



E-News

February 2010

COABC CONFERENCE

The COABC conference is coming up in a month. March 5th – 7th in Kamloops

Registration is available on line at <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2010/registration.php>

Accommodation is at the Executive Inn or Sandman Hotel. **Book early** as it is a busy weekend in Kamloops.

Speaker List includes(For more details see <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conferenceagm.php>)

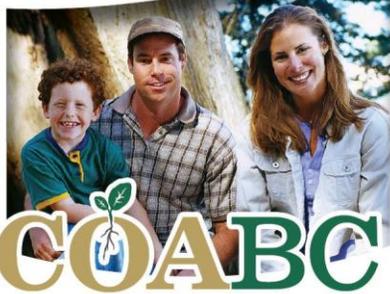
- **Dr Bill Code** Saturday Morning Keynote:– Value Stream Lessons
- **Rob Marquess** Friday Night Opening Reception:– Rethinking Economic Development - Using standard tools to promote a local food economy.(Rural Economic Development for Woodbury County, Iowa.)
- **David Johnson** (Transition PDX in Portland) - Transition Town initiatives as a catalyst for positive responses by communities to the challenges of Peak Oil, Climate Change and Economic Instability.
- **Alida Cantor** (California Institute for Rural Studies) – Breaking Down Market Barriers
- **Lori Strahlbrand** (Local Food Plus) – What is the “Local Food Plus” movement
- **Nick Andrews** (Oregon State University) – Cover Crop Research and Fertilizer calculators AND Insect Pest Management – Worms, beetles and flies
- **Dr Tom Forge** (UBC) – Blueberry Research
- **Dr Art Bomke** (UBC) – Discussion on Crop Rotations
- **Dr Alan Cornford** (previously with UNBC) – Root Crop Value Streams
- **Rosy Smit** – Why, What, When and Where of Nematodes including cultural management practices, and current research regarding control of plant parasitic nematode species
- **Dr Soheil Mahmoud** (UBCO) – Research on Lavender Oil as insect deterrents
- **Ramona Scott** – A guide to whole farm planning
- **Wanda Gorsuch and Ramona Scott** – Ecological Goods and Services. A multi-benefit business opportunity.
- **Elizabeth Corrigan** (Canada Organic Office) – Labeling for organic ingredients
- **George Hanson** (Organic Farming Institute) – Learn about the offerings and future of the Organic Farming Institute

WHAT'S NEW

Free Standards Coming Soon

On January 18th at the opening of the 11th meeting of the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture, Dr. Jaspinder Komal, Director of the CFIA, announced that a 5-year agreement between the CFIA and the CGSB has been reached and the Canadian Organic Standards, including the General Principles and Management Standards (CAN/CGSB-32.310) and the Permitted Substances List (CAN/CGSB-32.311), **will soon be available free of charge.**

The Organic Federation of Canada is one of a number of organizations that actively lobbied the Canadian government for free access to the standards and is delighted with this announcement as the free access to the standards will promote greater understanding of and confidence in Canada Organic products, across the organic sector and amongst consumers.



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2010 COABC Winter Seminar Series

This winter COABC's Extension Services is offering two morning webinars that will be of interest to livestock producers and bee enthusiasts. Pull a chair up to your computer, pour a coffee and enjoy these informative one hour webinars. You will see a live streaming video of the presenter, view his/her PowerPoint and have an opportunity to ask questions of the presenter. If you are unable to be present for the webinar, a recording of the webinar will be available for purchase, through our registration page (see below).

February 10 - Using Grandin-like Principles in Livestock Production: small things sure can make a difference – 10:00 am (PST) – with Jane Morigan

Animal welfare is a cornerstone principle for organic farms. Knowing proper livestock handling can make a big difference in animal health. **Jane Morigan**, from Integrity Livestock Services, will give practical guidance on humane handling techniques for dairy and beef cattle, pigs and sheep in organic livestock production. Based on the know-how of Dr. Temple Grandin and on down-to-earth application of sound scientific evidence, this webinar will cover relevant natural animal behaviors, the importance of good stockmanship, how to improve livestock handling and how to reduce animal stress. Jane is a sessional lecturer with the Nova Scotia Agricultural College and offers training and consulting on livestock handling.

