

# E-News



April 2010

## WHAT'S NEW

### Congratulations to COABC producer and Board Member Gay Hahn

On March 15, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) recognized five women for their leadership and commitment to the Canadian agriculture and agri-food industry with an FCC Rosemary Davis Award. Each award winner represents an FCC business region in Canada. These impressive women truly shine as outstanding role models in their communities and within the agriculture industry. They all have pursued very successful careers in agriculture.

The 2010 winners are:

- Bette Jean Crews – crops and horticulture producer, industry leader, teacher and volunteer – Trenton, Ontario
- **Gay Hahn – dairy producer, industry leader, educator and volunteer – Burnaby, British Columbia**
- Jeannie van Dyk – dairy and crops producer, volunteer, mentor and teacher – Noel Shore, Nova Scotia
- Margaret Rempel – hog and crops producer, volunteer, industry and community leader – Ste. Anne, Manitoba
- Marie Gosselin – greenhouse operator, agrologist, business woman and industry leader – Portneuf, Quebec

To view the news release and find out more about the announcement: [http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/AboutUs/Media/news20100315\\_e.asp](http://www.fcc-fac.ca/en/AboutUs/Media/news20100315_e.asp). For more information about the Rosemary Davis Award or biographies of the winners, visit [www.fccrosemarydavisaward.ca](http://www.fccrosemarydavisaward.ca).

### BC Organic Grower – Spread the Word!

1. Do you have a website?
2. With minimal effort on your part are you willing to help spread the word about the BC Organic Grower?

Web Banners are now available from the office to add to your website which can be linked directly to the BC Organic Grower subscription page. This is a great way to support the BC Organic Grower and spread the word. Please contact Sarah at [admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca) for more information.



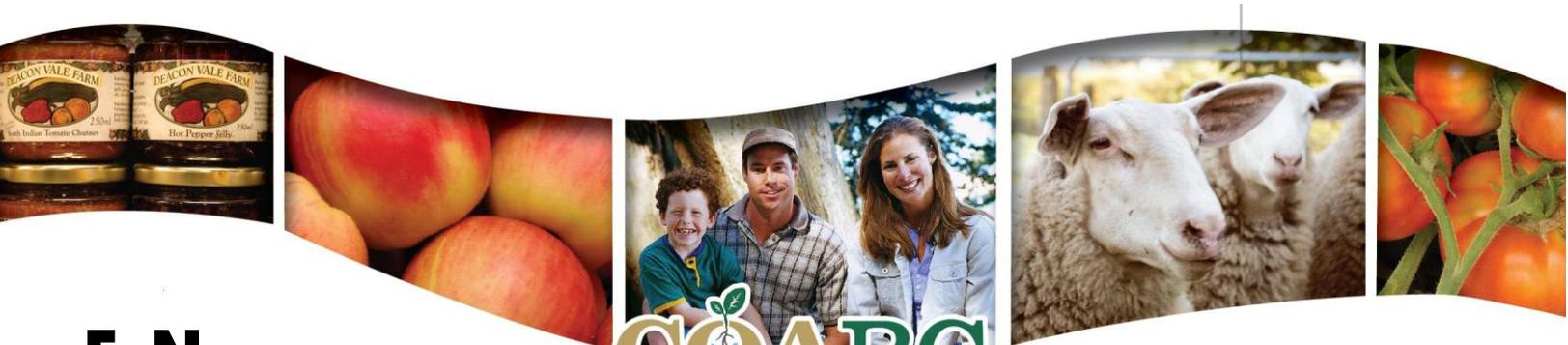
### Food Safety Systems Implementation (Producer) Program and the Enterprise Infrastructure Traceability Program

Application forms and guides for the Food Safety Systems Implementation (Producer) Program and the Enterprise Infrastructure Traceability Program are available for use. You can find them on our website ([www.ardcorp.ca](http://www.ardcorp.ca)).

### CGSB Tech Committee

The CGSB Tech Committee members have received the extensive official minutes (13 documents - see below) from the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Cornwall in January.

