

E-News



May 2010

WHAT'S NEW

Standards Interpretation Committee

Standards interpretation Committee Question and Answers can be found here.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/comqueste.shtml> Comment period is now open.

BC Farm Business Advisory Services Program

Program Objective

To build the capacity of British Columbia farmers to better understand their financial situation and benchmark their farm performance, prior to making plans for the future development of their businesses. Many circumstances require farmers to make educated decisions based on hard facts. Access to basic financial analysis and specialized business planning services will enable producers to make more informed management decisions.

Program Description

This program includes a farm self-assessment component and a consulting component. The purpose of the self assessment is to enable producers to measure current business practices and identify information, training, and consulting services that they can use to improve their use of progressive business practices. The self assessment process results in the development of a farm action plan which is required to access program funding.

To help producers complete their self assessment and farm action plan, the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands will be providing a self-assessment workbook entitled: "Taking Stock" and supporting producers through a toll free number as well as delivering information sessions. This workbook is based on Saskatchewan's workbook which was modified from Ontario's "Growing Your Farm Profits" workshops.

Once a farm action plan is completed producers can proceed with applying for Farm Business Advisory Services.

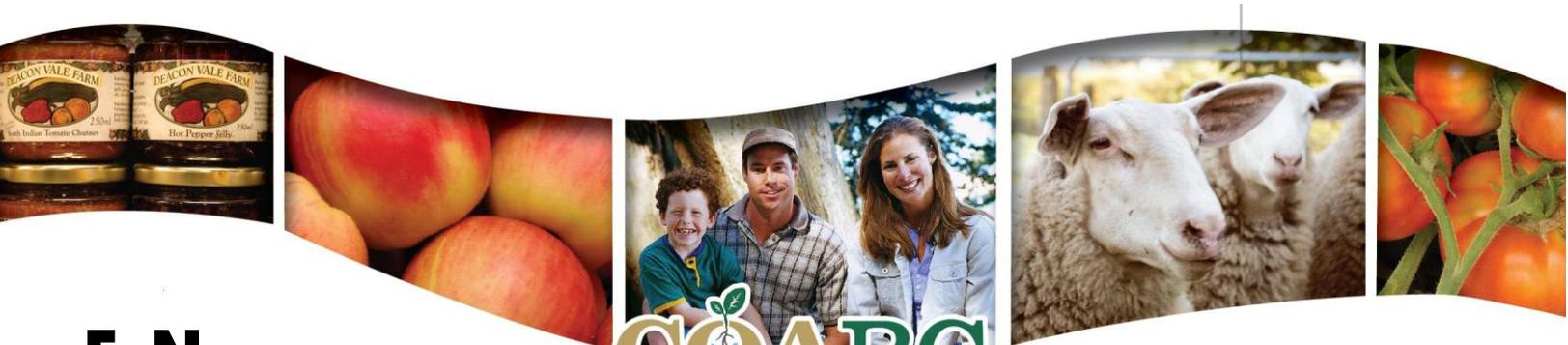
Producers may be eligible for funding toward business consulting services for their operations. These services fall into 2 tiers:

- Tier 1- Basic farm financial assessment (100% support up to \$1,900 with a \$100 upfront fee paid by producers to the Farm Business Advisor).
- Tier 2- Specialized business planning (85% support up to \$3,000 - no fee) to adopt progressive farm business management practices and strategies in nine business management areas:
 - Business strategy, Succession planning, Marketing strategy, Business structure, Production economics, Risk assessment, Human resources, Value-added ventures, Financial management

Crop Planning for Organic Vegetable Growers,

The third book, in the Practical Skills series from Canadian Organic Growers (COG), is now available. Check out <http://www.cog.ca/documents/cropplanningsample.pdf> where you will find the intro, table of contents and sample pages.

Order page http://www.cog.ca/shop/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=1&products_id=267



E-News



May 2010

Local Producer Loan Program

Whole Foods Market's Local Producer Loan Program (LPLP) provides up to \$10 million in low-interest loans to small, local producers. Why? Because we believe in supporting local farmers and producers. We want to make it easier for them to grow their businesses and bring more local products to market. That's good for us and it's good for you.

Loans range from \$1,000 to \$100,000 and can be for things like purchasing more animals, investing in new equipment or converting to organic production. We minimize the fees, interest rates and paperwork that can often get in the way of a small local farm or business taking the next step to expand its operations.

