

The Basics & Benefits of Organic Hog Production in Manitoba



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OFCM-COG Presentation Outline

Overview: Organic Sector & Standards
Environmental Benefits of Organic
Organic Industry Development Needs
Websites for Research & References

The Organic Sector in Canada- Consumers

- 40 % of Canadians buy organic products
- 18% regularly (heavy buyers)
- 22% several times (light buyers)
- another 31% have purchased once or twice
- 64% of Canadians believe strongly or somewhat that **organic food is better**

Canadian Consumer Profile: www.agric.gov.ab.ca/food/organic_profile.html

Ethical Consumerism

- Organic production standards have evolved internationally in response to a phenomena known as ethical consumerism.
- Based on the Precautionary Principle, inputs and processes are allowed only when proof exists that they are the safest known alternatives for both health and the environment.

The Organic Sector - Stakeholders

- ~25 Organic Certification Agencies accredited by 4 internationally recognized third party accreditors
- All require an Organic Farm Plan based on the **Precautionary Principle** (exclusion of worst known toxins)
- The Organic Farm Plan is a Systems approach to **preventative measures**

The Organic Sector - Stakeholders

- Organic farmers produce food using locally based, integrated management systems that are monitored annually by independent certification agencies.
- Manitoba has ~ 250 certified operators
- Canada has ~ 3,700 certified operators

The Organic Sector Stakeholders

- The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements website www.ifoam.org contains the guidelines under which standards have been created for use in certifying the majority of the organic food produced in the world.
- Codex Alimentarius of the WHO also have organic standards at www.codexalimentarius.net/standard_list.asp

The Organic Sector in Manitoba- Stakeholders

- The Organic Food Council of MB- a chapter of COG has ~90 MB members (2400 nationally) supporting the local production and consumption of organic food.
- The Organic Producers Association of MB Cooperative (OPAM) is the primary certification body functioning in Manitoba, accredited by the Standards Council of Canada with ~300 members.
- A MB representative from these organizations sits on the OFC offering industry guidance.

The Organic Sector in Canada – Standards

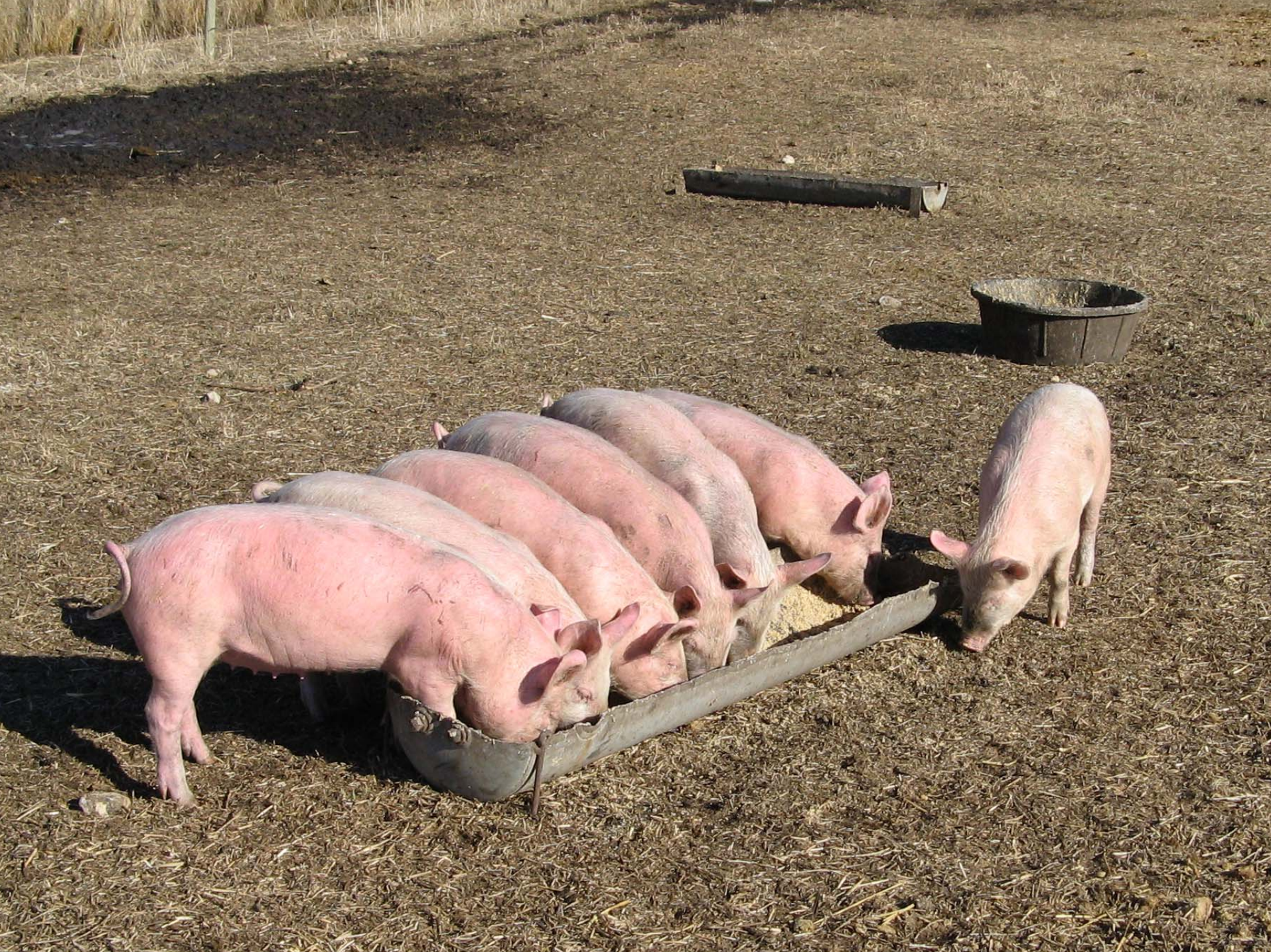
- The Canadian National Standard for Organic Agriculture CGSB/CAN 32.310-2006 **harmonizes** with the US, EU and most international standards
- The Organic Federation of Canada is designing, with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Canadian Organic Office, a **regulatory system** to oversee the standard.

