

COABC 2010 Conference

March 5th – March 7th

Kamloops BC.

Registration: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conferenceagm.php>

FRIDAY	6.30-9.00pm	Reception with Guest Speaker Music by Moss Dance		
SATURDAY	9.00am	Keynote Speaker Dr Bill Code		
	10.15am	BREAK		
	10.30am	Transition Towns WEBINAR	Labeling for Organic Ingredients	
	12.00 noon	LUNCH		
	1.00 pm	Breaking Down Market Barriers WEBINAR	Cover Crop Research and Fertilizer Calculators	Root Crop Value Streams
	2.00 pm	On Farm Energy Alternative Solutions	Crop Rotations	Value Stream Development and Value Added Products PANEL DISCUSSION
	3.00 pm	BREAK		
	3.15 pm	On Farm Energy Anaerobic Digestion	Insect Pest Management – Wire Worm Tuber Flea beetle Carrot Rust Fly	Food Safety Understanding the Importance and Learning Hard Lessons
	4.15 pm	How to Create a "Whole Farm" Plan	COABC Research Fund Blueberry Project	
	4.45 pm		COABC Research Fund Lavender Oil Project	
	5.15pm	BREAK		
	6.30pm	Organic Feast with Blues Jumper Band		
SUNDAY	9.00AM	Nematodes WEBINAR	Wheat as a Crop Rotation	Ecological Goods & Services What does it Mean?
	10.00AM	Fresh Voices Contest Winners	Blueberry Research	Introduction to the Organic Farming Institute of BC
	10.30am	BREAK		
	10.45am	AGM		
	12.00PM	LUNCH		
	1.00pm – 4.00pm	VO, CB, CC Working Lunch & Information Session with Rochelle Eisen and Anne Macey		



What's New

Consultation on the cosmetic use of pesticides:

In the August 25th 2009 *Speech from the Throne*, the Government committed to consult British Columbians on “new statutory protections to further safeguard the environment from cosmetic chemical pesticides.” The Ministry of Environment has now posted a Public Consultation Paper on its website (<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/ipmp/regs/cosmetic-pesticides/consultation.htm>). The website includes a response form to seek comments from those interested in this topic. MoE has contracted Cindy Bertram of C. Rankin & Associates to manage the information collection process. Any questions regarding the consultation process can be directed through the website or by contacting Cindy Bertram by e-mail: cindybertram@shaw.ca. Comments should be submitted by February 15th 2010.

For BC Organic Livestock Operators

A list of veterinary natural health products (vNHP) has been compiled at the national level in a joint effort between the Veterinary Drug Directorate and representatives from the CGSB Livestock Working Group and Standards Interpretation Committee. The vNHP should soon become part of the official policies and procedures of the Canadian Organic Office but it is not yet available for distribution.

The vNHP is not a brand name list, but a generic list of acceptable botanicals and homeopathic compounds. This means the onus will be on each operator to supply verification to their certification bodies that all constituents in any brand name product used is listed on the vNHP or in the PSL and meets any usage or origin restrictions therein.

This is truly exciting progress but eventually a brand name list would surely be useful as well, it is going to be important to make sure Canadian border agents are fully aware of this new policy so they don't mistakenly turned back shipments at the border.

I would encourage you to write to the VDD expressing your delight in the reported progress on this front. Don't hesitate to mention that you would appreciate the Canadian Border Services Agency be given appropriate training to help streamline the border process for vNHPs. Also express your support for the development of an approval process for vNHP and a brand name Directory of Veterinary NHPs.

All comments should be directed to Dr. Ian Alexander, Ian.Alexander@hc-sc.gc.ca and Marie Simard marie.s.lemaire@hc-sc.gc.ca

Processing Vegetable Industry Development Fund: CALL FOR 2010 PROJECT PROPOSALS

The Processing Vegetable Industry Development Fund (PVIDF) is pleased to request proposals for British Columbia processing vegetable crop projects.

For submission please contact Sarah Clark, COABC Administrator for the standard form, as it will standardize submissions and thus expedite the review procedure.

The deadline for applications is **January 31, 2010**. Applicants will be notified of the results of the proposal review soon after this date.

The Processing Vegetable Industry Development Fund is overseen by an industry committee including processing vegetable growers, processors, BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (BCMAL) and the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission. Priority areas for projects include pest management research, variety development, market and technology development, technology transfer, environmental management, education and food safety training.

Projects funded by the PVIDF are generally one year, practical and address problems or opportunities for BC processing vegetable growers. Please note priority crops include processing peas, beans, corn and cole crops. In order to be considered for funding, project budgets must include 50% industry support funding. Up to 25% of the total budget may be in-kind support for the project. Research results must be made available to industry.

For more information, please contact Susan Smith (BCMAL) at (604) 556-3046, or Henry Wiens (PVIDF project administrator) at (604) 854-4456.