Check out the stories of our current loan recipients. From ranchers and beekeepers to ice cream makers and bakers, they all have wonderfully unique experiences to share. And if you are a local producer yourself, check out the information provided here about applying for a loan to help your business.

<http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/values/local-producer-loan-program.php>

BC Ag Council

The 2010 Board of Directors was confirmed as:

Dairy Ken - Vandebregt

Cattle - Lou Cooke

Poultry - Garnet Etsell: **Chair**

Horticulture (Interior) - Christine Dendy: **Treasurer**

Horticulture (Ornamental) - Stan Vander Waal

Horticulture (Berries and Vegetables) - Rhonda Driediger: **Executive Member at Large**

Horticulture (Greenhouse Vegetable) - Ray vanMerrewyk

Community Agriculture and Other - Dennis Lapierre: **Vice Chair (Represents COABC on BC Ag Council)**

Horse - Lynda Atkinson

Grains and Oilseeds - Robert Vander Linden

Pork and Other Livestock - Rolf Soth

CHC OFFS Manuals

On Farm Food Safety Manuals are available on the CHC member website.

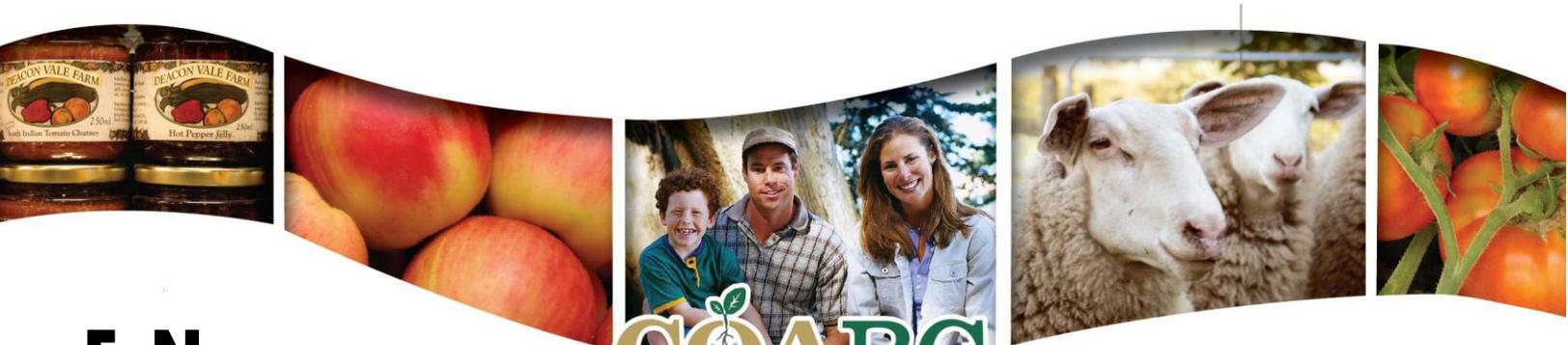
If you do not have the CHC member password for COABC please contact Kristy at office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

South Okanagan Members

Oasis United Church and has just received our license by the City of Penticton to host an organic growers market on our property. Our aim is to promote the benefits of eating organic fruits, vegetables and meat to the public. With the obesity epidemic taking hold in North America, we want to educate the public on the importance of eating wholesome, naturally grown food.

If you are interested in this opportunity to see at their market email Wally Hild at: cwhild@shaw.ca for more information. The first market will probably be in mid June.

Cherries, apricots and some vegetables are probably the first crop to become available and we're looking at



E-News



May 2010

ONGOING

ArdCorp Programs

We are still taking applications for the Food Safety Systems Implementation (Producer) Program and for the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP's) of the Environmental Farm Plan Programs. If there are any questions on these programs, please visit our website at www.ardcorp.ca, or contact our office and speak to either Veronica or Heather Carriere

BC Organic Grower – Spread the Word!

1. Do you have a website?
2. With minimal effort on your part are you willing to help spread the word about the BC Organic Grower?

Web Banners are now available from the office to add to your website which can be linked directly to the BC Organic Grower subscription page. This is a great way to support the BC Organic Grower and spread the word. Please contact Sarah at admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca for more information.



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.