The Organic Sector in MB – Standards

- As agriculture is a provincial jurisdiction, provincial standards and regulations are needed for products produced and traded only within the province.
- The new Federal standard and regulation applies only to interprovincial and international sales

The Organic Sector in MB – Standards

- The MB government is in the process of drafting a regulation and standard for organic production within Manitoba, based on the recently adopted Federal Regulation under the Canadian Agricultural Products Act & the CGSB organic standard maintained by AAFC.



CGSB/CAN 23:310-2006 *Principles*

III. Organic Practices

Management methods are carefully selected in order to restore and then sustain ecological stability within the enterprise and the surrounding environment.

CGSB/CAN 23:310-2006 *Principles*

Under a system of organic production, livestock are provided with living conditions and space allowances appropriate to their behavioural requirements, and organically produced feed.

These practices strive to minimize stress, promote good health and prevent disease.

CGSB/CAN 23:310-2006 *Principles*

The general principles of organic production include the following:

1. Protect the environment, minimize soil degradation and erosion, decrease pollution, optimize biological productivity and promote a sound state of health.
2. Maintain long term soil fertility by optimizing conditions for biological activity within the soil.

CGSB/CAN 23:310-2006 *Principles*

3. Maintain biological diversity within the system.
4. Recycle materials and resources to the greatest extent possible within the enterprise.
5. Provide attentive care that promotes the health and meets the behavioural needs of livestock.

CGSB/CAN 23:310-2006 *Principles*

6. Prepare organic products, emphasizing careful processing, and handling methods in order to maintain the organic integrity and vital qualities of the products at all stages of production.
7. Rely on renewable resources in locally organized agricultural systems.

Section 4 Organic Plan

4.1 The operator of an enterprise shall prepare an organic plan outlining the details of transition, production, preparation, handling and management practices, in accordance with this standard.

4.2 *The Organic Plan*

- The organic plan shall be updated annually to address changes to the plan or management system, problems encountered in executing the plan, and measures taken to overcome such problems

4.3 *The Organic Plan*

The organic plan shall include a description of the internal record keeping system, with documents sufficient to meet audit trail and record keeping requirements.

