

COABC: Keeping You Up-to-Date

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/

Prepared by Karen Fenske, Administrator ♦ Oct 14th, 2008



What's New

- ✓ **UBC's 2009 Sowing Seeds for the Future** A hands-on, season-long, apprenticeship-style course in Organic Agriculture. Established in 2008, this part-time (approx 21 hrs/wk), nine month apprenticeship offers instruction and daily work experience in small-scale organic farming. In a balanced, hands-on learning approach, students work alongside staff in the greenhouse, gardens, fields, and orchards, as well as attend lectures, workshops and field trips. The program is designed as an entry point for aspiring growers, educators, and agricultural professionals. <http://www.landfood.ubc.ca/ubcfarm/apprenticeship.php>

- ✓ **November 6-10, 2008 VO Livestock Training Brandon, Manitoba** – IOIA and Assiniboine Community College will cosponsor a 5 day Basic Organic Livestock Inspection Training using the Canadian Standards as a reference. The course will be held at Assiniboine Community College, 1430 Victoria Avenue East in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada R7A 2A9. For more information about this training please contact Mary Petersen at Ph: 204-725-8700 Ext 6683 Fax: 204-725-8740 e-mail: PeterseM@Assiniboine.net

- ✓ **OPR Organic Products Regulation & national Canada Organic Standard (COS)**
Notice to COABC Accredited Certification Bodies
 1. The new implementation date for the **national Organic Products Regulations is 30 June 2009.** <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2008/20080917/html/sor279-e.html>
 2. The BC Certified Organic Program has adopted the CGSB Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standard (CAN/CGSB 32.310 – 2006) and the Permitted Materials Lists (CAN/CGSB 32.311 -2006) as its reference documents (see Book 1 Version 8, 3.1.6, 3.1.7). This comes into force **January 1, 2009 – as of that date all certification decisions must reference the CGSB standard not the COABC standard Version 7.** We understand that the amended version of the CGSB standard will be published in December 2008. *Anne Macey, Director, COABC Accreditation Board*

- ✓ You will find the “**COABC Research Fund**” including criteria and application under COABC Programs on the website. <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/research.htm>

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

In the Works

- **February 21, 22 & 23, 2009** COABC Conference & AGM in Abbotsford. More information to be announced. **All members:** we are planning the COABC Annual Conference and AGM so begin to think of items you would like to donate to the traditional **Silent Auction** which will run at the Saturday night feast. Small and big items make the auction fun for everyone. We will also be selling “**Golden Potato**” tickets which will identify a prize. We need prizes for about 50 Golden Potatoes. The prizes can be a minimum of \$10.00 but if the prize is worth more, all the better. The chance of winning ‘big’ is all part of the excitement. Your donations make the event possible!. **Contact our conference Contractor with your items: Donna Scheven donna@dsevents.ca 604-607-0644**

- The latest printed version the AB has is Book 2 Version 7 for \$13 including tax and shipping for mailing a hard copy to you. see <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/pdf/Bk2V7.pdf> If you are after a hard copy of the

current draft of the national standard then please use the link on our website-one is the principles and the other is the Permitted Substances List:

http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/032_0310_2006-e.pdf

http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/032_0311_2006-e.pdf

We aren't going to print copies of the final version until all the changes have been made which should be by spring 2009.

Events

Check the **COABC Events page** for more details: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/events/events.php>


- **October 28 and December 2, 2008 Organic Agriculture Symposium: Fundamentals for Professionals**
- **The Farm Assessment Review (FAR)** public consultation process is underway with 9 sessions remaining – see locations and dates below as well as posted at <http://www.farmassessmentreview.ca/>.

Cranbrook Oct. 6, 2008	Prince George Oct. 20, 2008	Smithers Nov. 5, 2008
Kamloops Oct. 14, 2008	Dawson Creek Oct. 22, 2008	Courtenay Nov. 19, 2008
Penticton Oct. 15, 2008	Abbotsford Oct. 27, 2008	Pemberton Nov. 21, 2008

- **November 13-14, 2008 Abbotsford, BC Lameness Prevention and Treatment** A timely educational forum for dairy producers, hoof trimmers, veterinarians and anyone concerned with hoof health on dairy farms.
- **November 26/27** A two-day **Value Chain Workshop** for producers and processors.
- **Cell Grazing: What, Why & How** this one-hour webinar will start at 6 p.m. Pacific time, Tuesday, October 14. Pre-registration is required. To register go to: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/431268188>.
- **Participate in an Agroforestry Development Survey The BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative** is developing a strategic plan to guide support programs for the development and adoption of agroforestry in the BC for the next five years.

Keep In Mind



- Do you need **plastic bags with the Checkmark logo on them**? We have large labeled bags 10lb capacity (11"x27.5") for a **BLOWOUT price: 250 bags for \$12 plus s/h or 1000bags for \$40 plus s/h**. See COABC website for a picture. Regular plastic produce bags will be available in 2009 however with rising costs the new price will be over \$40 per 1000 bags. 
- I am interested in leasing my certified **organic greenhouse and ground crop area** for the 2009 season. Contact: Ruth McDonald, Triple F Farms Phone:(250) 498-3623 or email: [ruth_mcdonald\(a\)hotmail.com](mailto:ruth_mcdonald(a)hotmail.com)
- **Cyber-help** is a great source for on-line information <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>
- **"FarmFolk/CityFolk 2009 Wall Calendar** - The photographs in the inaugural FFCF Calendar express the exuberant and lush productive beauty of five small sustainable organic farms. The cover image shows the satisfaction and delight on the face of a young woman as she plows through rows of organic kale, all the while stuffing her mouth full of her bountiful harvest. To view & order: www.ffcf.bc.ca"