



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

GMOS IN 2018

What's the latest on biotech in our food systems? Presented by the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network

Canada is the fourth largest producer of genetically modified (GM, also called genetically engineered) crops, and now Canadians are the first in the world to eat a genetically modified fish. What GM foods are we eating, and what's next? What can we already conclude about the impacts and risks of GM crops and foods in Canada after twenty years?

This webinar provides a run-down of where we are with the technology and its products, provides food movement activists with some information and analysis to examine the present and future of GMOs

Watch it here: foodsecurecanada.org/resources-news/webinars-podcasts/webinar-canadian-biotechnology-action-network

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The federal and provincial governments have agreed to a five-year funding partnership investing \$115 million in BC programs that will offer widespread support to the farming, ranching and food-processing sectors. The five-

year, \$3-billion Canadian Agricultural Partnership includes \$2 billion in cost-shared strategic initiatives delivered by the provinces and territories, and \$1 billion for federal programs and services, replacing Growing Forward 2, the five-year federal-provincial agreement that ended March 31, 2018.

The partnership will offer enhanced programs for market development, agri-technology and on-farm and processor food safety, as well as continuing climate adaptation, the Environmental Farm Plan program and business-development services. New programs will target knowledge transfer from agricultural leaders to new farmers, as well as a continued suite of support services to prepare and support new entrants.

www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/key-departmental-initiatives/canadian-agricultural-partnership

BC SEEDS UPDATE

BC Seeds has plans in the works to hold events in more regions of BC than ever before. From UBC to Winlaw to Prince George and beyond, they're touring the province this summer showcasing seed research, offering production workshops, carrot tastings, and more.

Stay tuned to the COABC E-News and BC Seeds for updates on event dates and locations: bcseeds.org

SPRING BC ORGANIC GROWER IS ONLINE!

Read articles from the Spring issue of the BC Organic Grower, including a recap of the 2018 conference and a profile of Sunshine Farm in Kelowna.

Check it out online: bcorganicgrower.ca/category/current-issue/



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FBC

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EVENTS



AMENDED CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS ARE PUBLISHED

General Principles and Management Standards: www.publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.854643&sl=0

Permitted Substances Lists: www.publications.gc.ca/pub?id=9.854645&sl=0

Click here for a summary of the main modifications: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/standards/docs/Summary_of_modifications_COS_March_2018.pdf

More information: certifiedorganic.bc.ca

STANDARDS REVIEW CALL FOR PETITIONS

The Canadian Organic Standards (COS) are a national standard that ensures Canadian agricultural production is sustainable; they are the backbone of our growing domestic and export-oriented industry. They are referenced by the Organic Products Regulations and, as all 'national' standards, they have to be reviewed every five years:

- to maintain their 'national' status,
- ensure that they remain valid, applicable,
- in tune with latest research developments,
- and comparable to the standards of our trading partners.

The next review of the COS (modified in March 2018) needs to be completed by November 2020.

The OFC invites you to propose modifications to the COS. Please download the forms for modifications to CAN/CGSB/32.310-2015 – General Principles and management standards and CAN/CGSB-32.311-2015 – Permitted Substances Lists located here: organicfederation.ca/call-modification-requests

HIGH VALUE CROPS & NICHE OPPORTUNITIES

When: May 5, 2018 | 1-3pm

Where: Surrey BioPods, Surrey, BC

Learn about high value crops and value-added opportunities for new farmers looking for an under-supplied niche: ufv.ca/ace/events-and-activities/

BUILDING HEALTHY SOILS

When: May 5 & 12, 2018

Where: Bullock Lake Farm, Saltspring Island, BC

Three part workshop series with Emma Holmes for new or aspiring farmers, gardeners, ecologists, or anyone curious about soils: ubcfarm.ubc.ca/2018/04/05/building-healthy-soils-series-with-emma-holmes/

PREPARE YOUR BUSINESS FOR SUCCESS

When: May 7, 2018

Where: Vancity, Branch #17 5064 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC

Six key areas of business development: planning, financials, packaging, scaling up, and more: goodtogrowproducts.com/product/workshop-registration-prepare-your-business-for-success/

MANAGING WILDLIFE ON FARM

When: May 7, 2018 | 9am-12pm

Where: Cawston, BC

Learn about managing for wildlife, particularly species-at-risk, on farming operations. To register, please email ecostudies@osca.org

SOIL HEALTH & ORGANIC FARMING WEBINAR SERIES

When: May 9, 2018 (& monthly)

Where: Online Webinar

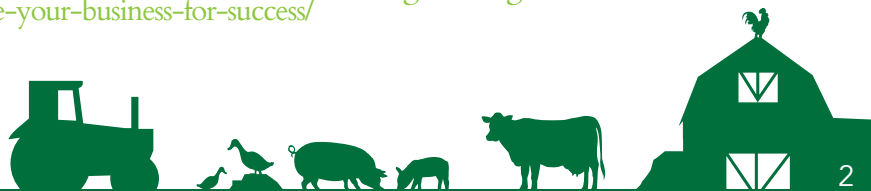
A series of 9 webinars focused on the topics covered in the new OFRF Soil Health and Organic Farming educational guides: ofrf.org/news/register-now-free-webinar-series-soil-health

ÁLI SDÁL EW "ALL THE GOOD MEDICINE" INDIGENOUS FOODS GATHERING

When: June 1-2 2018

Where: Tsawout First Nation, Saanichton BC

Celebrate Indigenous foods from Vancouver Island with hands on workshops from local Elders and knowledge keepers: eventbrite.ca/e/ali-sdalnew-all-the-good-medicine-indigenous-foods-gathering-tickets-43858576182





REMINDERS

BCCO LOGO

COR 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 Regime complaint submission form can be found at certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php.

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

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Regime 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.

COABC YOUTUBE VIDEOS

COABC has some awesome videos up on our YouTube channel. Watch, share, and spread a little organic inspiration! As we eagerly await spring, our current favourite is all about seeds: "Watching seeds sprout is pure magic," says Arzeena Hamir, one of the growers who shared their love of seeds with us for this video. Check out *Seeds of Knowledge* and other videos featuring BC Organic farmers here: youtube.com/watch?v=DUCBF_L0Bg



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NEWSLETTER LINKS

BC Agriculture Council:
COABC is a member under the
Community Agriculture seat
www.bcac.bc.ca

OFC info-bio:
www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter

BCSPCA:
www.sPCA.bc.ca

CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

