

AOPA

Fall 2026

News Letter

AOPA Fall Annual Meeting Nov 14th

Certification Report – September 2026

This summer was everything but normal in our area. We received 19" of rain which was much more than required. Thankfully the hail passed us by. There are unseeded fields, moldy hay, and drowned out crops. We are hoping for a warm fall but our forecast is for frost again this week. That is too early for my garden which was slow growing this year.

Our new VO last year, Suzanne Kebernik was rehired by TCO so this year. I gladly allotted her more inspections. Andrew Llewlyn-Jones our new VO this year seems to be adjusting well to the TCO documents, as he also works for PACS in B, C. This is a reminder to send in your VO Evaluation to TCO and my office.

File update: 100 files received- 4 members submit 2 separate applications

- 1- sold their vegetable farm and the buyer went as a Direct Associate with TCO as they planned to do processing.
- 1- switched to another certifying body, due to our past webmaster's error on there listing
- 10 -quit for various personal reasons
- 5- new members joined the chapter

If your inspection report has been received and soon to be reviewed, you may ask for a Letter of Good Standing, if your buyer is requesting your certificate.

TCO is now required to ask members to submit their Input Review Requests each year. Previously it was every 5 years. Please remember this when you submit your application next year.

Our FAM (fall annual meeting) is November 14. If anyone would like to make a presentation or have an idea for a speaker, that is relevant to our industry, please contact me or a Board of Director. Your involvement is appreciated.

Do take time to read the update from our General Manager Rachel Salapare. It contains information you need to know about the changes to the COR Standards published in March.

Thought of the month:

"Wealth is measured not by what you accumulate but by what you give away."

A proverb from the country of Moldova.

Chapter Meeting Notes

From: Rachel Salapare

July 23, 2026

We have received 97 applications through AOPA so far and have received 24 inspection reports.

The updated Canadian Organic Standards were published in March 2026 and must be fully implemented by March 31, 2027. We encourage everyone to become familiar with the new requirements. The Organic Federation of Canada (OFC) website is an excellent resource, offering webinars, comparison documents highlighting changes between the current and revised standards, and a series of articles introducing the 2026 Canadian Organic Standards. We have also posted links to these resources on our website.

To align with the revised standards, we will be updating our Organic System Plans (OSPs) for next year to reflect the new requirements. A one-year transition period is in place. During this year, we will not issue non-compliances for requirements that are new under the revised standards. However, we will issue Opportunities for Improvement (OFIs) to identify practices that could result in non-compliances once the new standards become mandatory.

Key Changes in the Revised Standards

Crop Rotation

The same crop may only be grown for two consecutive years on the same field. This was not explicitly specified in the previous standards.

Intercropping (with crops harvested in the same year) and underseeding do not count toward this limitation.

Land Management

The revised standards include additional requirements related to land management and farming practices.

Record Keeping

The standards provide more detailed and specific record-keeping requirements.

Alternating Organic and Non-Organic Production (Clause 5.1.8)

A new clause (5.1.8) allows a production unit, by exception, to alternate between organic and non-organic production due to catastrophic or uncontrollable factors, provided there is full disclosure and an approved action plan.

The production unit must complete a 36-month transition period before regaining organic status. If you need to remove a field or production unit from organic production because of catastrophic or uncontrollable circumstances, you must obtain approval from your Certification Body (CB) before proceeding.

We have developed a new form for this purpose. Please submit the form and wait for approval before taking any action.

Input Approval Reminders

Please make it a practice to submit an Input Review Request (IRR) annually and wait for the approval letter before using any product.

Your approval letter must be current. During our most recent audit, auditors reviewed the dates on approval letters to verify that they were valid at the time products were used. In addition, manufacturers may change product formulations without notifying us. Submitting an IRR each year helps ensure that your inputs continue to meet organic requirements.

U.S. Organic Labeling Requirements

The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) has developed new labeling guidance for products imported into the United States under the U.S.-Canada Organic Equivalency Arrangement (USCOEA).

Please note that all new, revised, or updated labels must be submitted to our office for review and approval before use.

We encourage you to review this guidance and ensure that future label submissions comply with current U.S. organic labeling requirements.

NOP Import Certificates (NOPICs)

NOP Import Certificates (NOPICs) are required for all certified organic products imported into the United States.

If you sell directly into the U.S. market, please note that your buyer or importer of record must be certified under the USDA National Organic Program (NOP).

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Alberta Beef & Organic Grain Market Report

September ALBERTA BEEF MARKET

The Alberta cattle market softened entering September 2026, particularly for fed cattle and heavier feeder/yearling cattle.

Calf prices remain historically strong despite the overall decline from summer highs.

Fed Cattle:

- Fed steers/heifers: ~\$295/cwt live Down ~\$2.50/cwt from the previous week

Feeder Cattle:

- Feeder steer/heifer averages declined ~\$9/cwt over the previous week
- 600–699 lb AB/SK steer calves for October/November delivery: \$561– 636/cwt
- Average: ~\$589/cwt at 652 lb
- Lighter calves and stockers continue to trade above year-ago levels

Cull Cows & Bulls:

- D2 cows: ~\$223.25/cwt
- D3 cows: ~\$200/cwt
- Butcher bulls: ~\$255/cwt

Market Summary:

Alberta cattle prices have weakened from the highs seen earlier in the summer.

