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Arctic Apple Committee

COABC has created an Adhoc committee to address the issue of the Arctic Apple.

In March, the apple was approved for sale in Canada. The company has also been sold to an American business but the concerns remain.

The Arctic apple is a cross between Granny Smith and Golden Delicious and is genetically engineered to control the gene responsible for apple browning.

Many groups are concerned about the introduction of the apple and the COABC has connected with some of them to enhance the response.

A 2012 survey commissioned by the BC Fruit Growers' Association (BCFGA) and the Federation of Quebec Apple Growers showed that 69% of Canadians didn't want the Apple approved.

As a result, the BCFGF is requesting that the Arctic apple be labelled. Fred Steele President of the BCFGF states "The government needs to ensure consumers can make good decisions and, if there is to be choice on purchasing genetically modified foods, then the choice should be apparent."

For more information about the Arctic apple, visit www.cban.ca.

CFA Highlights Agriculture: 2015 Budget

OTTAWA, APRIL 21, 2015 - The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) was pleased to see investments in agricultural trade promotion, a continued commitment to improve labour access and market information, and a reduction in cost of Employment Insurance (EI) premiums for business owners reflected in the Federal Budget tabled today.

"One of the most significant items for agriculture in this budget is the

increase to the Lifetime Capital Gains, which CFA has been advocating for some time. Last year's budget saw a small increase in this area, but the funds allocated this year will have a more meaningful impact," said CFA President Ron Bonnett.

Read the press release in its entirety at <http://www.cfa-fca.ca/media-centre/news-releases/2015/cfa-highlights-agricultural-considerations-budget-2015>

COABC Conference Thank you

The BC Organic conference held in Chilliwack this year was hugely popular. The growth of the conference is a great indicator that the Organic sector continues to expand.

COABC would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Michelle Tsutsumi, our conference co-ordinator, for the work she put into making the 2015 conference so engaging.

Michelle was supported by the COABC Events committee, who also spent time and energy making the conference successful.

We would also like to recognize the generous contributions from our sponsors and food donors.

And of course, thank you to everyone who attended this year's conference. It is the attendees who create lively discussions and make the conference such an interesting event.

See you next year in Vernon!





Merger of the Organic Agriculture Standard and the Aquaculture Standard

With the modernization of the Canadian food inspection regulatory system, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency will be able to regulate all organic food production standards under one merged organic standard that includes both terrestrial and aquaculture products.

To perform this integration, in January the Organic Federation of Canada established a combined AGRI-AQUA Working Group composed of 19 members representing the aquaculture and agriculture communities, as well as consumer groups, provincial and federal regulators, organic associations, and the CGSB.

The two convenors, Tim Rundle (chair) and Rochelle Eisen, with the help of Jane Barnett from Fisheries and Oceans Canada, have led the Agri-Aqua Working Group through a total of 10 teleconferences, held from January 21 to March 18, 2015. The Working Group went through each of the organic agriculture standards and integrated references to aquaculture, where applicable.

At its meeting in May, the CGSB Organic Technical Committee, with ten additional aquaculture members as voting members, will consider the aquaculture amendments proposed by the Working Group.



EVENTS

Soil Science 101: Free Workshop

Date: May 30, 2015

Location: Compost Education Centre, 1216 N Park St, Victoria, BC

Soil is capable of supporting plant life and is vital to life on earth, yet we understand very little about its complexities. Dig deeper with this introductory soil science workshop where we'll look at soil properties and processes and relationships to plant growth, environmental quality and society.

For more information visit, www.compost.bc.ca

Organic Week

Date: September 19-27, 2015

Location: Across Canada

Canada's National Organic Week is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country. Hundreds of individual events showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its positive impact on the environment. Organic represents a vibrant alternative food system and an alternative option for clothing, personal care and cleaning products.

If you want to get involved in organic week this year check out the Organic Week website, www.organicweek.ca, or plan an event in your community.

Brad Reid Memorial Award Recipient

Created in 2013, the Brad Reid Memorial Award honours members of the BC organic community who have been innovative leaders and have moved the sector forward.

This year the recipient is Heather Pritchard. Heather has been a long time organic grower and has initiated provincial work around seeds, among many other achievements.



Heather Pritchard receives the 2015 Brad Reid Memorial Award from Karen Reid.



ThinkCanadaOrganic



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/>

REMINDERS

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 <mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca>

Social Media

COABC is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986 and on Twitter, username [coabccanada](https://twitter.com/coabccanada). Join our online community.

Remember...

Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.

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 a BCOG and other materials.

