



British  
Columbia  
**Certified  
Organic**

## Benefits - Health Insurance

The COABC is introducing a group benefit plan exclusively for its members. The Benefit plan will include coverage of Life Insurance, Drug coverage and dental coverage. Every member will have the opportunity to pick from an option of three plans based on their individual budget. Each option has a corresponding rate for single, couple and family coverage. Some of the advantages to using the Association Plan are but not limited to;

- Significant benefit price reduction for members
- No age limit for health and dental coverage
- No underwriting for benefits
- Flexibility of coverage

Once the details have been finalized, COABC will send an email out to the members list with details of the plan and associated documents to sign up. Travis Forman from Harbourfront Wealth and John Jabat will be in contact with members interested in the benefit plan.

## Safe Food for Canadians regulations

### New rules proposed to strengthen food safety

The Government of Canada launched a public consultation on new rules to strengthen food safety.

- The 90-day consultation closes on April 21, 2017.
- The proposal consolidates 14 sets of existing regulations into one.
- The CFIA has consulted stakeholders on this initiative since 2013, including a targeted consultation with small businesses in 2015.

To **comment** please go to: [inspection.gc.ca/safefood](http://inspection.gc.ca/safefood)





## Standards Interpretation Committee

New public comment period –March 6 to April 6 2017

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

- Can stored livestock feed (6.4.4) be treated with PSL 4.3 and 5.2 listed substances?
- Clause 6.5 refers to the Code of Practice for Care and Handling of Farm animals: Transportation. It also references in a note the Health of Animals Regulations under the Health of Animal Act (CFIA). If these two sets of rules contradict one another, which one is to be referred to in evaluating compliance?
- Must young herbivores be given access to exercise yards outside of the pasture grazing season (6.11.1)?
- Is the small breed exemption in Table 1 of 6.11.2 of 32.310 restricted to 'Dairy cows - individual maternity pens'?
- Can non-organic spent brewers' grains be used as a soil amendment? As a compost feedstock?

The proposed responses are posted on the OFC website, and are subject to a 30 day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent

## COG Seed production program

22-week program runs April 10th - November 3rd, 2017 (with a summer break from July 10th - September 3rd).

Registration for Canada's first, intermediate-level Organic Vegetable Seed Production e-learning certificate is open.

This certificate program will be delivered in a part-time blended format featuring live, online instruction with Mary Brittain and Patrick Steiner.

The course will focus on building the competencies needed for successful, commercial organic seed producers. Modules covered in this certificate program include:

1. Organic Farming Practices
2. Organic Seed Production and Harvesting
3. Organic Seed Quality Assurance
4. The Business of Organic Seed Production
5. On-Farm Organic Plant Breeding

## Business Planning and Marketing workshops, Business Skills training

**Hosted by Beyond the Market**

In various communities in the Cariboo and Fraser Fort George region.

For more information and details please go to [beyondthemarket.ca](http://beyondthemarket.ca)

To register please contact Christine Kinnie: 250-562-9622 [christinek@cfdc.bc.ca](mailto:christinek@cfdc.bc.ca)

## Seedy Saturday events

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>





## Food on Food

The Organic Value Chain Roundtable (OVCRT) has been working for some time towards getting an exemption regarding products you use for managing disease, insects or weeds in your crops that are homemade from products you can eat. Essentially, it is using “food-on-food” ingredients for pest control.

There is a small window of opportunity to get a list of what you are using, or know of being used, to Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) for consideration.

What we need is:

1. What you know is being used?
2. What is it being used for?
3. How it is being applied?

Information should be emailed to Connie Kehler or Rochelle Eisen by May 1, 2017.

hssa@sasktel.net  
office@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](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.bc.ca/>

### Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

[www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index)

