



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

SAVE THE DATE!

#COABC2019 is just around the corner! Mark your calendars for February 22-24, 2019. We love kicking off the season (and saying goodbye to winter!) with our annual conference - and this year we'll be celebrating everything COABC! Stay tuned for more details on workshops, keynotes, and more! To contact our Conference Coordinator, please reach out to conference@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

BILL 52 MOVES TO PROTECT FARMLAND

From Minister of Agriculture Lana Popham: "Well, it finally happened: this afternoon, the last day the Legislature sits before Winter Break, Bill 52: Agriculture Land Commission Amendment Act, 2018 passed and received Royal Assent!"

Today is a huge victory not only for farmers and those involved in our agriculture sector, but for every British Columbian who cares about protecting our beautiful agricultural land for farming!

One of the things I heard most during debate on this bill from the members who spoke was just how important protecting our Province's food security is. By cracking down on illegal fill dumping, addressing mega mansions

and farmland speculation and by reinstating one zone for all ALR land Bill 52 delivers on this in a big way.

I also want to thank the thousands of British Columbians who helped contribute to this success. Whether you participated in the public consultation process, sent me an email with feedback, or even just followed the progress of this Bill along from home I want you to know that we heard you, and we listened.

As I write this I'm about to board a flight to Vancouver for a series of meetings at the First Nations Leadership Gathering tomorrow. The work definitely continues but I truly believe we accomplished something significant tonight that will benefit our province for decades to come. Thanks to everyone who helped make Bill 52 law!!"

BC SEED BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The new BC Seeds Business Directory is an extensive bank of seed resources including business, Seedy Saturday, and seed library listings. You can also find publications that support ecological seed growers and professionals. Check it out: bcseeds.org/business-directory/

ORGANIC CERTIFICATION REGULATION FAQ

Changes to BC's Organic Certification Regulation came into force on September 1, 2018, as 'organic' was adopted as a protected label. Wondering what that means for organic producers, and for producers who aren't certified? Check out the Ministry of Agriculture's Frequently Asked Questions: ow.ly/UkcW30mN9WH

COG: JOIN NATIONAL, SUPPORT LOCAL

Canadian Organic Growers (COG) allows members and supporters to direct a portion of their membership fee to COABC! If you haven't already, please join COG and support COABC: cog.ca/home/support-our-work/become-a-member/

ORGANIC PRICE LIST

The Organic Price List for fruits and vegetables is updated weekly on the COABC website. The Organic Price List is an important market pricing reference to help growers sell without overcharging and losing sales, or worse, undercharging and eroding the market price for other growers. certifiedorganic.bc.ca/services/organicpricelist.php



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EVENTS

2020 CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS REVISION WORK - 1ST CONSULTATION WITH THE ORGANIC INDUSTRY

The revision of the Canadian Organic Standard is underway. The OFC can now present the decisions made at the first meeting of the Committee on Organic Agriculture of the Canadian General Standards Board (TC) held October 29, 2018: organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/TC%20Oct%2029%202018%20Summary.docx_.pdf

For each petition, we present the initial proposal, its context, the TC decision and the rationale for that decision. Since the Organic Standards have a direct impact on your activities, we would like to gather your comments and bring these to the attention of the relevant working groups.

This consultation will allow us to assess the potential impact of the decisions, and then accept or re-evaluate them. To submit your comments, please:

- identify the number of the decision
- clearly describe your argument
- include your email and phone number so that we contact you if we have questions. Your identity will not be disclosed to the working groups.
- submit your comment to marc-antoine.larrivee@organicfederation.ca

DEADLINE: December 15 2018

Regarding parallel production: the issue of parallel production is back! Because it concerns so many operators, we need a broad consultation and we have created a blog. Please enter comments here: wp.me/pN8tH-3X

Thank you!
The COS Review Team

EATING THE OKANAGAN

When: Dec 3, 2018 | 8:45am-6pm
Where: Institute for Community Engaged Research, 3333 University Way, Kelowna, British Columbia

Eating the Okanagan: Exploring change in our local food systems, will encourage knowledge sharing and dialogue between UBC Okanagan Researchers and the broader community: okresearchforum.geolive.ca

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OPEN HOUSE

When: Dec 11, 2018 | 5:30-8:30pm
Where: 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, BC

The Ministry of Agriculture is hosting an open house to showcase services and support available to producers. Plus, tour through the lab portion of the building and understand what goes on on that side: youngagrarians.org/dec-11-b-c-ministry-agriculture-open-house/

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC CERTIFICATION WEBINAR

When: Dec 12, 2018 | 4-6pm (7-9pm ET)
Where: Webinar

The two hour webinar will help attendees understand the differences between non-organic and certified

organic farming systems, while providing the confidence and knowledge to start the certification process. Plenty of time will be included for questions and discussion on how to operate a productive certified organic farm: cog.ca/cog_event/introduction-to-organic-certification-webinar/

PACIFIC AGRICULTURE SHOW

When: Jan 24-26, 2019
Where: Trade-Ex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford

The Pacific Agriculture Show will showcase the latest and most innovative equipment and technology for the agriculture industry: agricultureshow.net

ISLANDS AGRICULTURE SHOW

When: Feb 1-2, 2019
Where: Saanich Fair Grounds

Our theme this year is "Prospering in a Time of Uncertainty." The Islands Agriculture Show provides a venue for farmers, rural landowners, farm organizations, equipment dealers, service providers and the general public to learn, connect and engage: iashow.ca





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

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

BCSPCA:
www.sPCA.bc.ca

CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

