



E-News

January 2012

WHAT'S NEW

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

The COABC 2012 Conference registration is now open. The early bird price of \$195.00 is now available, so reserve your spot. Come network and learn from the excellent line up of speakers presenting this year.

Keynote speaker: Humberto Rios Labrada.

Humberto Rios Labrada has been involved in participatory research in Ghana, Holland, Venezuela, Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia and Cuba and received Rural Innovation Award from International Agriculture Centre, Wageningen for its results in Participatory Plant Breeding. Humberto Rios has been coordinating the Agricultural Local Innovation Programme during 10 years in Cuba. He has lectured on participatory approaches in Agriculture in several countries as Canada, Mexico, Norway, United Kingdom, Holland, Germany, Malaysia, China, Syria, Ethiopia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Honduras, Brazil and Venezuela. Recently he received the Goldman Award due its contribution to agriculture transformation in Cuba. Nowadays Ríos is coaching some action research initiatives in Cuba, Spain, Central Asia and Bolivia.

Sessions

Record Keeping for Organic Producers

Is paperwork your Achilles heel? Are you avoiding organic certification because of this? Are you having a tough time keeping your certifier happy as your audit trail doesn't always work? If so, this session is for you. Rochelle will walk through what a well organized field-to-fork record keeping system looks like, how this makes your operation readily auditable, and will identify the other the benefits of keeping such good records. Powerpoint materials used in this training have been perfected by Rowena Hopkins and Roxanne Beavers of the Atlantic Canada Organic Regional Network.

Presenter: Rochelle Eisen, Resilient Solutions Consulting

Beyond Our Plates

Do we know where the food we eat everyday comes from? What is the real price we are paying for it? What we are doing for the people who produce our food? Is it enough to be organic in order to be fair? What is happening in our fields before the vegetables arrive at our table? What we can do to be fair to the people who work hard for us? Beyond our plates will try to show the reality of thousands of seasonal workers who arrive every day in BC. It is not meant to be critical towards anyone, but to address the challenges for others and understand how we would feel if we were in their shoes.

Presenter: Raul Gatica, Agriculture Workers Alliance, Surrey

Yarrow Ecovillage Community Farm - the triumphs and tribulations of community farming.

Community Farms are an innovative method of creating land access for young farmers. Here, one of the farmers at the Yarrow Ecovillage Community Farm shares some of the perks of community farming, such as tractor and equipment sharing, sharing knowledge, and creating marketing opportunities. Some of the challenges of community farming are also discussed, and a special look will be given at how farmers



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are learning to overcome their differences, piecing together the infrastructure needed to farm, and balancing community needs of the farmland as well as farmer needs.

Presenter: Tamara Bonnemaïson, Yarrow Ecovillage Organic Farm

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.

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.

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
- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>
- **BCFMA** http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/news/bcafms_v22_dec11.htm

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.

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.

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 .



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EVENTS

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/](http://www.seedalliance.org/Seed_Growers_Conference/)

CROP PLANNING WORKSHOP

Date: Sat. January 21, 2012, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Hastings Branch of VPL, 2674 East Hastings St

Cost: \$50.00

Register: ufncropplanning.eventbrite.com

This workshop is for producers in their first year of production, or about to start, or for producers looking to refine their rotation. Josh Volk, of Slow Hand Farm, will be offering this workshop based on a system he has been developing and refining for the past 10 years plus. This day-long workshop will show how good planning helps to save time in the peak season and allows you to manage long term goals.

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

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.



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.