4.4.1 Records to trace...

- a. The origin, nature and quantities of organic products, that have been delivered to the production unit:
- b. The nature, quantities and consignees of products, that have left the production unit

4.4.1 Records to trace

c. any other information such as the origin, nature and quantities of ingredients, additives and manufacturing aids delivered to the unit. And the composition of processed products, for the purposes of proper verification of the operations in accordance with this standard.

What CGSB/CAN32:3102006 Requires Environmentally:

- 6.1.2 Livestock can make an important contribution to an organic farming system by:
 - a) improving & maintaining the fertility of the soil:
 - b) managing the flora through grazing:
 - c) enhancing biodiversity and facilitating complementary interactions on the farm

Section 6: Livestock Production - General

- 6.1.3 Livestock production is a land related activity. Herbivores shall have access to pasture, and all other animals to open-air runs; the certification body can approve exceptions when the physiological state, inclement weather conditions and state of the land so justify.

Section 6: Livestock Production- General

- Livestock stocking rates shall recognize the differences between Canada's agro-climatic regions and
- Take into consideration feed production capacity, stock health, nutrient balance and environmental impact.

Livestock Standard Headings

- 6.2 Origin of Livestock
- 6.3 Transition to Organic
- 6.4 Livestock Feed
- 6.5 Breeding
- 6.6 Transport and Handling
- 6.7 Livestock Health Care
- 6.7 Livestock Living Conditions

6.9 Manure Management

- Manure management practices used to maintain areas in which livestock are housed, penned or pastured shall be implemented in a manner that minimizes soil and water degradation.

6.9.2 Manure Storage and Handling

- All manure storage and handling facilities, including composting facilities shall be designed, constructed and operated to prevent contamination of ground and surface water.

Annual Inspection Required

- For organic certification agencies to maintain their international accreditation via IOAS, SCC, NOP, COABC or CAAQ (the recognized accreditation agencies operating in Canada), they must conduct a detailed annual inspection of all enterprises which they certify in order to verify compliance with the organic standards.

Independent Organic

Inspectors Association

- Training and accreditation of third party organic inspectors who contract with certifiers to annually assess:

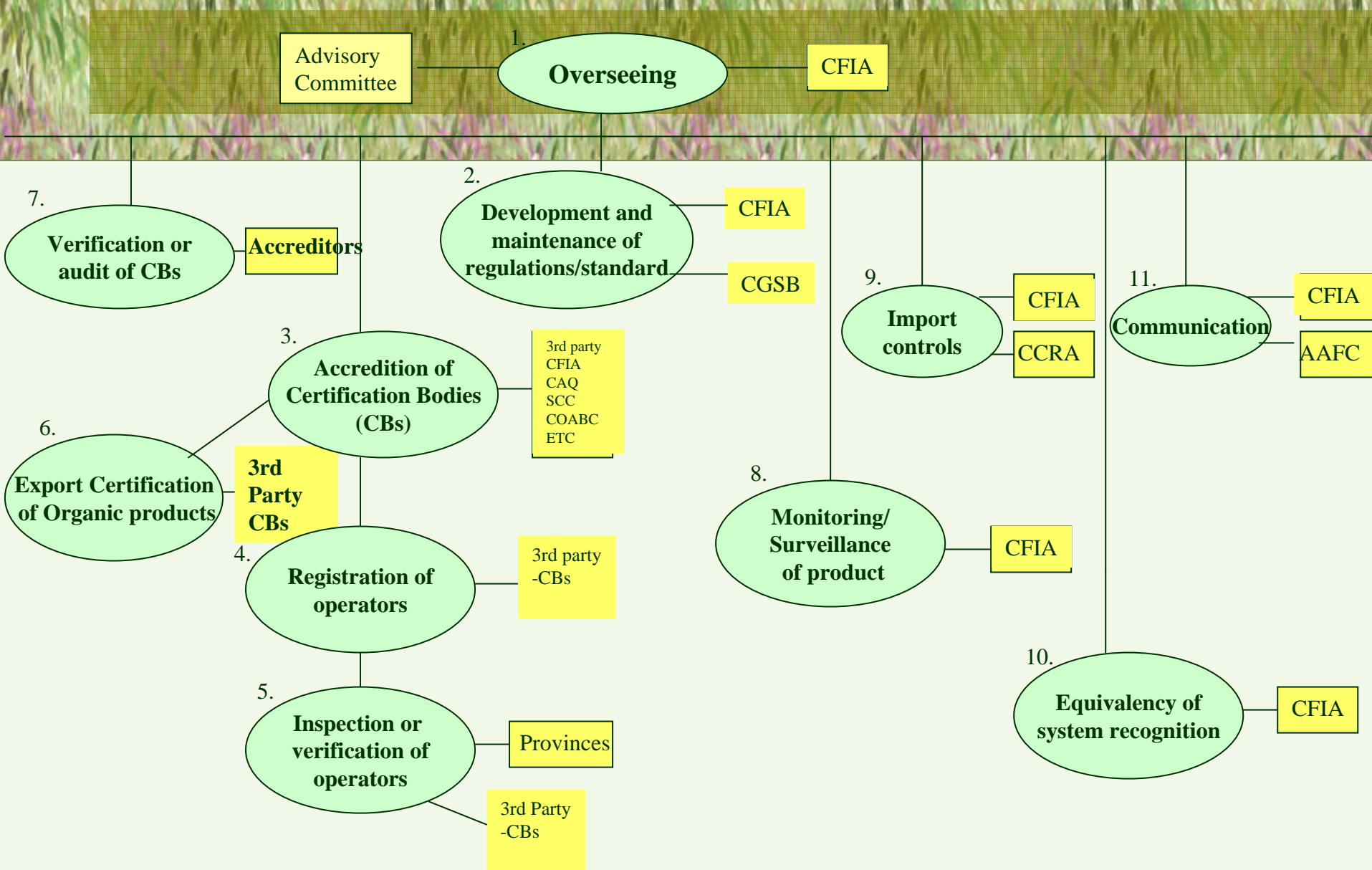
Production Risk management

Compliance with specific certification agency organic standards, policies and procedures

Consumers as Stakeholders

- Organic food has an organic premium as part of its price. This premium covers the certification costs for the operation as part of their cost of production.
- Increasing numbers of ethical consumers choose to pay this premium as a way of rewarding organic farmers for the environmental services they provide to our communities and to ensure local producers stay financially viable.

D: Preferred Option: National Organic Regime



The Organic Sector in Canada – Standards, Regulation & Training

- Canadian members of the **Independent Organic Inspectors Association & Canadian Organic Growers** play key roles in:
 - Ensuring the National Standard harmonizes with International Organic Standards
 - Designing with CFIA, the pending regulation enforcing truth in organic labeling
 - Assuring quality training for organic inspectors as well as quality organic production training

