

# E-NEWS

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ISSUE 2

THIS ISSUE

See you at #COABC2019!  
What's in store for Budget 2019?  
Organic Regulation Guidelines  
New Farmer Survey  
2019 BC Post-Farm Food Safety Program



British  
Columbia  
Certified  
Organic

## SEE YOU AT #COABC2019!

The #COABC2019 conference is coming up this weekend and we can't wait to learn, connect and be inspired! We have a solid lineup of presenters and workshops, plus networking opportunities, an outstanding spread of organic food and a sold-out tradeshow.



If you can't commit to the entire weekend, single-day tickets are now available for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets: [eventbrite.ca/e/coabc-2019-conference-tickets-53935274859](http://eventbrite.ca/e/coabc-2019-conference-tickets-53935274859)

Full conference schedule and info, including workshop details, presenter bios, tradeshow exhibitors and more: [certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2019](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2019)

We'd love to see your conference photos and hear about your experiences, so please tag your posts with #COABC2019 or send your best shots and stories to Stacey at [communications@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:communications@certifiedorganic.bc.ca).

## BUDGET 2019 CONTINUES TO GROW A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The BC Government just released its budget for 2019, and we were

pleased to see increased funding for the Ministry of Agriculture, continued revitalization of the Agricultural Land Reserve and further support of not only the agricultural sector but also the small business sector as a whole.

A full media release with more details and thoughts on Budget 2019 will be up on our website soon!

## GUIDELINES FOR BC'S ORGANIC REGULATION

If you're seeking clarity on how to be compliant with BC's Organic Certification Regulation, look no further! These basic guidelines cover certification requirements, organic labelling, organic logos and more, and include plenty of helpful examples and resources: [gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/organic-production/guidelines\\_bc\\_organic\\_regulation\\_-\\_jan\\_31\\_2019.pdf](http://gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/organic-production/guidelines_bc_organic_regulation_-_jan_31_2019.pdf)

## NEW FARMER SURVEY

If you've started farming within the last 10 years and are responsible for the management decisions for a farm, agricultural business or new farming

enterprise, the BC Ministry of Agriculture wants to hear from you!

Together with BC Stats, they've created a survey to better understand the needs of new farmers in BC. This is a great chance for new organic farmers to have their needs heard by the BC government, so let's get lots of small-scale diversified organic voices on this! The deadline to complete the survey is Feb. 22, 2019: [research3.malatest.com/prod/cwx.cgi?\\_proj=2019\\_NEW\\_FARM\\_OP](http://research3.malatest.com/prod/cwx.cgi?_proj=2019_NEW_FARM_OP)

## 2019 BC POST-FARM FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM NOW OPEN

The Post-Farm Food Safety Program provides up to \$10,000 in funding to on-farm businesses such as food farmers, producers, packers, and ranchers in BC who want to earn food safety certifications and implement food safety improvement activities.

All eligible businesses, no matter where they are on the food safety spectrum, are encouraged to apply for program funding. More details: [bcpostfarmfoodsafety.com](http://bcpostfarmfoodsafety.com)



# OFC FBC

ORGANIC  
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BIOLOGIQUE  
DU CANADA



## EVENTS

### SECOND CONSULTATION WITH THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY

The revision of the Canada Organic Standard is well underway, and the OFC is asking for input on the latest decisions made. After the consultation, the OFC will assess the potential impact of the decisions and decide whether to accept or re-evaluate them. You have until March 7, 2019 to submit your comments to the OFC. More details, including each petition and its initial proposal, context, and rationale for recommendation, can be found here: [organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/181219%20TC%20mtg%20%20Summary.docx\\_\\_0.pdf](http://organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/181219%20TC%20mtg%20%20Summary.docx__0.pdf)

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON FOOD-ON-FOOD LIST ENDING SOON

The public consultation on the Food-on-Food list, led by Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA), closes on Feb. 28, 2019.