February 17 – What Happens When the Honeybees Disappear?– 10:00 am (PST) – with Ted Leischner

Colony collapse disorder of bees is a serious and alarming trend that is threatening the livelihood of farmers worldwide. To put the situation into context, Ted Leischner, corresponding CANPOLIN member and conservation volunteer, will discuss what is killing our bees as well as the immediate grassroots actions that farmers can take to assure pollination services, food security and ecological health. There is much that can be done that is quick, convenient and economically feasible but, it will require a shift in perspective. Ted will share his insights on how we can employ the 400 species of native bees that are exquisitely adapted to living here and operate as a complete pollination guild for our ecosystem.

For further information and registration information see <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/events.php>.

The fee for each seminar is \$20.00 (incl. GST), student/apprentice rate \$10.50 (incl. GST). The deadline for registration is midnight, of the Monday before each seminar.

Sponsored by COABC's Regional Seminar Series and our core sponsors

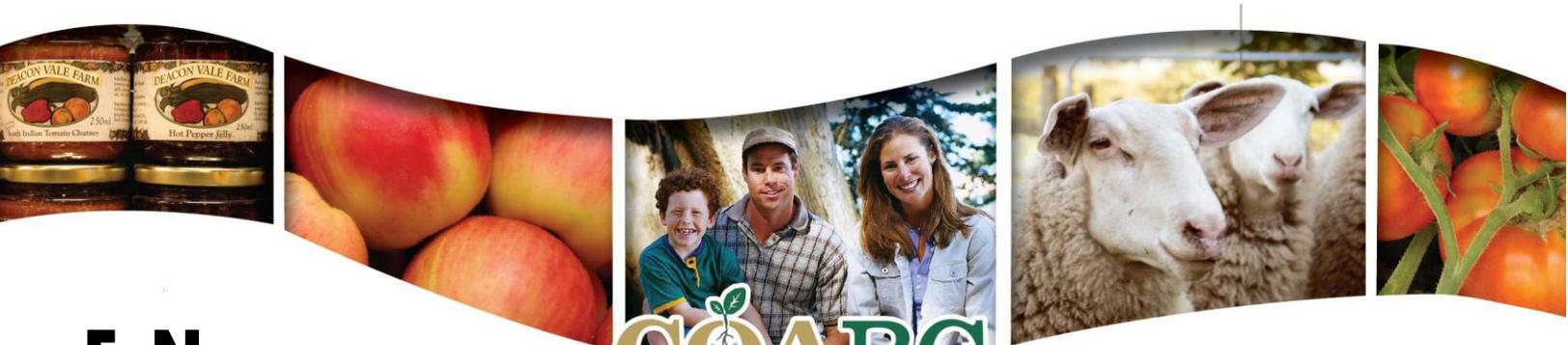


Project Partner - Agriwebinar™, a branch of the Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC)



Updates to Canada Organic Standards

Rochelle Eisen prepared a summary article covering the noteworthy Standard amendments that were balloted and approved last fall and reflected in the newest addition of the Standard. These were sent to COABC members email on January 26th. If you did not receive this or have questions please contact Rochelle at extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca



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New Funding for OSDP Program

At the Pacific Agricultural Show on Saturday January 30th 2010, Abbotsford Member of Parliament Ed Fast announced \$900,000 in funding for the Organic Sector Development Program.

This announcement was extremely timely, as Paddy has been waiting for 6 months to get going on this revised OSDP program, and we only have until December 2013 to allocate (and spend) all the funding.

So we have \$225,000 in 2010 to allocate to worthy organic projects that benefit the organic sector in BC (and throughout Canada, but must have benefits for BC).

Deadline for first Applications: Feb 15 2010.

This is to allow the OSDP to make quick decisions on OSDP projects for the growing season in 2010.

Please see the forms on the OSDP Webpage at <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/osdp.php>

Please note that the in-kind contribution formula has changed. You are now allowed to include in-kind contributions of 15% of the project cost; not 50% of applicants contribution as was previous.