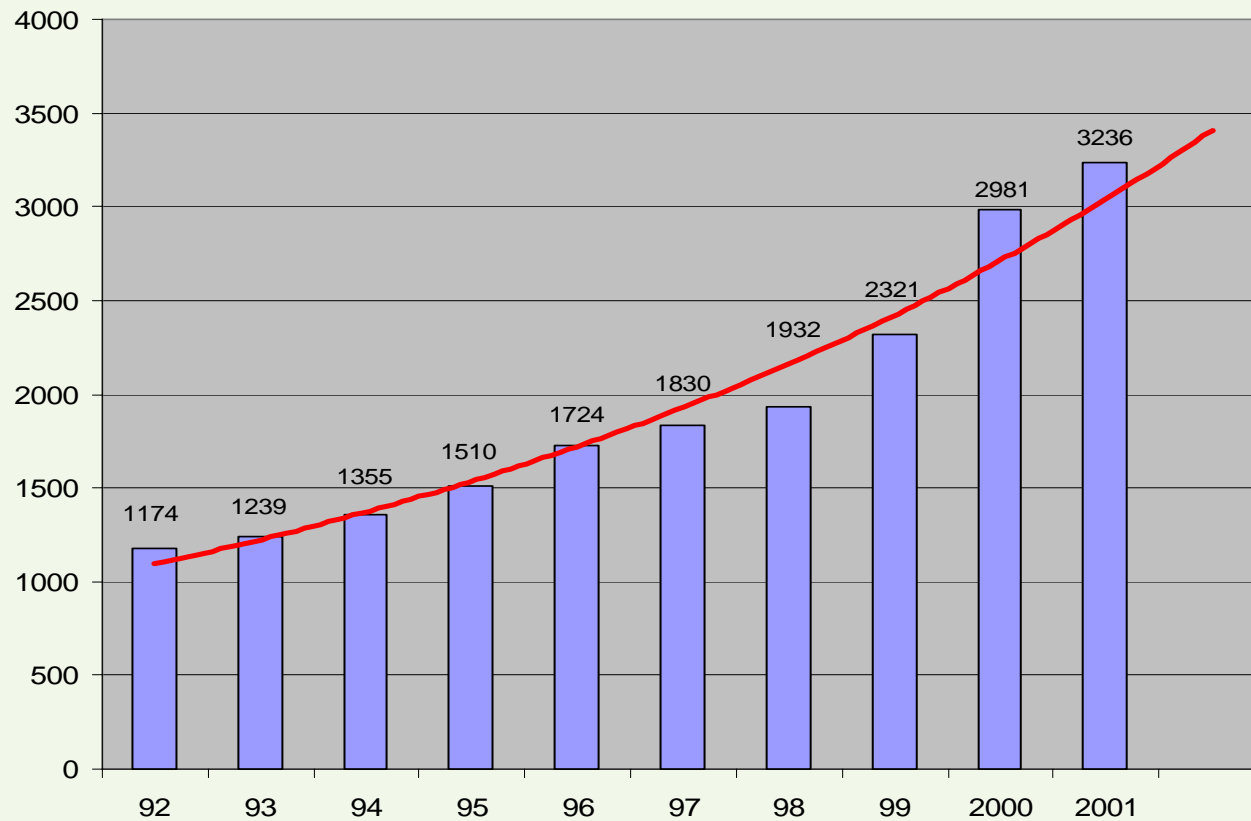
The Organic Sector in Canada

“A sustainable food system is economically viable to all participants, is socially supportive, ecologically sound & meets the needs of future generations.”

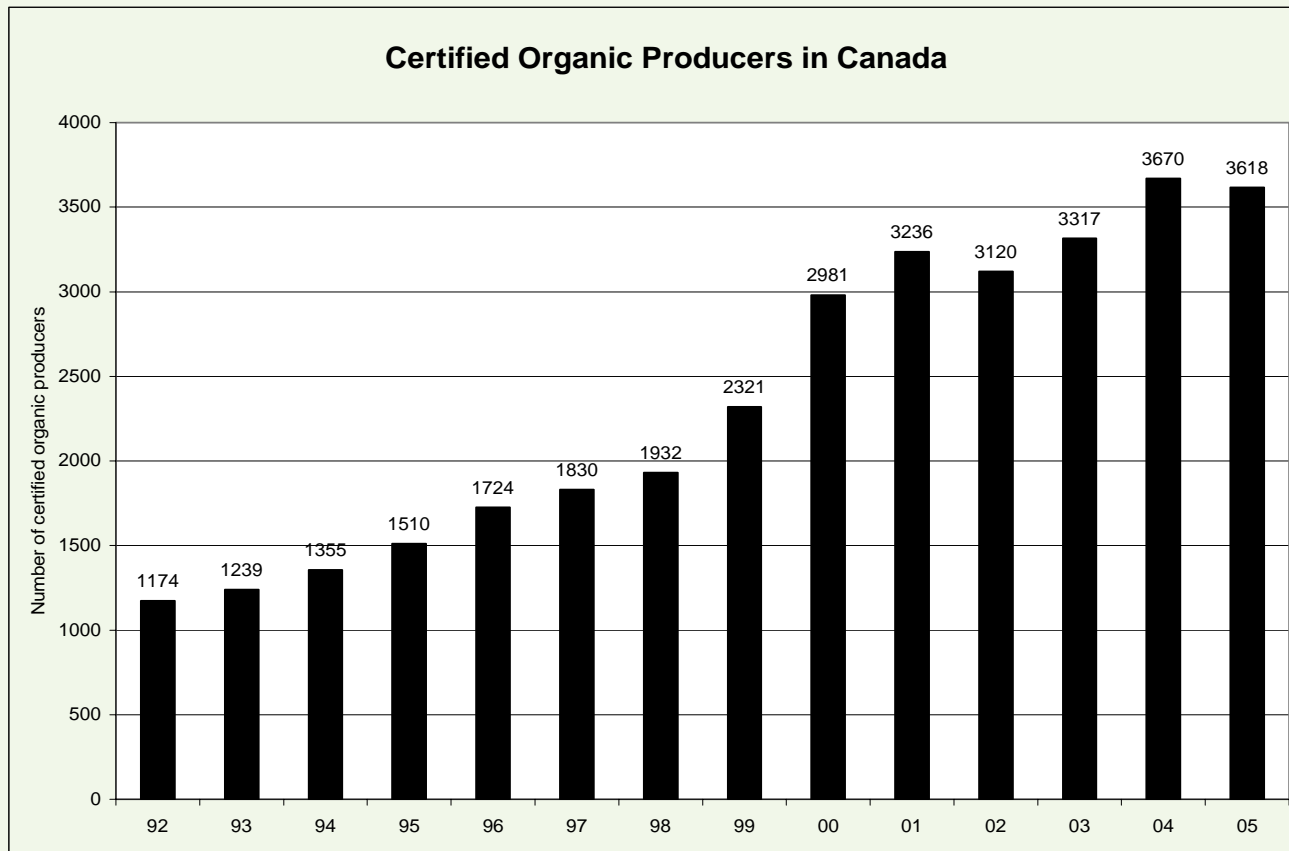
Membership Brochure,
Canadian Organic Growers
Organic Statistics since 1991

