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WHAT'S NEW



January 2011

NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Yes, COABC has a new Administrator!

At the beginning of January, I started as the COABC Administrator. With the help of many, I am beginning to find my way through the organization and am eager to continue learning about this amazing group. I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to spend my energy in an area that aligns so closely with my personal beliefs.

Prior to accepting this position, I coordinated the BC Food Systems Network Annual Gathering and have been an active member of their board. I began working on food security issues in the Shuswap in 2006, when I coordinated the Eat Local Project and followed that with a number of other projects. Previous to those adventures, I worked on various Organic produce farms in both Canada and the United States. For six years, I cultivated a love of farming and came to recognize the fundamental importance of food production.

Through my experiences I have developed a strong belief in Organic principles as well as a belief that a sustainable food system is essential. My current knowledge of BC's food system will mesh nicely with the new information I am gaining as the COABC Administrator. I hope to put this unique blend of perspectives to good use in the service of COABC.

Thank you to everyone who has offered support to me in my first few weeks on the job. I look forward to meeting many of you in March, at the COABC conference.

Jen Gamble

2011 COABC CONFERENCE "THE NEXT GENERATION"

Sidney on Vancouver Island, March 4th – 6th, 2011

The 2011 COABC conference is coming up quickly, which means it is time to reserve your spot by registering now. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet face-to-face, connect and reconnect with others in the Organic Sector. The conference also offers the VO/CB/CC training sessions.

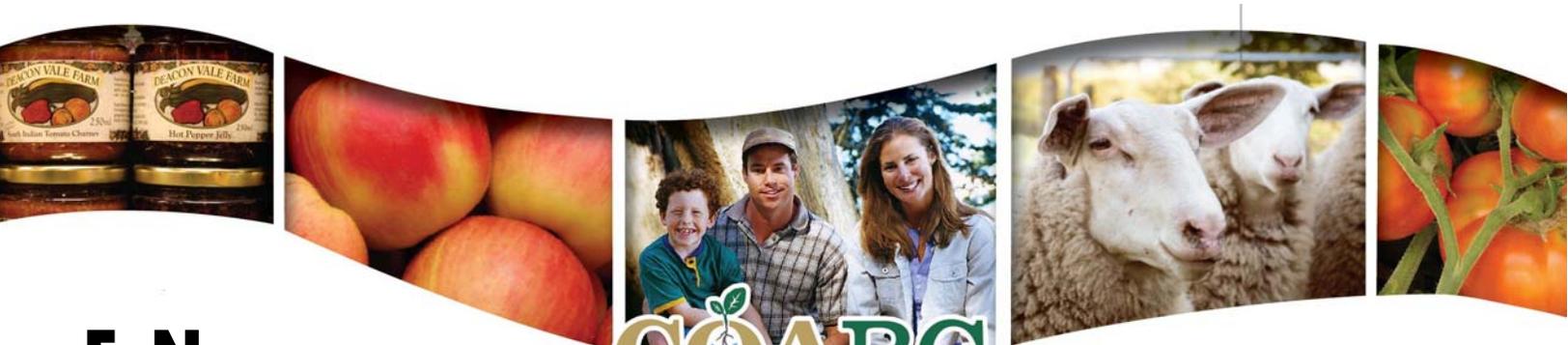
Registration is now open.

Registration options:

- online go to <http://www.karelo.com/register.php?BID=255&BT=10#Ev7028>
- print off & mail a cheque using this form <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2011/registration.pdf>.
- See the current issue of the BC Organic Grower, as it will have the same registration form that you can use.

Remember there is separate registration fee for the VO/CB/CC training.

Below is the detailed line up for the **Friday, March 4th**.



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Day time:

* **An Information / Training Session with the Canada Organic Office (COO) (9am-12).** An opportunity for CFIA Accredited Certification Bodies, VOs along with CVB board members to hear from COO representatives on various issues related to the Organic Products Regulations and the Canada Organic Regime.

