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## Session Highlights

### Innovative Methods of Carrot Seed Production in Unheated High Tunnels

Presenter: Jen Cody

In partnership with the Bauta Initiative, and funded by a grant from the Organic Sector Development Program, this 4-year project just wrapped up its first year. Participating farmers from the project will share the results and learnings from trials of organic carrot seed production in high tunnels at four farms in different regions of BC.

### Panel Discussion: Hosting Farm Apprentices: Challenges and Opportunities

Join a panel of farmers experienced with hosting apprentices to discuss some of the most common challenges and problems that arise when offering farm apprenticeships. Panel members will share their strategies for minimizing conflicts, offering a good farming education, and keeping apprentices happy and motivated from start to finish.

## Conference 2014

The 2014 annual conference will be held at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo, BC, February 21st – 23rd, 2014.

Registration is now open! Please check the website frequently for updates, <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conferenceagm.php>

### Business Planning for Small-Scale Farms

Presenter: Chris Bodner

This session will provide you with the practical tools and understandings of running a small-scale agriculture business that you need to be successful in your farming endeavors. The process of developing your own business plan will underpin these understandings of running a business.

### Hazelnuts Varieties and Disease Resistance

Presenters: Haley Argen and Thom O'Dell

Hazelnuts are a good low input crop well-suited to organic production with lots of options for value added products. They will briefly review hazelnuts as a crop and the industry here, talk about the new varieties and the BC Hazelnut Grower's Association trial which is underway, and discuss agroforestry applications of hazelnut trees.



## Keynote Speaker

Melissa Coleman is the author of "This Life Is in Your Hands: One Dream, Sixty Acres, and a Family's Heartbreak," a New York Times best-seller, Indie Next Pick, People's Pick in People Magazine, and a nonfiction finalist for the New England Book Award and Maine Literary Award.

Melissa is a columnist for Maine Home + Design magazine, blogs at Bright-Minded Home, and organizes the Super Famous Writers Series at The Telling Room, a Portland writing center for children and young adults. Her father, Eliot Coleman, is one of the most influential organic farmers in the country, a trailblazer in the locavore and the whole food movements. She lives in Maine with her husband and twin daughters and can be found at [www.melissacoleman.com](http://www.melissacoleman.com).



# Standards Interpretation Committee: comment period

The Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) provides interpretive guidance to the Canada Organic Office on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB 32.311). To consult the proposed answers to the questions below, visit [ofcfederation.ca](http://ofcfederation.ca).

Are herbicidal soaps allowed under the Standard?

When calculating summer ration for ruminants, can pasture be considered "long-fiber forage"?

Revised answer to the following question: Can conventional straw be used as a compost feedstock for compost that is used to grow organic mushrooms?

The proposed responses are subject to a 60 day comment period starting December 5th, ending February 5th 2014. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to [OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca).

## COS Review

The CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture, the Technical Committee, hosts the first meeting for the Canadian Organic Standards Review, December 11-13 in Gatineau.

The Technical Committee has approximately 100 members, including voting members, alternates and non-voting members. The 43 voting members are responsible for the technical content, approval and maintenance of the standards.



## EVENTS

### Pacific Agriculture Show (PAS)

Date: January 30 - Feb 1, 2014

Location: Tradex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford, BC

Once again, COABC will set up a booth at PAS. Every year we have wonderful volunteers who help out. If you are able to work a shift at the show please contact the office.

PAS 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.

In addition, the Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association presents the Annual Growers' Short Course.

### COG-IOIA Inspection Training Course: Basic Crop Inspection Training

Date: February 24 - 28 2014

Location: Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo

COG and IOIA are co-sponsoring a course, following the COABC 2014 Conference.

This course is a comprehensive training on the Canadian Organic Standards with four days of instruction. Students will learn about the certification process, the inspection process, audit trail (record keeping) requirements, approved materials, assessing soil fertility, regulatory requirements, risk assessment, inspection report writing, inspector ethics and whole systems awareness.

For more info you can contact Ashley St. Hilaire at COG. E-mail: [ashley@cog.ca](mailto:ashley@cog.ca) ; Phone: 1-888-375-7383

## Young Agrarians UMAP: BC Farm Resources

The Young Agrarians, a British Columbia-based initiative focused on "growing farmers and food lovers in Canada" has recently launched an online farmer resource map. The goal is to grow and connect the agro-ecology sector, with a focus on potential farmers looking to get started in farming, and existing farmers in start-up.

Located at [youngagrarians.org/umap](http://youngagrarians.org/umap), the UMAP features farm listings, events, markets, organizations, blogs, government resources, seed suppliers, favourite publications and more. Get your listing on the UMAP through a simple two-minute process and promote your work to a supportive

network of possible collaborators, customers and supporters.

More details at [youngagrarians.org/umap](http://youngagrarians.org/umap) and via email at [theyoungagrarians@gmail.com](mailto:theyoungagrarians@gmail.com)





## 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.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](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"

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.

