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British  
Columbia  
Certified  
Organic

## A message from the National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC):

In the spirit of the current government's commitment to a more open and transparent way of working, a merit-based selection process for selecting new members for the National Program Advisory Committee (NPAC) has been launched.

The NPAC selection process will focus on identifying high-quality candidates who demonstrate Canada's diversity. NPAC serves as the primary mechanism for producer consultations with respect to the business risk management programs and risk management issues, providing advice and guidance to federal, provincial, and territorial governments.

To ensure that NPAC continues to effectively deliver on its mandate, we are looking for candidates from across the country to fill up to eleven member positions. The candidates we are looking for must have experience owning and/or operating a farming enterprise and must participate in both the AgriStability and AgriInvest programs. Candidates should also have an understanding of the mechanics of the business risk management programs, the capacity of producers to manage risks, and the role innovation plays in advancing the agriculture industry.

Apply for a member position at the following website: NPAC Notice of Opportunity.

The closing date for applications is September 01, 2017.

## Important Reminder!

### Benefits - Health Insurance

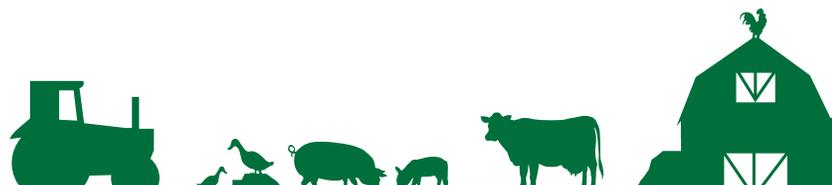
If you would like to sign up for the associations Benefits Plan and have any questions regarding it, please contact Travis Forman as soon as possible.

tforman@harbourfrontwealth.com or  
604.560.8266.

## Organic Week

### September 16-24, 2017

Organic week celebrates the organic sector across Canada and is in its eighth year. COABC had two successful Organic Week Road shows within BC, and would like to organize a third this year. If you are hosting an event during Organic Week, or would like to co-host, please contact the COABC office. We have space in the enews to promote events throughout the year!





# Events

## Standards Interpretation Committee

### New public comment period – July 1st to August 1st 2017

Below are questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

- What is the criteria or definition for “visually indistinguishable” (3.46)? Is a crop considered visually distinguishable if can be identified by an expert such as a grader or plant breeder OR must it be visually distinguishable to a common person?
- Are poultry Peepers/Blinders, with or without attachment pins allowed when used to prevent cannibalism?
- Does a raised floor above the nests in a multi-level aviary count in the overall square footage as well as for the perch length?
- Can natural gas be used to heat maple syrup evaporator pans?
- Can juice formulated with Vitamin C or D, or calcium be certified as organic?
- Can substances listed in Table 7.4, with a removal event, be used to clean eggs? Is potable water required to wash eggs?

For more questions and the proposed responses go to the OFC website.

### Kale Breeding with Laurie McKenzie of the Organic Seed Alliance

**Date and Time:** July 12th, 2017  
 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**Location:** Cowichan Green  
 Community Society,  
 360 Duncan Street, Duncan, BC

**Cost:** \$25.00

**Registration and more  
 information found on  
 Eventbrite.**

#### Workshop outline:

Morning Session - Classroom  
 (Duncan)

- Introductions
- Working with Dazzling Blue
- Brassica genetics
- Kale characteristics
- General breeding plan: years 1-2

Afternoon Session - Field (Cobble  
 Hill)

- Roguing and selection
- Bud pollination (Selfing)
- Layout and design
- Observing physical traits

### BCFSN Annual Gathering

The 19th Annual Gathering of the BC Food Systems Network will be held July 14-16 at UBC Farm and on University of BC campus, located on unceded ancestral Musqueam territory.

**Date and Time:** July 14-16th, 2017

**Location:** UBC Farm, Vancouver

**More information:** <http://bcfsn.org/annual-gathering/>

**Registration:** [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)

### Young Agrarian Events: [youngagrarians.com](http://youngagrarians.com)

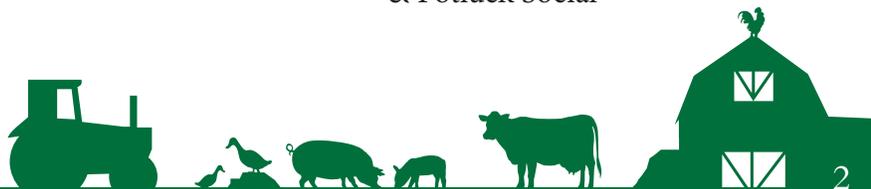
**July 16: SAANICH, BC** – Young Agrarians: Little Mountain Farm Tour & Potluck

**July 16: CASTOR, BC** – Redtail Farms Riparian Workshop

**July 22: CELISTA, BC** – Young Agrarians: Spotted Moose Farm Tour & Mixer

**July 22: AGASSIZ, BC** – Farms Cycle Tour

**August 13: KELOWNA, BC** – Morning Dove Gardens Farm Tour & Potluck Social





## The Canadian Organic Grower Magazine Launches Brand New Website with New Resources for Canadian Farmers and Gardeners

Canadian Organic Growers is pleased to announce the launch of a brand new website for The Canadian Organic Grower (TCOG) magazine.

Whether you're a new or experienced grower, the new website is an online resource to find information on organic farming, gardening and research. The new website is loaded with information on a vast range of subjects – from vegetable, field crop and livestock growing tips from experienced organic growers to current trends in organic research.

The website will be updated regularly with new digital content to keep readers informed between print issues (print issues are published three times a year).

<http://magazine.cog.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 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) "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)