* **VO/CB/CC Professional Development with your CVB(AB): Anne Macey & Rochelle Eisen (12-6pm).** This formalized training will cover feed audits, trace back audits, mass balancing (in/out audits) & expected yields (esp for intensive multi-cropping operations), compliant labelling and much more. Registration is \$45 / person (late registration \$70/person) for this stand alone session and includes lunch. Formal session will begin at 1pm.. COABC certificates of attendance will be issued. Registration for this workshop as well as the rest of the 2011 COABC Next Generation conference can be done online or by downloading the printable registration page and mail it in. For more information contact Rochelle rare@telus.net

Evening:

* **Canadian Organic Aquaculture Standards? Ted Zettel (7-8pm).**

As the Organic Federation of Canada's voting member on the Canadian General Standards Board's Organic Aquaculture Technical Committee, Ted Zettel in this interactive session would like to get a sense of the level of support there is in BC for Canada-wide Organic Aquaculture Standards. He observes that the aquaculture standard has come a long way since the first draft. What further movement do we need before it can be accepted by the organic community? Is there an achievable common ground?

* **Urban Farming: Beyond Community Gardens and Local Food. Chris Thoreau (7-8pm).**

Urban farming is a unique and relatively new model for urban agriculture that is income-generating, contributing to meaningful urban employment as well as local food production. Though still in its infancy in Canada (urban farming is well developed in the US), urban farming is on the rise. There are currently about 19 urban farms in Vancouver and several others throughout the province. With the help of an OSDP grant, Vancouver urban farmers are working together to establish an urban farming network to help urban farmers increase the sustainability of their businesses and to help the city meet its goals in becoming The Greenest City in The World by 2020. We'll talk about this project and the evolution of urban farming in North America.

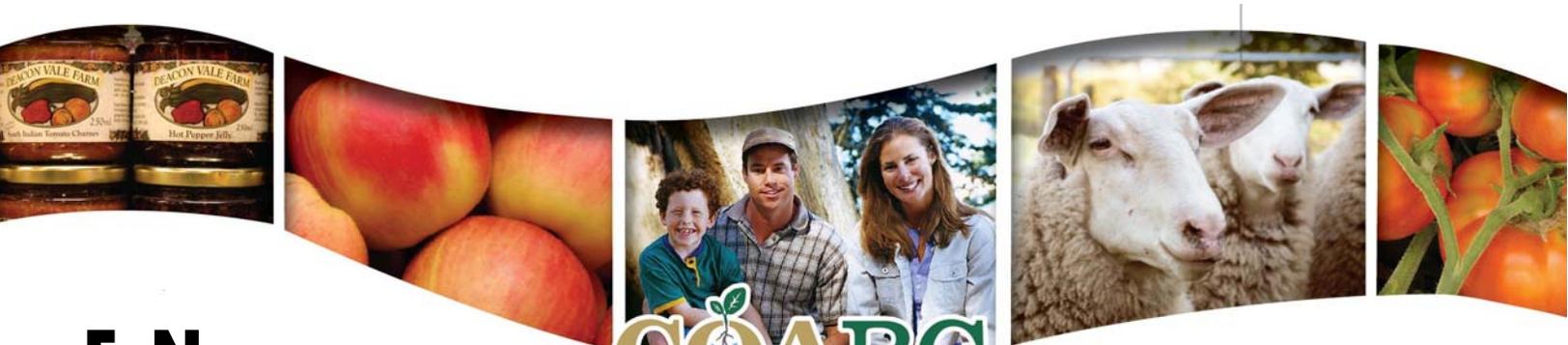
More training information can be found at <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/education/vo.php> . Complete conference details <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2011/>

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=2001.0&dlv_id=5801



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- Canadian Horticultural Council <http://www.hortcouncil.ca/en/publications/hort-shorts-achive.aspx>

"WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?" BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE AS PDF

Are you familiar with the green "What is Organic Farming" booklet? If you would like a copy we now have an electronic version as a pdf document. Please contact the office to get your copy. admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK LOGO

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.

