

Organic – How It is Changing by Gudrun Maybaum, TOP's Parrot Food

About 30 some years ago the first small farmers started 'organic' farming. The last decade the organic movement got a lot of momentum. It became interesting to large corporations, because of the money it started to make. And with that, 'organic' started to change. The list of synthetics, which are allowed to be used, is growing constantly. When it comes to processed food it gets even a step further. In pet food there can be up to 5% non organic (meaning chemical) ingredients. Some of them not allowed for human consumption.

Until not too long ago there was organic and conventional. Then something happened. I saw it at my local farmers market. Some of the Farmers did not renew their 'organic' certification. Then some of our (Totally Organics) suppliers did the same. Did they go back to conventional? NO. Far from it.

They went a step ahead and went ecological, sustainable. Knowing their attitude towards the health of the environment, their health, meaning their soil, water and air I trust them more than some organic certified companies I see in the grocery store. Also, organic doesn't necessarily mean quality. Nonetheless I look for organic labels when I shop in a grocery store, because it helps me to find none GMO food, also free of pesticides, antibiotics and artificial hormones.

Though, the safest way to avoid the confusion around the organic standards is to purchase whole fruits, grains, vegetables, and meat and dairy products - and to get them directly from a farmer I know and trust. If I want to buy processed goods, I try to get these from independent, local sources as well, as these are less likely to include preservatives and additives. And I can ask them directly about their practices or ingredients even visit the farm or look in the kitchen.

I do the same, when I buy ingredients for TOP's Parrot Food products. It is important to have suppliers I trust, suppliers whose ethics I know, whose attitude toward a healthy environment give me the security to buy the best.

From this month we will go back to buy from two suppliers who switched to ecological farming for two of the ingredients for the pellets. That means also we have to take the word 'organic' out of Totally Organics and from the front of the labels.

The ingredients are marked and you will see which are organic and which ecologically grown.

Our seed mixes will still be all organic and human grade.

<http://www.sustainabletable.org/253/organic-agriculture>