



■ | table of contents...

Updates and reports

Irish organic pork avoids recall ... 1
CCIA accreditation revoked 1

Leader

The future shape of 2009 2

2008 review

The Organic Standard Annual Review 3

Country report

Organic agriculture in Taiwan 8

Standards and regulations

Where does the new EU regulation lead us? 10
NOP proposes tough rules on organic livestock 14
Proposed access to pasture rule .. 16

Updates and reports

Regionalisation of national authorities in Latin America 18
Locust warning 18

Irish organic pork avoids recall

On 6 December 2008, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland announced a recall of all Irish pork products. This action was in response to the discovery of an increased level of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and dioxin in the meat after a routine sampling. The recall applied to all Irish pork products produced since 1 September 2008 in up to 25 countries. It is suspected the pigs became contaminated from eating tainted feed.

Two days after the recall the Irish Organic Farmers & Growers Association (IOFGA) submitted a letter to the local authority stating the problem of contaminated feed relates only to conventional pig production and does not involve organic products as the type of feed that caused the problem is not permitted under organic regulations.

In response to the IOFGA letter, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food announced on 10

December 2008 that all organic pork products are no longer covered under the international pork recall process. However, the statement continued that certified organic producers must provide documentary evidence to the Department of Local Authority Offices that;

- No contaminated animal feed material was procured and consumed by animals on the particular farm from 1 September 2008.
- No pigs that consumed contaminated material had been introduced onto that particular farm. Proof of the herd of origin must be supplied, which shows that no pigs originated from any holding restricted by the Department.

This arrangement applies to all products derived from pigs already slaughtered as well as from future slaughterings. ■

Source: www.iofga.org

CCIA accreditation revoked

On 24 November 2008 a notice of accreditation revocation was sent to the California Crop Improvement Association (CCIA) by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Effective immediately, CCIA is no longer eligible to act as an accredited certifying agent or participate in activities related to the certification of organic products for the period of not less than three years.

CCIA certificates already issued remain valid until they are withdrawn,

suspended or revoked. However, CCIA certified operators are advised to transfer their organic certification to other accredited certification bodies immediately to ensure an ongoing ability to market their organic products. After 24 January 2009, any certified operation who wish to purchase any CCIA certified organic products must acquire permission from its certification body and NOP. ■

Source: USDA-AMS