

Celebrating 20 Years Together



Certified Organic Associations of BC

Enews

Volume 1, Issue 3

March 2013



Special points of interest:

- 2013 Conference presentations are currently being posted. Visit www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca
- Thank you to Sara Dent for the conference images featured in this issue of the Enews. Check out her blog <http://www.farmlove.org/>

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Thank you for a Successful conference

Thank-you to everyone for making the 2013 COABC Conference a success!

The conference in Vernon was well attended by the organic community and local residents.

Lucy Sharratt, our keynote speaker, delivered an inspiring presentation about how we can shape a future without GMO's. With CBAN's many successes, she is confident that our voices can be heard.

The importance of her message was even more evident with so many

young farmers and children in attendance. The stand we take today will shape their tomorrows.



Already many of the fabulous presentations from the program are up on our

website,

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

This conference happens only with the amazing support of the many volunteers and sponsors. Thank you to all those who donated product, time and energy to this years conference.

Once again COABC extends a heartfelt thank you to our co-ordinators, Peter LeBlanc and Andrea Lawseth. Their dedication and good humour gives the conference a welcoming atmosphere.

Welcome to the New COABC Executive and Board

The new COABC board was accepted at the AGM held in Vernon on February 24th.

Following the AGM, the new board of Directors appointed the 2013 executive. Congratulations to

Co-Presidents: Rebecca Kneen (NOOA) and Susan Snow (FVOPA)
Treasurer: Fred Danenhower (PACS)
Secretary: Arzeena Hamir (IOPA)

A special thank you goes to

Mary Forstbauer, our outgoing President and the 2012 executive for all the work and energy they contributed to the organization.



New Organic Inputs List

The Organic Federation of Canada has just launched the Canadian Organic Inputs Directory (COID). The Directory is a database of brand name inputs for organic operators in Canada .

[Visit](#) the site now and give it a try!

The Canadian Organic Input Directory is being administered by [Pepper-soft Inc.](#)

Manufacturers of inputs suitable for organic agriculture can contact the OFC to find out how to get their product listed.

The inputs list is made up of approved product lists that Canadian certification bodies have shared with OFC.



Reminder: BC Returns to PST April 1, 2013

BCAC Farmer Id Card

The ID card will again be used to identify famers for tax exemption at point of sale.

form of proving your farmer status for tax benefit purposes.

form at <https://www.bcac.bc.ca/bcac-farmer-id-card-registration>

It is expected that the tax exemption list under the new system will be very similar to that before the HST.

Since COABC is a BCAC member organization, farmers certified through one of our CB's are eligible to receive a discount when purchasing their Farmer ID card. Look for COABC in the dropdown menu on the BCAC order

For general information about the Farmer ID Card visit the BCAC website, www.bcac.bc.ca/about-farmer-id-card.

The ID card is an easy, convenient and approved

CBC Interview

Just prior to the COABC conference in Vernon, Daybreak South on CBC featured an interview with Hermann Bruns a longtime organic farmer.

Federation of Canada board and has been involved with COABC for many years.

situation in the marketplace.

Listen to the interview,

<http://www.cbc.ca/daybreak-south/2013/02/22/celebrating-20-years-of-organic-foods-in-bc/>

Hermann represents COABC on the Organic

In the interview he spoke of the challenges and successes of the organic industry and the current



Events

ABBOTSFORD SEEDY SATURDAY

Date: March 16, 2013
Location: Edenville Community Garden, 4330 Bradner Rd
Time: 10am—1 pm

Bring your seeds and swap with others who've collected over the year. Also in attendance will be the Fraser Valley's first Seed Library, just started this year by students Kwantlen Polytechnic University in Langley. Bring some seeds to donate to their collection!

INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE

Date: March 23-24, 2013
Location: Vernon, BC
Registration: <http://www.elementecodesign.com/introduction-to-permaculture-vernon-spring-2013/>

Join Element Eco-Design's for a 2-day course in the fundamentals of *Permaculture design, theory and practice*. This course will leave you ready to explore the plethora of opportunities that abound from applying Permaculture Design.

DUNCAN SEEDY SATURDAY

Date: March 23, 2013
Location: Cowichan Tribes Si'em Lelum Gymnasium, 5574 River Rd
Time: 10am –3 pm

The Cowichan Green Community will host the 5th annual Duncan Seedy Saturday. This year's event will feature seed vendors, live plant and garden vendors, a seed exchange, kids activities, and a full day of seed saving and gardening workshops. Admission to this event is \$2.00. Kids 13 years and under are free.

Newsletters from Supporting Organizations

Every month the COABC receives newsletters from organizations with related interests

- **BC Agriculture Council** COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat. [BC Advocate](#)

- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>

- **BCSPCA** [HTTP://SUPPORT.SPCA.BC.CA/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM_ID=7481.0&DLV_ID=23601](http://SUPPORT.SPCA.BC.CA/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM_ID=7481.0&DLV_ID=23601)

- **BCAFM** [HTTP://WWW.BCFARMERSMARKET.ORG/NEWSLETTER/2012/OCT](http://WWW.BCFARMERSMARKET.ORG/NEWSLETTER/2012/OCT)



Reminders

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 ISO rather than the provincial BC certified organic program.

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.

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://www.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.