



What's New

BCARA

Congratulations to BCARA which is now a registered ISO65 Certification Body

Canada Organic Regime

COABC has signed a recognition agreement with the CFIA to be a CVB (Certification Verification Body) under the Canadian Organic Regime. <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtm> |

As of June 30th, COABC is on the CFIA list as a CVB and PACS, FVOPA and BCARA are COR accredited CB's. Operators certified by these CBS, (other than those in the BCCOP low risk program) can now use the new Canada organic logo on their products.

As Canada now has an equivalency agreement with the USA (with the noted exceptions) Canadian product destined directly for the US is no longer certified to the NOP. It now is to be certified to the Canadian national standards and is sold under this equivalency agreement.

For Canadian producers exporting to the United States the exception is "Agricultural products derived from animals treated with antibiotics shall not be marketed as organic in the United States."

An equivalency with Europe is unlikely in the immediate future however there are discussions regarding how this will happen. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Nolo Bait™ for Grasshopper Control

Organic growers will be pleased to hear about a new product, Nolo Bait™, recently released by M & R Durango for the control of grasshoppers.

is a grasshopper suppression agent composed of flaky wheat bran, water, a sticking agent, and the spores of *Nosema locustae*, a protozoa. The spores are in an inactive, resting or protected stage until they are ingested by the grasshopper. At that time, they germinate within the grasshopper's mid-gut, reproduce, and attack the body fat in the grasshopper. In very young, newly hatched grasshoppers death may occur quickly so, the infection is not spread. In older grasshoppers (3rd to 6th instars) the spores reproduce and cause lethargy, reduced feeding, impaired reproduction. It is at these stages the infection is spread to other grasshoppers.

The *Nosema locustae* infection will carry over to following seasons if the disease is established in the grasshopper population. Nolo Bait™ does not kill overnight but does provide long term suppression of grasshopper populations once the disease is established in the population.

According to the manufacturer's technical bulletin, "Nolo Bait™ is not OMRI approved but the American version carries the EPA organic approval logo" indicating that Nolo Bait™ complies with the National Organic Program. Further information on this program can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/opppd1/biopesticides/regtools/organic-pr-notice.html>.

Rochlle is available to provide you with detailed information on mode of action, application, timing and storage information as well as easy, field identification of infected grasshoppers. Additional information can be obtained from the M & R Durango representative, Lee Anne Merrill at 1-800-526-4075.

Top 10 plus more than a few more

The top 10 discussion for new farmers on the list serv was very enlightening and expanded to a list of 41 at last count. We have added them to our website. <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/kyi.php>

Bindweed Survey

In the summer edition of the BC Organic Grower there is a field bindweed survey at the back of the magazine (page 27 & 28). Please take a moment to complete the survey. Deadline for submission for completed surveys is Aug 31, 2009.

We would appreciate hearing from as BC many producers (organic or not) as possible as this will help give a real picture of what is happening with field bindweed on farms across the province. Pdf & Word versions can be downloaded from the Organic Extension Agent webpage

<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/contacts/extension.php#contact>

And if thinking about bindweed does not make you smile take a listen to this version of "Misalliance" a love song about climbing plants. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbrsRffV44w>



Ongoing

Sponsorship Program

Our most recent sponsor is Left Coast Naturals. Thank you for your support!

The COABC sponsorship program is aimed at cultivating the growth of certified organic food and agriculture throughout British Columbia. The diverse sponsorship program includes value-added sponsor benefits and comprehensive exposure.

If you know of an organisation or individual interested in participating in the sponsorship program please contact the COABC administrator Sarah Clark at admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Update on PARASOL® WG

Regarding the status of NuFarm's copper hydroxide product PARASOL® WG Fungicide (PCP Reg. No. 29063); Parasol® WG is a foliar applied copper hydroxide fungicide/bactericide registered for use in the control of various fungal and bacterial diseases in potatoes, tomatoes, beans, peppers, cucumbers and sugar beets. PARASOL WG Fungicide is a wettable granule formulation containing 50% elemental copper, present as copper hydroxide. In the United States the identical product is known under the trade name CHAMP®WG Agricultural Fungicide, EPA Reg. No. 55146-01. Both products are manufactured at the same facility, from the same ingredients, and are identical except for trade name and registered label uses in the respective countries.