The purpose of the consultation is to create a list of edible homemade products which would be allowed to manage pests and weeds under PRMA, and would exempt certain non-conventional chemicals from registration. Details here: [canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public-consultations/regulatory-proposals/2018/product-exemptions.html](http://canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/consumer-product-safety/pesticides-pest-management/public-consultations/regulatory-proposals/2018/product-exemptions.html)

### CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS QUIZ

This is your last chance to take the OFC's Canadian Organic Standards quiz! When the quiz wraps up, the OFC will present a breakdown of the quiz results, including the average score and the questions that had the highest/lowest scores. Take the quiz here: [fr.surveymonkey.com/r/RL89JG5](http://fr.surveymonkey.com/r/RL89JG5)

### #COABC2019 CONFERENCE

*When: Feb 22-24, 2019*  
*Where: Prestige Hotel, Vernon*

COABC's annual gathering. This year's theme: Celebrating Organics! Single-day tickets now available: [certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2019](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2019)

### YOUNG AGRARIANS PEACE COUNTRY WINTER MIXER

*When: March 2-3, 2019*  
*Where: Grande Prairie, AB*

Two days of networking, skill sharing and farm inspiration to help you grow your own farm business: [youngagrarians.org/march-2-3-grande-prairie-ab-young-agrarians-peace-country-winter-mixer](http://youngagrarians.org/march-2-3-grande-prairie-ab-young-agrarians-peace-country-winter-mixer)

### LEAN FARM WORKSHOP WITH BEN HARTMAN

*When: March 3, 2019*  
*Where: Prince George, BC*

Young Agrarians presents a workshop with the legendary Ben Hartman, author of The Lean Farm, on preventing burnout and increasing farm profits with less waste and work: [youngagrarians.org/benhartmanprincegeorge2019](http://youngagrarians.org/benhartmanprincegeorge2019)

### BC FARMERS' MARKETS CONFERENCE

*When: March 8-10, 2019*  
*Where: Kimberley, BC*

This annual conference brings together farmers' market organizers, boards of directors, farmers, vendors, small scale food processors and community leaders: [bcfarmersmarket.org/markets/bcfin-conference-agm](http://bcfarmersmarket.org/markets/bcfin-conference-agm)

### TRANSITION PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR FARM FAMILIES

*When: March 20-21, 2019*  
*Where: Langley, BC*

Is your family farm in a state of transition and succession? Then this workshop is for you! [eventbrite.ca/e/2019-british-columbia-bridging-the-gap-transition-planning-for-farm-families-tickets-54700366268](http://eventbrite.ca/e/2019-british-columbia-bridging-the-gap-transition-planning-for-farm-families-tickets-54700366268)

### ORGANIC SEED PRODUCTION COURSE AND BURSARY

*When: Apr 8-Nov 1, 2019*  
*(22 weeks, with summer break)*  
*Where: Online*

Canada's only intermediate-level Organic Vegetable Seed Production e-learning certificate. Bursary available. [bcseeds.org/2019-online-organic-seed-production-course-and-bursary](http://bcseeds.org/2019-online-organic-seed-production-course-and-bursary)





# Winter 2019 issue of the BC Organic Grower

The latest issue of the BC Organic Grower is now online! Check out new stories celebrating the organic sector in BC at: [bcorganicgrower.ca/category/current-issue](http://bcorganicgrower.ca/category/current-issue)

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:** We're looking for articles for our SPRING 2019 issue: 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 Spring 2019 issue is Climate, with a focus on Soil - possible topics include: carbon sequestration, soil science, etc. If this sparks any ideas, or you've got another story you'd like to tell, please reach out to Darcy at [editor@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:editor@certifiedorganic.bc.ca). Submission date for the Spring issue is March 1st, 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 SUBMISSION FORM

BC Certified Organic Checkmark complaint information can be found at: [certifiedorganic.bc.ca/standards/complaints.php](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/standards/complaints.php).



For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COR complaint form at [inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/file-a-complaint/eng/1518546270126/1518546271092](http://inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/file-a-complaint/eng/1518546270126/1518546271092)

### 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/services/organicpricelist.php](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/services/organicpricelist.php)

-  /CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC
-  @coabccanada
-  @coabccanada

### NEWSLETTER LINKS

BC Agriculture Council:  
COABC is a member under the  
Community Agriculture seat  
[www.bcac.ca](http://www.bcac.ca)

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

BCSPCA:  
[www.sPCA.bc.ca](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca)

### CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