Fed cattle and heavier feeder/yearling prices have experienced the greatest pressure, while lighter calves continue to maintain historically strong values.

ALBERTA ORGANIC GRAIN MARKET

Current Prairie organic grain pricing indicates continued strong premiums over conventional grain.

Prices vary considerably depending on location, quality, delivery terms and available contracts.

Organic Oats:

- New crop, delivered Alberta: \$10.75–12.00/bu
- Median delivered Alberta price: ~\$11.38/bu
- New crop, FOB Alberta: ~\$10.00/bu

Organic Yellow Peas:

- New crop, FOB Alberta: ~\$20.50/bu
- New crop, delivered Northern Alberta: ~\$17.50/bu
- Feed peas, delivered Northern Alberta: ~\$551.16/MT

Organic Feed Barley:

- Delivered Northern Alberta: ~\$332.99/MT

Organic Oat Screenings/Feed:

- Alberta/Northern Alberta: ~\$6.00/bu

Organic HRS Wheat:

- Spot FOB Saskatchewan: ~\$16.50/bu
- New crop Manitoba: ~\$17.50/bu

Market Summary:

Organic grain prices remain strong compared with conventional markets, although organic markets are relatively thin and individual bids can vary significantly.

Current Alberta organic new-crop oats ~\$10.75 –12.00/bu delivered,
while organic yellow peas are ~\$20.50/bu FOB Alberta.

Sources: Canfax / Alberta Beef Producers – Weekly Market Report, September 8, 2026 Organic Grain Hub – Prairie Organic Grain Prices, updated September 8, 2026 Organic Alberta – Organic Market Prices

Gordon Wood

AOPA Bylaw and Policy Procedure Report

I'd wished we had something in the Bylaws to address the endless rain. Crops are drown, the bumper hay crop can't be made, a complete disaster.

The Alberta Government Milage rate for 2026

- First 5,000Km 0.73 Cents
- after 5,000 0.67 Cents

CRA Alberta rate for 2026 is the same as AB Government.

We have now made these changes to the AOPA Policies or Procedures.

Board Director Rick Pysyk

Good websites for the organic producer:

Canadian Organic Growers -	www.cog.ca
Organics in Alberta -	www.organicalberta.org
Organic Trade Association -	www.ota.com
Organic Consumers Ass -	www.organicconsumers.org
Canada Organic -	www.choosecanadaorganic.ca
TCO -	www.tcocert.ca

AOPA is Certified by



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www.albertaorganicproducers.org



AOPA Field Day -Summer 2026@ Brummelhuis Dairy

We were near Olds and blessed with a beautiful day with sunshine, light wind and great hosts. Forty-one people eager to learn attended.

The Brummelhuis family immigrated to Canada from Holland in 2001. Their first load of organic milk was shipped in 2024. They use 3 Lely A5 robots to milk the 135 milking cows plus they farm 740 acres. The herd is Holstein Brown Swiss cross. Currently they are using Dutch MRY genetics to complete a three-way cross. They also raise 90 Angus cross calves per year for their beef market. The goal is to improve long term soil health by crop rotation, managed grazing, home-grown feeds and seeking out practices that improve the health of the soil.

The day began with a tour of the calves in their individual pens and insights on how to keep your calves healthy. Apple cider vinegar was used at the first sign of scours. We moved onto the milking area and tour of the free stall barn. The cows were very tame and never seemed bothered by the crowd.



We then moved to listen to the analysis of the barley silage ground pile of 2025. Long & short depth with face temperatures were taken, feed specialist from Heartland Feeds explained what it all meant.



Next lunch was served, Wilma and Isle shared their cooking and baking skills which were greatly appreciated by the hungry guests.

Presentations were made by three guest speakers.

Rick Kohut, an AOPA member, spoke on the benefits of apple cider vinegar for cattle and humans.

Keith Roscoe, a representative from Alfalfa Green spoke about the benefits of alfalfa pellets as a soil amendment.

Brent Croucher from Kat Kan gave everyone a sample bottle of the cleaning product that is a degreaser and cleaner. It has many uses around the farm and home. He also mentioned a soil amendment the company is working on with trials to be performed by Olds College.

Everyone followed the hosts out to tour the nearby fields.

The crops were impressive with very few weeds.



All fields were intercropped and would be used for silage.

The field day closed with refreshments and guests who gained knowledge and were grateful to our hosts

Alfons, Wilma, Aron and Rachel for such a unique day.



R&D : Research & Development

Research & Development - this issue is about my research into plow downs and my development on how it went ,is going and to come...

For those who don't know I grow Clover Mix to sell and use myself to build up my soil.

A wet year let me try something I have not done yet and as I am an inventor type guy I like to try and prove my ideas.

Last yr I underseed Yellow Clover mix and it has grow up great this yr,so I plowed it down, planted Oats and then plowed them down. I won't know how good it turns out till next years crop, and I'm thinking I should get a good one but must wait and see.

As for this, I have never seen a double plow down in my area, so I have done it now -----
2 Plow Downs in 1 season.

What I really should do if I have time, since I got a bunch of weed control done, is plant Oats sometime in late Oct to have an Supper Oat harvest in July'ish next year....



- Disk Down the Oats and any Weeds up and growing



Ernest Snyder

www.albertaorganicproducers.org

