



E-News



April 2011

WHAT'S NEW

2011 COABC CONFERENCE "THE NEXT GENERATION"

The conference was a great success. Approximately 200 participants gathered in Sidney from March 4th – 6th, 2011 to attend sessions, participate in discussions and network. The conference aimed to educate, promote communication and create community for the organic sector. By bringing together diverse people, organizations and businesses to focus on organic issues, the capacity of our sector expands. The conference is a unique opportunity to build the organic community and reaching beyond our sector adds to our resilience. Thank you to everyone who attended and to all the dedicated volunteers and organizers.

The **Founders Award** is an annual presentation given to an individual to recognize their significant contribution to the success of the COABC. At the AGM it was announced that Linda Edwards was this year's recipient. Linda has put countless time and energy into the organization. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Linda.

The conference also marked a significant turn over for the COABC executive. Brad Reid (President), Carmen Wakeling (Vice President) and Susan Snow (Treasurer) all ended their terms. The time and thought that these members have put into creating a prosperous COABC is greatly appreciated. Their input will be missed but their energy will now shift into creating an active COABC Capacity Committee.

Finally, welcome to our new executive. Mary Forstbauer, the sole continuing member of the previous executive, has taken on the President's job and will provide much needed continuity. The members who have volunteered their time to serve on the executive, include Kris Chand (Vice President), Rob Horricks (Treasurer), Annie Moss (Co-Secretary) and Rebecca Kneen (Co-Secretary). COABC can look forward to a great year with strong leadership.

ONGOING

Newsletters for supporting organizations

Every month the COABC receives newsletters from organizations with related interests or with whom we are members. So as not to repeat everything written, take a moment to read their newsletters.

- **BC Agriculture Council** COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat.
http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2
- **BCSPCA** http://support.sPCA.bc.ca/site/MessageViewer?em_id=3081.0&dlv_id=6581
- **OFC** <http://organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/Infobio%20March%202011%20en.pdf>



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"WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?" BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Are you familiar with the green "What is Organic Farming" booklet? The booklet is now available on our website as a downloadable resource. On the Education page under the Marketing Toolkit tab there are a number of tools and resources available to help members.

COMPLAINTS SUBMISSION FORM

Canada Organic Office complaint submission form can be found at <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php>
For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php>
Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca.

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.

INTERESTING

GM ALFALFA

The CBAN website has coverage, weekly updated, of the motion for a moratorium on GM Alfalfa. The vote has been delayed in the Agriculture Committee and with the fall of the government it may get lost in the shuffle. You can find more information and easy letters to send to the committee and your representatives at <http://www.cban.ca/>.

RAISING FOOD COSTS

Over the last few months food costs have been rising. These are three interesting articles posted to the Food Secure Canada listserv about the causes and impacts of the increase.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/investment-ideas/features/taking-stock/soaring-commodity-prices-at-mercy-of-demand-from-speculators/article1940329/>

<https://secure.globeadvisor.com/servlet/ArticleNews/story/gam/20110314/RBLOOKAHEADCPI0314ATL>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/e-zines/investor-all-stars/how-investors-can-harvest-gains-from-agriculture/article1939122/>

BC Ag CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE

COABC members have been invited to participate in the BC Agriculture Adaptation Risk & Opportunity Assessment. There will be a series of interviews followed by a round of focus groups in the late summer and fall. Focus groups participants will be identified by April/May, if you are interested in participating please let the COABC office know. For more information about this initiative read their project introduction at

<http://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/wp/wp-content/media/CAI-handout-Adapt-Risk-Opp.pdf>

Project Contact: Emily MacNair, Emily@BCAgClimateAction.ca



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EVENTS

ORGANIC FARMING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA: AGM

Date: April 5, 2011 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)

Location: Cawston Hall, 2119 Main St, Cawston

You are cordially invited to come take part in a discussion with Dag Falck on: *“GMOs / Nanotechnology / Natural” and Organic Culture.*

With the introduction of GMO alfalfa and wheat looming on the horizon, the ever growing but undisclosed presence of nanotechnology in our daily lives, along with the seemingly indiscriminate use of “Natural” on soup to nuts, Organic food appears to be being bombarded with some major challenges. Is this really true? Is Organic faltering? Or is this the fate of a sector finding its place in the current world order?

GRAFTING AND PRUNING WORKSHOP

Date: Saturday April 9th, 2011, 9:00am – 4:00pm

Location: Foxglove Farm, Salt Spring Island, BC

Registration: online at <http://www.foxglovefarmbc.ca/programs/program-descriptions-2011/#grafting>

Instructors: **Harry Burton and Michael Ableman**

Cost: \$95 + HST (includes lunch)

Grafting and pruning are often viewed with a sense of mystery. How do you place a small stem from one fruiting plant onto the rootstock of another and encourage them to fuse and produce a totally different fruit? How do you know, amidst a tangle of branches, which ones to cut and which to leave? This course will move through the mystery and provide clear instruction in specific grafting and pruning techniques and how they can be applied to a range of fruiting trees. The day will be divided between instruction and hands-on practice, providing each participant with the opportunity to try some of the techniques that have been taught.

WHOLE FOODS MARKET MEAT & POULTRY VENDOR SEMINAR

Date: April 28 2011 8:30 am - 4 pm

Location: Museum of Vancouver 1100 Chestnut St., Vancouver, BC

Registration deadline: April 23, 2011

Contact: Denise Breyley, Regional Local Forager, denise.breyley@wholefoods.com

This **Free** One-Day Seminar for Meat is for Farmers and Ranchers raising beef, pork, lamb, poultry, turkey, duck, or geese who are interested in learning about the opportunity to do business with Whole Foods Market. Lunch will be provided but attendees are asked to handle their own travel arrangements and costs. Please register online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/WFMseminarBC> by April 23, 2011.



DON'T FORGET

Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>

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.