

COABC: Keeping You Up-to-Date

Prepared by Karen Fenske, Administrator ♦ Aug 28th, 2008

What's New

- ✓ OMRI reports to certifiers any product names removed from the OMRI Products List within ten days of their removal. The following products have either been added to or removed from the OMRI Products List
 - Added as of June 08 - Prestop (PCP# 28820) a biological fungicide registered for "the Suppression of Soil-Borne and Foliar Diseases on Greenhouse Vegetables, Herbs and Ornamentals"
 - Dropped, Earthwise Organics Growers' Blend by Earthwise Organics, LLC. in Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments
 - Dropped, Peaco Organic Potting Soil by Peaco Peat Moss & Soils in Crop Management Tools and Production Aids
- ✓ PMRA Label Expansions as of Aug 08
 - OMRI listed Entrust 80W Naturalyte Insect Control Product PCP #27825 (spinosad) now can be used for the suppression of Western Flower Thrips on Nectarines.
 - OMRI listed Bloomtime Biological FD Biopesticide PCP # 28436 used to control fireblight in apples and pears, now can be used on blackberry, raspberry, non-bearing pome fruit (nursery).
- ✓ There is some talk of a collaborative project (COG, OTA and IOIA) that would provide training to the new standard specifically for VOs and various other interested parties. The drivers of the project will be notified of the funding by November. I will keep you posted.
- ✓ Canadian Organic Office Update
 - The amended **regulation** is not yet ready but should be shortly. Consultation with key people in sector across the country is being organized. It is the regulation which will give CFIA the authority to demand compliance to the Canada Organic Standard for interprovincial and international trade.
 - Final design of the **logo** has not been decided.
 - Third ballot results were positive with minor revisions needed. Once done a revised interim version of the **Standard** will be published. This version will not include the fourth ballot results, as the meetings to generate this fourth ballot have not even taken place yet.
 - A **stream of commerce** policy generated by sector representatives outlining a planned enforcement strategy which will help maintain uninterrupted commerce through a period of adjustment during the initial implementation phase has been sent to CFIA Legal Services for approval.
 - COO has been completing accreditation of **foreign accreditors** and believes by the date of implementation 61 of the 63 countries they have identified as shipping product to Canada will have Canada-approved certification.
 - **Gap analysis** has been completed on both the Canada-EU standards as well as the Canada-US standards and discussions are taking place on how to equitably address the difference.
 - The **Canadian Border Services Agency** will not be verifying organic certification on shipments until the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is ready.
 - There will be a consultation on **bulk shipment labeling requirements** for produce shortly.
 - Organic Federation of Canada website <http://www.organicfederation.ca/html-en/info-bio.html>

Prepared by Rochelle Eisen on behalf of the COABC's COR committee

- The Canadian Food Inspection Agency will be holding consultations on the amended Organic Products Regulations next week. Those who have been active on the regulatory developments or are familiar with regulatory development will attend. Following this pre-publication consultation, the amended regulations will be published in Gazette I, followed by a public comment period before final ratification as law (in Gazette II). *Prepared by OFC*
- ✓ You have an opportunity to be apart of a **comprehensive searchable database** which allows people to search for local food wherever they live across the country. It is part of FoodTV's documentary series project about the 100 Mile Diet. You will be highlighted as certified organic. If you are interested please contact Jeff Nield of FarmFolk/CityFolk Society, Vancouver. Toll-free in BC: 1-888-730-0452 Email: jwnield@ffcf.bc.ca.
- ✓ **Environmental Farm Planning Update** You may not be aware that the BC Agricultural Council has managed to secure extra funding for farm projects under the Environmental Farm Planning Program. The COABC administers this program for our members through an agreement with the BCAC. If you are planning to build a deer fence around your garden, plant windbreaks or buffers, build compost facilities or fuel storage facilities you should consider securing funding for this activity through the Organic EFP Program. An organic EFP Planning Advisor will visit your farm, assist you to complete your Environmental Farm Plan, and further assist you to apply for funding for projects you might like to undertake (identified in your Environmental Farm Plan). Organic Planning Advisors are currently receiving Biodiversity training under the EFP. As organic farmers, we would all benefit from some assistance to indentify areas where we can increase the biodiversity on our farms. To have an Organic EFP Planning Advisory contact you please contact Paddy Doherty paddy@quesnelbc.com or call 250-7473287.
- ✓ Outbreak of Fusarium Basal Rot in garlic has been reported in the Similkaneen Valley. If you have an organic control method please share this knowledge or if you are experiencing the problem do contact Ted Leischner bcted1@yahoo.ca 250-457-0288
- ✓ **News on Growing Forward:** On July 11, 2008, federal and provincial Ministers of Agriculture confirmed \$1.3 billion annually in funding for the multi-lateral framework for Growing Forward programs. The agreement addresses the priorities illustrated by each of the provinces, namely, the environment, innovation, advisory services, safety, traceability, and identification of Canadian products. CAIS is replaced with a new suite of stable and bankable programs that are built on ideas put forward by producers - Agri-invest, Agri-stability, Agri-insurance, and Agri-recovery. Much attention will be paid to flexibility. Supply management was included in the agreement as a risk management program, as well as a definition of its pillars. This is a step forward, both in terms of transparency and process.

