



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

Save the Date for #COABC2018!



Attend the COABC 2018 Conference in Abbotsford! February 23-25th at the Quality Hotel Conference Centre we are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the COABC and we have a thought-provoking line-up of presentations beginning Friday evening and ending Sunday at noon.

Our theme this year, inspired by unpredictable weather and a need for food producers to adapt to these meteorological events is: *Bioregionalism: Creating Resilience in a Changing Climate.*

We're excited to welcome two keynote presenters this year, Dawn

Morrison and Kent Mullinix. Dawn Morrison is the Founder, Chair, and Coordinator of the BC Food Systems Networking Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty. Kent Mullinix is Director at the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University where he works with a multidisciplinary team conducting applied research to advance sustainable agriculture and food systems, as a foundational and integral element of sustainable society.

Stay tuned for more info on the COABC Conference Page: <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2018/>

Benefits Update

Have you registered for the new COABC benefits plan yet? Whether you have employees or are a sole proprietorship/family operation, you're eligible to sign up for extended health care benefits! The plan's target start date is Dec 1, 2017 and new applications are accepted on a first come first serve basis.

Complete your forms and see answers to FAQs here:

<http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/Benefits/>

Brad Reid Award

You are invited to submit nominations for the Brad Reid Memorial Award. The Brad Reid Memorial Award is awarded annually at the COABC Conference, and honours an innovative leader who has strengthened the organic community by moving the sector forward.

Please describe how the nominee has been a leader in Organics. Give examples of their innovative approach and how they have strengthened the BC Organic community.

We will accept nominations until Nov 30, 2017.

Please submit nominations to: assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca
Previous individuals who have been honoured with the award include Carmen Wakeling, 2014, Heather Pritchard, 2015, Annie Moss, 2016, and Chris Bodnar, 2017.





Events

Standards Funding Initiative

The Standards Funding Initiative undertaken by OFC and COG and supported by COTA is presently putting an emphasis on meeting with decision-makers: the elected members of Parliament.

Meetings were held on October 18 with the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Honorable Lawrence MacAulay and, on October 26, with Pat Finnigan, Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. COG and OFC representatives also met with Lloyd Longfield, MP for Guelph, and, along with COTA, with other elected members, as well as staff from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

The issue presented at these meetings is crucial for the Canadian organic sector: it concerns a request from the Canadian organic associations for government support for funding of the maintenance of the Canadian Organic Standards. When informed about the mandatory review of the COS within the prescribed deadline, the parliamentarians agreed on both the importance of the standard review process to ensure the survival of the organic industry, and that it is necessary to find a solution for the funding of the review.

We firmly believe that the government of Canada should pay the cost of the review of the Canadian Organic Standards.

More info: <http://ow.ly/VRf130gedMA>

BC Seed Gathering

When: Nov 3-4, 2017
 Where: KPU, Richmond

Join us for our 3rd BC Seed Gathering: 2 days of learning, networking and engagement in ecological seed production, plant breeding and local seed systems.

More info: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bc-seed-gathering-2017-tickets-36591941482>

Canada Land Summit

When: Nov 15-17, 2017
 Where: Marriot Hotel, Victoria

Speakers from all parts of Canada will join experts from the US to present an exceptional program on topics related to conservation, land trusts, the environment, grant writing, collaboration & partnerships, First Nations and much more.

More Info: <http://ltabc.ca/programs/seminars-and-workshops/>

Vancouver Urban Farming Forum

When: Nov 18, 2017
 Where: TBD, Vancouver

The Forum brings together the food and farming community for a day of learning and networking on a variety of urban farming topics.

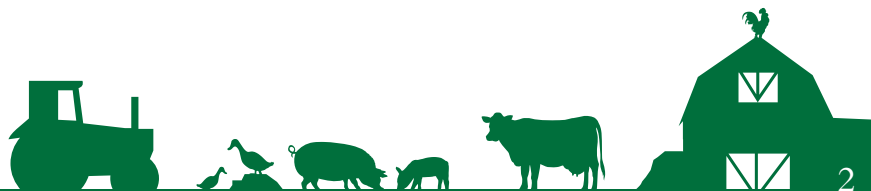
More info: <http://www.urbanfarmers.ca/participate/events/>

Building Sustainable Communities

When: Nov 21-24, 2017
 Where: Delta Grand, Kelowna

Don't miss the 7th Building Sustainable Communities conference in Kelowna, BC! Check out speakers, panelists, and network with delegates during engaging workshops, game-changing plenary presentations, and professionally facilitated breakouts.

More info: www.freshoutlook-foundation.org





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 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.

Farmer Profiles

See your farm featured on the Think Canada Organic Website and social media as part of the #ThinkBCOrganic campaign! Check out other profiles here: <http://thinkbcorganic.ca> and reach out to assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca if you'd like to submit your profile.



-  /CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC
-  @coabccanada
-  @coabccanada

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.bc.ca/>

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