Any questions or ideas please send Paddy an email message at osdp@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Paddy Doherty wins BC Award for Excellence in Agriculture Leadership Presented by: BC Agriculture Council

Paddy Doherty has provided critical leadership as organics grew from a lifestyle to a sector with provincial, national and world-wide recognition. In the early 1990's Paddy helped develop provincial organic standards and was the first president of the Certified Organic Associations of BC. While president, he secured funding for the Organic Sector Development Program. Paddy was also involved

in developing national organic standards, which opened export markets to Canadian farmers. He has held key posts with the International Foundation for Organic Agriculture Movement and the International Organization for Standardization.

Notes from the Canada Organic Office International

EU Regulation – The COO met with EU representatives in November. Kelly Monaghan and the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture provided feedback to the COO on variances identified by the EU. Michel Saumur will be meeting with EU representatives at Biofach, Germany, on 18 or 19 February.

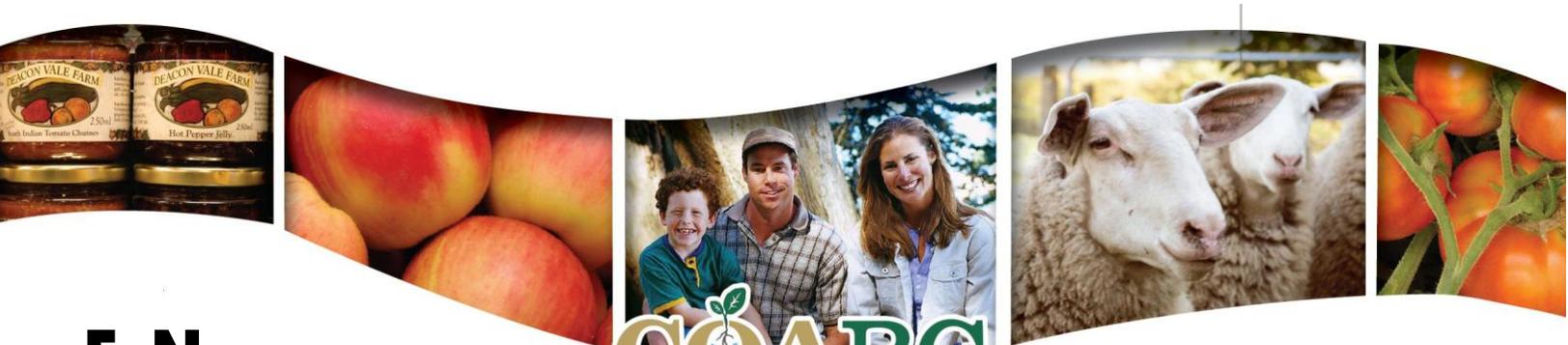
Australia has applied for an equivalency agreement with Canada and submitted documents for the comparison process. First step is the application; then documents are exchanged and an extensive comparison is done; regulation, administration, enforcement, certification, monitoring are reviewed.

Costa Rica: At this point, 4/5 of the comparison with Costa Rica is completed. The TC has not yet been involved.

Canada-US Equivalency Agreement – The COO had a meeting with NOP representatives, which resulted in the COO submitting a list of action items for NOP approval. The COO is waiting for a response from the NOP. Upon approval, the COO will post the action items on its website. There will be a lot to report on the NOP-COO administration of the agreement.

A number of Canadian CBs are inquiring about their NOP accreditation because they feel that NOP certification is still required. The COO will extend an invitation to CBs asking them to describe examples or scenarios in which NOP certification is required. Rochelle Eisen asks how this information might be made available to the broader organic sector. Michel indicates that the COO communicates with CBs via the CVBs in compliance with the flow of communication already established by the COO.

The COO has no control over NOP decisions but will represent the concerns of the Canadian CBs. The COO also encourages CBs who are worried about their NOP accreditation to contact the NOP directly.



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British Columbia Egg marketing Board – New Producer Program Lottery

The BC Egg Marketing Board announces a New Producer Program Lottery to be initiated January 25, 2010 to allot New Entrant Specialty Layer Quota (for organic, free run, free range egg classes) to successful eligible applicants for markets within the Province of British Columbia.

