no longer issue certificate prolongations.

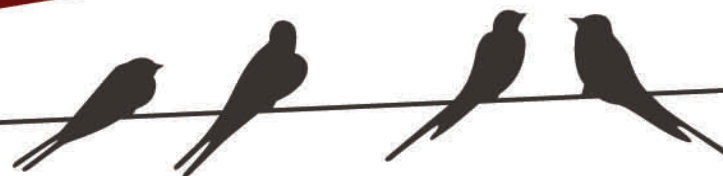
**REGULATIONS**

**Europe**

Clients who are exporting non-100% Canadian products to the European market must label these products according to the origin of the ingredients following changes to the European Regulations on the importation of organic products as of June 2012. If you wish to explore the European market please contact us before your first shipment to make sure you are well informed on requirements.

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**China**

As of January 2012, China requires all important organic products be certified according to the Chinese Organic Standards. Group Ecocert holds the necessary accreditation in China. Contact us if you intend to export to this market.

**IN THE FIELD**

**Western Office**

Ecocert is here to stay! We are currently working on an action plan for the Western Office. We take your concerns and comments to heart and wish to assure all our clients that Ecocert will continue to develop and provide high quality local services and support. We welcome your thoughts and suggestions on how the Ecocert Western Office can achieve these goals.

Please send your comments by email to [caroline.levesque@ecocert.com](mailto:caroline.levesque@ecocert.com) or by fax at 418-838-9823.

**Follow us on Twitter and Facebook**

A big thank you to Agnes and Michel from the farm Les Champs Valoy for welcoming our office team at the beginning of July for a weeding session in their blueberries. Under sunny skies, an enchanting setting, and excellent hosts, getting our hands dirty was a real treat.

<http://www.facebook.com/EcocertCanada>

<https://twitter.com/ecocertcanada>

**Upcoming events:**



Acorn Beginner Farmers Symposium August 20th in Sackville, NB

<http://www.acornorganic.org/symposium.html>



**Farm Certification Statistics**

We are in full swing for this growing season! With 880 inspections assigned, 334 have been completed, and 175 files have been studied to date.