In the Works

- The Small Scale Food Processors Association has been contracted to deliver a Food Safety Initiative (FSI) program offering education and funding to food processors in BC for 2008-09. There are three distinct types of support; go to <http://www.ssfpa.net/fsi/fsi.htm> for complete details.
- **February 21, 22 & 23, 2009** COABC Conference & AGM in Abbotsford. More information to be announced.

Events

Check the COABC Events page for more details: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/events/events.php>

- **Sunday September 28, 2008 Farm Tour - Hartwood North Farm**, Armstrong & Pilgrim's Produce, Armstrong. These market garden farms will be hosting Timothy Miller, weed control specialist from USDA in Washington. He will also talk about some of the results from our vegetable trials, results from

various trials on various organic products, as well as reporting on some other work by organic researchers here in WA (tree fruit, berries, high tunnels). COABC funded European Gall Mite Field Bindweed Study will also be discussed at Hartwood North Farm. Day begins at Pilgrim's Produce and finishes at Hartwood North with a pot luck dinner. Tour begins at noon at Pilgrim's Produce. Please confirm with the office at 250-540-2557 prior to the tour.

- **Sunday, Sept 28, 2008, 9 AM to 5 PM** The **10th Annual Salt Spring Island Apple Festival**, Growing over 350 varieties of apples organically. Fulford Hall plus 15 farms. A chance to visit Apple Heaven while still on earth! <http://www.saltspringmarket.com/apples/>
- **October 28 and December 2, 2008** **The Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada's Organic Agriculture Symposium: Fundamentals for Professionals Webinar**. Oct 28 will provide an introduction to organic agriculture, including production economics, marketing, regulations, certification and standards. Day two will provide information on organic production, including horticulture, grains, and livestock. Regional locations are being set up across the country where you can attend and network with other local agricultural professionals. All the presentations will also be broadcast live online in both French and English. Visit <http://www.oacc.info/symposia/welcome.asp> for updates.
- **November 26/27** The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia Foundation and AAFC are delivering a two-day **Value Chain Workshop** for producers and processors who are not part of a value chain yet. There will be 2 modules presented this fall and 4 more in 2009.
- **You Are Invited To Eat BC!** Registration is now open at www.eatbc.com and includes opportunities for restaurants, farms, processors, grocery stores, hotels, distributors and much, much more! A new province-wide Eat BC! passport program encourage consumers to choose BC foods and beverages at participating Eat BC! Establishments all year long. For more information about Eat BC! please phone Jaclyn Laic at 604-575-4944 or by e-mail, jaclyn@dccnet.com.

Keep In Mind

- Do you need **plastic bags with the Checkmark logo on them**? We have large labeled bags 10lb capacity (11"x27.5") for a **BLOWOUT price: 250 bags for \$12 plus s/h or 1000bags for \$40 plus s/h**. See COABC website for a picture. Regular plastic produce bags will be available in 2009 however with rising costs the new price will be over \$40 per 1000 bags. 
- Food For Thought <http://foodforthought.net/> a small specialty food packer in Michigan is looking for 1-2 pallets (2500-5000 lbs.) each of Organic IQF Raspberries and Blackberries. Contact: Evan Smith, 10704 Oviatt Road Honor, MI, 49640, evan@foodforthought.net Phone: 231.326.5444, Fax: 231.326.2649
- Fieldstone Granary is looking for organic cover crop/green manure seed. Field run is okay too. Mainly clovers at this time but any other crops will be considered for later reference. We are good for buckwheat and fall rye at this time. We have a large demand for different organic seeds. Large or small acreages can all benefit. However, harvesting equipment must be considered before planting. Contact Pat Holman manager@fieldstonegranary.ca 250-546-4558
- Cyber-help is a great source for on-line information <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>

SALE