The lottery will award 3,000 units of layer quota to each of four new producers once all terms and conditions of the New Producer Program have been completed to the satisfaction of the Board.

The lottery draw will take place on Monday, March 1, 2010.

Applications for the New Producer Program as well as the Program Rules are available at the BC Egg Marketing Board website: www.bcegg.com or the Board offices. Email: bcemb@bcegg.com Phone: 604-556-3348 Fax: 604-556-3410

The deadline date to receive applications is 4:00 pm, Friday, February 26, 2010.

An independent company has been appointed by the Board to administer all aspects of the lottery.

Please do not send applications to the Board offices.

All applications must be sworn before a commissioner for oaths or a Notary

Public and forwarded along with all supporting documentation directly to:

L.A. Larson & Associates Ltd.

Certified General Accountant

Suite A-2309 McCallum Road

Abbotsford, B.C. V2S 3N7

Telephone: 604-870-4968; Fax: 604-504-0888

Email: llarson@shawbiz.ca

BC Farm Knowledge Network

COABC would like its members to be aware of the newly launched BC FARM Knowledge Network

<http://forums.bcac.bc.ca/forum.php> an online discussion and networking resource for BC farmers and others interested in agriculture in British Columbia. It is a way for the many small farm groups, Farmer's Institutes, Agricultural Societies and especially individuals who identify with the term "community agriculture" to meet and discuss matters, share ideas and market products online.

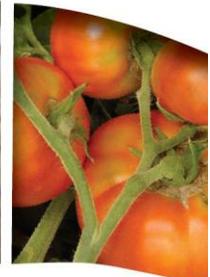
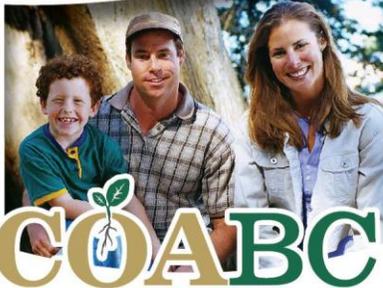
Dennis Lapierre the Community Agriculture Director representing both the FARM Community Council and the COABC on the BCAC board is the creator as well as Network administrator. Be sure to check it out

Information from 2009 Conference on Global Food Security now online

McGill's second Conference on Global Food Security in October of 2009 are now posted on-line as webcasts.

You can find the program and a link to the webcasts at this webpage:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/globalfoodsecurity/>



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ONGOING

Canadian National Standards

The CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture [Technical Committee (TC)], chaired by Kelly Monaghan, met in Cornwall from 18 to 20 January to prepare amendment proposals for a 5th ballot on the Standards and PSL. 113 out of 119 Working Group proposals will be sent to ballot; the consensus building was very impressive and the COO is pleased with the efficiency of the TC. Kelly will post a summary on the CGSB Site Scape, asking for feedback on how to continue improving the Standards-PSL revision process. The Nav Canada Center is a good facility for TC meetings and Kelly is congratulated for her excellent work as chair, for keeping the meetings on track and completing the agenda. The CGSB is preparing and translating the minutes of the meeting with the intent of sending out the ballot before March 31st.

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 or (250) 260-4429.

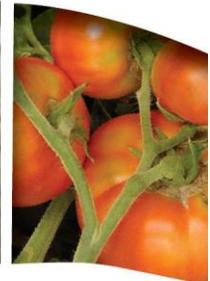
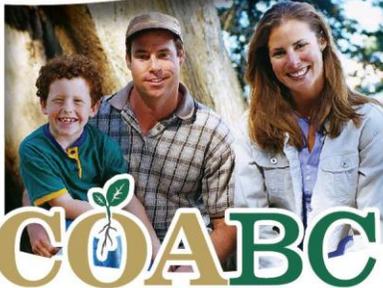
Survey Monkey and Agriwebinar

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 or 250.499.2413. All reasonable requests will be supported; cost recovery for webinar support will be necessary.

