



British
Columbia
**Certified
Organic**

COABC Conference

Tradeshow

This year we will have a busy trade show upstairs from the conference, split between two large rooms. There are still some booths available, please email our conference coordinator at [conference\(a\)certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:conference(a)certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

Food Donors

One of the ways we keep the conference costs affordable is by featuring food donated by local food growers and producers. We are actively seeking food donations. Do you have something you would like to donate? If so, please contact [conference\(a\)certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:conference(a)certifiedorganic.bc.ca) or assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Silent Auction

If you would like to donate an auction item please contact [conference\(a\)certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:conference(a)certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

Friday workshops for CB staff, CC members and VO's

VO Training, CB Administrator Training, Online Forms Demonstration and more...

PAS Volunteers

The Pacific Agriculture Show is fast approaching, January 26 – January 28, 2017. <http://www.agricultureshow.net>

We're still looking for volunteers to help at the COABC booth.

Volunteers will receive free entry to the show in exchange for volunteering their time. We need people to help out from Thursday, January 26th – Saturday, January 28th for 4 hour shifts. We will also need help with set up on January 25th. The day starts at 9:00am and concludes at 4:30pm.

If you are available to help out with a shift please let me know what time you would prefer so we can coordinate a schedule. assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca





OFC Survey

Canadian operators wishing to label their products as organic have to comply with the Canadian Organic Standards (COS), referenced by the Organic Products Regulations (OPR). The operators have to be inspected every year to demonstrate that they apply the standards faithfully. The annual inspection is a very significant moment of their farming/processing activities.

In order to help operators succeed in their certification process, the OFC wants to know how easy or difficult the process is.

- Are there many non-compliances, and if so, is it difficult to resolve non-compliances?
- Are operators well informed about the Canadian Organic Standards and about the OPR requirements?

Knowing the difficulties and challenges encountered through the certification process will help facilitating the process and provide better training.

Please go to the OFC website for the **link to the survey**.
<http://www.organicfederation.ca/>

Young Agrarians

Winter Farmer Mixer's

Two days of workshops and sessions to sharpen your farm skills, and build connections with other new farmers. Join us to learn about Holistic Management, Indigenous Land and Food Systems, Crop Planning, Business Management and more! Saturday night we will host an awesome Potluck too: new and young(ish) farmers, foodies, and farm friends are all welcome!

Okanagan

January 21-22, 2017

Okanagan Mission Community Hall, 4409 Lakeshore Road, Kelowna

Vancouver Island

January 28-29, 2017

Camp Pringle, 2520 West Shawnigan Lake Rd, Shawnigan Lake

Record Keeping Workshops

January 23, 2017

Community Futures, Vernon

9:00am-12:00pm

Vegetable and Fruit Production
 with Chris Bodnar

1:00pm-4:00pm

Animal Production and processing with Tristan and Aubyn Banwell

Each workshop is \$40 + GST = \$42 per person. If you register for both, the fee will be \$75 + GST = \$78.75 per person.

Registration: Email Michelle lmtsutsumi@gmail.com

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.

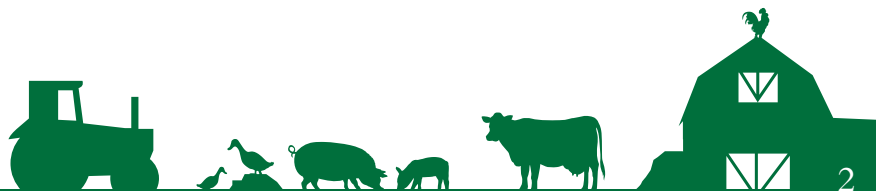
Young Agrarians Mixer. Saturday feast. COABC Annual General Meeting.

Keynote Speaker:
 Nicholas Peterson

COABC Conference and Tradeshow registration:
eventbrite.ca

Accommodation:

Coast Bastion hotel: 1-800-663-1144 specify that you're attending the COABC Conference





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.

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.bc.ca/>

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