CHC OFFS MANUALS

There are some hard copies of the following manuals available to COABC members for \$15 to cover shipping and handling. First come first served. Contact Kristy at office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca if you would like a copy.
Combined Vegetable, Producer, Storage and Intermediary and Packer: 16 copies
Leafy Vegetable and Cruciferae producer, Storage and Packer: 24 copies
Small Fruit Producer and Packer: 4 copies

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.

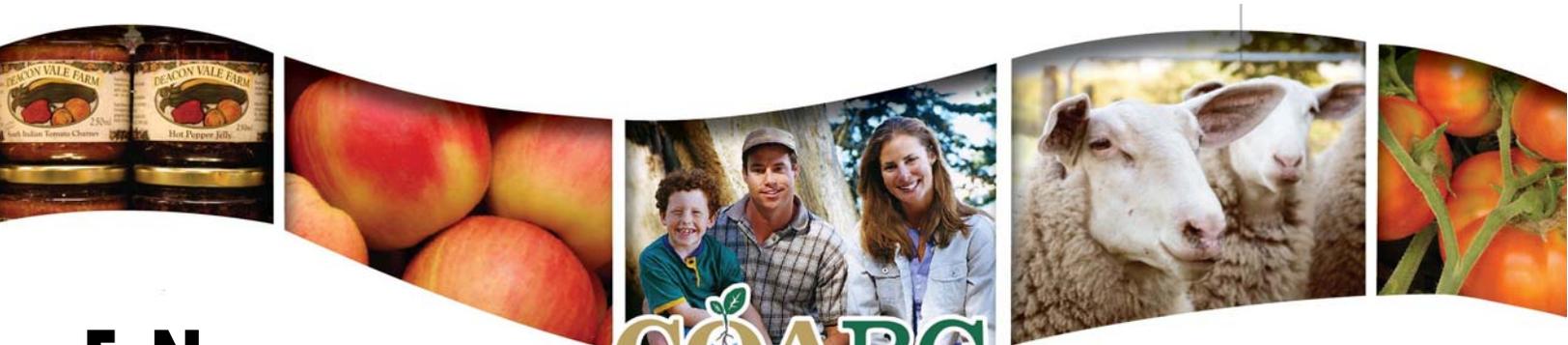
INTERESTING

Call for Expressions of Interest: Food, Agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation

The Adaptation to Climate Change team at SFU is planning to hold a conference in early fall of 2011, tentatively the first weekend of October, in Vancouver, Canada, on food, agriculture, and adaptation to climate change in Canada. We will be submitting a SSHRC Conference Grant application in the April competition, and if successful will be offering some level of travel funding and honoraria for speakers. We want the discussion to be broad, and so at this stage are looking for proposals for papers on any aspect of the topic. It is our intent that papers will be published in a peer reviewed format if desired.

At this stage sent queries and single paragraph proposals to lenore.newman@royalroads.ca.

Deadline: Feb 1st, 2011.



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EVENTS

PACIFIC AGRICULTURE SHOW

13th Annual Show

January 27th – 29th, 2011

Tradex Exhibition Centre, 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 will have an information booth, so stop by if you plan to attend. The show also features a Horticulture Growers' Short Course Program. The complete program is available online.

See the website for details <http://www.agricultureshow.net/?page=home>

Admission: \$10.00 at the door

Canadian Young Farmers' Forum

February 11 – 15, 2011

The Canadian Young Farmers' Forum is holding their AGM in Winnipeg. This is always a fabulous event; it has great educational sessions and provides a wonderful opportunity for young farmers to network with other young farmers. The BC Young Farmers (BCYF) are sending five delegates to represent BC. The BC Young Farmers are offering to pay all the costs for two young farmers to attend the event. Interested young farmers must be between 18 and 40 and must be farming in BC. Applicants should send a short overview of their farm and why they would like to go. The BCYF board will be making the selection.

Send applications to Christine via email: christine@bcac.bc.ca

Deadline: January 18, 2011

BC Farmer's Market Association Conference

Working Together to Strengthen our Local Food System

March 11th, 12th and 13th, 2011

Steveston Community Centre, Richmond

Registration for the Conference opens January 24th, 2011.

For more information, please email info@bcfarmersmarket.org



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.