



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

Standards Interpretation Committee: Call for Nominations

Are you interested in joining the Standards Interpretation Committee? Or, do you know a stakeholder who understands the standard and has the capacity to answer questions addressed by operators?

Do you like organic production and want to join the team that interprets the Canadian Organic Standards (COS) in order to help operators comply with the COS? The OFC welcomes all good candidates!

For more information, get in touch with info@organicfederation.ca.

Benefits Update

The benefit plan has not started yet. We are no longer dealing with Johnstone's (the original third party provider) so there is different paperwork and slightly different rates. The benefits package rate is based on targets set from operators who initially expressed interest.

With it being busy season, not enough people have sent in their applications to meet the minimums. If you were one of the operators who expressed interest in the benefits but have not yet signed up, please send in your completed package by October 15, 2017.

If you would like the new application forms or have any questions about the plan please contact:

Travis Forman BA, CFP, FMA, FCSI
Senior Vice President, Investment Advisor
Morgan Creek Corporate Centre
310 – 15252 32nd Ave
Surrey, BC V3Z 0R7
t: 604-560-8268 /1(877) 557-8266
f: 604-560-8269
tforman@harbourfrontwealth.com

Strategic Planning

Each year, the COABC board meets in November for a planning session. This year, the board and sector representatives will be focused on developing a five year strategic plan

for the COABC and BC's organic sector. The session is sure to be ripe with vision and ideas for the future of organics in BC, and we look forward to sharing the results with COABC members.

In advance of the November meeting, the COABC will distribute a survey to members to gather feedback for planning session. We will be seeking your input about needs and direction for the next five years. Please keep an eye out for the survey and be sure to take the time to complete it—your participation is important and we want your voices to help shape the direction of BC's organic sector!

Organic Week

Thanks to everyone who participated in Organic Week! A reminder that if you would like print materials, such as ThinkBCOrganic postcards, posters, etc..., or other organic materials that can be used year round, COABC has these available! Please email assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca to enquire further.





Events

New Public Comment Period

Below is a list of questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

- Is there a temperature difference between the inside of a poultry barn and the outside environment (for example, a 2 degree C difference) that will allow operators to keep poultry confined indoors?
- May livestock be fed organic food waste containing 95% or more organic ingredients?
- Can waxed cardboard pellets be used as fuel in maple syrup evaporators?
- Can biodegradable mulches contain substances listed in PSL 4.2 or 4.3?

.... many other questions.

The proposed responses are posted on OFC website (<http://organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/170919%20COO%20posting%20Sept%202017.pdf>), and are subject to a 30-day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

Report on the last comment period - July 2017

The SIC has analyzed the comments received during the last public consultation held in July 2017.

Read the report: <http://organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/170701%20COO%20Posting%20July%202017%20report.pdf>

18th Annual Salt Spring Apple Festival

When: Oct 1, 2017 | 9am-5pm
Where: Fulford Hall, 591 Fulford Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

A community event celebrating the apples (and food) of Salt Spring.

More info: <https://saltspringmarket.com/salt-spring-island-event/2017-salt-spring-island-apple-festival/>

Wild Salmon Caravan

When: Oct 7-12, 2017
Where: Vancouver - Secwepemc

Follow the Sockeye up the Fraser River to Adams Lake in Secwepemc (Shushwap) territory.

More info: <http://youngagrarians.org/wild-salmon-caravan-2017/>

Exploring Value-Added Opportunities In Agriculture

When: Oct 16, 2017 | 6-9pm
Where: Revelstoke Community Centre, 600 Campbell Ave, Revelstoke

A talk on navigating the product development process in your path to commercialization.

More info: <http://foundtree.ca/revelstoke/>

EcoFarm School

When: Oct 20-24, 2017 | 9am-5pm
Where: Haliburton Farm, 741 Haliburton Rd, Saanich

Learn the benefits of certified organic agriculture, how to restore and enhance on-farm biodiversity, and key connections with human health.

More Info: <https://haliburtonfarm.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Fall-2017-EcoFarm-School-Syllabus-5-daydetail.pdf>

First Annual Youth Food Conference!

When: Oct 20-22 2017
Where: Various locations, CRD

A three day long event packed with food systems workshops, inspirational speakers, youth performers, and lots of local food.

More info: <https://www.youth-foodnetwork.ca/register>





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.

Organic Week!

This Organic Week, COABC joined in the celebration online with a Twitter Chat, Farmer Profiles, and more. On the ground, our Organic Roadshow visited Comox, Langley, and Vernon with an update on the new mandatory organic regulation.



-  /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.ca/>

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