- (1) --[Agenda english final.doc](#) (66 KB)
- (2) --[Minutes 10th meeting - Final.doc](#) (1091 KB) These are from the previous meeting.
- (3) --[5.1 -- Membership Matrix -2010-01-14.xls](#) (89 KB)
- (4) --[5.2 -- Working Group & Task Group Membership \(2010-01-12\).xls](#) (41 KB)
- (5) --[6.1 -- 32 310--Processing - Transformation1.doc](#) (150 KB)
- (6) --[6.2 -- 32-311--General.doc HTML](#) (28 KB)
- (7) --[6.3 -- 32-311--Processing - Transformation.doc](#) (279 KB)



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- (8) --6.4 -- 32.310--Livestock - Animaux élevage1.doc (393 KB)
- (9) --6.5 -- 32-311--Livestock - Animaux élevage.doc (103 KB)
- (10) --6.6 -- 32.310--Crops- Cultures1.doc (138 KB)
- (11) --6.7 -- 32.310--Maple - Érable.doc (165 KB)
- (12) --6.8 -- 32-311--Crops - Cultures.doc (184 KB)
- (13) [Minutes 11th meeting final.doc](#) (1180 KB)

## Organic Federation of Canada

### Canadian National Standards

**Standards Interpretation Committee** – The SIC’s response to the first round of interpretation questions will be posted on the COO website soon for a 60-day comment period. The sector will be advised through the usual channels (OFC, COG, OTA and other distribution lists). If negative feedback is expressed by stakeholders, the question will go back to the SIC to ensure uniformity and consistency. Once consensus is obtained, interpretation becomes official. A lack of consensus on one issue will not hold up the entire process. Issues that have consensus will be posted. To avoid contravening equivalency agreements, the SIC’s recommendations will be submitted to countries that have an agreement with Canada. The World Trade Organization is not notified when interpretative statements are published. Over time, the approved recommendations of the SIC will form a growing body of guidance on interpretive questions posed by the organic sector. The COG Guidance document will not receive the official approval of the SIC and should not be considered an authoritative document. A public statement to this effect will be issued by the COO.

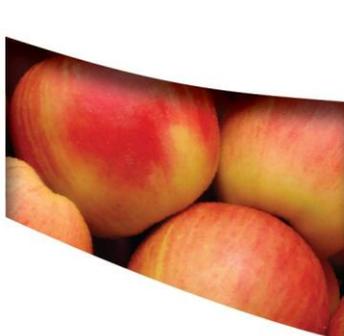
### International

**EU Regulation** – Michel could not attend BioFach in Germany but a proxy from AAFC met with EU officials. The news is positive; the variances submitted to the EU by Canada have been accepted by EU members; this is a green light that allows for the next forward step: verification of each party’s certification system that will probably be completed by May. In the meantime, and while negotiations are progressing, EU products are covered by the Stream of Commerce Policy and actually accepted on the Canadian market.

**Canada-US Equivalency Agreement** – The COO had a meeting in December with NOP representatives, which resulted in the COO submitting a list of action items for NOP approval. But the minutes of that meeting have not been approved by the NOP and the COO has to wait for that approval before notifying the sector about the items that were discussed. The status quo prevails until new directives are issued. The agenda of the December meeting included a wide variety of items such as terms of reference, protocols, exemptions to the arrangement, the production of maple syrup and the administration of the program (certification, export certificates, list of NOP ACAs outside of US, use of logos and claims and communication strategy).

The new NOP pasture rule will be submitted to the TC for comment so that the COO can assess its impact on the agreement. The US comment period for this new pasture rule is over but the WTO has received notification of the new rule and Canada can comment at that level. Wally comments that the Canadian livestock standards are becoming less stringent while the US is tightening up its standards. The TC will compare standards and discuss the issue to determine whether it creates a variance. Ted Zettel asks if critical variances apply to processed products; the NOP was not clear about that but then said that its directive to the US sector was an error. But the industry is processing on the base of that miscommunication. The COO awaits clarification on that important issue while Canadian and US CBs bump heads and make decisions that are contrary to each other.

Since the list of NOP ACAs certifying outside the US is not published, operators should require that imported products be certified to the COS. At the same time, those products are temporarily covered by the Stream of Commerce Policy.



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## Post a comment on the OFC blog.

Current proposals to amend the Canadian Organic Standards and PSL are clearly catching the attention of the Canadian sector: 1088 visitors have accessed the OFC blog on parallel production (<http://ofcabc.wordpress.com/2010/02/16/parallel-production/>) and 45 of them have issued comments. Voting members of the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture are invited to review the comments.

For this reason, the OFC Board of Directors decided to solicit your opinion on a second contentious issue: The volume of grain fed to slaughter animals in the finishing or fattening phase, and for how long. Do you agree with the proposal that feed rations could be "up to 50% grain for up to 10% of the life of the animal?"

