



What's New

ü **COABC hires new administrator**

Sarah Clark has accepted the position as the new administrator. She looks forward to working for you to ensure the continued success of COABC

ü **VO Advanced Livestock Training**

If you are interested in taking an IOIA Advanced Training in Livestock course please contact Sarah Clark, the COABC Administrator by June 15th, 2009. Send your expression of interest including a \$50 deposit chq to the COABC Office 202-3002 32 Ave, Vernon, BC V1T 2L7. For more information please call 250-260-4429 or email admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca. COABC requires 15 candidates for this event to take place.

ü **New Regulations Website**

The Canada Organic Office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) today published its new Organic Products Regulations website, featuring essential information on the upcoming regulations and enforcement policy, including:

1. An official list of Conformity Verification Bodies (accreditors) which have applied to the agency to carry out the assessments of Certifiers under the new program;
2. A draft Stream of Commerce and Enforcement Policy, describes how the CFIA will enforce products over the initial 24 months following implementation.

The website also includes valuable resources, such as a copy of the government's cost benefit analysis for regulating the organic sector, questions and answers on the 2009 organic regulations, links to the regulations, standards and Canadian statistics.

See Details at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>

ü **Wolfberry fruit production contract opportunities**

Please be advised that Agrodevco of Saskatchewan is now offering orchard development contracts under license (only) for wolfberry fruit production.

Interested growers are urged to contact **(TERRY) AT AGRO DEVCO IMMEDIATELY TO QUALIFY** for **2009** programs. A limited number of licenses are available to growers in select regions of British Columbia and Alberta.

Please call **306 764 3529** or email agrodevco@gmail.com or www.wolfberryagrodevco.org to obtain more information.

ü **Sponsorship Program Ongoing push**

The COABC new sponsorship program is aimed at cultivating the growth of certified organic food and agriculture throughout British Columbia. The diverse sponsorship program includes value-added sponsor benefits and comprehensive exposure.

If you know of an organisation or individual interested in participating in the sponsorship program please contact the COABC administrator Sarah Clark at admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

ü **New BCOG Schedule** go to www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/publications/bcog/index.htm \

- ü There is still funding available through **COABC's Regional Seminar Series** to help put on production seminars. Talk to Rochelle 250.547.6573 extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca
- ü **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** product listing updates can be found at the COABC website: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/news.htm>

In the Works



The COABC and Rochelle Eisen (the Organic Extension Agent) with assistance from BCMAL staff plan to collect issues of concerns with the Canada Organic Standards and the Organic Productions Regulation from Crops, Livestock and processing producers. Three teleconference calls tentatively scheduled for late April.

New Look for COABC website coming soon; Still all the current and needed information but with an updated look and easier to navigate.

Conference



Breeding Diversity starts into 2009

Sante Fe, New Mexico, August 25-28 2009

1st International IFOAM Conference on Organic Animal and Plant Breeding opens registration

Registration has opened!

IFOAM and Seeds of Change proudly announce the opening of the registration for the 1st International IFOAM Conference on Organic Animal and Plant Breeding.

"We already have a number of people waiting for the registration page to be live. Obviously we are getting a lot of interest!" says Marc Cool from the co-organizer Seeds of Change.

With organic animal and plant breeding, the Conference will address the fundament of organic production. We are aiming for a lively dialogue between researchers and practitioners; commercial and hobby breeders; activists and industry representatives. Bringing together both animal and plant breeding in one conference highlights the interrelatedness and the holistic approach of organic agriculture.

Registration can easily be made online! Do not miss the early booking discount and visit the registration page today:

https://shop.ifoam.org/conference_1/index.php

Keep in Mind



- **If you change your address or contact information send it to your CB office as soon as possible so that you don't miss out on receiving a BCOG and other materials.**
- Feel free to send questions regarding the New National Standards to the Organic Extension Agent, Rochelle Eisen at extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca
- **Cyber-help** <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>