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Organic Week September 21-28, 2013

Get Involved! Help BC celebrate National Organic Week! We encourage all organic operators to celebrate by planning an organic event.

Events showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its positive impact to our environment and communities.

In the past Organic Week events have included organic feasts, workshops, retail promotions, farm tours, film screenings, wine tastings and the list goes on.

National Organic Week is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country. Every year it has gotten bigger and better, with

more events are popping up across the country.

There's a lot to celebrate. We're supporting a growing organic sector, transparent food source and a source of food that is sustainable.

COABC will be attending the Organic Okanagan Festival held at Summer Hill Pyramid Winery in Kelowna as part of our Organic Week (and beyond) activities.

So plan an event, talk about organics and help us promote the sector. Tell us about your event and we will get it on the national site for you. Check out Organic Week happenings across the country at www.organicweek.ca.

IAF Innovation Funding

AAFC and the BC Ministry of Agriculture announced the launch of the Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program.

The program is a \$3-million, two-year commitment through the new Growing Forward 2 agreement. The cost-shared program will allow industry to access funding to support the acceleration of innovation. Projects that could be considered include the following:

- * Advancements in plant, animal and food science.
- * Energy and waste management.
- * New product development and commercialization.
- * Improvements in soil, water and air quality.
- * Climate-change adaptation.

The Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program is being delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. For more information, please feel free to contact the Foundation office at (250.356.1662)

Given the late start on the launch, the timelines for receipt and approval of applications are short. So get your application in.

CELEBRATE
ORGANIC WEEK
SEPTEMBER 21-28 2013



The Canadian Seed Trade Assoc. AGM: Best Management Practices are the proposed solutions to prevent contamination of organic crops from GE crops.

OFC Coordinator, Nicole Boudreau, attended the CSTA Committee meetings July 16 in Quebec city. The first meeting was held by the CSTA Forage and Turf Committee, where the coexistence plan developed by CSTA to promote peaceful coexistence of GM and organic and crops was presented. The basic principle of this plan is that "Farmers should be able to choose". The plan is mainly based on best management practices (BMP) that are voluntary. It does not specify how these BMP will be monitored but CSTA comments that training, booklet distribution and bilingual material should assure a good adoption rate from the biotech farming industry.

The Plan is about record keeping, preventing adventitious and Low Level Presence at planting, reducing the contamination risk from gene flow and preventing mixing at harvest, handling and storage. It also aims to prevent volunteers from prior GM crops.

The CBAN paper: "The Canadian Seed Trade Association's so-called "Coexistence Plan" is a gateway to GM alfalfa contamination" (www.cban.ca) describes thoroughly the weaknesses of the plan. It also confirms that GM alfalfa is a real threat to organic agriculture.

Of 208 participants registered for the AGM, 70 represented biotech companies. Organic and non GE crop growers seemed absent or silent. Yet, GM farmers were rather annoyed to hear that some organic "folks" could slow their growth. They do not understand organics. One participant commented that organic producers are responsible for protecting their crops so GE farming practices should not be restricted. There is a huge lack of information and communication between the two sectors which does not bode well for establishing efficient coexistence rules.

EVENTS



Organic Okanagan Festival

Date: Sunday September 29, 2013, 11-5

Location: Summerhill Pyramid Winery, Kelowna

Contact: wendy@okanagangreens.ca

The Organic Okanagan Festival (OOF) has become the most comprehensive, approachable and enjoyable green living exposition in the Okanagan Valley! Since 2006, we have showcased over 50 to 70 exhibitors each year, collected over \$10,000 in food and funds for the Kelowna Community Food Bank and hosted nearly 1000 inspired guests annually!

The 2013 Festival theme is "Taste Organic!". Aligned with National Organic Week in Canada, OOF is inviting local chefs and restaurateurs to offer more Okanagan organic food than ever before!

The Salt Spring Island Apple Festival 2013

Date: Sunday September 29, 2013 from 9-5

Location: Fulford Hall, 2591 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Contact: harryburton@shaw.ca

Featuring: •304 apple varieties displayed in 2011 at Fulford Hall •Historical reenactments 2013: Henry Ruckle, Maggie & Capt. Apple (new SSI superhero) •16 farms on the Apple Festival tour •Apple Luscious Organic Orchard will have about 100 of the best apple varieties for tasting at their farm •Apple baking, orchard tours, apple ID, educational info, apple history and apple sales •Leading experts in orchard bee pollination and fantastic lunches by some great island chefs.

Info at www.saltspringmarket.com/apples

Farmer Appreciation Week: Sept 8-15, 2013

This September 8th to 15th, the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) will celebrate the 4th annual Farmers Appreciation Week. Last year, the week highlighted the important contribution that local food and farmers make to our lives by drawing attention to agricultural and food system issues.

In 2012 there was much media attention across BC, including an Opinion Editorial by the former BC Minister of Agriculture, Norm Letnick, entitled "Farmers are the Heart of B.C. Food Production;". There was also radio coverage, blog postings, and a host of articles in papers across BC from Fort St. John to Nanaimo.

During Farmers' Appreciation Week many farmer's markets across BC will host special events to celebrate their farmer vendors. The BCAFM will be working

to raise public awareness of the event through social media, public events, such as the Metro Vancouver Feast of Fields and through local reporters covering the event province-wide.

To encourage public engagement, BCAFM is launching a province-wide Ode to a Farmer Poetry Contest, asking British Columbians to submit their best farmer-inspired poem by September 8th at midnight. Six winning poems will be selected, one in each region of BC. The winning authors will each receive a \$50 gift certificate to a BCAFM farmers' market of their choice.

Please feel free to contact BCAFM for further information at 604-734-9797 or email info@bcfarmersmarket.org.



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.

