



E-News

WHAT'S NEW

March 2011

2011 COABC CONFERENCE "THE NEXT GENERATION"

There is still time to attend "The Next Generation" conference in Sidney, on Vancouver Island, March 4th-6th, 2011.

Registration is open for a few more days.

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.

Here are some more of the exciting sessions scheduled for the conference.

March 5th, 2011:

Growing Up Organic: the successes, blunders and surprises on Salt Spring Island: Patricia Reichert (11:30am - 1pm)

Funding from COG's national Growing Up Organic project gave our community an unprecedented opportunity to develop a system for selling local farm food to commercial buyers. Sounds easy?-It's anything but. This workshop will cover the range of issues associated with developing a local food distribution system, from not enough farm produce, to competing with what the gigantic semi-trailer trucks have to offer, to managing the price squeeze, to building on success.

Developing and Maintaining a Farm: Legal Considerations: Wanda Gorsuch & Robert Thompson & Miko Ross (11:30am - 1pm)

As business people, farmers face a world of legalities and regulations. This session will explore a range of legal and regulatory factors developing and established farms need to know including local bylaws, provincial regulations, farm classification & land use agreements.

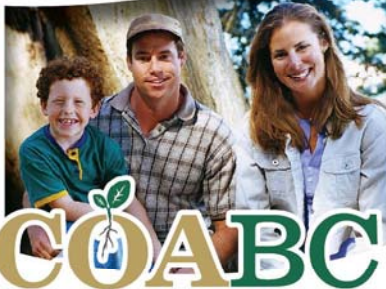
Cooperating for Profit: Heather Stretch. (3:30 - 4:15pm)

In this session we will look at the structure of Saanich Organics, how and why it works. From here we will discuss both the pragmatic, day to day details of cooperative growing and marketing, and also the big picture challenges and benefits of working together.

March 6th, 2011:

On the Shelf: Howard Joynt (9:00 - 10:30am)

The presentation will be a one and half hour interactive conversation about the steps required in an estate preparation. The talk will cover listing the assets and liabilities of the farm, the family situation, some aspects of taxation and conclude with how to start and carry on with your estate plan. The talk will look at the various stages of the farm life cycle and what needs to be done at each stage.



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Who's Who in the COR/COS/OFC/SIC/CGSB/OTA/COG Continuum, Where Are We, and Next Steps (10:45-11:30am)

Ted Zettel chair of the Organic Federation of Canada will connect the dots on who is who in the Canadian organic scene and outline the necessity of a strong national voice to represent the organic sector. The sector is particularly vulnerable at this time. We have federal regulation, but the essential, ongoing task of dealing with the federal government and ensuring the integrity of the organic claim is largely maintained by volunteer effort.

Find **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
- **BCAFM** http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/news/bcafm_v18_feb11.htm

"WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?" BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Are you familiar with the green "What is Organic Farming" booklet? The booklet is now available on our website as a downloadable resource. On the Education page under the Marketing Toolkit tab there are a number of tools and resources available to help members.

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>

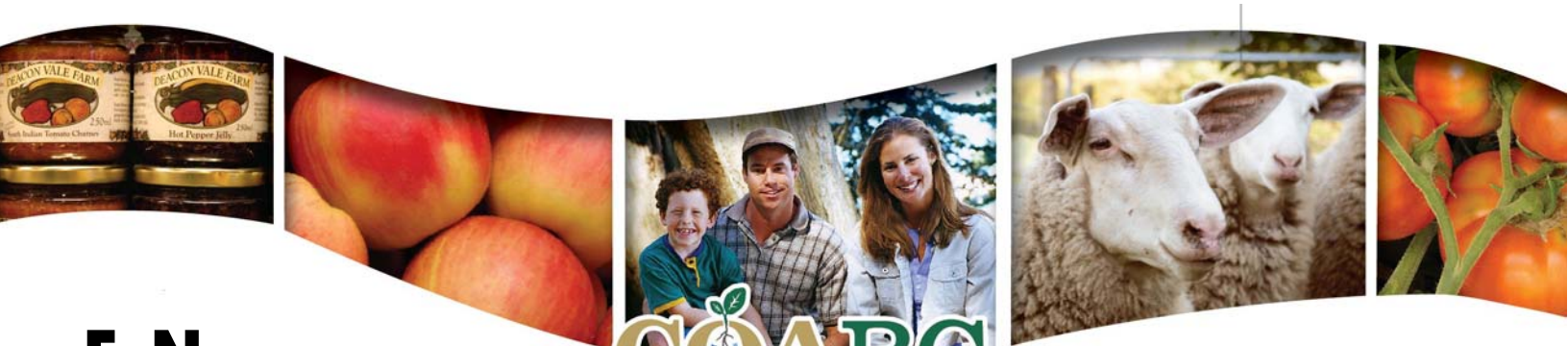
For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at

<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.



