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Enews

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Conference 2016

Tickets are selling fast as the 2016 BC Organic Conference approaches. This year, we gather in Vernon, BC at the Prestige Hotel, from February 26-28.

Guarantee your spot, buy a ticket soon. The Prestige Hotel is holding a block of rooms with rates starting at \$109.95/day (single/double occupancy) + tax. For more information: www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

The conference is a space for new and established farmers to gather and discuss organic agriculture, attend presentations on our theme this year, Resilience; and partake in various other sessions.

Resilience Sessions will look at issues arising from climate change and the challenges it presents such as shifting weather patterns, extreme temperatures, and water shortages. Sessions will focus on cultivating climate resilience on your farm, projects with the BC Climate Action Initiative, water harvesting, seed policy roundtable, and regenerative agriculture.

Livestock Sessions will delve into a range of issues such as beekeeping, egg production, establishing a class 'D' slaughter license, and standards interpretation related to animals.



Business Structure & Supports will focus on components of running a business that make a big difference in the success of your season. We will look into SMART business planning, the certification process made easy, an overview of regulation changes at the provincial level, feasibility of starting a hop growing business, and programs for new farmers from Farm Credit Canada.

Technical Information will allow you to get into the nitty gritty details of farm work. We will explore pest management (earwigs and pest pressure related to climate change), beginner seed saving, advanced seed saving for carrots, and standards interpretation for crops, prepared foods, and apiculture.

Land Stewardship will explore the importance of taking care of this land for generations to come through sessions on indigenous food lands, an elders' roundtable, and soil biology.

Brad Reid Memorial 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 Dec. 31, 2015.

Please submit nominations to: assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Previous individuals who have been honoured with the award include Carmen Wakeling, 2014 and Heather Pritchard, 2015.





Special series – Short films: Organic producers engaging in research and innovation.

The Organic Science Cluster II (OSCI) is completing its 3rd year of activities, with 37 research activities in progress across Canada in organic agriculture and processing.

To inform the organic sector about the OSCII activities, the OFC and OACC have created 8 short films that present organic producers engaged in research and innovation in close cooperation with OSCII researchers.

Stay tuned as two films are presented every second week starting Dec. 7, 2015.

OFC Annual General Meeting, January 29, 2016 at 14:00 ET in Guelph, Ontario

More information will be made available soon.

A reminder: the 2015 Canadian Organic Standards have been published.

Find the Organic Principles and Management Standards; and the Permitted Substances list: <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>

This revised standard will guide the production and preparation of organic food in Canada until 2020! Certified operators have a full year to come into compliance with the revised standard.



EVENTS

FarmStart's Farm Viability Series:

For more information: <http://store.farmstart.ca> (Registration closes Dec 31st 2015 at midnight.)

James Craig Get Ahead of Debt

The 5 Things Farmers Should Know When Preparing For Farm Debt

Are you looking for your farm's first loan? Or is your farm looking to expand and needs to take on more debt? With farms, the word "debt" can be intimidating. But it doesn't need to be.

Join FarmStart as James Craig speaks on the 5 things farmers should understand when preparing for farm debt. Familiarize yourself with debt concepts, understand how lenders analyze loan applications, and learn some new tips to advance your farm business.

Date: January 7th, 2016, 12:00pm-1:00pm EST

Chris Blanchard

What It's Worth: Pricing Produce for Profit

Date: January 19th - 8pm AST

Being a sustainable farmer is more than the farming methods you use, it also means ensuring you can stay in business regardless of your marketing outlet. Chris Blanchard will help you navigate pricing strategies to meet your customer needs and your farm's

bottom line.

Buy My Rutabagas: Marketing Horticultural Crops to Food Stores

Date: February 16th - 8pm AST (75 minutes plus Q&A)

To market your produce to food stores, you need to understand the world of retail produce. Chris Blanchard will share his approach to marketing to produce buyers, including communication, branding, how to determine your price, and how stores determine their prices.

Pacific Ag Show

Dates: January 28 -30, 2016

Location: Tradex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford

The Pacific Agriculture Show will showcase the latest and most innovative equipment and technology for the agriculture industry. Join thousands of farmers and agri-food producers in comparing and investigating what over 250 dealers and manufacturers have to make your operation more efficient.

For More information, visit <http://agricultureshow.net/>.

COABC Conference

Dates: February 26, 27, and 28, 2016

Location: The Prestige Hotel, Vernon

For more information: www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca



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 mail to: 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.