We invite you to visit the OFC blog <http://ofcabc.wordpress.com> and to post your comments, since the standards concern us all.

## Organic Trade Association

The **Organic Trade Association in Canada** is undertaking, with support from **Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriMarketing Program**, a project to prepare a long-term international strategy for the Canadian organic sector and our organic export products.

The "O~Canada" strategy will detail:

- what markets we will target for coordinated branding, marketing strategies, trade show pavilions and marketing campaigns;
- what markets we will identify for future fact-finding; approaches to branding; and prioritizing of specific commodities within specific markets.

**PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY:** <http://www.ota.com/otacanada/export.html>

Your participation in this survey will have a profound impact on how we direct the next five-years of support for Canadian organic exporters and capacity-building at home. This support could include, but is not limited to:

- targeted marketing campaigns at the retail level,
- cost-sharing of trade show attendance/exhibiting,
- coordination of trade show pavilions,
- gathering of foreign market data and intelligence,
- fact-finding missions,
- incoming-buyer missions,
- web-based profiling of Canadian organic products and marketing campaigns,
- mentorship and educational activities for Canadian exporters, etc.

Your participation is truly appreciated: your answers will help us find new markets for Canadian organic products -- which will support growing organic agriculture here at home!

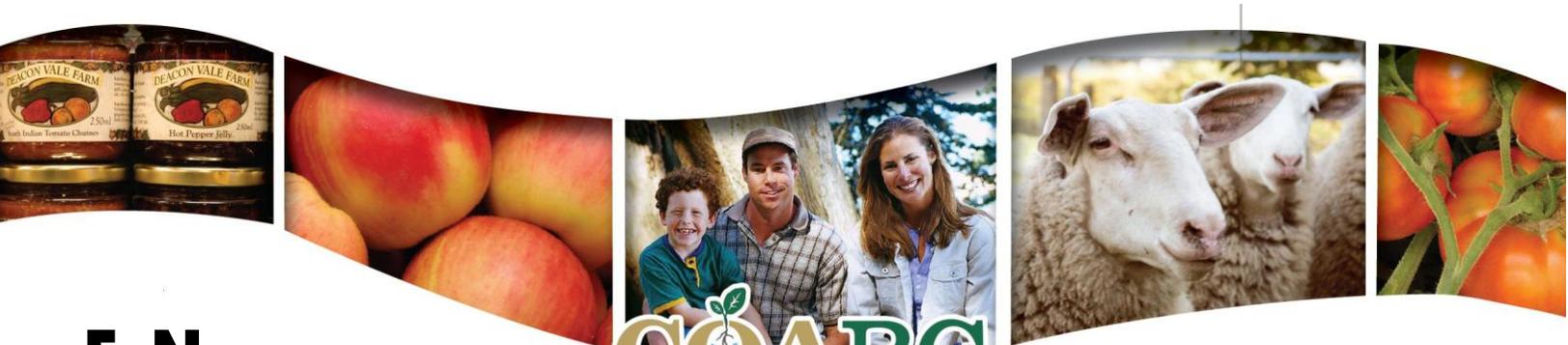
## Seasonal Workers from Mexico and BC producers: a win-win situation

From Liliane Loya: speaker at the COABC conference.

### **Did you know...**

- BC ag industry joined the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program with Mexico in 2004
- Over 300 BC producers and growers participated in Mexico's SAWP in 2009.
- Workers from Mexico have valuable skills in ornamental and food agriculture.

Since 1974 the Mexico -Canada Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program has provided a supplementary source of reliable and qualified seasonal labour for Canada's growing agricultural industry.



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Through the partnership between producers and Mexico's workers, BC's agricultural industry has been effective in overcoming market challenges. Each year thousands of Mexican workers are employed from two to up to eight months in farms, vineyards, greenhouses and nurseries across the province.

## **Why has SAWP been successful?**

First and foremost, participating workers come from agricultural areas of Mexico, and share with their Canadian employers a strong work ethics. Experience with their crops allows an easy transition to the Canadian way of practicing agriculture. Workers also value the opportunity to learn on-the-job skills.

Return of the same workers to participating companies is supported by Mexico's Ministry of Labour; currently close to 80% of participating SAWP workers has traveled back to Canada, based on employer's request and worker's consent.

