

From: Bill Quinn [mailto:bill@organicag.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 6 April 2020 11:07 AM
To: 'Chaos Springs'
Subject: FW: Update on proposed organic products legislation

Hi Steve

In response to your request this morning I send you the below that was sent to the OrganicAg members

From: Bill Quinn [mailto:bill@organicag.co.nz]
Sent: Monday, 23 March 2020 4:51 PM
To: 'OrganicAgPEG@yahoogroups.com';
Subject: OrganicAg Pastoral Extension Group update March

Hi All

Following the March round of extension groups the following was discussed and links are provided.

- OrganicAg is now operating in Southland. The annual event was there in Feb. and a March day was well attended and good discussions held. They have grass and it is green!
- The Organic Products Bill; I discussed this at length each group and had indicated that it would probably not get to First Reading until end of March, due to shortened speeches in the House it had its First reading on the 19th March. The concerns I have raised during the group days are still valid and even more so given some of the comments in the House.

My concerns are;

- ✚ around the power is all in the Minister and CEO hands.
- ✚ No definition of the meaning of organic in the Bill.
- ✚ Organic product will be open to the Commodity Levies Act.
- ✚ The aims of the Bill will not be met by the Bill.
- ✚ There is no 'organic' representation required by the Bill, the Minister/CEO can use 'appropriate' people to write the 'standards'. This could be HortNZ who provide services to OANZ.

I also raised concerns around organic issues becoming front and centre---the OANZ website has the Agrissentials Ltd as a member---the company stopped trading years ago---and the web-link goes to a porn site, also the F&C with the raw milk issues.

I have raised this with OANZ and BioGro (as their logo was on the link)

MPI was planning 15 workshops around the country---this is now not happening due to 'gathering' policies. I will keep you informed if this will take place by way of webinars etc.

These workshops relate to the intended regulations not the Organic Products Bill itself.

OrganicAg will be providing ongoing information.

Certification;

We discussed various aspects of certification namely be sure to have written consent prior to using any product/input/service.

Also check when buying stored feed that the certification is the same as yours and you have written consent from your TPA to purchase and use the feed.

I will put out a separate email updating issues going forward with regard to future days etc. with 'lock-down' now in place.

Bill

From: Bill Quinn [<mailto:bill@organicag.co.nz>]
Sent: Monday, 30 March 2020 4:20 PM
To: 'OrganicAgPEG@yahoogroups.com'; '
Subject: Update on proposed organic products legislation

Hi all

I have added the bulk of material relating to the Organic Products Bill to the www.organicag.co.nz

I will be adding links to opinions over the late- March April 2020 period and until the process is complete.

Please forward this email to any network or organisation you see fit.

The submission period does not close until *29th April(now 28th May)*—possibly later---so do not panic.

In the meantime I have placed much material on the organicag website---use this and share any other resources you come across. The information is clearly signalled from direct information to my opinion.

There is reference material and more coming.

All submission made in 2018 are at www.organicag.co.nz so pop in and see what your representative group had to say.

See if what they asked for is going to be delivered!

- Be informed---do not just rely on 'I think' be in the 'I know' group-----what is the current trade arrangements etc.
- Inform others—mainly of where to get informed--- send material to other networks----more importantly ASK other networks and groups what they are doing and how they are engaging with their stakeholders.

Use the next 3 weeks to create/generate YOUR informed opinion-----that means get informed----ask questions, seek clarity.

I will be adding material continually as information comes to hand and I have time to load info from my stock.

I have a further number of Official Information Act requests in and these will be listed on the OrganicAg website Organic Products Bill page.

Have a look at the 2020 global organic report(OrganicAg home page)----NZ has 28% LESS organic land than 10 years ago!

.It is vital that people understand the difference between the;

- Organic Products Bill---open for submissions and
- The proposed Regulations-----NOT OPEN for discussion at this time.

And that the Bill could be passed prior to having engagement on the Regulations.

To my mind this is an open cheque-----and it will draw on your (primary producer/input) account!

Please forward as you see fit.

Regards,

Bill Quinn,

OrganicAg.

Email; bill@organicag.co.nz

Web; <http://www.organicag.co.nz/>

Learn to ask the right question or you will get the correct answer not the right answer.

From: OrganicAgPEG@yahoogroups.com [<mailto:OrganicAgPEG@yahoogroups.com>]

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2020 1:28 PM

To: OrganicAgPEG@yahoogroups.com; 'Fraser Cranston'; 'Daniel Meyer'; 'kathleen watkins'

Cc: 'gavin france'; 'Andrew Roy'; pietandcherry@farmside.co.nz; kandsdyer@gmail.com; kilmore@xnet.co.nz

Subject: [OrganicAgPEG] FW: Update on proposed organic products legislation

From: Bryce Wigodsky [<mailto:Bryce.Wigodsky@mpi.govt.nz>]

Sent: Friday, 27 March 2020 12:42 PM

To: Organics Consultation

Subject: Update on proposed organic products legislation

Kia ora koutou

I hope this email finds you well and healthy, as New Zealand faces challenging times responding to the COVID-19 virus. We wish you and your families well during this period.

Organic Products Bill – Select Committee public consultation begins

I'm emailing to let you know that Parliament's Primary Production Select Committee began public consultation on the Organic Products Bill earlier this week. We encourage you to take part in that process and make your views known to the Committee. You can learn more at <https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/scl/primary-production/>. Please send your submission to Parliament's Primary Production Select Committee, not to the Ministry for Primary Industries.

While Parliament is making significant changes to how it will operate to respond to COVID-19, at this time the Primary Production Select Committee intends to keep its public consultation on the Bill open. Please be aware that this could change given the current environment. We recommend you check the above website regularly for the latest updates on the Bill.

Proposed organics regulations – public consultation postponed

I also want to update you on the planned consultation on proposed regulations for organic food, beverages, and plant and animal products, including the initial discussions of the national organic standard. These regulations provide the details of the requirements in the Organic Products Bill.

This week, the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Damien O'Connor, agreed that MPI will not publicly consult on the proposed regulations at this time. This includes formal engagement with our Treaty of Waitangi partners. I'm sure you'll agree this is a pragmatic decision as New Zealand adopts stronger measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. I know that many of you are also currently focusing on your critical business roles as essential businesses.

Next steps

At this stage, given the quick-changing response to the COVID-19 virus, we've not yet set a date for consultation on the regulatory proposals. We will of course endeavour to keep you updated.

In the meantime, we continue to undertake research and analysis to support development of the organics regulatory regime, including a national organic standard.

As always, we remain available to have informal conversations with you. If you would like to arrange a video or telephone discussion, or have other queries, please contact us at organicsconsultation@mpi.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi

Bryce Wigodsky, Manager, and the Organics Policy Team

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Posted by: "Bill Quinn" <bill@organicag.co.nz>

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