Sponsorship Program

Who do you connect with in your daily life that may be interested in sponsoring the COABC? Health professionals, organisations that want to make an environmentally friendly statement, distributors etc...If you or a contact is interested in supporting the COABC contact Sarah Clark at admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca or (250) 260-4429.

INTERESTING

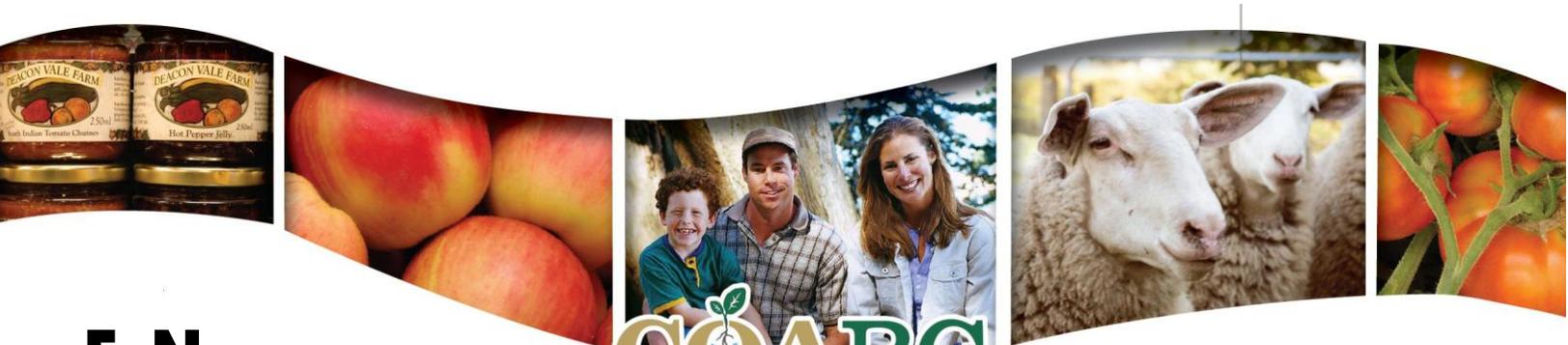
Scientist warns of Dire Consequences with widespread use of Glyphosate

SOURCE: The Organic & Non-GMO Report, USA

URL: http://www.non-gmoreport.com/articles/may10/consequenceso_widespread_glyphosate_use.php

Ag Chat Foundation

A new foundation was launched this week by family farmers and ranchers from across North America. The AgChat Foundation is a non-profit organization designed to empower more farmers to leverage social media as a tool to tell agriculture's story.



E-News



May 2010

“Our goal is to empower farmers and ranchers to build communities through social media and help farmers tell their story,” says Ray Prock, Jr., AgChat Foundation board member and co-owner of Ray-Lin Dairy in Denair, Calif. “I think everyone understands the “why” in needing to tell agriculture’s story, as today’s consumer’s are three to four generations removed from the farm. But I think people get lost when it comes to the “how” part of the equation.”

For more information, go to: <http://agchat.org/>

BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative

The [BC Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative](#) has launched a website for BC’s farm operators and food processors. The site provides information about how climate change is impacting the sector and the challenges and opportunities associated with taking action. It features an up-to-date list of **news** and **events** from around the province on topics of interest. There is also a funding catalogue and a fact sheet series. Most importantly, the site provides extensive **resources** for agricultural operators on:

- ∅ Management practices and climate change mitigation;
- ∅ Carbon Offsets;
- ∅ Clean energy production;
- ∅ Energy consumption and efficiency; and
- ∅ Climate change adaptation.

Organic Seed Alliance Blog

<http://blog.seedalliance.org/2010/03/16/organic-vegetable-farmers--warning--you-may-be-engaging-in-contract-agreements-with-monsanto.aspx>

Canadian On Farm Food Safety Working Group Newsletter

http://www.onfarmfoodsafety.ca/documents/COFFS%20WG_newsletter_jan201021%20-%20extra%20pages1.pdf

EVENTS

Food Safety Systems Implementation (Processor) Program:

Food Safety Planning Workshops – May, June 2010

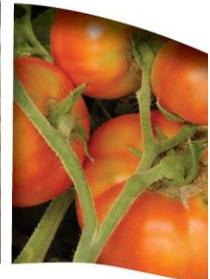
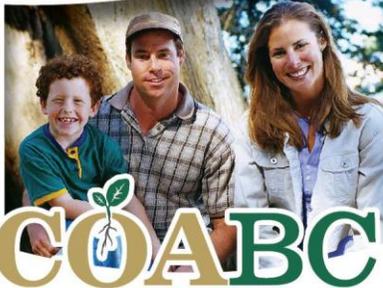
Friday, May 7 – Burnaby (Shadbolt Center for the Arts)

Friday, May 14 – Nanaimo (Community Futures)

Thursday, June 10 – Surrey (Compass Point Inn)

Visit www.ssfpa.net/foodsafety for more information on the workshops and registration

All food processors are welcome to attend the workshops to learn about basic food safety for food manufacturing, using food safety systems such as GMPs and HACCP. The sessions include information on basic HACCP theory and practical monitoring procedures, including measuring and recording temperatures and testing sanitizer solution strengths, as well as information on employee hygiene and practices. These workshops are a valuable education tool (if a company has participated in a workshop before, this might be a



E-News



May 2010

good experience for other employees). What's more, they offer an opportunity to network and access information that can help enhance the bottom line in these challenging economic times.

- Workshops begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:00 p.m.
- Cost \$20, includes lunch and coffee breaks
- All individuals participating in the workshop receive a Record of Participation. Each business represented at the workshop receives a FREE Traceable Waterproof Food Thermometer.

BC Food Processors Health & Safety Council:

Occupational Health & Safety Program Building for Small Employers

This course is designed for small employers who need guidance in developing their occupational health and safety programs. Successful completion of this course is required before participants are eligible to enroll in the internal auditor course.

The course is divided into four modules:

Module 1- Program Overview and the Law

Module 2- Fundamental Components of a Safety Program

Module 3- Risk Assessment and Hazard Control

Module 4- Implementing an Effective Safety Program

Take a look at the website: www.bcfphsc.com/training_ohs_program_building.php

Launch of Consultations: Next Agriculture Policy Framework

Consultation on the "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" Claims

Launch of Consultations: Next Agriculture Policy Framework

Consultations on the next Agriculture Policy Framework set to roll out in 2013 have begun. A draft schedule follows for your information. The provinces are responsible for extending invitations to the regional sessions. AAFC is seeking input as to the challenges and opportunities industry is facing.

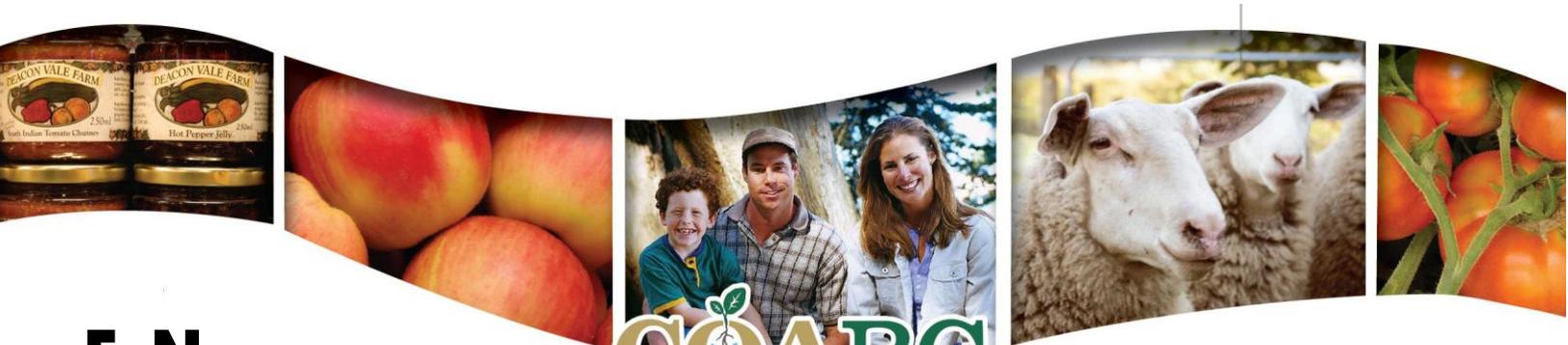
Key questions / areas for consideration and input at this time As governments and industry assess how best to adapt to the challenges and opportunities of the next decade, these questions may provide a starting point for discussion:

Canadian Industry in a Global Context

- What industry strategies will be required for a competitive and sustainable sector that benefits from growing global demand for food, feed, fuel and fibre, and what government policies are needed to facilitate this process?
- What industry strategies are required to position the Canadian industry to prosper despite the challenges that it faces? What government policies are needed to facilitate this process?
- What are your views on the optimum strategies for Canada to pursue its agricultural interests on the international stage?

