



E-News

December 2011

WHAT'S NEW

COABC CONFERENCE UPDATE

COABC's Conference provides educational and networking opportunities for new and established farmers, as well as the general public. We feature educational topics presented by knowledgeable speakers who are experts in their field. The 2012 conference theme is "Innovations."

The conference will be organized into three streams:

- **On-Farm Innovations** will explore on-farm issues such as wildlife management, the production and use of biochar, permaculture, waste reduction and utilization, simple record keeping and animal welfare.
- **Alternative Farm Models** will focus on different farming models and examine the good, the bad and the ugly. We will look into different forms of cooperative farming, community farming and land leasing arrangements. We'll also examine a farm school education program and a Young Agrarians network of new farmers.
- **Social Justice** will focus on issues that are rarely discussed openly in the farming community. We'll examine farm worker housing situations, apprenticeship programs, conflict and nuisance complaints, as well as working with people from First Nations and marginalized communities.

In addition to these streams, several workshops will explore topics including community seed collectives, innovative marketing tools, such as social media, and resources for selling at farmers' markets.

Registration will open soon so be ready to reserve your spot. Updated information is always available on our website www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca. Join us on face book and twitter to receive updates as they're posted.

COABC PRESENTATION TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COSMETIC PESTICIDES

As many of you know there is currently a Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides struck by the BC Government to explore the introduction of a cosmetic pesticide ban in BC. COABC made a presentation to the committee and many thanks go to Randy Pearson for all his hard work preparing and presenting our position. The COABC pesticide paper is now up on the front page of our website as a reference for those who would like to submit comments to the Committee. The Pesticide committee is currently seeking public input until Dec 16th. To make your comments on a proposed ban on cosmetic pesticides in BC visit, <http://www.leg.bc.ca/pesticidescommittee/>. From this link you can submit your comments directly to the committee. This link also provides access to the terms of reference for the Cosmetic Pesticides Committee and presentations made to the committee by other organizations.

ONGOING

SOCIAL MEDIA

COABC is on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986> and on Twitter, username coabccanada. Join our online community.



E-News

December 2011

NEWSLETTERS FROM 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=4361.0&DLV_ID=12621](http://support.sPCA.bc.ca/site/messageviewer?em_id=4361.0&dlv_id=12621)
- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>
- **BCFMA** http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/news/bcaf_m_v21_sep11.htm
- **Shared Harvest** <http://www.sharedharvestbc.blogspot.com/>

BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK LOGO

ISO operators are fortunate to be able to use the Canada Organic label AND the BC Checkmark side by side.

The logo of the BC Certified Organic program is a key tool to identify certified organic products in BC. It is important that the symbol is used correctly; here is a quick reminder, especially for websites and the exclusion zone (white space.)

The Program Symbol is enclosed by a black border. The border ensures that the appropriate white space or exclusion zone is provided around the composite mark. The Program Symbol must be enclosed by the border if the Symbol is applied against colored or complex backgrounds. However, if the background is white or off-white, it may be desirable to omit the border while ensuring the appropriate exclusion zone.

HUSKY REBATE PROGRAM

The Husky rebate program contributes 2% of purchase to COABC. You can at no additional cost to yourself help COABC by using your Husky loyalty card. Need a new Card? Email office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca .

INTERESTING

KEVIN AND ANNAMARIE KLIPPENSTIEN WIN OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS OF CANADA AWARD

Congratulations to Annamarie and Kevin Klippenstein who on Nov 18, 2011, became the first ever Organic farmers to win the Outstanding Young Farmer of Canada award. Kevin and Annamarie are COABC members who own and run Klipper's Organic Acres based in Cawston, B.C. This year, they won the B.C. & Yukon Outstanding Young Farmers of 2011 title, which put them in the running for the National award.

The Canadian Outstanding Young Farmers award always has two recipients. This year Kevin and Annamarie share the award with Geoff and Jennifer Bishop of Atlantic Canada. COABC congratulates both the Klippensteins and the Bishops on this achievement.

Look for more information at <http://www.oyfcanada.com/national-event.aspx>.

EVENTS

FROM HERE TO THERE: FOOD, ENERGY AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Date: Dec 7, 2011, 5pm

Location: Museum of Vancouver, Vancouver

Register ONLINE: <http://fromheretothere.eventbrite.com/>



E-News

December 2011

In partnership with the Vancouver Food Policy Council and Village Vancouver Transition Society, MOV is hosting a public dialogue in order to support the development of a Vancouver Food Energy Descent Action Plan (FED-AP) to address Community Food Resiliency. Join us for a community visioning event that encourages people to think about the future of food in Vancouver, especially as cheap energy sources peak and climate change intensifies.

SEED GROWERS CONFERENCE: STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SEED SYSTEMS

Date: January 19 -21, 2012

Location: Port Townsend, Washington

The Organic Seed Growers Conference is recognized as the only event of its kind in North America, bringing together hundreds of farmers, seed production and distribution companies, researchers, plant breeders, pathologists, and university extension in two days of informative presentations, panel discussions, and networking events. For more information and to register online visit: http://www.seedalliance.org/Seed_Growers_Conference/

PACIFIC AGRICULTURE SHOW

Date: January 26-28, 2012

Location: Tradex, Abbotsford

The Pacific Agriculture Show will showcase the latest and most innovative equipment and technology for the agriculture industry. Join thousands of farmers and agri-food producers in comparing and investigating what over 250 dealers and manufacturers have to make your operation more efficient.

COABC CONFERENCE

Date: February 24-26, 2012

Location: Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, Chilliwack

Theme: Innovations

COABC's Conference provides educational and networking opportunities for new and established farmers, as well as the general public. We feature educational topics presented by knowledgeable speakers who are experts in their field. This year's theme is "Innovations". Save the date and bring a friend.

BC FARMER'S MARKET ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Date: March 2-4, 2012

Location: Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre, Courtenay, BC

"For the Love of Farmers' Markets", save the date for the BC Farmer's Market Association Annual Conference.



REMEMBER...

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.