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## On the Road with Organic Week

Join us for our first annual Organic Roadshow, an event series that celebrates organic food and farming across British Columbia!

**When:** Organic Week, September 19 to 27.

**What:** Learn from experts in organic! Each event features a workshop or presentation celebrating reasons to go organic, from the business of organic to land stewardship.

**What else:** We're especially looking forward to Certification 101 workshops, which promise to be highly relevant and popular for farmers and consumers alike, given the upcoming provincial regulation of the word organic.

But wait, there's more: Select events will also reveal an exciting first look at a series of videos on organic farming in BC.

Speaker Rochelle Eisen, calls the Organic Roadshow "the perfect opportunity to celebrate all that is organic – and strengthen community." We hope to see you at one of these Organic Roadshow events:

- Sept 19 – Vancouver: Certification 101 with Rochelle Eisen & Gunta Vitins @ UBC Farm, Presentations 14:15-15:45. UBC Farm event 13:30-16:30

- Sept 20 – Saanich: Certification 101 with Rochelle Eisen & Gunta Vitins @ Haliburton Community Organic Farm, Saanich

- Sept 24 – Richmond: Connecting with your Consumers using Social Media with Chris Bodnar @ Kwantlen, 16:00-18:00

- Sept 24 – Comox: Economics of Organic with Candice Appleby & Greg McLaren @ 16:00, Vancouver Island Visitor Centre Boardroom, Comox

- Sept 27 – Kelowna: Okanagan Organic Festival, Farmer to Fork Panel with Lisa MacIntosh, Jordan Marr, Jaye Coward and Mirielle Gourlay, Thomas Tumbach @ Summerhill Pyramid Winery, 15:00

More events are currently being confirmed watch the COABC facebook page and website for updates.

Organic Week, September 19-27, is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming, and products across the country. Hundreds of individual events will showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its positive impact on health and the environment.

## Reminder: Investors Group Insurance Quote

Please be aware that a representative may be contacting you to gauge interest and gather information. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

COABC is obtaining a quote from Investors group on the possibility of a Group Benefits policy for the Association.

In order to formulate a quote, Investors Group will need some basic information. Please be aware that a representative may be contacting you to gauge interest and gather this information.

The idea behind an association plan is to pool all the people within the association and "create" a large group which the insurance company looks upon as one large company.





## Draft Standard Accepted in Ballot with Few Modifications

The members of the Technical Committee (TC) on Organic Agriculture have issued a strong majority vote and adopted the draft standard submitted to ballot in July.

84% of the TC members voted Yes to the balloted 2015 draft Principles and management standards – CAN/CGSB-32.310 and 94% to Permitted substances lists - CAN/CGSB-32.311.

Some votes included negative comments, however. As per CGSB procedures, Working Group Conveners and the Chair of the TC had to resolve these negative comments.

The OFC posted the balloted draft on its website. There was no official public consultation. In an effort to consider the opinions of the whole sector, the Conveners and the Chair have accepted to analyze comments put forward by stakeholders that are not voting members of the TC.

As per CGSB policy, the Conveners and the Chair do not have to consult the TC when solutions proposed to resolve negative comments do not change the intent of the standard.

Copies of the final versions can be downloaded from OFC– please note that these copies are will be subject to a full format editorial review by CGSB (content will not be affected).

For more information visit [organicfederation.ca](http://organicfederation.ca).



## EVENTS

### Golden Ears Corn Roast

Date: September 12, 2015

Location: Golden Ears Farm, Chase, BC

The Roast includes a YA Farm Tour and Potluck. The farm tour (3 pm) will start by exploring the market garden and carry on to showcase the various animals that we tend. The potluck will start around 6ish with Golden Ears supplying the spit roasted pig (\$5 contribution to cover this cost, please) and corn on the cob. Yum! Variety show and live music to follow.

For more information visit: <http://youngagrarians.org/events/>

### Organic Road Show: UBC Farm Event

Date: September 19, 2015

Location: UBC Farm, Vancouver, BC

Rochelle Eisen will present Certification 101 at the UBC Farm Open house. The popular presentation covers the basics of certification and offers a question period.

### Organic Road Show: Comox Event

Date: September 24, 2015

Location: Comox, BC

Candice Appleby will present Get Ready to Grow, covering what you need to know to

get in the value added food business.

### Organic Okanagan Festival

Date: September 27, 2015, 11 am - 4 pm

Location: Summer Hill Pyramid Winery, Kelowna, BC

On Sunday September 27, 2015 we will celebrate the 10th Anniversary Organic Okanagan Festival at Summerhill Pyramid Winery! The theme Bee Organic will celebrate bees & honey and the vital role pollinators play in keeping our ecosystems healthy and supporting agriculture!

Once again the OOF will highlight National Organic Week in Canada; showcasing local organic farmers and organic food production. Think Before You Eat - Think Canada Organic!

Every year the festival produces the most comprehensive, approachable and enjoyable green living exposition in the Okanagan Valley. On festival day attendees can sample & shop for organic food and wine at Summerhill Pyramid Winery, in the Certified Organic Farmer's Market and Green Living Marketplace, enjoy live local music, children's entertainment and be inspired with Activist Alley too. Enjoy Summerhill's entire property and mission with organic wine tasting & tours, dining in the organic bistro, bio dynamic garden tours, drumming in the Makwala Kekuli and more!

For more information visit: [okanagangreens.ca](http://okanagangreens.ca)



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## 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](http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter)

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spca.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](http://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](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php)" [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php](http://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](http://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](http://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.