On April 1, 2009, the Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) (www.omri.org) announced CHAMP WG Agricultural Fungicide as an acceptable product for use in disease control in certified organic crop production (OMRI code agt-1382). Nufarm Americas, Inc. and Nufarm Agriculture Inc. will pursue having the Canadian tradename, PARASOL WG Fungicide, listed by OMRI in parallel to CHAMP WG Agricultural Fungicide. Canadian organic crop producers who may be interested in using PARASOL WG Fungicide should consult with their organic certifier to confirm the acceptability of using this product in their production system. For further information, contact Nufarm Agriculture Inc. at 1-800-868-5444.

OMRI DROP List

There are lots of dropped items this month

OMRI reports to certifiers any product names removed from the OMRI Products List within ten days of their removal. OMRI 'drops' products when the companies voluntarily request their products be removed from our program or they fail to comply with the organization's policies.

OMRI prohibits products only when conclusive evidence is on file to demonstrate a non-compliance with the NOP Rule. The following products have been removed from the OMRI Products List recently:

*Crop Conditioner BioFert Manufacturing Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fulvic Acids Prohibited 6/8/2009

*Pura Vida Organics-Bloom Technaflora Plant Products, LTD Crop Fertilizers and Soil amendments Fertilizers, Blended with micronutrients Dropped 6/4/2009

*African Nightcrawler Worm Castings Transform Plant Products Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Worm Castings Dropped 6/3/2009

*Aqua-Trend 5-1-1 Agri-Trend, LLC Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendment Fish Products, Multi-ingredient Dropped 6/2/2009

*Nature's Neem Oil™ Greenstar Plant Products, Inc Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Adjuvants – nonsynthetic Dropped 6/1/2009

*PlanTea® PlanTea Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 6/1/2009

*Nitragin® Gold Pre-Inoculant-Clover EMD Crop BioScience Inc. Crop Management Tools and production Aids Inoculants Dropped 6/1/2009

*Cell-Tech® Soybean EMD Crop BioScience Inc. Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Inoculants Dropped 6/1/2009

*Microlizer AgroMar, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Microbial Products Dropped 6/1/2009

*Nitragin® Gold Pre-Inoculant-Alfalfa EMD Crop BioScience Inc. Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Inoculants Dropped 6/1/2009

*All Natural Organic 5-5-5 Fertilizer Organic Growing Systems, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended with uncomposted manure Dropped 6/1/2009

*Montana Gray Rock Montana Grey Rock, LLC Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Phosphate Rock Dropped 6/1/2009

*Cell-Tech® Pea & Lentil Liquid Inoculant EMD Crop BioScience Inc. Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Inoculants Dropped 6/1/2009

*Carrier™ Stoller Enterprises, Inc. Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Oils – nonsynthetic sources Dropped 6/1/2009

*Meadowfoam Seedmeal Natural Plant Products, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Plant Extracts Dropped 6/1/2009

*Rooster Booster TexOrganics, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Manure – processed Dropped 6/1/2009

*Vitamin and Mineral PreMix for Apple Slices-1 FT072254 FreshXtend Technologies Corp. Processing Non-agricultural Ingredients and Processing Aids Ascorbic Acid Dropped 6/1/2009

*Vitamin and Mineral Premix for Apple Slices-2 FT072255 FreshXtend Technologies Corp. Processing Non-agricultural Ingredients and Processing Aids Ascorbic Acid Dropped 6/1/2009

*Nature Mix® Trees & Shrubs Soil Modugno-Hortibec, Inc. Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Transplant/Container Media Dropped 6/1/2009