Canada-Certified Producers 2001

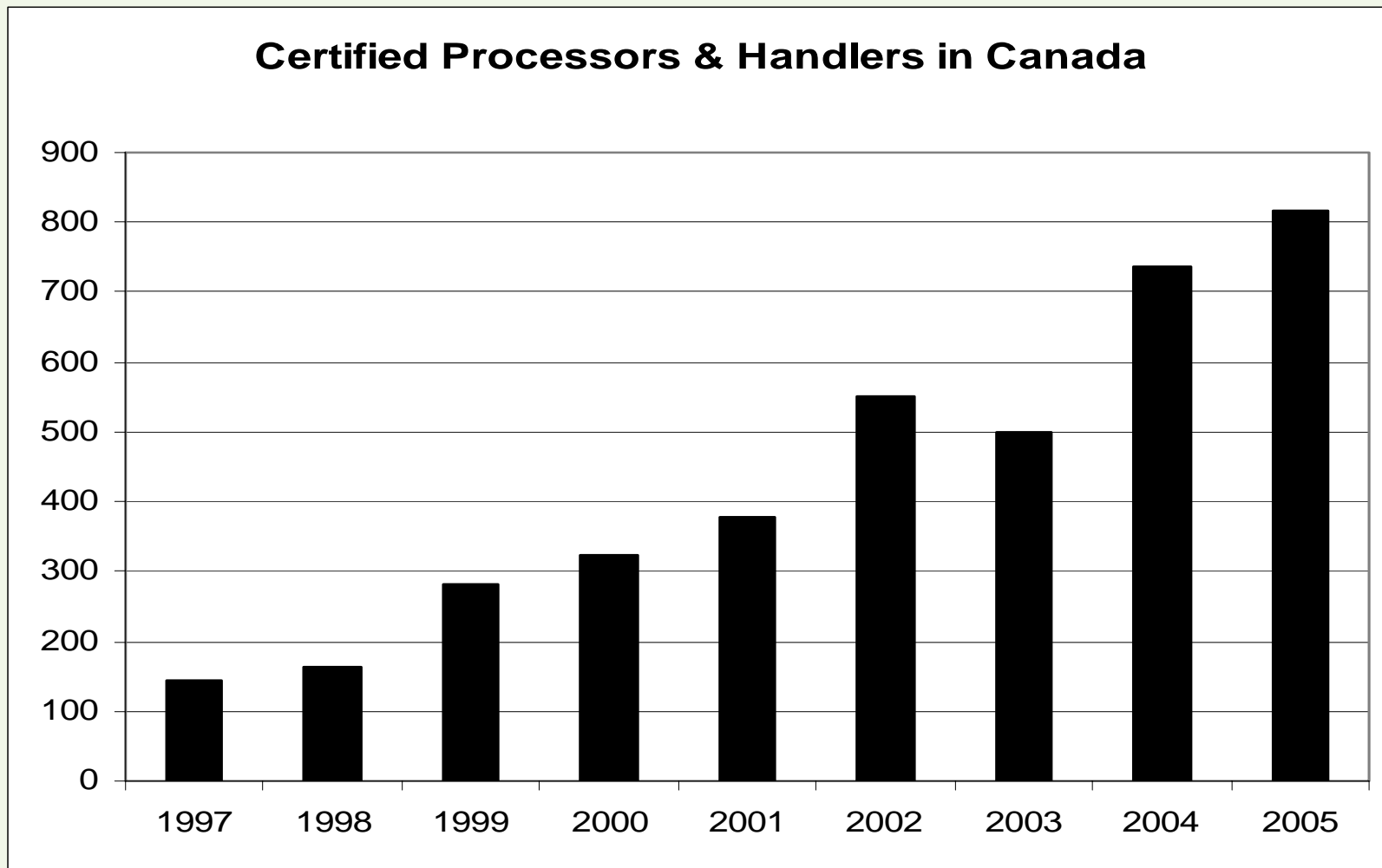
Canada - Certified Producers



Canada-Certified Producers 2005



Certified Processors and Handlers 1997-2005



The Organic Sector in Canada

- Canada is in the top five world producers of organic grains and oilseeds - estimated retail/food service sub-sector value of \$1 billion, including processed and non-processed products.

Benefits of Organic Production

- **Standards fulfill functions for different groups and purposes:**
 - Gives Guarantees & Info to consumers
 - Promotes good practice by guiding organic producers
 - Maintains a base for inspection, certification & accreditation (CAAQ, COABC, IOAS, SCC, NOP)
- Tool for use of the Precautionary Principle

Benefits of Organic Production

“Farming is in crisis in Canada. So is the environment. Since agriculture and the environment are intimately entwined, both crisis must be addressed together.”

H. Fosey, 2007 Canadian
Environmental Green Paper on
Agriculture

Focus on Environmental Benefits

- Due to time limits this presentation does not address the social and financial benefits of organic agriculture. These are increasingly being documented and are a rationale for the US states subsidization of organic certification costs to encourage conversion.

Benefits of Organic Production

- **General Management:**
 - Direct Measures: Restrictive list of Permitted Inputs
 - Indirect Measures: Good traceability systems, Special input criteria

Benefits of Organic Production

- Risks from Parasites & Bacteria:
 - Direct measures: same requirements as chemical agriculture
 - Indirect: higher risk of parasites in pasture grazing reduced thru rotational & other preventative measures

Benefits of Organic Production

- **Bacteriological Risks:**
 - Direct measures: strict exclusion of sewage and industrial manure
 - Indirect: Appropriate manure/compost treatment

Benefits of Organic Production

- Fungal Risks (mycotoxins):
 - Direct measures: Same requirements as chemical ag
 - Indirect: less intensive systems, reduced use of concentrates in animal production, more extensive grazing

