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COABC Conference Sessions

The BC Organic conference in Chilliwack will be held at the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, February 27th – March 1st, 2015. The conference will feature a multitude of topics below are only a few.

Open Session: Extension Q&A
Rochelle Eisen and Susan Smith take your questions.

Do you have an organic extension question or operational conundrum that needs a solution? Is it related to production, processing, certification, livestock, horticulture? Anything within the organic realm? Join Rochelle and Susan for Open Consultation, and bring your questions and conundrums. Please submit questions in advance to conference@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

Integrated Seed Saving for Farm Business

Mel Sylvestre of UBC Farm presents this session. Seed crops can be a strong component of a farm business. The benefits of seed saving range from creating a new revenue stream during the low-income winter season to enhancing the biodiversity of farmlands. Integrating seed saving into the practices of a farm requires thoughtful planning and skills. Learning to value the right seed crops for your farm and processing seed crops

while maintaining seed quality are two important aspects of the knowledge required in order to become a successful seed grower. This presentation aims to give an overview of the various benefits and challenges of seed saving, as well as the different steps of integrating seed crops into a farm business.

Progress on Organic Methods for Wireworm Control

Join Todd Kabaluk as he discusses his research. The international research community is slowly catching on to the potential of biological methods for wireworm control and as a result, there has been more rapid progress toward management solutions. Similarly, an increase in the knowledge of wireworm biology is providing insight into new possibilities for their management. A review of existing methods for wireworm control and the status of research and development will be reviewed.

For registration and more detailed conference information, check the website, www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

Networking Fun

Along with the great line up of presenters and workshops at the conference, the conference committee is integrating fun events to enhance networking opportunities.

To start, the COABC conference will kick off with the Friday Evening reception. This year will feature an open space discussion time and as always great food and beverage treats.

Then on Saturday, while the hotel prepares for the evening festivities, the Young Agrarian's will host a mixer. Come meet the next generation of farmers and network.

The big social event of the weekend is, of course, the Feast. This year the partnership with Seabird Island Culinary school promises to be exciting. Enjoy the food and the silent auction.

If this does not offer the space you need for networking or socializing, we will also have a hospitality suite open throughout the weekend. Join us and enjoy some good company!





Canada Organic Standard Review: Technical Committee Voting

The revised Canadian Organic Standards that include all of the modifications recommended by the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture (TC), will be in ballot process in February. The TC voting members will be submitting ballots on the recommendations.

This first ballot is a turning point: over 250 modifications will be scrutinized and hopefully well received by the voting members of the TC.

After the ballot, the Working Groups responsible for submitting recommendations to the TC will analyze the negative votes issued by the voting members. They will determine if they are based on valid arguments and if revisions are needed. Any revisions will go to the May TC meeting for voting.

The May meeting will also include a presentation on the integration of the organic aquaculture standard into the two organic agriculture standard documents (32.310 & 32.311). The new Agri-Aqua Task Force, is already meeting to determine how to best merge the standards.

For more information on the COS review and the coming ballot please visit <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>.

EVENTS

Meet Your Maker: Vancouver

Date: February 17, 2015

Location: St Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre, 3150 Ash Street (Cambie & 16th area), Vancouver, BC

This is an annual networking event for small-scale, regional food businesses. It is designed for BC food producers and BC food buyers. Since 2008, hundreds of restaurants, caterers, grocers, food delivery companies, food processors, farmers, fishers, and ranchers have met, negotiated, and sealed deals through Meet Your Maker, generating sales of more than a million dollars.

For more information and registration, visit farmfolkcityfolk.ca

Rock Star Farmer Tour with Curtis Stone

Date: February 21, 2015 , 10am-6pm

Location: Kwantlen Polytechnic University Langley Campus - Auditorium, 20901 Langley Bypass, Langley, BC

Curtis Stone is the owner/operator of Green City Acres, a commercial urban farm in Kelowna, BC. In this workshop, you will learn about strategic production techniques that focus on high value crops with short growth cycles as well as specialized and niche market streams such as restaurants and cooperative CSA's. You will also learn how to use modern technology to better manage your business that will save you time and money.

More information at youngagrarians.org

Farmer2Farmer Conference

Date: February 19, 2015

Location: Saanich Fairgrounds, Saanich, BC

This year's theme is "Animal, Vegetable, Management". The conference workshops will be organized into these three streams:

- Animals/ livestock: including poultry, pork and dairy
- Vegetables: including soil management, and crop planning
- Management: including marketing, accounting, and land access

For more information and registration, visit farmer2farmer.ca

BC Organic Conference

Date: February 27- March 1, 2015

Location: Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, Chilliwack, BC

This year, the conference features a diverse selection of presentations focused on our theme of Livestock, as well as a variety of other topics pertinent to the dynamic functioning of a farm operation. These include business structure and support, technical information and land stewardship.

For more information and conference registration visit the COABC website, www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.





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.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.

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.

