



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Customized training for your organic production

Staff turnover is not always easy. To ensure proper organic management of your file, Ecocert offers training for your team on the requirements of organic regulations. This service is available at a reasonable price throughout the year. For a free price estimate, please contact Marlene Fortier at 418-838-6941 extension 103 or marlene.fortier@ecocert.com

Aquaculture Certification!

The new aquaculture standard has just been published regarding fish farming at sea or in ponds, shellfish, aquatic plants and processed products. The standard emphasizes the minimization of environmental impact and the use of any synthetic inputs, similar to organic standards in land based farming and processing. We are currently designing tools to respond to immediate demand and to offer quality services for our aquaculture clients.

TOOLBOX

Livestock Production:

We had reported a possible shortage of organic grain. Some farms have informed us that they do have grains in reserve for sale and that mills have protein alternatives available. You can contact us for their contact information. We thank the companies that helped us further analyze the situation.



Refer a Neighbour and Win!

For each new customer you refer to Ecocert, you run a chance to win a basket of Ecocert certified products. Use the online form on our website to submit contact information of interested friends and neighbours or contact Caroline Levesque caroline.levesque@ecocert.com Next draw: September 4, 2012. Basket Value: \$ 250

Organic, GMO Labelling on bulk fruit and veggies

Commonly found on fruits and vegetables sold in bulk or individually, the "PLU" label indicates their type of agricultural production;

- * 4 digits indicates a conventional method
- * 5 digits starting with 8 means that they are genetically modified (GMO)
- * 5 digits beginning with 9 indicates organic farming. (www.ogm.gouv.qc.ca)

RULES

"Agriculture Canada" on EU labels

On labels of products produced in Canada and exported to Europe, the indication "CANADA Agriculture" or "Agriculture CANADA" under the Euro-leaf logo must be replaced by "Non-EU Agriculture". The reference to "Agriculture CANADA" could be interpreted as a product certification by the Canadian Department of Agriculture.





JAS

A new version of the JAS agricultural (not 1605) and processing (not 1606) standards were published in April 2012.

The main change affecting our producers is:

Spinosad (active molecule of Entrust 80W) is now permitted under JAS as a pest-control substance. The JAS standard is available at:

http://www.maff.go.jp/e/jas/specific/criteria_o.html

If you have any questions please contact Marlene Fortier at extension 103 or marlene.fortier@ecocert.com.

Labeling of Organic Wines

Certified organic wines in Quebec will now be labelled "organic wine". The words "wine from organic grapes" and "wine made from grapes grown organically" are no longer listed on the labels of 2012 vintages. This restriction also applies to alcoholic beverages made from fruit, honey or maple syrup.

Compost Records

Good news! The Canadian Organic Standard only requires composting records when animal manures are present in the compost. It is no longer mandatory to keep a composting record for composts made from plant residues.

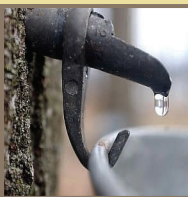
OUR ACTIONS or ON THE FIELD

Exemption Requests

To apply for an exemption please send us a detailed description of the problem with proposal of your temporary solution including steps and actions to be taken long term. Applications lacking detail can not be treated effectively. Please note that some requests must be directed to our accreditors (CARTV & CFIA) resulting in longer processing times.

Inoculants

The use of microbial inoculants (eg Rhizobium bacteria, mycorrhizal fungi, Azolla, yeast and other microorganisms) is permitted in organic farming. This practice is especially used in leguminous crops such soybeans, peas, lentils, clover and alfalfa. The inoculant used must not be genetically modified or come from a culture medium containing GMOs. Be sure to send us information about the product you want to use so we can verify its compliance to the organic standards.



Organic Maple syrup statistics:

387 regular inspections

27 surprise inspections

Inspection season from March 2nd to May 4th

Decisions issued from March 6th to May 18th

352 certificates issued to date