Please submit proposals to Henry Wiens via fax at (604) 676-2804, or by e-mail to wienshl@telus.net .

New Planning Material from SARE (Thanks Rochelle Eisen for sharing this)

New from SARE and based on a very quick look a pretty impressive “Crop Rotation on Organic Farms: A Planning Manual” ... definitely take a gander at the appendixes (!).

As the overview says this manual “will be most applicable for the Northeastern United States and Eastern Canada, but will also be useful in other parts of the U.S., Canada, and even Europe”

But “Crop Rotation on Organic Farms: A Planning Manual” provides an in-depth review of the applications of crop rotation including improving soil quality and health, and managing pests, diseases, and weeds. Consulting with expert organic farmers, the authors share rotation strategies that can be applied under various field conditions and with a wide range of crops.

- Problems and opportunities for over 500 crop sequences
- Characteristics of more than 60 crops and 70 weeds
- Crop diseases hosted by over 80 weed species
- Modes of transmission for 250 diseases of 24 crops
- Thirteen sample four- and five-year vegetable and grain crop rotations
- Managing Crop Rotation Chart with key tasks & steps
- Sample worksheets and calculations
- Step-by-step procedure for determining crop rotation plans

Direct to the online pdf <http://www.sare.org/publications/croprotation/croprotation.pdf> 2MB

Print version - \$24 US (to order see instructions starting at <http://www.sare.org/publications/croprotation.htm>)

New BC Berry Magazine

This inaugural edition of BC Berry Grower presents something new in the marketplace. Due out Feb 2010

APPOINTMENTS IN THE BC REGULATED MARKETING SYSTEM

Routinely, on behalf of the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (ministry), we advertise appointment opportunities in the BC regulated marketing system. These include appointments to BCFIRB and to the commodity boards. Our latest notice is attached.

We are trying to make sure this notice is given the widest possible distribution and would appreciate you forwarding it to anyone, and everyone, you believe might have an interest. We have qualified candidates in our pool already but we are always looking to add good people to the list of prospective appointees.

Anyone with any questions is welcome to contact the BCFIRB office at anytime; however, here is an overview of how this merit-based process works:

- People send in their application to BCFIRB office
- An initial short listing is conducted (to make sure an applicant meets the general criteria outlined in the notice of appointment)
- Panel interviews are conducted with each applicant (three-person panel composition varies but normally drawn from BCFIRB members, ministry staff and commodity board chairs) – these interviews establish basic suitability of the person for appointment
- Applicants passing interviews are placed in the candidate pool
- When appointment opportunities arise, candidates suited to that position(s) are asked to confirm their interest (new applicants may apply for the position, in which case they must go through the interview process)
- Interested candidates are assessed (sometimes after a follow up position-specific “suitability” interview)
- List of suitable candidates is forwarded to the Board Resourcing Development and Resource Office (BRDO) for consideration
- BRDO administers the process from that point

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring these positions are filled by people who can provide the skills, expertise and wisdom needed to support one of BC’s important agri-food sectors.

For a complete list of duties and qualifications for all these positions please link to our website:

<http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/recruitment.htm>.

Complete the application process by sending a resume and covering letter. Please remember to include in your resume the criteria as specified on the Board Resourcing and Development Office web site:

<http://www.fin.gov.bc.ca/BRDO/apply.asp>.

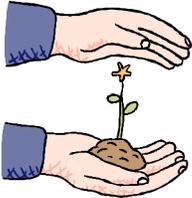
Applications may be sent via Email to firb@gov.bc.ca or Fax: 250-356-5131 or mail to:

BCFIRB AND COMMODITY BOARD APPOINTMENTS

PO BOX 9129 STN PROV GOVT

VICTORIA BC V8W 9B5

If you have any questions please contact Raji Basi, BCFIRB Board Services Coordinator, at 250-356-1677 or email to <mailto:firb@gov.bc.ca>.



Ongoing

COABC List serve and Archive

Do you want to stay in the loop, be updated with interesting information and keep abreast of events and activities impacting the organic sector? Why not join the COABC list-serve? The list serve sends out incredible information through this forum. It really is a great source of answers, latest news and organic intelligence.

Now even better...the list serve 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.

So ...thinking about joining but worried about being overwhelmed with emails. Don't worry - you can set up a specific folder in your email so that all COABC list serve emails are directed here and you can browse through it at your leisure.

To join the COABC list serve go to <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/contacts/listserve.php>

Canada Organic Regime from the Canada Organic Office

International

Canada-US Equivalency Agreement – The COO had a meeting with NOP representatives, which resulted in the COO submitting a list of action items to the NOP for their approval. Once this list is approved, both countries will post it on their web sites to clarify the administrative arrangements between Canada and US. The posting will hopefully be done before the January CGSB balloting. The two parties will meet annually to review the agreement, or anytime in the course of the year as needed or when changes are made to either regime. Both parties will have to agree to the new terms.

