



### What's New

#### **COABC launches new Website – Same Location New Look!**

COABC's new website, located at the same address [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca) is now up and running. The new website has been updated with not only a new look and easier navigation but all the important information you need whether you are a grower, producer, processor or consumer. Check out the website – the voice of organics in BC.

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#### **VO Livestock Training**

If you are interested in taking an IOIA Basic Training in Livestock course please contact Sarah Clark, the COABC Administrator by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Send your expression of interest including a \$50 deposit chq to the COABC Office 202-3002 32 Ave, Vernon, BC V1T 2L7. For more information please call 250-260-4429 or email [admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca). COABC requires 15 candidates for this event to take place.

#### **New Regulations Website**

The Canada Organic Office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) today published its new Organic Products Regulations website, featuring essential information on the upcoming regulations and enforcement policy, including:

1. An official list of Conformity Verification Bodies (accreditors) which have applied to the agency to carry out the assessments of Certifiers under the new program;
2. A draft Stream of Commerce and Enforcement Policy, describes how the CFIA will enforce products over the initial 24 months following implementation.

The website also includes valuable resources, such as a copy of the government's cost benefit analysis for regulating the organic sector, questions and answers on the 2009 organic regulations, links to the regulations, standards and Canadian statistics.

See Details at <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/orgbioe.shtml>

### Ongoing

#### **Sponsorship Program Ongoing push**

The COABC new 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](mailto:admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

#### **Regional Seminar Series**

There is still funding available through **COABC's Regional Seminar Series** to help put on production seminars. Talk to Rochelle 250.547.6573 [extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

**Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** updates can be found at the COABC <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/news.htm>

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:

- Phyta-Green® Organic-Based Turf and Horticulture Fertilizer™ 8-2-2 California Organic Fertilizers Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fertilizers, Blended with micronutrients Dropped 4/16/2009 cof-9743
- Safer® Brand Fish Emulsion All-Purpose Fertilizer 4-1-2 Woodstream Corporation Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Fish Products, Liquid – stabilized Dropped 4/16/2009 wsc-3063
- Meyfer Progas de C.V. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Manure – processed Dropped 4/16/2009 pdc-9870
- Vermi Wonder Bhoomi Organics, Inc. Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Worm Castings Dropped 4/14/2009 bho-0084
- Stimplex® Acadian AgriTech (A Division of Acadian Seaplants Ltd.) Crop Pest, Weed, and Disease Control Cytokinins – nonsynthetic Prohibited 4/13/2009 aca-9514
- Apex Extra EMD Crop BioScience Inc. Crop Management Tools and Production Aids Seed Treatments Prohibited 4/13/2009 nii-9539
- Organic BioLink® Cal Plus 6% Calcium Westbridge Crop Fertilizers and Soil Amendments Limestone Dropped 4/10/2009 wba-8169



**Interesting!**

### [EPA Will Test Pesticides' Effect on Endocrine System](#)

*The chemicals, known as endocrine disruptors, may interfere with the hormones that humans and animals produce or secrete*

The Environmental Protection Agency announced today it will order pesticide manufacturers for the first time to test 67 chemicals contained in their products to determine if they disrupt the endocrine system, which regulates both animals' and humans' growth, metabolism and reproduction.

Researchers have raised concerns that chemicals released into the environment are interfering with animals' hormone systems, citing problems such as male fish in the Potomac River that are growing eggs. The chemicals, known as endocrine disruptors, may interfere with the hormones that humans and animals produce or secrete.

"Endocrine disruptors can cause lifelong health problems, especially for children," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson in a statement. "Gathering this information will help us work with communities and industry to protect Americans from harmful exposure

### **From Bell Labs - Quintox**

We had a conference call with PMRA. As a result of the conference, we are releasing the following statement regarding our plans to ultimately register Quintox (organic formulation) in Canada.

Note from registrant to Canadian pest control experts:

The active ingredient in Quintox (cholecalciferol), also known as Vitamin D3 is known to be a low risk compound. Any safety or regulatory concerns by governments and users have been around the formulation of the product - not its active. Bell Laboratories, Inc. has therefore decided to reformulate the active ingredient into a low risk product that is acceptable to conventional and organic markets. The new formulation has recently been registered by the USEPA for structural uses. Bell is exploring the possibility of registering this product for use in agricultural crops as well. Parallel to these actions, Bell will be in communication with the regulatory authorities in Canada for a registration submission.



## Conference / Events

All things organic conference and trade show, June 17-18, 2009, Chicago Illinois  
<http://www.organicexpo.com/09/public/enter.aspx>

### **FREE WEBINAR - Hoop Houses for Extending Your Growing Season!**

Hoop houses can help small-scale farmers grow more and extend their season, bringing a higher price for crops and developing loyal customers. Find out how hoop houses might benefit your crops in a FREE 60-minute webinar from ATTRA - National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service.

Plan on attending the, Hoop Houses for Extending Your Growing Season webinar, to learn why farmers across the country are already using hoop houses, and if this low-cost tool will work for you. Crops grown in hoop houses often produce larger yields and are of a higher quality than field-grown crops. Crops can be ready for the market earlier, capturing a higher price and building a customer base. Hoop houses can also extend growing seasons, creating a yearlong crop in some situations.

In the webinar, we'll cover:

- \* The uses and benefits of hoop houses, including increases in crop quality and yields
- \* Different types of hoop houses
- \* Construction, materials and cost estimates
- \* Management of crops, soil fertility, pests and weeds
- \* The economics and marketing of crops

There will also be time to have your questions answered.

Your presenters for this webinar are NCAT horticulture specialists Tammy Hinman and Andy Pressman. Hinman holds a Bachelor's degree from Colorado State University in horticulture food crops and entomology and a Master's degree in food system studies from Antioch University. Pressman has a Master's in sustainable systems from Slippery Rock University. He is a certified permaculture designer. Hinman and Pressman both have market farming experience as well as experience building and growing in hoop houses.

This free webinar will be held May 7 at 11 a.m. MDT. Please register at [www.attra.ncat.org/webinars2009/hoophouses](http://www.attra.ncat.org/webinars2009/hoophouses). On the day of the seminar, please join 15 minutes early to allow the required software to download.

TITLE: Hoop Houses for Extending Your Growing Season  
WHEN: Thursday, May 7, 11 a.m. MTD  
WHERE: [www.attra.ncat.org/webinars2009/hoophouses](http://www.attra.ncat.org/webinars2009/hoophouses)

### **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](mailto:extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca)  
Cyber-help <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>