## **Who screens and recruits?**

Mexico's Ministry of Labour ("STPS") carries out the task through its 160 employment centers across the country. The processing of applications is provided at no cost either to the employer or the worker. Paperwork follow-up includes:

- Follow-up on employer's request made through Service Canada and Interview of candidates
- Work permit & visa application filing with the Immigration Office at Canadian Consulate in Mexico.
- Medical exam (providers are certified by Canada's health authorities)
- Worker orientation (information sessions for workers including what to expect about working in Canada, good health practices, basic farm safety, etc.)
- Logistics for worker departure and arrival
- Follow-up on performance evaluation

## **Your investment**

For a detailed description of all expenses, please refer to the terms and conditions of the *BC SAWP contract*, available at [http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign\\_workers/contracts-forms/sawpmcbc2010.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/contracts-forms/sawpmcbc2010.shtml).

The following list summarizes the main requirements and associated expenses:

- Air & ground transportation Mexico-Vancouver to your work site.
- Vancouver- Mexico air fare at the end of work duties or end of contract.
- Housing is required to meet guidelines and be inspected.
- Meals or cooking facilities for the workers.
- Advance payment for the workers' to acquire (deducted via payroll):
  - o Health Insurance
  - o Work permit and visa fee

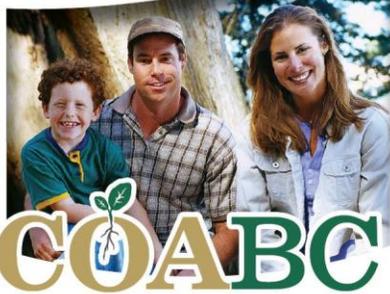
The bi-national agreement between Mexico and Canada establishes that equal rights and obligations apply for both Mexican and Canadian workers. Therefore, deductions such as income tax, CPP, EI and Workers Compensation apply.

## **Shared cost**

- \$ 550.00 for accommodation is deducted via payroll at 7% until the end of the contract (details provided in SAWP's guidelines)

## **How to participate**

Review the Program Fact Sheet on Mexico's Seasonal Agricultural Workers on HRSDC's website: [http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign\\_workers/ei\\_tfw/sawp\\_tfw.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/ei_tfw/sawp_tfw.shtml). HRSDC will ask employers to demonstrate that efforts to recruit local workers have been made. Specific questions may be addressed to Service Canada Agricultural Foreign Temporary Workers Unit at 1-866-431-7297. For additional information about the screening and recruitment process conducted by STPS (Mexico's Ministry of Labour), you may contact STPS Labour Liaison Office in Ottawa by phone: 613-233-8988 extension 2251, or by email: [liliane.loya@stps.gob.mx](mailto:liliane.loya@stps.gob.mx), or the Consulate in Vancouver at 604-684-7617.



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## CanadaGAP to offer two new certification options

OTTAWA – The CanadaGAP On-Farm Food Safety Program – which currently offers three different certification options for producers, storage intermediaries and packers enrolled in the program – is set to offer **two additional options** beginning April 1, 2010.

The full list of options includes:

- Option A1 – formerly called “Option A”
- Option A2 – **NEW**
- Option A3 – **NEW**
- Option B
- Option C

For more information about each option, please visit our website at <http://www.canadagap.ca/en/becoming-certified/certification-options.aspx>.

### ABOUT THE NEW CERTIFICATION OPTIONS

#### **Option A2: for Individual Companies**

Option A2 is similar to the previously available CanadaGAP Certification Option “A” (which will be renamed Option A1). For a facility to be certified to the program in the first year the operator must successfully complete a full on-site audit. Annually for the next three (3) years, the operator completes a self-declaration and self-assessment checklist and submits it to the Certification Body. Randomly selected farms will be chosen for an on-site audit during Years 2, 3, 4.

**What is different about Option A2?** If a program participant is selected for a random audit, the scheduled audit date will be extended to four years from the **random** audit date. (In Option A1, scheduled audits occur every four years regardless of whether a random audit has occurred.)

The variable four-year cycle could result in audit cost savings to producers enrolled in Option A2.

#### **Option A3: Group Certification**

Option A3 combines Group Certification with elements of the four-year audit cycle.

Similar to the existing Group Certification Option B, producers can be certified to the CHC OFFS Program by organizing themselves as a Group and running their own food safety management system. The Group’s internal audit programme must cover all member sites over a four-year period. Certified members must submit self-declarations and self-assessment checklists to the Group Management in the intervening years. Every three years, the Group must undergo a third-party (Certification Body) audit of the Group Management System, including sampling of central sites and internally audited members.