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INTERESTING

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS FOR FARMERS CREATE NEW MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

At the 2011 Pacific Ag Show FarmFolkCityFolk launched 2 new trading websites to support farmers, food producers and food processors.

Biomass Trader, a BC-wide trading site for agriculture and food processing “waste”

Residual biomass feedstocks are fast being recognised as a resource rather than waste material. Organic matter that in the past has either been ploughed under or sent to landfill can now be traded on the Biomass Trader. Sell it. Buy it.

Trade it. Visit: www.BiomassTrader.ca/BC

Shared Harvest: Four regionally based websites that support the trade of food and agricultural products

A network of Shared Harvest websites covering Metro Vancouver, Victoria, the Okanagan and the Fraser Valley provides free online classifieds for locally produced food and agricultural products. For farm businesses, www.SharedHarvest.ca increases buying and selling opportunities; for the public it means greater access to local food. Farmers, processors, grocers, restaurants, distributors and the general public can post and browse ads for free.

BILL C-474 VOTED DOWN

On Feb 9, 2011, Parliament voted down Bill C-474. CBAN reported that many ministers were absent that week from the house, even the Liberal Agriculture critic! According to CBAN on the day of the vote, the missing ministers were “in Guelph listening to the President of Monsanto Canada and touring the University”. **Find out how your MP voted.** Visit <http://www.cban.ca/Take-Action/Act-Now>.

EVENTS

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION YOUTH – YOUNG FARMER CONFERENCE

March 11-12, 2011

The Pendray House - 10624 Madrona Drive, North Saanich

Registration: March 11, 6pm

RSVP: paul@grazingdays.com

The purpose of the meeting is to build alliances between the National Farmers Union Youth and groups in BC working with young, beginning and future farmers. With a food crisis that includes an aging farm population, these alliances are intended to seed the young farmer movement in Canada. We want to harness the energy of the young people who are farming or are concerned with our current food system. We are inviting all young and beginning farmers to a **Young Farmer Mixer** on March 11th at 8:30pm.

THE RICHMOND FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY & BC ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS’ MARKETS CONFERENCE

Working Together to Strengthen our Local Food System

March 11th, 12th and 13th, 2011

Steveston Community Centre, Richmond

Keynote speaker : **Joel Salatin** of Polyface Farms, Omnivore's Dilemma, Fresh, and Food, Inc, is the keynote speaker for the conference as well as the speaker for the Saturday night local dinner!

Registration for the Conference is open.

For further details and the schedule, visit <http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/conference/prog.htm>.



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MEET YOUR MAKER

March 14, 2011 (9:30-3:30)

Fort Langley Community Hall (Free shuttle bus from downtown Vancouver).

FarmFolkCityFolk and Local Food First present the 3rd Meet Your Maker: Where local food producers and local food buyers find each other. Meet Your Maker is an event for farmers, fishers, ranchers, food processors, distributors, food delivery companies, retailers, restaurants and caterers. For more information and registration please visit <http://www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/meetyourmaker/>.

ORGANIC FARMING INSTITUTE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA: AGM

April 5, 2011 (7:00 – 9:00 pm)

Cawston Hall, 2119 Main St, Cawston

You are cordially invited to come take part in a discussion with Dag Falck on: *“GMOs / Nanotechnology / Natural” and Organic Culture.*

With the introduction of GMO alfalfa and wheat looming on the horizon, the ever growing but undisclosed presence of nanotechnology in our daily lives, along with the seemingly indiscriminate use of “Natural” on soup to nuts, Organic food appears to be being bombarded with some major challenges. Is this really true? Is Organic faltering? Or is this the fate of a sector finding its place in the current world order?



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.