

Thursday 19th April, 2007

LATEST NEWS



Australian Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce Commences

The first meeting of the new Standards Australia Technical Committee (FT-032) will be held in Sydney on May 7 to develop the Australian Standard for Organic and Biodynamic Produce. NASAA was asked to nominate one member to the Committee and our nomination of Technical Director, Rod May, has been accepted by Standards Australia. OFA nominations of Andre Leu and Jan Denham have also been accepted.

NASAA – along with the OFA - wants to see certification of organic products mandated in regulations when the Australian Standard is 'called up' into relevant Federal and State regulatory systems. This will ensure that the Australian Standard will have real teeth to protect the integrity of our organic industry for the benefit of organic producers and consumers alike.

To that end NASAA is pleased that The Hon Ian Macdonald, NSW Minister for Primary Industries, has begun this process. In a media release on March 05 2007 Minister Macdonald stated: "The [NSW] Government recognises a national domestic standard for organic and biodynamic produce is essential, particularly one that complements the current export standard." "To help develop the necessary legislative framework to support the integrity of 'certified organic' products, a NSW Government proposal is being prepared for discussion by the national Primary Industries Standing Committee and Ministerial Council."

Complementing this process at a local level NASAA's recently launched Local Producer Scheme offers the smaller organic producer a real option to be NASAA certified at a reasonable price under external validation – giving the producer and the consumer confidence that when they buy and sell organic product the NASAA label represents with integrity and objectivity.

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*** NASAA at a Glance**

Formed in 1986, The National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia (NASAA) is one of Australia's largest organic certifiers.

With operations both in Australia and Overseas, the company provides certification and inspection services, which assist in facilitating market access throughout the world for NASAA certified organic product.

NASAA is accredited with the following bodies and programs: AQIS (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service), IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements), ISO65, JAS (Japanese Agricultural Standard) and the United States National Organic Program (US NOP).

With a national office based in the Adelaide Hills in South Australia, NASAA is a non-profit company limited by guarantee comprising an association of members and certified operators (over 1000).

For further information visit the NASAA website at www.nasaa.com.au.