*Nemafert DOF, Ltd. Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Botanical Pesticides Dropped 6/1/2009

*Antipest DOF, Ltd. Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Botanical Pesticides Dropped 6/1/2009

*EZ-Coco™ Phase 1 EZ-Clone Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Transplant/Container Media Dropped 6/1/2009

*Neutra-Cite™ Foot Bath ACM-Texas, LLC Livestock Management Tools and Production Aids Minerals – management tool, production aid Dropped 6/1/2009

*Plant Success Granular Premium Mycorrhizae 2-2-2 Plant Revolution, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Microbial Products Dropped 6/1/2009

*Plant-N-Grow The Bark Place Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Mulch – nonsynthetic Dropped 6/1/2009

*BulbSure™ 3-5-4 PlantSure Products, LLC Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended with uncomposted manure Dropped 6/1/2009

*PlantSure™ PLUS MYCORRHIZA 3-5-4 PlantSure Products, LLC Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended with uncomposted manure Dropped 6/1/2009

*PlantSure™ 3-5-4 PlantSure Products, LLC Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended with uncomposted manure Dropped 6/1/2009

*GreenMatch™ O Burndown Herbicide Cutting Edge Formulations, Inc. Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Limonene Dropped 6/1/2009

*Direct Sile 100 Medipharm USA Livestock Management Tools and Production Aids Inoculants Dropped 6/1/2009

*Garden-Ville Organic Insecticide ACM-Texas, LLC Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Mined Minerals – unprocessed Dropped 6/1/2009

- PGPR Galaxy™ Holmes ENVIRO Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Microbial Products Dropped 6/15/2009
- Sea Pal Liquid Fish 3-1-1 Sea Pal Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fish Products, Liquid – stabilized Dropped 6/15/2009
- Brown Rice Sonoma Compost Co. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Compost – windrow (plant and animal materials) Dropped 6/15/2009

- Megafol® 4-0-2 Valagro S.p.A. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 6/15/2009
- Amaferm ECO 2X BioZyme Incorporated Livestock Feed Ingredients Microbial Products Prohibited 6/24/2009
- Chito-Stick CT Ease™ Biotechnologies, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 6/18/2009
- Chito-Power CT Ease™ Biotechnologies, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended Dropped 6/18/2009 cte-4173 1702 563 Allowed 8/11/2004 2/1/2009



Interesting!

SunGrow organic soil mix (thanks to Hermann Bruns of Wildflight farms)

This season we've started using the SunGrow organic soil mix #1 instead of mixing our own for growing vegetable transplants. We seem to be getting more consistent germination but the transplants seem to slow down their growth and look hungry at around 4 weeks of growth. So we've started mixing in more compost to get a healthier and more vigorous transplant.

Has anyone else had similar experiences with this soil mix?

We contacted SunGrow and received a call back from Fred Wickens who is the sales manager for BC. He seemed quite open to hearing about our experiences and would like to hear from other growers as well. You could send him an email at fredw@sungrow.com.

SunGrow probably used a conventional model (where fertigation is a common practice) for formulating their mix. Organic growers in general (including ourselves) prefer the potting soil to grow healthy transplants without the addition of liquid fertilizers (like fish). Maybe we can convince them to try a formulation with more organic fertilizers (they probably use feather or blood meal) or compost so we don't have to re-mix.

Report on US Organic Industry

On Wednesday, June 3, USDA's Economic Research Service released a report entitled, "Emerging Issues in the U.S. Organic Industry." The report provides an overview of trends in the organic industry and the accompanying issues, including shortfalls in supply, production costs, and competing labels. The report also discusses changes in policies for organic agriculture with the passage of the 2008 Farm Bill. <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB55/>

Climate Change Article

As the Prepared by the US based National Organic Coalition (2009/pdf, 128kb)



NOC climate change
letter 6.9.09.pdf

Read the letter here

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

On May 26, 2009, 80 farmer leaders and representatives of international organizations from 40 countries came together to discuss the Comparative Advantages of Agricultural Cooperatives in Sustainable Development: Coops as Forward-looking Organizations in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). See the conference presentations here

<http://www.ifap.org/en/issues/CooperativesinSustainableDevelopment.html>

Contract Posting: Part Time Administrator for IOPA

Summary

IOPA is seeking a skilled administrator with a strong commitment to organic farming on the islands. This contract is a great opportunity to help farmers strengthen local organic agriculture. The job is currently structured to be done in the farming off-season: 80% of the work is done between November and May.