INTERESTING

A Farmer's Guide to Energy Self-Reliance: helping farmers increase energy self-reliance and profitability

The Farmer's Guide to Energy Self-Reliance is a tool to help farmers increase energy self-reliance and profitability. Reducing operating costs and finding new sources of revenue can give farms the edge they need to compete in the marketplace. In addition, farmers have a long tradition of being stewards of the land. Investing in renewable energy and reducing energy use are important steps to protecting the land, air, and water. This guide offers suggestions that fit into three interrelated categories: improving energy efficiency, using biomass, and utilizing other renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. The suggestions outlined in this guide do not cover every aspect of energy use, but are a starting



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point. Energy management is not easy. However, there are many benefits to it. This guide is intended to serve as a resource to help farmers increase profits while decreasing some of the harmful environmental effects of farming. The Guide includes energy investment tips that cost \$0, \$100, \$500, \$5000, \$25,000, \$100,000 up to \$500,000. See: <http://www.agenergysolutions.org/site/>

Plants punish Presumptuous Pollinator (Thanks to Peter Johnson for this.)

Quirks and Quarks (CBC radio one, noon on Saturdays) had an amazing item about tobacco plants that change their behaviour and their chemistry when they are heavily chewed upon by the larvae of hummingbird moths, their main pollinator. Below is a link to the page. It's the fifth of six items. Below is the text on the page. There's a link to listen to or download the audio of the item. Listening to it might make many think before they apply pesticides to help a plant. It'll open many eyes and minds.

<http://www.cbc.ca/quirks/archives/09-10/qq-2010-01-30.html>

Plant Punishes a Presumptuous Pollinator

In every relationship there has to be a reasonable give and take, or the disadvantaged partner may go looking for greener grass. What's true in humans turns out to be true in plants. Dr. Ian Baldwin, director of the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, Germany has been looking at a plant that switches to a new pollinator if its old one does it wrong. The plant is normally pollinated at night by a moth, but the moth can lay very hungry caterpillars on the plant, which can devour the plant's leaves. Dr. Baldwin has found that if too many caterpillars take advantage of the plant, it will switch the timing of its flowering to the daytime, when the moth is inactive but hummingbirds can pollinate it.

'Pathfinding with Perennials'

By Wes Jackson and Wendell Berry; New York Times; January 4, 2009

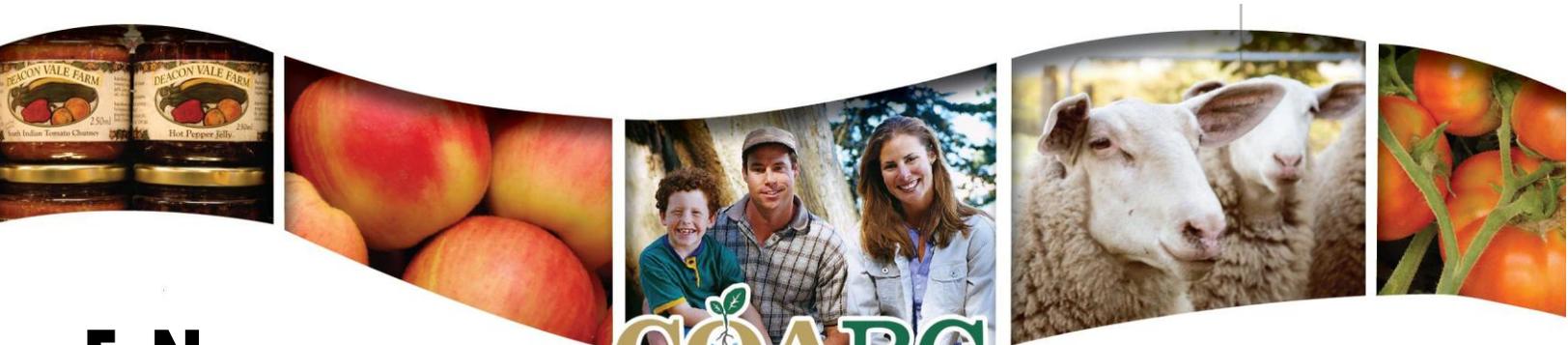
The extraordinary rainstorms last June caused catastrophic soil erosion in the grain lands of Iowa, where there were gullies 200 feet wide. But even worse damage is done over the long term under normal rainfall — by the little rills and sheets of erosion on incompletely covered or denuded cropland, and by various degradations resulting from industrial procedures and technologies alien to both agriculture and nature.

