



British  
Columbia  
**Certified  
Organic**

## COABC Conference

### Tradeshow

There are still some commercial tradeshow booths available, The non-profit booths are sold out.

### Food Donors

We are actively seeking food donations. Do you have something you would like to donate?

Contact: [conference@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:conference@certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

### Silent Auction

If you would like to donate an auction item please contact:

[natalieforstbauer@gmail.com](mailto:natalieforstbauer@gmail.com)

### Accommodation:

Coast Bastion Hotel 1-800-663-1144

Best Western Dorchester Hotel  
1-800-661-2449

Travelodge Nanaimo (250) 754-6355

Ramada Hotel Nanaimo - (250) 716-2009

### Friday Workshop: Organic Certification 101 with Rochelle Eisen and Anne Macey

This session will be an organic certification introduction for the uninitiated. Rochelle will outline the certification process, give an orientation to the do's and don'ts of organic standards, cover organic labeling claims and explain who's who in the organic certification world in BC, Canada and beyond. She will try to answer all questions and will give guidance on taking the next steps. Bring your pens, paperwork, and your questions. Regional Certifying Body administrators will join for the last hour to help complete paperwork.

### Moving Sustainable Food Systems Forward in BC Friday Session Open to all those with Conference Tickets:

Sustain BC is a new provincial initiative enabling the many actors involved in BC food systems to align their work and coordinate action towards our ambitious goal, healthy, local food sustains all in BC by 2030. This workshop will build upon the momentum of the Finding Common Ground Summit that took place in 2016 to advance action planning in the following priority areas:

- Farmland protection, access and stewardship
- Training and support for new entrants



## Standards Interpretation Committee

### New public comment period

The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) launches a new public comment period for addressing questions and comments issued by the industry.

- Is it correct to interpret clause 6.2.3.1 as indicating that day-old birds and/or fertilized eggs can ONLY be given vaccines, while day two and older can be given vaccines and/or other medication, if required? (339)
- Does 7.4 allow the production of sprouts or shoots grown on misted burlap cloth? On coconut fibre? (299)
- Can residential food waste collected in biodegradable bags be used as a compost feedstock resulting in compost for organic production? (302)
- Can Aloe Vera Juice or Gel made from organic Aloe vera powder and water be certified as organic? How is the organic content calculation done? (301a)

Please comment and view more questions on the OFC website.

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

## COABC Conference

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](http://eventbrite.ca)

**Accommodation:**  
 Coast Bastion hotel:  
 1-800-663-1144

**Workshops:**  
 Moving to a Digital Record Keeping System  
 Developing Cost Effective Strategies for Feeding Livestock  
 Getting started with Wholesale – Trials and Tribulations  
 Stories from the Vanguard of Organics  
 plus more...

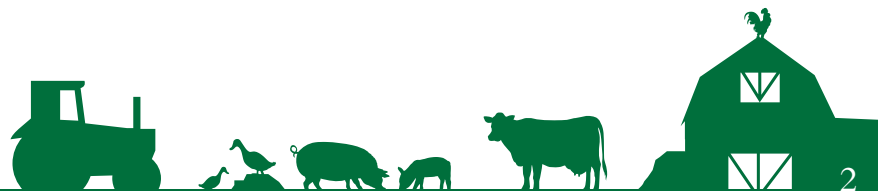
## COABC Conference cont COABC Seed Swap Saturday - February 25

Come and share seeds with fellow farmers! The COABC Seed Exchange is the perfect place to explore new varieties, share your favourite cultivars, donate the extra seeds you have, and learn about seeds and seed saving from fellow seed producers. Bring seed that are open-pollinated and share as much information as possible about your seeds (location, population size, cultural stories, etc.). Packets and markers will be provided. The Seed Exchange will be hosted by the B.C. Eco Seed Co-op and the UBC Farm Seed Hub.

## Seedy Saturday events

February, March, 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>





## Meanwhile, on social media...

 **Certified Organic Associations of BC - COABC**  
January 29 at 4:50pm · 🌐

**\*\*CONFERENCE E-NEWS\*\*** Want to get inspired for the next growing season? Get fresh ideas, and plan for success & succession at #COABC2017 in Nanaimo, Feb 24-26th. Help us plan for success at the conference by booking your tickets today, it's a big help!



**#COABC2017 Conference Tickets Going Fast- Register Today!**

This seminar will provide insight into the 10 steps you can take to "pass the reigns" of your farm or operation. You will walk away with issues to...

# 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](http://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](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php) or [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter)

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

## Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!  
[www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index)