IOPA

The Islands Organic Producers Association (IOPA) is a non-profit association of more than sixty organic growers and producers. IOPA is a Society incorporated under the British Columbia Society Act and an organic certifying body accredited by the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC). IOPA certifies farms according to its Guidelines and the Canadian Organic Standards. See www.iopa.ca for more information.

Application Details

- * Apply by email only (to: samuelgodfrey@gmail.com).
- * Only applications which include a cover letter (in the body of the email) and a resume will be reviewed.
- * Application deadline: July 8, 2009, 11:59 pm.
- * All complete applications received will be acknowledged.
- * Short-listed applicants will be contacted by July 15, 5pm.
- * Interviews will be conducted between July 20-24

Overview

The primary responsibilities are to:

1. Implement a fair and strict process to assess the operations of organic producers in order to assign "certified organic" status to those who qualify.
2. Receive, review and manage all applications for certification.
3. Ensure IOPA's accreditation with COABC is maintained in good standing.
4. Maintain guidelines for organic production on the islands.
5. Recruit, coordinate and support volunteers, especially the Certification Committee.
6. Carry out all administrative tasks necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of a small non-profit organization, including organizing the AGM and maintaining websites.

Additional responsibilities

1. Answering questions from farmers who are considering organic certification and supporting organic farmers who have questions or concerns with the certification rules.
2. Keeping costs down while improving IOPA's services in order to better support members and to encourage farmers to grow organically and become certified.
3. Strengthening the organic farming community by facilitating information-sharing and networking.

The Administrator is supported in this work by a book-keeper who takes responsibility for financial operations, a Certification Committee which takes responsibility for reviewing the farms and assigning an organic status when appropriate, Verification Officers that inspect paper-work and farms, and a Board of Directors that helps with decision-making.

Required Qualifications

1. An office with a computer and internet access.
2. Strong computer skills, including excel.
3. Personal skills: Mature and responsible, able to work independently, leadership skills, capacity to problem-solve, take initiative and achieve outcomes on a fixed schedule, attention to detail, able to work well with volunteers and, commitment to organic agriculture and food localism

Assets

1. Knowledge of farming and organic agriculture
2. Knowledge of the Canadian Organic Standards
3. Experience managing verification systems

Specifics

Location: Your home/office on Vancouver Island or the Gulf Islands

Start date: August 7, 2009

Independent Contract Remuneration: \$5000 per annum. Approximately \$12-25 /hr, depending on experience and skills. (There is a small budget for expenses such as paper, envelopes and ink.)

More information on IOPA and the certification process can be obtained by downloading our Guidelines from www.iopa.ca



Conference / Events

August 23 – Feast of Fields Okanagan, Valentine Farm in Summerland

We've been hoping for years to drag the Feast of Fields to the Okanagan, and finally it's here! This is the real Feast of Fields, held on a different farm each year, showcasing the very best that the region has to offer, and linking fine local chefs with organic farmers, brewers and vintners. Stroll through the garden and vineyard at Valentine Farm, glass in hand, sampling delicious food and drink along the way. Learn about local agriculture and get inspired by the wonderful dishes that can be created with it! We'll be leading the pack with organic beer – all the beer at the event will be organic (Nelson Brewing, Cannery Brewing and ourselves), and there will be a great contingent from the Shuswap and North Okanagan. Rob Sengotta of Shuswap Chefs in Salmon Arm (he was our guest chef at our 100' Feast last year) will be paired with us for a Shuswap spectacular booth.

