



British
Columbia
**Certified
Organic**

Annual COABC Conference

COABC hosted the 2017 BC Organic Conference at the Coast Bastion Hotel in Nanaimo in February. The theme “Relationships in Transition: Land, Livestock, Waterways, and Community”, was threaded through the entire weekend.

Keynote speaker Nicholas Peterson’s presentation focused on the relationships we have as food producers to each other, the land we grow on, and also the communities we feed. His perspective was that of a father, a farmer, and even more importantly, a First Nations leader. He shed light on achieving sustainability, the challenges we face, and the important job we have as food producers and workers of the land.

The Friday reception kicked off the conference with welcoming remarks from dignitaries and our president. The Open Space discussions, a tradition at our conferences, were led by Arzeena Hamir and Moss Dance. The discussions were fruitful with a few of the groups continuing their conversations well beyond the allotted hour.

The conference sessions were informative and ranged from record keeping to Indigenous cross-cultural sharing to reaching the wholesale market to livestock health and welfare.

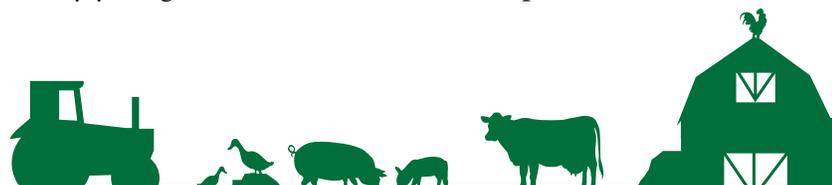
We are always wowed by the depths of knowledge shared by our community at the annual gathering, and this year was no exception!

As always, the conference weekend is made possible by the hard work of many dedicated individuals. This year’s conference coordinator, Jesse Johnston-Hill, did a fabulous job pulling all the ends together to create a wonderful weekend that attendees will remember for a long time to come. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the event sponsors, planning committee, volunteers, hotel staff, and food donors, who all contributed to this memorable weekend.

We are grateful to the Ministry of Agriculture for funding many of the sessions this year. If you have suggestions on session topics for next year’s conference, please drop a line to: assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Brad Reid Memorial Award: Chris Bodnar

Chris Bodnar was presented the Brad Reid Memorial Award at the COABC Conference. From the moment he stepped into farming, Chris has been lifting above his weight and there is no one else that deserves this award more. As a farmer, community leader, and mentor, Chris is someone many young farmers look to as an example.





Standards Interpretation Committee

New public comment period –April 10 to May 10, 2017

Below are some questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

Can manure from confined animals feeding operations where 5.5.1 and 5.5.2 have been met be applied on organic land even if it contains prohibited substances?

Under CAN/CGSB-32.310 Section 6.7.2, can operators limit access to the outdoors to their entire herd / flock (such as goats, sheep, cattle, poultry) for the entire winter if the operator provides a letter from their veterinarian stating that access to the outdoors is detrimental to the health of the particular species of livestock?

Is mined elemental sulphur permitted as a soil amendment? What other sources of elemental sulphur are permitted?

The proposed responses are posted on the OFC website, and are subject to a 30 day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

Please comment and view more questions on the OFC website.

www.organicfederation.ca

Business Planning and Marketing workshops, Business Skills training

Hosted by Beyond the Market

In various communities in the Cariboo and Fraser Fort George region.

For more information and details please go to beyondthemarket.ca

To register please contact Christine Kinnie: 250-562-9622 christinek@cfdc.bc.ca

Seedy Saturday events

April

Seedy Saturday events have begun, and will continue into April. They often have informative workshops and talks, and are a great way to trade or buy seeds. Go to the following site to see if there is a seedy saturday near you. <https://www.seeds.ca>

Request for nominations IAF - BC Buy Local Award

The 2017 Award will recognize one outstanding BC producer or processor based on the achievements of the best Buy Local marketing project—the campaign that was the most creative, strategic and effective in increasing sales and consumer engagement.

Nominations are open to all funding recipients through the BC Government's Buy Local Program who have received funding since 2012.

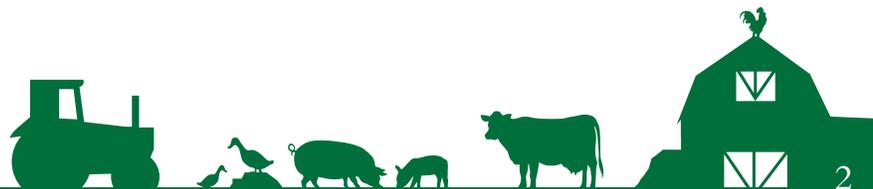
Funding recipients may self-nominate or be nominated by an individual or organization that is part of the value-chain, or a marketing consultant involved with the campaign.

Nominations must be received no later than May 1, 2017 by mail or email. The winner will receive a commemorative plaque at the FoodProWest Gala on June 8th and up to \$2,000 for buy local advertising in a consumer-based, BC publication of their choice.

For more information contact:

Sarah Rostami

srostami@iafbc.ca





Food on Food

COG's appreciates the Food on Food suggestions that have been trickling in, but they would like to hear more. Here are some examples that have already been captured:

- Beer used in traps to capture slugs, wasps, fruit flies
- Milk sprayed on foliage for mildew prevention
- Mustard meal mixed into soil to reduce soil borne diseases and wireworm populations
- Sugar dusted on grain/oilseed and forage crops to stop grasshopper feeding

Hopefully this list inspires more submissions. It would be appreciated if you could sharing this consultation widely with your network.

Information should be emailed to Connie Kehler or Rochelle Eisen by May 1, 2017.

hssa@sasktel.net
office@cog.ca

REMINDERS

BCCO Logo

ISO operators are fortunate to be able to use the Canada Organic label AND the BC Checkmark side by side.

The logo of the BC Certified Organic program is a key tool to identify certified organic products in BC. It is important that the symbol is used correctly; here is a quick reminder, especially for websites and the exclusion zone (white space.)



The Program Symbol is enclosed by a black border. The border ensures that the appropriate white space or exclusion zone is provided

around the composite mark. The Program Symbol must be enclosed by the border if the Symbol is applied against colored or complex backgrounds. However, if the background is white or off-white, it may be desirable to omit the border while ensuring the appropriate exclusion zone.

Complaints

Submission Form

Canada Organic Office complaint submission form can be found at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php.

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php "www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php".

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly mail to: OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

Planning a move?

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 the BC Organic Grower and other materials.

Newsletter Links

BC Agriculture Council
COABC is a member under the
Community Agriculture seat:

<http://www.bcac.bc.ca/>

OFC info-bio:

www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spc.ca/>

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

