



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

ORGANIC ONLINE SYSTEM

The Organic Online System is an innovative online tool for organic certification. Using the Organic Online System, operators will be able to apply for and renew certification online.

Each CB will communicate with its members when the online platform will be available, so please wait for information from your CB.

Transition to the new online system will take time and may come with a few hiccups, so both the COABC and CBs appreciate your ongoing patience and support during this time.

Information about the Organic Online System and FAQs can be found here:
certifiedorganic.bc.ca/OrganicOnlineSystem.php

We'll be updated the FAQs page regularly with additional answers. If you have a question that isn't answered in the FAQs online, please email info@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

#COABC 2018

Early bird conference tickets are available in limited quantities - register now to save \$40! Book your room by Feb 1 and mention COABC to take advantage of our hotel discount. We're planning a weekend packed with networking, learning, and cultural exchange.

REGISTER HERE:
www.eventbrite.ca/e/coabc-2018-conference-tickets-39344641883

JOIN & SHARE ON FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/events/134723383871083/

Stay tuned for more info on the COABC Conference Page:
certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2018/

FALL 2017 BC ORGANIC GROWER

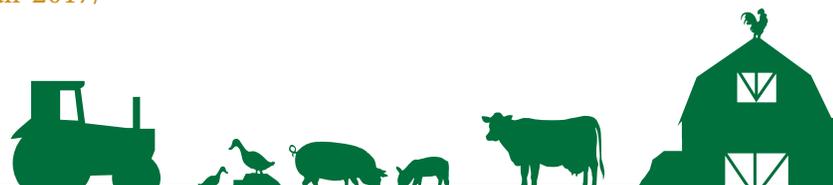
Read articles from the Fall 2017 issue of the BC Organic Grower online:
bcorganicgrower.ca/category/past-issues/2017/fall-2017/

THE FEMININE LABOUR FORCE BEHIND ORGANICS

A very special Organic Federation of Canada InfoBio issue featured women leaders in Canada's Organic Sector, including COABC Executive Director of Operations Jen Gamble! Read on for an excerpt and see the interview here: ow.ly/mC1330hd2eb

"To celebrate OFC's 'sustainability', we present a special InfoBio issue entitled The Feminine Labour Force behind Organics based on interviews with the women leading our organic provincial/regional associations.

We asked the women why they work for the organic sector, and what are their projects, their challenges, and their hopes. All put together, these testimonies tell more about the state of the sector than some detailed surveys or analysis. Their vision is acute, they have great objectives and they know what the problems are; we can learn from them and trust that they will continue supporting organic operators with their talent and great skills."



EVENTS



STANDARDS INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

Report for the comment period held from September 20 to October 27 2017 is available online:

<https://www.organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/170919%20COO%20posting%20Sept%202017%20REPORT.pdf>

Some of the questions addressed include:

GENERAL PRINCIPLES & MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

- Livestock: justification to keep poultry indoors
- Maple products: waxed cardboard as fuel
- Mushroom production: feather meal as mushroom substrate
- Wild crops: weed control for wild crops

PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS

- Soil amendments and crop nutrition
- Crop production aids and materials
- Ingredients not classified as food additives
- PSL for cleaners, disinfectants, and sanitizers

All comments regarding the Standards Interpretation Committee should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

YOUNG AGRARIANS MIXERS & LAND LINKS

Salmon Arm Land Link | Jan 13
 Revelstoke Land Link | Jan 14
 Kelowna Mixer | Jan 27-28
 Richmond Land Link | Feb 4
 Vancouver Island Mixer | Feb 10-11
 South OK Land Link | Feb 17

Come learn and network at a Mixer or Land Link near you!

More info: youngagrarians.org/events

ECOFARM FUNDAMENTALS

When: Jan 19-23 2018
 Where: Haliburton Farm, Victoria

The Winter program covers the groundwork for year-round ecofarming: sourcing organic seeds, media, all-season crop planning, growing and processing food, working in harmony with nature.

More Info: secure.royalroads.ca/cscourses/ecofarm-winter-fundamentals

SMALL-SCALE FARMERS' SYMPOSIUM

When: Jan 21 2018
 Where: Scandinavian Cultural

Centre, Burnaby
 A full-day event centered around small-scale farmers in the Metro Vancouver area.

More info: www.spec.bc.ca/event-2743516

PACIFIC AGRICULTURE SHOW

When: Jan 25-27 2018
 Where: Trade-Ex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford

It's the 20th year of the Pacific Ag Show! Be sure to visit us at the COABC booth.

More info: www.agricultureshow.net

ISLANDS AGRICULTURE SHOW

When: Feb 2-3 2018
 Where: Cowichan Exhibition Grounds, Duncan

The only agricultural show serving the farm and food community on Vancouver Island, Coast and Gulf Islands. This year's theme is "Changing Face of Agriculture".

More info: www.iashow.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 Regime complaint submission form can be found at www.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 "www.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.

FARMER PROFILES

See your farm featured on the Think Canada Organic Website and social media as part of the #ThinkBCOrganic campaign! Check out other profiles here: <http://thinkbcorganic.ca> and reach out to assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca if you'd like to submit your profile.



-  /CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC
-  @coabccanada
-  @coabccanada

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](http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter)

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

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!
www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