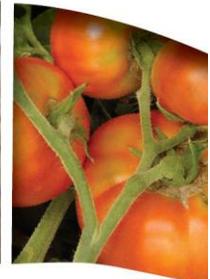
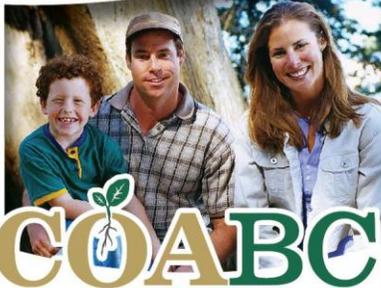
The new certification options were created at the request of some customers in the domestic market. Before enrolling in CanadaGAP and choosing a certification option, **it is important that producers and packers check with their customer(s)** to confirm acceptance of the various CanadaGAP certification options.

## CHC OFFS Manuals updated on Canada GAP website

We are pleased to announce that all of the CHC’s six commodity-specific On-Farm Food Safety (OFFS) Manuals have been updated for 2010, and are available for download at:

[www.canadagap.ca/en/tools/off-manualdownloads.aspx](http://www.canadagap.ca/en/tools/off-manualdownloads.aspx)

Commodity	Updated Version Number
Combined Vegetable	4.0
Greenhouse	4.0



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Leafy Vegetable and Cruciferae	4.0
Potato	5.2
Small Fruit	4.0
Tree and Vine Fruit	4.1
Appendices	4.1

Documents showing revisions to the manuals from previous versions are also available.

All of the updated manuals were approved in January 2010 by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency as part of the ongoing process to maintain their technically reviewed status.

If you do not have the CHC member password for COABC please contact Kristy at [office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

## 2011 Nuffield Farming Scholarship Applications Open

(Innisfail, AB – March 3, 2010) The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust is accepting applications for their 2011 program. Applications are due by April 30, 2010 and forms can be downloaded from the Nuffield Canada website at <http://www.nuffield.ca>.

Nuffield Farming Scholarships are awarded to enthusiastic individuals, between the ages of 25 and 45, who wish to explore topics of their choice in agriculture, land management, horticulture or the food chain. Three scholarships of \$15,000 each are available for 2011.

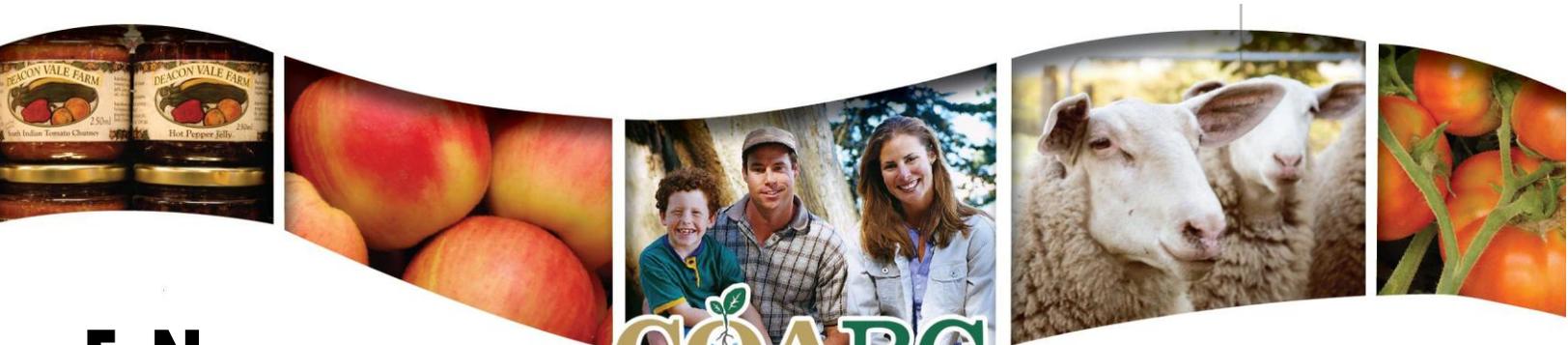
"The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship provides innovative Canadians with the funding to travel internationally to expand their personal horizons while exploring agricultural issues and opportunities in a global context," said Barry Cudmore, Chair and 2004 Scholar. "We are focused on developing the practical, managerial and commercial capacities of each scholar to enable them to be better farmers and business managers and to make a significant contribution to the future of Canadian agriculture."

