

## Organic Sprouting Seed: Current Issues

ISGA Convention 2018, Cape Cod MA

### New Breeding Techniques



Movement of Millions Say No to Gene Drives as Brazil Attempts to Legalize Photo: ETC Group

 The organic sector has clear arguments to remain GM-free based on the IFOAM principles of health (respecting integrity of life), ecology (need for locally adapted cultivars) and fairness (no patents on life, open access to genetic resources for breeders). The techniques are new and still in an experimental phase and thus little is known on the consequences of applying such techniques...

– Dr. Edith Lammerts van Bueren, Department of Plant Sciences, Wageningen University and Louis Bolk Institute

 IFOAM Position Paper: Compatibility of Breeding Techniques in Organic Systems https://www.ifoam.bio/sites/default/files/position\_paper\_v01\_web\_0.pdf

#### Innovation in Organic Breeding

#### **Participatory Plant Breeding**



Anne Kirk, University of Manitoba PPB project coordinator, and Jake Drozda, participating farmer, making selections in Jake's oat plots near Valleyview, Alberta in 2014. Photo: University of Manitoba



Dr. Martin Enz, Organic Researcher Photo: OrganicBiz

#### GE Alfalfa

Since alfalfa is a perennial plant that is pollinated by bees, GM contamination of non-GM alfalfa is unavoidable. There are several ways in which gene flow from GM to non-GM alfalfa can occur. These may be broadly divided into three categories: seed escape, pollinator-mediated gene flow, and gene flow through volunteer and feral alfalfa. – Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, 2017 Briefing



Alfalfa in bloom

#### Increasing organic seed production



Dr. Jeff Schoenau, soil fertility professor at the University of Saskatchewan, discussed soil health at the cover crop field day. Photo: OrganicBiz



Cover crop field day at Upland Organics farm. Photo: OrganicBiz

# Fresh Aire Farms: David & Karen Grenier and Family





The Grenier girls enjoying the Saskatchewan winter Photo: David Grenier

Speckled Peas in bloom Photo: David Grenier

#### Carmen Corner Acres: Louella & Don Friesen



Wintertime at Carmen Corner Acres Photo: Louella Friesen Don & Louella Friesen and family Photo: Louella Friesen

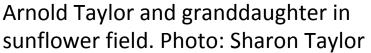
Alfalfa field in bloom Photo: Louella Friesen

#### Taylor Organic Farms: Sharon & Arnold Taylor

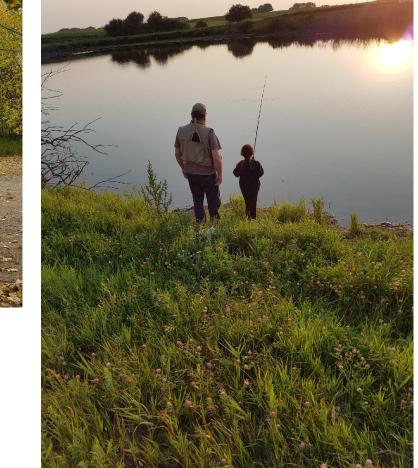




Arnold and son Doug during harvest Photo: Sharon Taylor



Arnold & granddaughter fishing.



#### Intercropping, soil building



A chickpea and flax intercropped field Photo: Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation



Daikon radish root Photo: University of Maryland