



**IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

**New certification reference manual for Quebec**

Until now, Québec organic products first had to be certified to the *Québec Organic Reference Standards*, whose certification requirements were published in section 2 of the reference documents posted on the CARTV's website.

Based on the advice of its Organic Standards Committee, the Board has decided that, henceforth, organic products from Québec shall be certified according to a standard corresponding to the National Standard of Canada for Organic Agriculture, published by the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB). Therefore, the technical requirements of the Canadian Organic Standards (COS) shall now serve as the basis for certifying organic products in Québec.

You can now view the new normative documents on our website at the following address: <http://cartv.gouv.qc.ca/en/quebec-organic-reference-manual>

**TOOLBOX**

**BioSuisse Social Checklist**

Since September 2011, all companies requesting BioSuisse must also be inspected according to a BioSuisse social checklist. This checklist verifies that the fundamental rights of workers are met. In order to prepare for the inspection you can complete the declaration form for social requirements at <http://www.bio-suisse.ch/en/library/import/checklist.php>

**Analysis Policy**

Since 2010, Ecocert Canada has put in place an Analysis Policy in order to evaluate the contamination risk of organic products with GMOs and pesticides. In 2011 our analysis targeted grains and wild harvested blueberries. For your information here is an overview of the results:

Analysis Type	Number of analyses	Results
Pesticide residues on grains	15	No trace of contamination from pesticides found.
Presence of GMOs in grains	5	The 5 analyses show minute traces of genetically modified DNA contaminating the products. The source of contamination could be from neighbouring fields or from the seeds used.
Pesticide residues on wild blueberries	10	No trace of contamination from pesticides found.





## RULES

### Standards Reminder: Anti-parasite Action Plan

The use of anti-parasite products in livestock is permitted in organic agriculture. Regardless, the Canadian Organic Standard requires that the use of such products be outlined and justified in a Prevention Action Plan. Before using a conventional anti-parasite product, the action plan must be completed and include a description of prevention measures, a manure analysis and a veterinarian's prescription. Please send us your action plans to add them to your file.

### Labels

All of your Ecocert Canada certified organic products destined for the Canadian market must include the reference to Ecocert Canada on the labels. The CFIA has the power to withdraw products with an incorrect reference, marking the importance of getting labels verified by Ecocert Canada before going to print. An Ecocert Canada labelling guide will be available on our site January 15th.

## IN THE FIELD

### Email renewal

In 2011, we have for the first time, sent all registration renewal forms by e-mail. Since in email send out was a great success, we will repeat this process in 2012. Look out for our mail-outs at the following times:

Maple syrup production renewals: December 2011

Agricultural production renewals: January 2012

### Organic Certificates: expiration date

Most of the certificates issued by Ecocert Canada do not indicate an expiration date in accordance with current regulations. Businesses must be inspected within a 12 month period year after year. Our certificates indicate the date the document was issued, the date of the last inspection and the date by which you must renew your certification request. Following annual monitoring an updated version will be issued.

### ecocertcanada.com

Stay up to date on events and information in organic farming and certification by visiting our website. Access forms and documents directly from our website and link to organic organisations, and events across Canada. [www.ecocertcanada.com](http://www.ecocertcanada.com)