Soil that is used and abused in this way is as nonrenewable as (and far more valuable than) oil. Unlike oil, it has no technological substitute — and no powerful friends in the halls of government.

Agriculture has too often involved an insupportable abuse and waste of soil, ever since the first farmers took away the soil-saving cover and roots of perennial plants. Civilizations have destroyed themselves by destroying their farmland. This irremediable loss, never enough noticed, has been made worse by the huge monocultures and continuous soil-exposure of the agriculture we now practice.

To the problem of soil loss, the industrialization of agriculture has added pollution by toxic chemicals, now universally present in our farmlands and streams. Some of this toxicity is associated with the widely acclaimed method of minimum tillage. We should not poison our soils to save them.

Industrial agricultural has made our food supply entirely dependent on fossil fuels and, by substituting technological "solutions" for human work and care, has virtually destroyed the cultures of husbandry (imperfect as they may have been) once indigenous to family farms and farming neighborhoods.



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Clearly, our present ways of agriculture are not sustainable, and so our food supply is not sustainable. We must restore ecological health to our agricultural landscapes, as well as economic and cultural stability to our rural communities. For 50 or 60 years, we have let ourselves believe that as long as we have money we will have food. That is a mistake. If we continue our offenses against the land and the labor by which we are fed, the food supply will decline, and we will have a problem far more complex than the failure of our paper economy. The government will bring forth no food by providing hundreds of billions of dollars to the agribusiness corporations.

Any restorations will require, above all else, a substantial increase in the acreages of perennial plants. The most immediately practicable way of doing this is to go back to crop rotations that include hay, pasture and grazing animals. But a more radical response is necessary if we are to keep eating and preserve our land at the same time. In fact, research in Canada, Australia, China and the United States over the last 30 years suggests that perennialization of the major grain crops like wheat, rice, sorghum and sunflowers can be developed in the foreseeable future. By increasing the use of mixtures of grain-bearing perennials, we can better protect the soil and substantially reduce greenhouse gases, fossil-fuel use and toxic pollution.

Carbon sequestration would increase, and the husbandry of water and soil nutrients would become much more efficient. And with an increase in the use of perennial plants and grazing animals would come more employment opportunities in agriculture — provided, of course, that farmers would be paid justly for their work and their goods. Thoughtful farmers and consumers everywhere are already making many necessary changes in the production and marketing of food. But we also need a national agricultural policy that is based upon ecological principles. We need a 50-year farm bill that addresses forthrightly the problems of soil loss and degradation, toxic pollution, fossil-fuel dependency and the destruction of rural communities.

This is a political issue, certainly, but it far transcends the farm politics we are used to. It is an issue as close to every one of us as our own stomachs.

Wes Jackson is a plant geneticist and president of The Land Institute in Salina, Kan. Wendell Berry is a farmer and writer in Port Royal, Ky.

EVENTS

AGRI-FOOD VALUE-ADDING IN BC - TWO MORE LEARNING MODULES FROM THE CANADIAN VALUE CHAIN NETWORK

Module 5: Understanding Category Management

This module will guide participants through developing a fresh food marketing plan to present to retailers.

Participants will learn:

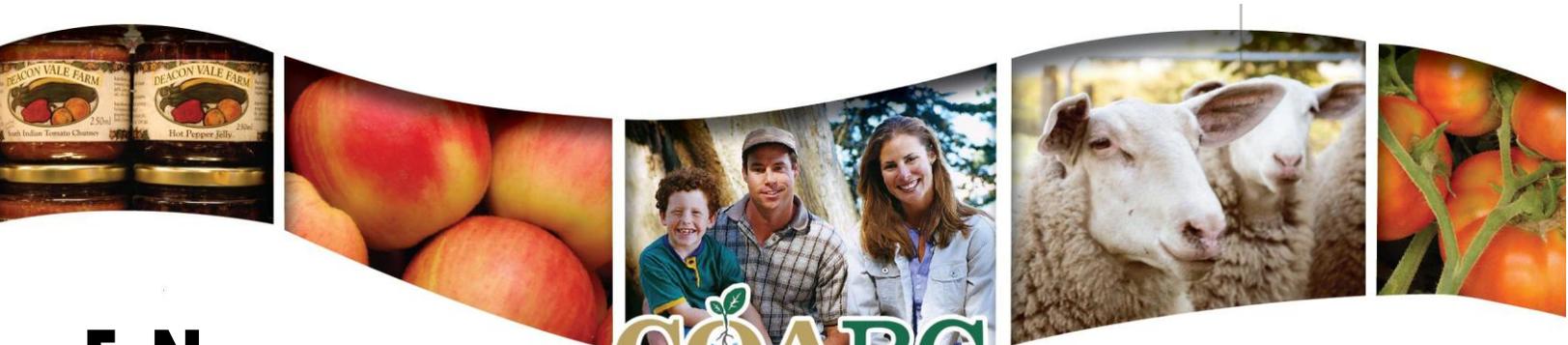
- Category review techniques including product overview and store level analysis
- Category evolution and objectives
- Benchmarking and monitoring performance
- Product packaging, marketing and promotion planning
- Price and margin management

March 4th 2010

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

4 Video Conference Sites Available: Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Kamloops and Prince George

Registration Fee: \$50.00+GST



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Module 6: Product Development-Are you ready?

This module is designed to ensure that people with new ideas and those currently developing or repositioning products or services know the steps to market readiness.

Participants will:

- Evaluate their current position in the overall product development process
- Review product development requirements and market ready checklists
- Understand typical trade requirements of brokers, distributors, retailers and food service suppliers
- Learn success techniques and how to avoid failure in trade relationships
- Learn how to get products on and off the retail shelf
- Review case studies of merchandising strategies, principles and practices
- Learn survival tactics for the fast-moving world of consumer goods

March 5th 2010

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

4 Video Conference Sites Available: Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Kamloops and Prince George

Registration Fee: \$50.00+GST

Registration available on-line at: www.regonline.ca/understanding_category_management for March 4th 2010

And: www.regonline.ca/product_development_are_you_ready for March 5th 2010

For more information contact Bill Henderson 250 356-1675 or bhenderson@iafbc.ca

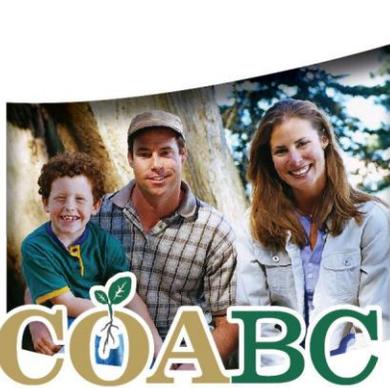
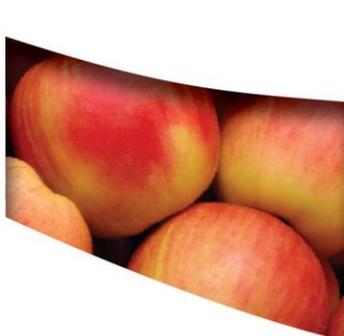
Pacific Ag Show 2010

A big thank you to Rochelle Eisen and all those that volunteered to help make the 3 days a success. Thanks also to Pro-Organics for donating the apples and Unger Furniture for loaning a coach. Both were big hits!

It was a very busy few days with lots of questions, connections and conversation.



Karl Lilgert (left) of BOPA talks with a non organic producer and a government employee involved in the pesticide program



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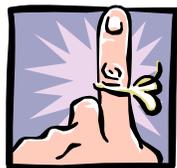
Online Certificate in Food Security: Assessment and Action

Audience: The Target Audience of this course include anyone interested in food security and/or working on community-level food security projects.

Objective: The Overall Objective of this certificate in Food Security: Assessment and Action is to provide students with the tools and knowledge to support food security initiatives in their community.

Starting Date: 17 March 2010 **Ending Date:** 17 July 2010

DON'T FORGET



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.

Want to know what else is going on?

There is lots of good information from other organisations we work with like BC AG Council and the BC SPCA. Check out their newsletters at http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2 and <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/news-and-events/newsletters/> (Animals newsletter) respectively.

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

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.