Tickets are \$75 before July 1 through FarmFolk/CityFolk – check out the website at www.ffcf.bc.ca/okanagan-feast for information, or email Rhys Pender at feast-ok@ffcf.bc.ca.

Organic Islands Festival and Sustainability Expo

July 4 and 5, 2009 - 10 am to 5 pm

Glendale Gardens and Woodland, 505 Quayle Road, Victoria, BC

Just north of Camosun College Interurban Campus

Purchase tickets from:

Lifestyles Markets, Good Planet, Silk Road, Hemp & Company, Glendale Gardens, Island Natural Markets, Community Farm Store

EAT! Fraser Valley Food + Cooking Festival

We wish to invite you to join us at the EAT! Fraser Valley Food + Cooking Festival that will take place on September 11, 12 & 13, 2009 at the Tradex Trade & Exhibition Centre in Abbotsford, BC (Next door to the Abbotsford International Airport).

Last year's event drew an audience of 10,466 female dominated visitors, passionate about eating, entertaining and purchasing new and interesting food and kitchen items.

EAT! Fraser Valley draws on an audience of over 1.5 million residents in the Fraser Valley area that encompasses Abbotsford, Surrey, Burnaby, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Mission and even Delta and Richmond. The largest of these communities, Surrey is Canada's fastest growing community not only in size and numbers but also in household incomes and thereby creating an unparalleled marketing opportunity for companies like yours.

Exhibitors will have an opportunity to meet face to face with visitors and demonstrate, sample, taste and sell their products direct to an anxious audience made up primarily of the coveted 18 to 54 year age group with above average family income.

EAT! Fraser Valley will feature numerous special features to attract and entertain visitors:

The Food Network Television Celebrity Cooking Stage

The Grapes & Hops Presentation Stage

The Dairy Farmers of Canada Cheese Seminars

The Bite of Vancouver Restaurant Pavilion

The Wine, Beer & Spirits Tasting Pavilion

The Pets EAT! Too Pavilion

The Wellness Pavilion

Each of these pavilions provides a different marketing opportunity that is clearly identified by its unique environment. We would be pleased to provide you with more information on exhibiting or sponsoring these specialty areas. EAT! Fraser Valley offers you a unique opportunity in the Fraser Valley area to create consumer awareness and/or to directly sell your products to our targeted audience that we bring to Tradex through our extensive multi-media advertising campaign.

Please review the exhibitor information on our website: www.eat-fraservalley.com and call us now to book your exhibit space while there is still a good choice of locations.

Foxglove Farm – Centre for Arts, Ecology and Agriculture

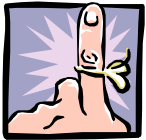
Michael Ableman and Foxglove Farm are pleased to announce the launch of the Centre for Arts, Ecology & Agriculture. Please see www.foxglovefarmbc.ca .

The Centre was established to demonstrate and interpret the vital connections between farming, land stewardship, food, the arts, and community well being, to model the economic possibilities for small and medium scale sustainable agricultural and forestry projects, and to nurture the human spirit through public programs, classes, and events.

This year, from July through September, the Centre will be offering workshops on topics ranging from organic seed production, home food growing and preserving, to ecoforestry, landscape painting, illustrated journaling and Brazilian samba. The Centre is also offering a children's farm camp. The programs will take place at the historic 120 acre Foxglove Farm on beautiful Salt Spring Island.

Come stay in one of our heritage cottages, or camp in a quiet farm meadow, eat fresh farm food (meals are included in workshop fees), and learn from some of North America's most accomplished farmers, artists, and foresters. Please see www.foxglovefarmbc.ca for more information and workshop registration. We look forward to seeing you on the farm this summer!

Keep in Mind



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.

Feel free to send questions regarding the New National Standards to the Organic Extension Agent, Rochelle Eisen at extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Cyber-help <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>