Benefits of Organic Production

- **Chemical Contamination Risks:**
 - Direct measures: exclusion of a wide range of synthetic pesticides
 - More info needed on background contamination
 - Indirect: special criteria for evaluation of allowed pesticides

Benefits of Organic Production

- **Veterinary Medicines:**
 - Direct measures: Exclusion of antibiotics in feed
 - Indirect: preventive measures a priority, longer withdrawal periods

Benefits of Organic Production

- Nitrates, Nitrites & Nitro amines:
 - Direct measures: exclusion of synthetic nitrogen
 - Indirect: less intensive production, controlled use of nitrogen from legumes & animals

Benefits of Organic Production

- Heavy Metals:
 - Direct measures: strict limits for certain fertilizers
 - Indirect: less use of concentrates, no use of growth promoters, only for physiological need

Benefits of Organic Production

- Genetically Engineered Organisms:
 - Direct measures: exclusion
 - Indirect: inspection systems, sample analysis for contamination

Benefits of Organic Production

- **BSE:**
 - Direct: same requirements as chemical ag
 - Indirect: long time exclusion of animal byproducts in feeds, restrictions on inclusion of animals from non-organic holdings

Benefits of Organic Production

- The City of Munich, Germany pays farmers in the watershed that supplies its drinking water to farm organically.
- They are not alone, this is a fairly widespread, cost effective way to preserve water quality in Europe. They say the future is organic....www.frugalmarketing.com/dtb/bioneers.shtml

Benefits of Organic Production

- **Conclusions: contamination from production concentration & improper manure management, needs overall monitoring to identify early potential risks, ensure better documentation & better risk management.**

Organic Industry Development



Organic Industry Development

- Many farmers do all they can to preserve and protect water by establishing buffer zones, appropriate drainage, composting sites and reducing chemical inputs.
- With record low farm incomes, many operations can not afford to do these or more without income supports like organic premiums.