The scholarships are awarded to men and women who are judged to have the greatest potential to create value for themselves, their industries and their communities through the doors which will be opened and the opportunities provided for life-long learning and improvement. The scholarships are awarded on the strength of the applicants' vision, enthusiasm and determination to pursue their farming goals.

A Nuffield Farming scholarship is a life changing experience. Scholars receive a 'golden key' to the best production, management and marketing systems in every corner of the world. In addition to embracing the 'world's best' in agriculture, scholars gain life-long friends form around the world, and a deep understanding, and global perspective, of the politics, cultures and challenges of world agriculture.

A key part of the scholarship is the opportunity for winners to study a topic of interest to themselves through out their travels. Scholars must complete their project within two years of the award and are required to travel and study for a minimum of two months in total. On return from their study tour, Scholars are expected to produce a written report and present their findings at the annual general meeting as well as to others in their industries.

Canadian Nuffield Scholars are also required to participate in the Contemporary Scholars Conference (CSC) where they will meet with scholars from other countries including the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and France to exchange ideas and experiences, and join a network of people who are at the cutting edge of primary industry. The 2011 conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.



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Applications must be received by April 30, 2010. Application forms are available from the Nuffield website

[www.nuffield.ca](http://www.nuffield.ca)

For more information on Nuffield Canada, visit [www.nuffield.ca](http://www.nuffield.ca) or on Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust (the United Kingdom site) – [www.nuffieldscholar.org](http://www.nuffieldscholar.org).

For more information: Rod Bradshaw, Secretary, Nuffield Canada, [secretary@nuffield.ca](mailto:secretary@nuffield.ca) (403) 224 2633

## ONGOING

### BC Organic Grower looking for farmers to profile

Spring Gillard the author of the most 2 recent and finest BCOG Farmer Profiles ever seen is looking for a subject for at least the next edition. In fact she has some precise requirements particularly “a male farmer (my last two were women), possibly blueberries or other berries or fruit, could be milk or eggs too. Fraser Valley, Island(s), Kootenays, Peace, Caribou.” Probably wouldn’t hurt to have a few as future suggestions too, so the more suggestions the merrier.

Contact Spring at [gardnhrt@shaw.ca](mailto:gardnhrt@shaw.ca)

### COABC List Serve Archive

The COABC Listserve has a searchable archive. <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/listarchive/search.php>

Just enter in a search word(s) and all postings with your search term will be listed. Click on the posting and your search term will be highlighted in red within that posting. Archive now includes any attachments sent.

### Reminder – shipping in and out of Province

For certified organic operators who wish to ship outside the province (nationally or internationally) don’t forget that you now must be certified under under ISO rather than the provincial BC certified organic program.

### Sponsorship Program

Who do you connect with in your daily life that may be interested in sponsoring the COABC? Health professionals, organisations that want to make an environmentally friendly statement, distributors etc...If you or a contact is interested in supporting the COABC contact Sarah Clark at [admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca) or (250) 260-4429.

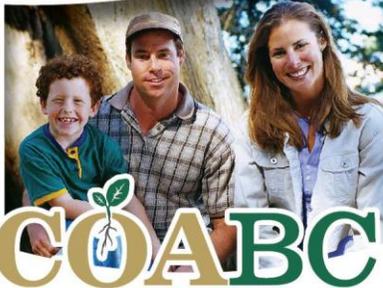
### Survey Monkey and Agriwebinar

COABC Extension Services is offering its Survey Monkey <http://www.surveymonkey.com/> (professional version) and Agriwebinar c <http://www.agriwebinar.com/> apacity to Certification Bodies and Grower Groups. If there is a survey you would like to conduct or a webinar you would like to offer get in with Rochelle Eisen [extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca) or 250.499.2413. All reasonable requests will be supported; cost recovery for webinar support will be necessary.

## INTERESTING

### IOPA launches new website for organic farmers on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands

Vancouver Island, BC -March 2010- The Islands Organic Producers Association announces the official launch of [www.farmbase.ca](http://www.farmbase.ca), an online community resource for organic growers and growers interested in organic practices. IOPA is a non-profit association of organic growers on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Our central mandate is to maintain written standards for organic farming in this bioregion; to administer a fair and strict process to assess the



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operations of organic growers; and to award certified organic status to those who qualify. We also work to promote and strengthen the organic movement locally and to establish a cooperative relationship among organic growers.

