

E-NEWS

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British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2020 COABC Conference and AGM will be held over the weekend of Friday, Feb. 28 – Sunday, Mar. 1, 2020. The location is still to be determined. More details will be released as soon as they're available!

WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE IS FALSELY MARKETING THEIR PRODUCTS AS ORGANIC

The term “organic” is a protected label in British Columbia. That means products marketed as organic in the province must be certified, either through a provincial or federal program. Uncertified operators whose products carry the organic label could face penalties including fines.

Consumers need to know the products they're purchasing are truly organic—that they've been grown or made according to BC's strict organic standards. BC's organic regulations are monitored and enforced on a complaint basis, so it's up to you to help us ensure the integrity of the organic label! More details: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/docs/COABC-Misuse-of-Organic-Label.pdf

COABC CO-OPERATIVE AD PAGE

Did you know that we now have a special COABC ad page in Edible

Vancouver Island as well as in Edible Vancouver & Wine Country? The page is open to COABC members at a reduced advertising rate. If you want to know more, get in touch with the Edible magazine you're interested in!

Edible Vancouver: Inga Liimatta | 604-420-0663 | inga@ediblevancouver.com

Edible VI: Dawn Postnikoff | 250-650-1763 | dawn@ediblevancouverisland.com

ORGANIC FARMING SURVEY

In case you missed it, you have until May 5th to complete the organic farming survey designed by a research team from the University of Guelph. The survey seeks to identify motivations for farming organically in Canada. uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bdBsBwpugMNXXzD

INPUT ON INPUTS!

The Organic Council of Ontario wants your input on inputs! They're conducting a series of online consultations on behalf of the Organics Value Chain Roundtable Taskforce on Inputs, and all input suppliers, organic producers/operators, and industry consultants (agronomists, veterinarians, organic consultants etc.) are invited to

Save the Date - 2020 COABC Conference
How to Report False Organic Marketing
Share Your Input on Inputs
Organic and Small-Scale Processor Surveys
Alberta Legislates Organic Labelling

THIS ISSUE

share how Canada's current system of input review affects your work. The consultations run May 1 - 9, 2019. Learn more: organiccouncil.ca/inputoninputs

SMALL SCALE FOOD PROCESSOR ASSOCIATION SURVEY

One of the biggest challenges new small scale food processors face is finding enough funding to start up and grow. That's why the Small Scale Food Processor Association created a survey to better understand and address this critical issue. Your input will help the SSFPA design effective programs and opportunities for anyone looking to enter the vibrant food sector market! Survey closes on Apr. 30th. form.simplesurvey.com/f/s.aspx?s=9f09009f-310a-4897-8707-c74ea9e94b32&lang=EN

ALBERTA LEGISLATES ORGANIC LABELLING

As of April 1, 2019, any food in Alberta that bears the organic label must be certified in accordance with the very stringent federal Organic Products Regulations. As with BC's organic legislation, the new laws protect the consumer from false claims and protect the integrity of the organic label. organicalberta.org/salsa-legislation/



OFC FBC

ORGANIC
FEDERATION
OF CANADA

FÉDÉRATION
BIOLOGIQUE
DU CANADA



EVENTS

NEW PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There's a new public comment period regarding national standards for organic agriculture! This round of questions raised by organic stakeholders includes topics such as:

- transition of a GE field
- oversight of the CB during transition
- assessment of detergent biodegradability
- hay preservatives with prohibited substances in an organic field
- and many more

You have until May 18th, 2019 to have your say!
organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/190418%20SIC%20public%20comment%20Apr-May%202019-03.pdf

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE 2020 STANDARDS REVIEW?

Right now, a team of dedicated, passionate people are working on the review process. With their help, updated and improved versions of the Canadian Organic Standard and Permitted Substances Lists will be available by November 2020!

To learn more about the process, check out the OFC's list of Review-related articles, reports, comments and decisions for a behind-the-scenes look: organicfederation.ca/2020-cos-review-launched

And to have the latest updates delivered right to your inbox, you can subscribe to the OFC's newsletter, InfoBio, by following these instructions: organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/Subscribe%20to%20CanReg%20List_1.pdf

NATIONAL FARM TO SCHOOL CONFERENCE

When: May 15-17, 2019

Where: Victoria, BC

A 3-day event that will emphasize scaling-up efforts and evaluating impacts of farm and local food to school activities happening across Canada – putting more healthy, local and sustainable foods on the minds and plates of all students. farmtoschoolconference2019.ca/conference

UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING SOIL BIOLOGY FOR SOIL HEALTH AND CROP PRODUCTION

When: May 22, 2019

Where: Online

This webinar will examine the functions of the soil food web and key components thereof in promoting soil health and fertility and sustainable organic crop production. articles.extension.org/pages/74667/soil-health-and-organic-farming-webinar-series

GROWING ORGANIC FOOD

When: May 30-July 4, 2019

Where: Nanaimo, BC

An in-class and hands-on course that will help you grow your own food – from preparing your soil to

preserving your harvest: cog.ca/cog_event

BC SEED GATHERING 2019

When: Nov 8-9, 2019

Where: KPU, Richmond

Put on by FarmFolk CityFolk, this provincial gathering engages new and established growers as well as organizers, community leaders and advocates from across British Columbia. eventbrite.ca/e/bc-seed-gathering-2019-tickets-60096091026

ORGANIC WEEK

When: Sept 9-15, 2019

Where: Canada-wide

The largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country! organicweek.ca

2020 COABC CONFERENCE

When: Feb 28-Mar 1, 2020

Where: Location TBD

COABC's annual gathering of the organic community. More details to come!





CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

We're looking for articles for the Summer 2019 issue of the **BC Organic Grower**: tips and techniques, profiles of innovative growers, the latest organic research, and anything you're passionate about in the organic sector. The theme of the Summer 2019 issue is Climate, with a focus on Fire. Possible topics include: a warming planet, forest fires, etc.

For the Summer issue, we're also looking for 100-300 words from a number of producers about the impact forest fires are having on you and your farms in BC. If you had a close call last year, or you're using strategies to mitigate risk of forest fires, or if the fires impacted your farm in some way, please send them in! (And if you have a longer piece in mind, please do reach out!)

If this, or anything else you're up to, sparks any ideas, please reach out to Darcy at editor@certifiedorganic.bc.ca by **May 10, 2019**.

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 SUBMISSIONS

Information on complaints regarding the COABC, a Certification Body or an operator certified under an accredited Certification Body: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/standards/complaints.php

Information on what to do if you've discovered a person or company who is falsely marketing their products as organic in British Columbia: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/docs/COABC-Misuse-of-Organic-Label.pdf

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.

ORGANIC PRICE LIST

View the Organic Price List, updated weekly, here: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/

 [/CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC](https://www.facebook.com/CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC)

 [@coabccanada](https://twitter.com/coabccanada)

 [@coabccanada](https://www.instagram.com/coabccanada)

NEWSLETTER LINKS

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

OFC info-bio:
[www.organicfederation.ca/
newsletter](http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter)

BCSPCA:
www.sPCA.bc.ca

CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

