



British
Columbia
**Certified
Organic**

Organic Online System

This summer, COABC announced the development of the Organic Online System, an innovative online transition tool that will facilitate the certification process, resulting in time, administrative, and potentially cost savings across the sector. We'll be keeping you updated on our progress here.

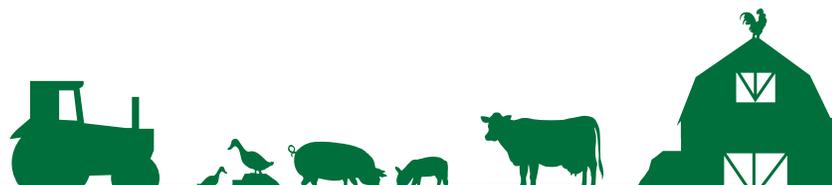
Our objectives are to:

- Increase the capacity of the BC Organic sector to accommodate growing numbers of certified producers
- Address perceived barriers to certification such as paperwork and time
- Track data specific to the BC Organic sector that will show growth opportunities and the economic impact of organic in the province

We're currently working hard to develop updated application forms, are consulting with the project steering committee to identify relevant data points, and selecting our software system. Please reach out to COABC staff with your comments and questions. Together, we're building a better food system – and a better certification system, too!

Office Closed

The COABC office will be closed December 26th to December 30th.





Revised Canadian Organic Standards are now in force

The revised Canadian Organic Standards, published last year entered into force November, 25th 2016.

However, a number of clauses in the revised COS are not immediately applicable as they currently are under an amendment process.

Last spring, the organic sector initiated an amendment process in order to clarify the scope of some clauses, or to make clauses compatible with industry practices. Contrary to what was planned, the amendment process is not yet completed. The publication of the amendments is, therefore, delayed until 2017. Hence the clauses currently in the amendment process are not yet enforceable.

Operators with production systems affected by these clauses will be issued 'opportunities for improvement' note, pending the approval of the clauses by ballot and their enforcement in 2017.

For more information and to view the clauses please go to:
organicfederation.ca/sites/documents

Business Planning Workshops

Community Futures Fraser
Fort George

A training series for entrepreneurs developing a business plan.

Intro Module: Business Concept Development

December 19, January 16

Market Research: Proving Assumptions

January 3, February 7

Marketing: Right on Target

December 6, January 10 and 24

Operations: Pathway to Success

December 13, January 24

Financials: In the Black

December 20, January 31

For more more information:
cfdc.bc.ca/events

Young Agrarians

Winter Farmer Mixer's

Okanagan

January 21-22, 2017

Vancouver Island

January 28-29, 2017

COABC Conference

Relationships in Transition

February 24 - 26, 2017

Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo

The 2017 conference will include a diversity of presentations and discussions throughout the weekend, including: Friday workshops. A seed swap hosted by the B.C. Eco Seed Co-op and the UBC Farm Seed Hub. Young Agrarians Mixer. Saturday feast. COABC Annual General Meeting.

Keynote Speaker:

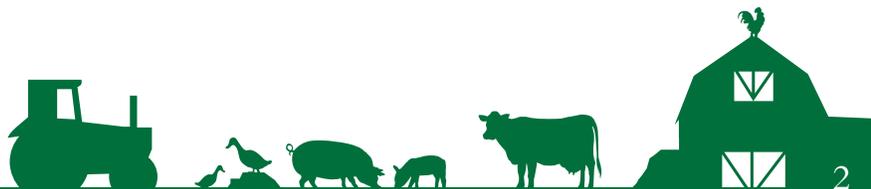
Nicholas Peterson

COABC Conference and Tradeshow registration:

eventbrite.ca

Accommodation:

Coast Bastion hotel: 1-800-663-1144 specify that you are attending the COABC Conference and you may receive a discount on your room within our Guest Room Block.





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.

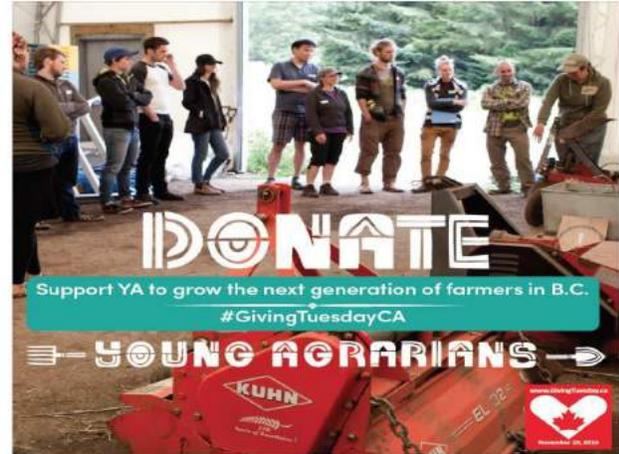
Meanwhile, on social media...

This #GivingTuesday, COABC donated a year subscription of the BC Organic Grower and a copy of the Organic Fruit Tree Manual for a Young Agrarians giveaway, helping them grow new farmers - while sharing a little organic inspiration!

 **Certified Organic Associations of BC - COABC**
Published by Darcy Smith [?] · November 29 at 8:49am · 🌐

It's #GivingTuesdayCA! We can't think of a better way to give back than by helping Young Agrarians grow new farmers. Plus, they're offering giveaways on their Facebook page all day!

PLEASE SHARE & DONATE: <https://goo.gl/MERbSZ>



 **Get More Likes, Comments and Shares**
Boost this post for \$75 to reach up to 1,400 people.

1,763 people reached

Boost Post

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

