

E-NEWS

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THIS ISSUE

Welcome to the New COABC Executive
COABC Core Review Wrap-up
Changes to BC's ALR Rules
Groundwater License Deadline Extended
Organic Farming Survey



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EXECUTIVE!

At our AGM last month, the following people were appointed to the COABC Executive.

- Co-President: Carmen Wakeling of the Pacific Agricultural Certification Society
- Co-President: Heather Stretch of the Islands Organic Producers Association
- Treasurer: Tristan Banwell of the North Okanagan Organic Association
- Secretary: Niklaus Forstbauer of the Bio-Dynamic Agricultural Society of BC

A big welcome to both our new and re-elected Executive members. We're looking forward to seeing what this year brings to BC's organic sector!

COABC CORE REVIEW

Our Core Review has officially wrapped up! The COABC Board of Directors will be looking at the recommendations and creating a framework to move them forward.

Look for a more extensive update on this in the next issue of the BC Organic Grower!

CHANGES TO BC'S ALR RULES

On February 22, 2019, the Agricultural Land Reserve General Regulation and Agricultural Land Reserve Use Regulation were approved by BC's Lieutenant Governor in Council, bringing into force changes to the Agricultural Land Commission Act under Bill 52 – 2018.

So what do these changes mean for you and your farm? The Young Agrarians wrote up a great post outlining the key changes and their impacts: youngagrarians.org/whats-new-bill-52-changes-alr

GROUNDWATER LICENSE DEADLINE EXTENDED

Do you use groundwater for non-domestic use, including farming? The BC government has once again extended the groundwater licensing deadline, including both the transition period and the application fee waiver period. Existing water users now have until March 1, 2022 to apply for a license. engage.gov.bc.ca/watersustainabilityact/2019/02/19/blog-post-27-groundwater-licensing-update

ORGANIC FARMING SURVEY

Are you a certified organic farmer? If so, you are invited to participate in a short survey, designed by a research team from the University of Guelph, that seeks to identify motivations for farming organically in Canada. The survey closes in mid-April. uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bdBsBwpugMNXXzD

COTA 2019 LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Have you or someone you know done something exceptional for organics? Nominate yourself or others you feel deserve recognition for COTA's 2019 Leadership Awards! Nominations close on April 5. canada-organic.ca/en/events/flagship-events/organic-gala-leadership-awards

2019 FEDERAL BUDGET

The 2019 Federal Budget, released on March 19, includes some important announcements for the food and agriculture sector, including the first-ever Food Policy for Canada. The Organic Council of Ontario put together a good recap of the highlights for the organic sector: organiccouncil.ca/2019-federal-budget-highlights-for-the-organic-sector



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SOCIAL FAIRNESS TASK FORCE IS RECRUITING!

The OFC's new Social Fairness Task Force is looking for members! The goal of the Task Force is to ensure organic operators demonstrate commitment to fairness in organic food systems in a number of ways, including (but not limited to) providing safe working conditions, fair compensation, fair working hours, equitable contracts, adequate housing and treating all workers, managers, farmers and ranchers with dignity and respect.

If you're interested in joining this task force, email marc-antoine.larrivee@organicfederation.ca

NEW PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Organic Standards Interpretation Committee is seeking feedback on a range of topics, including desiccants, anti-caking agents, nucleus hives, reverse osmosis filtering systems, outdoor access for poultry, and much more. You have until April 11 to read over the questions and answers and have your say! drive.google.com/file/d/1zrLktrarwtKqkriMBrpHM2CZlX5jW3SB/view

CAN ORGANIC FOOD BE PRODUCED WITH SYNTHETIC FERTILIZERS OR PESTICIDES?

The Standards Interpretation Committee wants to ensure the language in the 2020 Standard is accurate and meaningful and doesn't lead to confusion among producers and inspectors. That's why the SIC is recommending the removal of the terms "synthetic" and "non-synthetic" from the Permitted Substances Lists. drive.google.com/file/d/1Ui8j3yZ_CR0iPDtW3Or4TfPNnuNRIOCz/view

FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD - 3RD ANNUAL FOOD SECURITY FORUM WORKSHOP

When: April 5-6, 2019
Where: Terrace, BC

Connect, collaborate, & learn from game-changing innovators and thinkers in the food security community. Put on by the Northwest BC Food Action Network: nwfoodsecure.org/2019-conference

HASKAP WORKSHOP

When: April 6, 2019
Where: Salmon Arm, BC

A full day of haskap featuring two keynote speakers, guest presentations and special announcements, covering everything from growing to nutraceutical values to processing: bhaskapassociation.com/events

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

FARM SUCCESSION PLANNING WORKSHOP

When: April 10, 2019
Where: Victoria, BC

A workshop to help find fairness in farm transition, empower your family, increase farm profit, and secure your legacy: eventbrite.ca/e/farm-succession-planning-workshop-tickets-57640009821

CO-OPERATE NOW - THE CO-OP BUSINESS BOOTCAMP

When: April 11-14, 2019
Where: Vancouver, BC

An interactive business skills bootcamp for entrepreneurs or community members interested in building a co-op enterprise: bccacoop.org/programs-services/training-workshops/cooperate-now

GROWING ORGANIC FOOD

When: May 30-July 4, 2019
Where: Nanaimo, BC

An in-class and hands-on course that helps you grow your own food – from preparing your soil to preserving your harvest: cog.ca/cog_event





SPRING 2019 ISSUE OF THE BC ORGANIC GROWER

The Spring 2019 issue of the BC Organic Grower will be arriving in mailboxes within a couple of weeks! Until then, you can catch up on stories celebrating the organic sector in BC at: bcorganicgrower.ca

COABC YOUTUBE VIDEOS

COABC has some awesome videos up on our YouTube channel. Watch, share, and spread a little organic inspiration! youtube.channel/UCqyyKksqE7SMDzpDZTYVyhA



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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.

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

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

NEWSLETTER LINKS

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

OFC info-bio:
www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter

BCSPCA:
www.sPCA.bc.ca

CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