EU Standards – The EU representatives have met in Canada with the COO. Kelly and the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture have provided feedback to the COO on EU variances. The COO hopes to sign an agreement with the EU by February.

Costa Rica has submitted a recognition request.

Australia and Taiwan are exchanging information with the COO.

Funding Opportunities for BC Producers, Processors and Associations;

This booklet contains information about funding opportunities for BC agriculture and agri-food producers and processors, as well as industry associations and not-for-profit groups involved with the agricultures and agri-food sector. To access the booklet please visit, <http://www.ats-sea.agr.gc.ca/exp/5288-eng.htm>

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.

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.a or (250) 260-4429.



Interesting!

Copenhagen – some positives

Although it may seem that the Copenhagen summit achieved little more than a lot of rhetoric here is one positive alliance that came out of the meeting, a roundtable on organic agriculture and climate change.

<http://www.organicandclimate.org/home0.html>

From BCAC

The Government has enacted a new *Renewable and Low Carbon Fuel Requirements* regulation, amending a 2008 regulation to include new requirements to reduce the 'carbon intensity' of transportation fuels by 10 per cent by 2020 (http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2009-2013/2009EMPR0024-000796.pdf).

Conference / Events

Drought Planning Workshop:

A "drought planning" workshop and information update on the Water Act modernization process is scheduled as follows:

Place: The Coast Capri Hotel, 1171 Harvey Ave., Kelowna, BC V1Y 6E8 (Ph: 250-860-6060). For those that need accommodation, the hotel is holding a block of rooms under the Ministry of Environment Group reference GFC9847. The rate for the group is \$85.00 per night.

Date: Wednesday January 20th 2010

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The workshop will be facilitated and a report compiling ideas and suggestions from the workshop will be prepared. In addition to this specific workshop for agriculture there will be four regional workshops that will be open to all sectors. These have not been planned yet but they are expected to be held by the end of March. The January 20th session, however, is the only agriculture specific session that will be held. It is not an Okanagan specific session but will encompass the entire province so participation by groups from all regions is encouraged. **Please contact Ted van der Gulik directly to confirm attendance from your association by January 8th.** Ted can be reached by phone at 604-556-3112 or e-mail:

Ted.vanderGulik@gov.bc.ca.

BCIC's INNOVATION SUMMIT 2010

It is not too late to register for BC Innovation Council Life Science's Innovation Summit 2010 being held January 7th (evening) and 8th, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver. Registration is online; please see the BCIC website at: <http://www.bcic.ca/>.

Canadian Farm Business Management Centre Marketing Workshops

<http://www.farmcentre.com/EventsAnnouncements/Announcements/Detail.aspx?id=414479df-3af8-454a-b62c-16f3ba39f974>

Building Sustainable Communities Conference

The Fresh Outlook Foundation is hosting its fourth Building SustainAble Communities conference in Kelowna from November 16th to 18th, 2010. I encourage you to save room in your calendar and your budget, as our lineup of events and speakers is already amazing!

Back by popular demand we have Dr. Bill Rees, Dr. Hans Schreier, Mark Holland, Tom Osdoba, and Angus McAllister. First-time big-names include:

§ **Terry Tamminen:** Climate action advisor to California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and BC Premier Gordon Campbell. Author of *Lives per Gallon: The True Cost of Our Energy Addiction*.

§ **Dr. Reginald Bibby:** Sociologist at the University of Lethbridge and Canada's premier tracker and interpreter of social trends. Author of *The Boomer Factor* and *The Emerging Millennials*.

§ **Dr. Adrian Parr:** Associate professor at the University of Cincinnati who, among other things, examines how environmental goals are being driven by government, business, and the military. Author of *Hijacking Sustainability* and *New Directions in Sustainable Design*.

§ **Chief Clarence Louie:** Osoyoos Indian Band chief since 1985, and well-known throughout BC and Canada for his progressive views on creating wealth within First Nations' communities.

§ **Michael Kinsley:** A senior consultant with the Rocky Mountain Institute who has helped build sustainable economies and environments since 1983. He has also provided economic development planning and training to communities in forty states and four foreign countries.

§ **Dennis Wilde:** A nationally respected green building expert who leads the Renewable Energy & Infrastructure Division at Gerding Edlen. He is a founding member of the Oregon Natural Step Network and serves on the board of the Cascadia Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council.

Stay tuned, because we're also planning a shoulder event for the afternoon of Monday, November 15th that will provide **one-stop shopping for information about sustainability planning tools**. This fast-paced, interactive opportunity for immersion into the world of sustainability planning will help you make sense of all the potential ways you can help move your community toward its sustainability goals!

Don't Forget



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.