



British
Columbia
**Certified
Organic**

COABC's Annual Conference

2017's theme is "Relationships in Transition." The diversity of the presentations and discussions will be a reflection of the hats we wear as entrepreneurs, marketers, growers, processors, retailers and researchers, and so many more.

The conference is February 24th to February 26th on Snuneymuxw Territory, at the Coast Bastion hotel in Nanaimo, BC.

Early bird tickets

Early bird tickets went on sale yesterday, Monday Nov.21st!

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/coabc-conference-2017-tickets-28946785615>

Tradeshow

The tradeshow event is also up and live.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/coabc-2017-conference-trade-show-tickets-3019616755>

Keynote speaker

We will be incorporating cross cultural exchange at our conference, to enhance relationships with our neighbours and the land we farm. We are pleased to announce that Nicholas Peterson will be our keynote speaker this year. Nicholas is a farmer at Nicola Valley Produce and member of the Lower Nicola Indian Band in Merritt, BC. Nicholas will speak to the significance of relationship and ceremony as the foundation for sustainability. We look forward to celebrating Indigenous food sovereignty projects and learning from the ancestral stewards of our lands.





Events

Standards Interpretation Committee

New public comment period

The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) launches a new public comment period for addressing questions and comments issued by the industry.

Under section 7.5.5 d. of 32.310, how should the soil volume of 70 L/M2 be defined and how should the total growing area be defined?

My sweet corn field is surrounded by GE corn. Since I do multiple plantings, I know that there are times when pollen from the GE corn contaminates my crop, but I have nowhere to locate the corn where this will not be the case. Can this crop still be compliant in light of the new GE risk management criteria in 4.4.4 and 5.2.2 d)?

Can paper mill sludge be used on organic farms??

Is streptomycin allowed in apple production to control fire blight?

Please comment and view more questions on the OFC website.

www.organicfederation.ca

COG Webinars!

Changes to the Organic Standards

Canadian Organic Growers presents a 3-part webinar series in late November (sign up for one, two or all three). To ensure operators, producers, processors, certifying bodies, and verification officers are up to date on the revisions, COG will be offering an hour long webinar with opportunity for Q & A at the end with sector experts.

Livestock Production with Anne Macey

November 22nd, 2016 – 7pm ET

Preparation and Processing with Rochelle Eisen

November 23rd, 2016 – 7pm ET

Crop Production with Garry Lean

November 24th, 2016 – 7pm ET

For more information and to register: www.cog.ca/our-services/cos-updates-webinars/

\$40 per webinar, or all three for \$100

Contact: sarah@cog.ca

NOOA Meeting

A brief business meeting and a discussion on seed sourcing, needs, and standards requirements.

November 22, 2016 (7pm-9pm)
 Oldfellow Hall, 3005 Wood Ave.,
 Armstrong

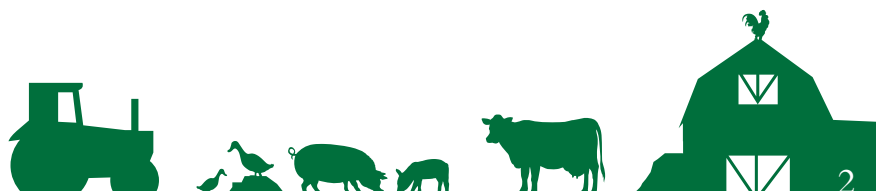
Barney Bentall & the Cariboo Express Fundraiser

In support of the Kelowna Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program

November 24, 2016
 7:00pm doors / 8:00pm show
 Delta Grand Hotel, Kelowna

Tickets: \$45 + service charges
 Tickets available at: www.selectyourtickets.com

A fundraiser for BCAFM's Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program in Kelowna. Funds raised will support families and seniors in need in accessing fresh, locally grown fruit, vegetables, nuts, meat and eggs directly from farmers at the Kelowna Farmers' and Crafters' Market.





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.

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO 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 Office 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.

Meanwhile, on social media...

We're always seeking to share knowledge at COABC, and social media is one of our favourite ways to do that. Our most popular post last month was an article exploring why native prairie grasses are so much better for the ecosystem than lawns. We reached 4.5k people, and the article was shared 48 times from our page, helping grow our reputation as a leader in the sustainable and organic agriculture movement.



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

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spc.ca/>

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