To further satisfy our mission and mandate we felt the need for an online database full of information for farmers that was relevant and user friendly. Farmbase was created in 2009 by IOPA in order to provide web based information to farmers on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The purpose of this site is to offer the information most sought after by farmers who use organic methods in this bioregion.

Our farmer-researchers polled farmers to determine what they most wanted to know and then they gathered - and continue to update - this information in an online database. A computer programmer then designed an interface specifically for this content so you can quickly and easily find what you are looking for. We've focused on providing answers to the most commonly-asked questions.

Farmbase.ca has many special features and we have worked hard to make this site accurate and effective. Please take a little time to explore [www.farmbase.ca](http://www.farmbase.ca) and help us improve it by letting us know of changes you would like to see.

**Farmbase is a free community resource open for all to use.**

## EVENTS

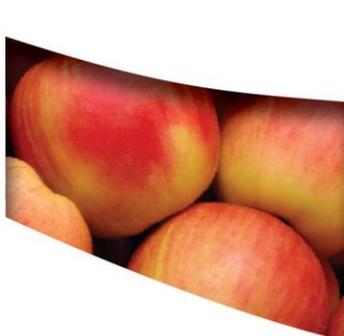
### Upcoming Webinars which may be interesting

#### **Rotational Grazing Basics Webinar with Rachel Gilker and Jenn Colby, UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture**

April 8, 2010 at 7 p.m. Eastern Time (4pm Pacific) coordinated by the UVM Extension New Farmer Project

*Join Rachel Gilker and Jenn Colby of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture's Pasture Program for a practical primer on pasturing. Jenn and Rachel will outline rotational grazing fundamentals for success, including soil testing, plant growth, grazing infrastructure, animal behavior and calculating pasture forage for your animals.* Rachel Gilker is the Pasture Program Coordinator at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. She works with livestock farmers around the state to support and improve their use of grass-based farming. Jenn Colby is the Outreach Coordinator for the Pasture Program at the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. She coordinates the annual VT Grazing Conference, and organizes pasture-based educational activities around the state. The goal of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture's Pasture Program is to promote and enhance sustainable grass-based livestock farming through improvements in soil, water and forage quality and profitability by working with farmers and other partners to provide research, information, educational opportunities (including grazing workshops and the Vermont Grazing Conference), and technical support.

Newcomers to online learning are welcome. All you need to participate is internet access and a computer that you can hear sound through.



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To participate, please go to <http://tinyurl.com/GrazingBasics> at about 6:45 pm Eastern time on April 8, 2010. For more information, contact [newfarmer@uvm.edu](mailto:newfarmer@uvm.edu) or call 802-223-2389x203. If you require accommodations to participate in this program, please let Mary Peabody know by April 5 at 802-223-2389 or 1-866-860-1382 (toll-free in Vt.) or [mary.peabody@uvm.edu](mailto:mary.peabody@uvm.edu) so we may assist you.

If you have not participated in a webinar before, we recommend you download the necessary software for free the day before the webinar is scheduled at <http://www.elluminate.com/support/index.jsp>.

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## **The Economics of Organic Dairy Farming in New England, by Bob Parsons, U of Vermont**

April 13 at 12PM Eastern Time (11AM CT, 10AM MT, 9AM PT)

Reserve your free eOrganic Webinar Seat Now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/204564729>

Over the past ten years, organic dairy production has been the fastest growing sector of the U.S. organic market. What does the financial performance of organic dairy farming in New England look like, particularly in an economy where organic feed prices and fuel prices are high and where today's economic crisis is putting tremendous financial strain on all dairy farms, including organic dairies? University of Vermont agricultural economist Bob Parsons will address the economics of organic dairy farming in New England, based on 5 years of farm financial data.

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## **Estimating Plant-Available Nitrogen Contribution from Cover Crops, by Nick Andrews and Dan Sullivan, Oregon State University**

Reserve your Webinar Seat Now at: <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/660156208>

April 13, 2010 at 2PM Eastern Time (1PM CT, 12PM MT, 11AM PT)

Learn how to estimate how to estimate the quantity of plant-available Nitrogen provided by decomposition of winter cover crop residues. Learn how to use the OSU Cover Crop Calculator to make site-specific predictions of how much organic fertilizer (and money) are saved by judicious use of cover crops in diversified vegetable cropping systems.

