



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

FLOOD INFORMATION

Below are a number of links to provide producers with key information and resources to assist them in preparing, responding and recovering from potential flooding and related impacts.

For current flooding information, please visit: emergencyinfo.bc.ca/home/current-flooding-information/

Operational items to consider in preparing for an emergency are available here: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-preparedness/flood-preparedness

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) has been announced for some events in BC in relation to flooding. For more information on DFA go to: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/disaster-financial-assistance

If you have been impacted please take a moment to look at eligibility criteria to see if this program may apply to you. There are also links to cleanup and recovery information on these pages. Remember that whether

you are dealing with a program or your private insurer, careful documentation of any impacts and costs is important, and that photos are a great documenting tool.

NEW FACES AT COABC



Maureen Loft



Samantha Graham

COABC is excited to welcome two new members: Accreditation Board (AB) Director, Maureen Loft, and Administrative Assistant Samantha Graham.

Maureen holds a degree from UBC in Agricultural Economics and received a certificate from Capilano University in Local Government Administration. Maureen is a strong leader with skills and experience in administration within complex organizations, leading teams through process and legislative change, project management, change

management, procurement law, and continuous improvement. She is keen to contribute to the health of people and families and take care of our environment.

Sam has a B.A.Sc in Sustainable Agriculture from KPU, and also works with the Food Action Society of the North Okanagan as the Farm and Garden Manager. She is passionate about supporting local food systems and excited at the opportunity to work with BC's organic operators.

MEETING WITH POPHAM

In May, Jen Gamble and Heather Stretch met with Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham and deputy ministers. All were very open and interested in the BC Organic sector and willing to work with COABC.

There was particular interest in projects that aimed to help farmers as directly as possible, including the Organic Online System (everyone saw how this piece is critical to assisting transition, to engaging farmers, to gathering data, to making a future brand names list accessible, etc.), updating the checkmark, and supporting a comprehensive CORE review of COABC. The next step will be to create proposals for the top priorities that align with the Ministry of Agriculture's mandate.



EVENTS



STANDARDS INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE USE OF L-LYSINE

The Standards Interpretation Committee has been submitted an interpretation request by a Certifying Body accredited under the Canada Organic Regime. This request includes the three following questions:

1. Are synthetic sources of L-Lysine permitted in livestock feed?
2. Are both L-Lysine sulphate and L-Lysine HCL permitted in livestock feed?
3. What are the additional restrictions for the allowance of synthetic L-Lysine?

The SIC agrees that there is a need for clarification and, as per clause C.5.4 of the Canada Organic Regime Operating Manual, the issue of the use of lysine shall be set aside by the accredited CBs (e.g. the nonconformity will be placed on hold) until the SIC response is drafted, submitted to public comment and posted as final.

Consequently, the two following questions that were posted in Final Q&As (<https://www.organicfederation.ca/canadian-organic-standards>) are temporarily withdrawn:

Is L-lysine allowed in the feed for organic birds? (80)

Is lysine, produced using a fermentation process and a specially selected bacteria synthetic or non-synthetic? Providing the bacteria are non-GE, would this form of lysine be compliant with the standard if used as an ingredient in livestock feed? (145)

FROM FIELD TO FORK TO FACT: RELAXAKUCHA 2018

When: May 31, 2018 | 5-7:30pm
Where: Accelerate Okanagan, 201-460 Doyle Ave, Kelowna BC

9 presentations. Okanagan Food Systems. Food. Drinks. Join us for a relaxing evening (for the audience) of presentations modeled on the Pechakucha style of rapid, image based knowledge sharing: eventbrite.ca/e/relax-a-kucha-from-farm-to-fork-to-fact-registration-46208907085

ÁLI SDÁL EW "ALL THE GOOD MEDICINE" INDIGENOUS FOODS GATHERING

When: June 1-2, 2018
Where: Tsawout First Nation, Saanichton BC

Celebrate Indigenous foods from Vancouver Island with hands on workshops from local Elders and knowledge keepers: eventbrite.ca/e/ali-sdalnew-all-the-good-medicine-indigenous-foods-gathering-tickets-43858576182

WOOL 'N EWE A-FAIR

When: June 9, 2018
Where: Cloverdale Rodeo Fairgrounds 6050 - 176 Street, Cloverdale, BC

Lower Mainland Sheep Producer Association is having a show and sale - It is their annual fundraiser to help educate the community, fibre artists and farmers alike: lmspa.ca/general-information

YOUNG AGRARIANS FORBES FARM TOUR & POTLUCK

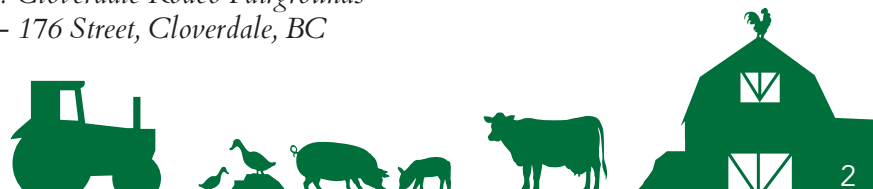
When: June 10, 2018 | 4-7pm
Where: Oliver, BC

Forbes Farm is a very diverse operation of vegetables, tree fruits, berries, herbs, nuts, apiary, and livestock. Join for a farm tour and learn about their wetland conservation, and diverse production methods and practices, followed by a potluck: youngagrarians.org/forbesfarm/

YOUNG AGRARIANS ORGANIC ONLY TOUR & POTLUCK

When: June 24, 2018 | 4-7pm
Where: Oliver, BC

Organic Only is a small scale farm working to answer that question. In season 4, on 3/4 of an acre of leased land, Emilie faces the challenges that organic growing and mother nature present. Join for a farm tour and see how Emilie is demonstrating that one can start a farm alone and make a living on the land, followed by a potluck: youngagrarians.org/organic-only/





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 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.

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.

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



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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.spc.ca

CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

