



About the COABC

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What is COABC?

The Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) is an umbrella association for certification bodies which provides certification accreditation and leadership in the development of organic food production throughout British Columbia and Canada. The COABC was created in 1993 under the Agri-Food Choice and Quality Act of British Columbia to administer the BC Certified Organic Program, to ensure program credibility, facilitate domestic and international trade, and to promote the overall growth of the organic food community in BC.

Accreditation

The COABC accredits agencies who inspect and certify organic operations. There are currently 11 accredited certifying bodies in BC. Some are regionally accredited specializing in local distribution while others are also ISO 17011 accredited allowing their members to participate in cross-border trade.

Certification

Organic certification provides consumers with the assurance that organic operators are meeting organic production standards. The COABC ensures the integrity of the "BC Certified Organic" certification and its accompanying checkmark symbol.

Standards

The COABC enforces compliance with the national Canada Organic Standard, ensuring a credible organic designation for local consumers and an accepted certification program for BC produced organic exports. See the COABC link to standards: www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/Standards/

The Voice of Organics in BC

The COABC is committed to promoting the importance of organic agriculture which helps ensure the long-term health and vitality of our region. The COABC seeks to educate farmers transitioning to organic production; advocate for organic consumption; provide current research and vital information for consumers, producers, stakeholders and the media; and interface with federal and provincial governments, and various organic sector stakeholders.

Good for You, Good for the Environment

202-3002 32nd Ave, Vernon, BC, V1T 2L7

Phone: 250-260-4429 Fax: 250-260-4436

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca



What We Do

What We Do

With the sales of organic products continuing to grow, consumers' concern for food-safety and reducing the environmental footprint, upholding the national Canada Organic Standard and ensuring the credibility of the "British Columbia Certified Organic" label has never been more important.

COABC Provides

- **Accreditation** to member agencies who inspect and certify organic farms throughout BC
- Administration of the **BC Certified Organic Program**
- Marketing tools and promotional support for certified organic operators
- **Leadership** in national organic standards
- Up-to-date industry information via the COABC web-site, Cyber-help, e-news, and staff support
- Networking and sharing opportunities for stakeholders
- An **Online directory** of local suppliers and growers
- Representation to the **Ministry of Agriculture** in matters relating to the Agri-Food Choice and Quality Act of British Columbia
- Access to the **Organic Sector Development Program**, a multi-million dollar federal-provincial fund that encourages research and development to encourage and facilitate organic production
- **Research Fund** programs helping to match project funding partners' investments and agencies

COABC Connects

- Organic growers and farmers, processors, handlers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers
- Consumers with organic producers
- Local and global producers with stakeholders
- Directly with provincial and federal governments

COABC Educates

- Through **Cyber-Help**, the most popular on-line organic resource in **Western Canada**
- By circulating the quarterly journal, the **BC Organic Grower**
- Through its comprehensive **Website**
- By employing qualified staff to respond to calls

COABC Communicates

- Local and provincial events and issues
- Regulatory and industry updates

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