Organic Industry Development

Haycrest Organics run by Robyn Gudmundson and Eric Bjornson of Poplarfield produce 100- 400 hogs a year

Coordinated Provincial & Federal Supports Needed

- Haycrest has almost eliminated waste water in converting a slurry barn;
- The National Farm Stewardship Program declined their application for rubber matting for the pens, which would have completely eliminated waste water.
- A grid floor barn remains unused due to this decision

Organic Industry Development

- Robyn says 100% of their pork is farm gate sold and regularly sells out. Supports are needed to increase local marketing so they can produce 400 hogs a year by utilizing a 70 x 300 ft barn that remains empty.....
- “People love the quality of our meat products and want connection to farms.”
- We would really benefit from an advisor to help us apply for available programs.

Organic Industry Development

- Bruce Daum, Krisandra Farms near Forrest MB states:
“Increased, longer term supports for developing new markets is critical. Our provincial government needs to be aware of the costs born by producers, for marketing outside of single desk selling structures. Producers interested in sustainability put in a lot of private investment with very little government support.”

Organic Industry Development

- Bruce continues “Governments need to educate the banks so they finance sustainable production models with compost facilities rather than in ground slurry pits. Taxation systems need to give an economic break for the environmental services a farm provides.”

Organic Industry Development

- Bruce calls for alternative market development support from the farm level up, so farmers receive more than just their cost of production. “A sustainable model can be designed to address environmental needs, the animals’ needs and peoples’ desire for good taste & ethical animal treatment.”

Organic Industry Development

Ian Smith of Natural Pork, (70% farm gate sales) calls for:

- more custom and on-farm slaughter facilities, which could be certified organic;
- transition supports for developing local feed suppliers;
- Assistance with farm labour costs.

Organic Industry Development

- Ontario actively promotes on farm composting facilities via grants;
- PEI subsidizes 75% of organic certification costs;
- 14 US states subsidize organic certification;
- Advisors on complex labeling requirements also are needed

Organic Industry Development

- The MB Moratorium would not be needed if we transformed hog production to more diverse, sustainable models such as the Swedish loose housing systems;
- Livestock Specialists in New Business Development are not aware of the increasing demand for organic pork or how to offer organic production and transition advice.
- We need expert in house (grant) advisors.

Benefits of Organic Production

- To achieve ongoing sustainable environmental risk management, indirect **systems based approaches** need development rather than single, isolated measures.

Benefits of Organic Production

- We must work provincially & nationally to support local food production, via **organic production & consumption** as a needed tool for more sustainable environmental risk management.

Websites

- www.pwgcs.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html, site for the Canadian Standard
- www.cog.ca, site for COG & the Organic Livestock Handbook
- www.organicagcentre.ca

Websites

- ATTRA's Organic Matters//Considerations in Organic Hog Production at <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/omhog.pdf>
- The University of Minnesota Extension book, Hogs Your Way: Choosing a Hog Production System in the Upper Midwest describes the Swedish system online at <http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/livestocksystems/DI7641.html>

Websites

- 2007 Canadian Environmental Green Paper on Agriculture

www.cen-rce.org/eng/caucuses/agriculture/index.html

- USDA Economic Research Service

www.ers.usda.gov/Data/Organic/

Websites

- International Forum on assessing sustainability in agriculture
- www.iisd.org/pdf/2005/infasa_program.pdf.
- www.naturalpork.ca
- www.opam.mb.ca certification in MB

Websites

- www.ifoam.org
- www.ioia.net Independent
Organic Inspectors Association
- www.ota.com
For the Organic Trade Association

Benefits of Organic Production



Thank you for your interest in
safe & sustainable organic hog
production in Manitoba!

www.cog.ca

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