

E-NEWS

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THIS ISSUE

#COABC2018 Conference Update
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Winter Events



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

#COABC 2018

Come celebrate COABC's 25th Anniversary in Abbotsford - we have an amazing line-up of 28 presenters! More info: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2018/

And join our Facebook Event for conference updates: [facebook.com/events/134723383871083/](https://www.facebook.com/events/134723383871083/)

Highlights include:

- Silent Auction
- Organic Ale Tasting Friday Evening
- Organic Feast Saturday Evening
- Amazing Organic food donated by BC Organic growers & distributors
- 2 Keynote Addresses: Dawn Morrison & Kent Mullinix
- Seed Swap & Organic Seed Corner
- Trade Show

Friday afternoon presentations have a limit of 70 seats: Heather Pritchard AND Tia Loftsgard of the Canadian Organic Trade Association. Register here: eventbrite.ca/e/coabc-2018-conference-tickets-39344641883

*Need childcare? Let us know! There isn't enough demand currently, so please get in touch with Jesse: conference@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

ORGANIC ONLINE SYSTEM

The Organic Online System is a new tool that allows 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. COABC and CBs appreciate your patience as we transition to the new system. More information and FAQs: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/OrganicOnlineSystem.php

BENEFITS UPDATE

COABC was recently informed by the Benefits plan provider that currently, only operations with three employees or more are eligible to sign up for extended health care benefits. We apologize for any inconvenience this has caused to sole proprietors or family operations who have been unable to sign up. Our provider is looking for a solution and we will share an update when we have more information. We are currently in the process of revising the Benefits page on the COABC website with new eligibility

information, so please keep an eye out there and in the E-News for more information. Enterprises who meet the current eligibility requirements (3 or more employees) can download forms and submit their application now: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/Benefits

Providing access to extended health benefits to all COABC members is important to us, and we are doing everything we can to make it happen.

CYBERHELP UPDATE

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped. We hope to make these valuable resources, including the price list, available again soon.

STANDARDS FUNDING

The government of Canada has announced federal funding support for the Canadian Organic Standards, helping level the playing field for the Canadian Organic Industry, while guaranteeing Canadians can continue to trust the Canada Organic brand.

Ministry of Agriculture Press Release: ow.ly/TDiA30i4KpK
COG Press Release: ow.ly/1R8R30i4Kqj



OFC FBC

ORGANIC
FEDERATION
OF CANADA

FÉDÉRATION
BIOLOGIQUE
DU CANADA

EVENTS



STANDARDS INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

New public comment period – January 25 to
February 25 2018

Below is a list of questions raised by organic
stakeholders, regarding the National
Standards for Organic Agriculture:

- Can non-organic reconstituted milk be given to the replacement kids in an organic goat dairy herd if the 12 month transition for the kids is respected?
- Can organic meat birds be raised on the ground floor with access to the outdoors and non-organic birds raised on the 2nd and 3rd floor of the same barn?
- Is calcium chloride made from the purification of naturally occurring brine allowed under the listing of “Calcium” in Table 4.2?
- Is paracetic acid that contains synthetic acetic acid permitted?

...and many other questions

The proposed responses are posted on OFC website (view here: <http://ow.ly/KonI30i4Iv6>), and are subject to a 30 day comment period.

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca by February 25 2018.

ISLANDS AGRICULTURE SHOW

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

The only agricultural show serving the farm & food community on Vancouver Island, Coast, & Gulf Islands. This year's theme: “Changing Face of Agriculture.” More info: www.iashow.ca

YOUNG AGRARIANS MIXERS & LAND LINKS

Vancouver Island Mixer | Feb 10-11
VI Land Link (@ Mixer) | Feb 10
South OK Land Link | Feb 17
Richmond Land Link | Mar 11

Come learn and network at a Mixer or Land Link near you! More info: youngagrarians.org/events

#COABC2018 CONFERENCE

When: Feb 23-25 2018
Where: Quality Inn, Abbotsford

COABC's annual conference and AGM - this year's theme is Bioregionalism: Creating Resilience in a Changing Climate. More info: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2018

FEEDING GROWTH: MAKING FOOD BUSINESS LAW & ACCOUNTING SEXY

When: 11:30-12:45, Feb 15, 2018
Where: 1829 Quebec St, Vancouver

Industry experts Genevieve Pinto, Vice President at Renewal Funds, and Rick Kohn, Partner at Deloitte, break down some of the complexities progressive entrepreneurs and business owners are commonly faced with. More info: ubcfarm.ubc.ca/events/feeding-growth-making-food-business-law-accounting-sexy/

BC FARMERS' MARKETS CONFERENCE

When: Mar 2-4 2018
Where: Inn at Laurel Point,
Victoria

The conference is designed for farmers' market organizers, board members, vendors, small scale food processors, and agricultural community leaders to learn new skills, network, and come away inspired to build BC's thriving farmers' market sector. More info: bcfarmersmarket.org/markets/bcafm-conference-agm





COABC YOUTUBE VIDEOS

COABC has some awesome videos up on our YouTube channel. Watch, share, and spread a little organic inspiration! As we eagerly await spring, our current favourite is all about seeds: “Watching seeds sprout is pure magic,” says Arzeena Hamir, one of the growers who shared their love of seeds with us for this video. Check out *Seeds of Knowledge* and other videos featuring BC Organic farmers here: youtube.com/watch?v=DUCBF_-L0Bg



-  [/CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC](https://facebook.com/CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC)
-  [@coabccanada](https://twitter.com/coabccanada)
-  [@coabccanada](https://instagram.com/coabccanada)

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

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 or 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.

NEWSLETTER LINKS

BC Agriculture Council:
COABC is a member under the
Community Agriculture seat
www.bcac.bc.ca/

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

BCSPCA:
www.spca.bc.ca/

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