## **IAF Offers Free Workshop**

In conjunction with the IAF annual general meeting on April 27, 2010 in Abbotsford, we are pleased to offer a free two-part workshop for the agriculture and agri-food community. Seating is limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment.

### *The Future of the Family Farm*

An informative session on intergenerational farming, family farming and succession planning with Reg Shandro, a professional agrologist, farm adviser and consultant from Alberta. In cooperation with Farm Credit Canada.

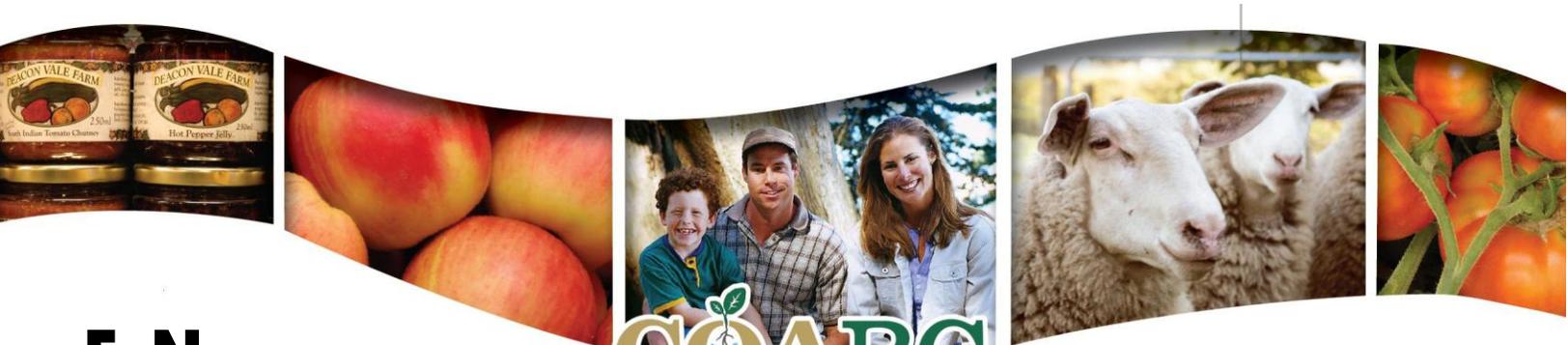
### *Retailing Demystified*

Stay for lunch and find out what former Thrifty Foods senior executive Alex Campbell Jr. has to say about connecting local food suppliers to grocery retailers and consumers.

When April 27, 2010

Time 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where Ramada Plaza & Conference Centre, 36035 North Parallel Road, Abbotsford, BC [room] Pinnacle 2



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## Apple Festival 2010

Apple Luscious Organic Orchard [appleluscious.com](http://appleluscious.com) shows most of the Apple Festival 2010 information.

Event Date: Sunday, Oct 3, 2010



## DON'T FORGET

### Newsletters for supporting organizations

The COABC is a member of the BC Agriculture Council under the Community Agriculture seat. Take a read of their monthly newsletter at [http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page\\_id=2](http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2)

The COABC Board of Directors has representation from the BCSPCA. Find out what is happening at the BCSPCA at <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/news-and-events/newsletters/>

### COABC Membership benefits:

- A copy of the BC Organic Grower magazine – four times per year
- The Cyberhelp website, <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/> a source of information to help you daily in your work.
- The COABC website – from certification information, listing of all producers, general information about organics, educational information, research information and projects, the amazingly valuable COABC list serve and more
- Use of the Checkmark logo – the recognized mark of certified organic in BC
- Access to the Checkmark logo promotional materials
- Accreditation services
- Promotion of the Organic sector and its role at the Pacific Ag Show and at AG Day in Victoria with government representatives and additional events such as Ag in the City or Feast of Fields Okanagan.
- A say at the table of the Organic Federation of Canada (the national body representing organics in Canada) and the BC Agricultural Council
- Access to Food Safety manuals from the Canadian Horticultural Council
- Supporting the mandates and activities of IFOAM and COG
- Access to educational opportunities focused on BC's needs through the COABC Conference and Events such as the COABC Fall webinar series.
- Unified voice in the public forum
- Professional support, information and communication

### Got an Organic Question?

Try **Cyber-help** <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html> or contact Rochelle Eisen, BC's organic extension agent at [extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

**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.**