Farm Income Support Programming

- Is income stabilization the right objective for farm income programs going forward?
- How can government interventions, including farm income programs and other programs, work together to best assist the sector in achieving its goals and priorities?



E-News



May 2010

- How should government resources be allocated between short-term risk management and the pursuit of longer-term priorities and objectives?
- In your view, what are the roles and responsibilities for producers, industry associations and governments in business risk management? Does each constituency have the tools it needs to fulfil its roles and responsibilities?

The Path Forward

- Have we identified the right priority issues and trends? If not, what else can be identified for additional analysis?
- Where are governments and industry working well together and where could government–industry cooperation be strengthened?
- Are there other innovations or potential market opportunities that the sector could capitalize upon in the next decade that we are currently not pursuing?
- In the context of finite public resources, what priority areas should the sector consider for investments to innovate and prosper?

The (draft) consultation schedule is noted below:

National

March 31 – April 1 National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC) Winnipeg

Wednesday, May 26 National – 1st Ottawa

Thursday, May 27 National – 2nd Ottawa

West

Monday, June 7 BC Vancouver

Consultation on the "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" Claims

On December 31, 2008, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) new food labeling guidelines for "Product of Canada" and "Made in Canada" claims came into effect. At that time, a commitment was made by the CFIA to review the new guidelines after their implementation for a period of time to ensure they meet the needs of industry and the expectations of consumers.

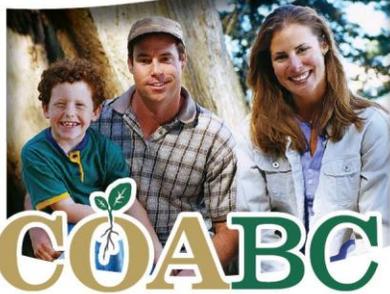
The objective of these guidelines is to promote industry's use of truthful claims relating to Canadian content on food labels.

While the new guidelines have been successful in ensuring that food labels are clear and understandable for Canadians, some sectors of industry face challenges in consistently sourcing some Canadian ingredients. Specifically, Minister Ritz and Minister Blackburn would like to obtain views on a proposal to exempt specific ingredients which are difficult to find in Canada, such as sugar, salt, or vinegar. Further, concerns have been heard about the requirement to use qualifying statements such as "from domestic and imported ingredients" with Made in Canada claims. In order to address these concerns and to fulfil our commitment, views **are** sought on the merits of exempting certain specific food ingredients from the requirements for the "Product of Canada" claim and of removing qualifying statements from "Made in Canada" claims.

CFIA is consulting consumers on this matter and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) is consulting with industry. They are conducting this consultation primarily online.

To participate in the industry consultation, please send an email to AAFC at

Prod-Canada-Consultation@agr.gc.ca. Please include your name and association/company affiliation in your response.



E-News

May 2010



DON'T FORGET

Newsletters for supporting organizations

The COABC is a member of the BC Agriculture Council under the Community Agriculture seat. Take a read of their monthly newsletter at http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2

The COABC Board of Directors has representation from the BCSPCA. Find out what is happening at the BCSPCA at <http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/news-and-events/newsletters/>

Got an Organic Question?

Try **Cyber-help** <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html> or contact Rochelle Eisen, BC's organic extension agent at extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Cyberhelp looking for a few good images.

You may have noticed a few more images on the *Cyber-Help* site. In recent months we've deliberately sought to add interest, information and appeal in this way. However, it's not that easy to come by good and available photos. I've used a few of my own but, not being a farmer, my supply is limited.

So, this is a request for any pictures you have that might be relevant on the site. If you want credit and/or copyright, we will oblige. And we will all enjoy the benefits as we use the site.

File size? The larger, the better. (my e-mail service will accept up to 14MB per e-mail) I'm pretty good with Photoshop so you can send even those that don't look that good. Relevance is more important in this context, anyway. We'll use them as and when we find the right place so will probably not use everything we receive but will keep a file to draw from. So start sending and let's see how we do. Contact Jeffrey at jn@jnweb.com

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.