

- COABC Conference
- Pacific Agriculture Show
- OFC Annual General Meeting
- Events

Conference 2016



Happy New Year!

In less than two months, the BC Organic conference will be underway. From Feb 26 to 28, COABC will host the conference in Vernon. Donations for the silent auction and meals have been coming in and if you have something to donate please contact Michelle, the conference organizer. The donations for the silent auction can be brought straight to the conference.

The Friday afternoon workshop is sold out but there are still a few tickets left for the weekend. If you or a friend are interested in attending please register soon.

If you're planning to book accommodation at the hotel, please contact the Prestige Hotel in Vernon at (250) 558-5991 and ask for the COABC rate \$109.95/day (single/double occupancy +tax.)

Jordan Marr has been very generous in offering to record some presentations as podcasts that will be available following the conference.

Remember to bring your seeds for the seed exchange. Guidelines to participate in the Seed Exchange:

- All seeds should be open-pollinated, non-hybrid, non-patented, and GE-Free
- Bring seeds divided in smaller envelopes -- at least 20-30 seeds per package.
- Make sure to know the variety/cultivar's name and the scientific name if possible (family, genus, species)
- Share seed grower's name, location grown, population size, and isolation distance.
- When possible, share the # days to harvest, planting guidelines, original seed source, and year purchased.

Jon Alcock, from Sunshine Farm, will share his vast knowledge and experience about seed saving with us!

His belief is that growing vegetables from 'seed to seed' will help us discover the intrinsic value of the dignity of this full circle, improve biodiversity and include us in this ancient tradition. We can develop our own locally adapted varieties and those more adapted to low input organic regimes.

Join Jon Alcock for basic principles and practices of growing, selecting, harvesting, cleaning, and storing vegetable seed.

Pacific Agriculture Show

When: January 28 - January 30, 2016
Thursday - Saturday, 9:00am - 4:30pm

Where: Tradex Exhibition Centre
(Abbotsford Airport), Abbotsford, BC

FVOPA is sponsoring organic sessions in the BASF Gallery - January 30, 2016. Topics include:

- Compost: A Superfood for Soil
- Effective use of Registered Biopesticides
- Estimating Plant Available Nitrogen from Cover Crops
- Participatory Variety Trials
- Organic Standards Update

Request for Volunteers at the Pacific Agriculture Show

We are hoping to have some more volunteers to help at the COABC booth. Volunteers will receive free entry to the show in exchange for volunteering their time. We need people to help out from Thursday, January 28th - Saturday, January 30th for 4 hour shifts. We will also need help with set up on January 27th. The day starts at 9:00am and concludes at 4:30pm. If you are available to volunteer with a shift please email:

assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca





The Organic Federation: Annual General Meeting

When: Friday, January 29th 2016
from 14:00 to 16:00 EST

Where: **In person** in Guelph, ON
at the Pinetree Room B, Royal
Brock Hotel –Best Western, 716
Gordon St., **or by telephone:** toll-
free from anywhere in Canada.

AGM Panel

A 1-hour panel discussion with
audience participation

TOPIC:

Sustaining the Organic Sector in Canada

Your vision for funding and
managing:

- the Permanent PSL Committee
- future standards revisions
- the brand names list for approved organic inputs
- regulatory issues as they arise
- scientific organic research
- basic organic extension services

Who will do the work and how do
we raise the money?

For more information:
<http://www.organicfederation.ca>

EVENTS

Okanagan Winter Mixer Young Agrarians

An incredible line-up of sessions has
been arranged for the 3rd Okanagan
Winter Mixer in Kelowna on January
30th! Please join us for a day that will
be bursting with information, net-
working and phenomenal food.

WHEN: Jan. 30th, 2016

WHERE: Okanagan Mission
Community Hall, 4409 Lakeshore
Road, Kelowna, BC

COST: Sliding Scale \$25-\$75

REGISTRATION: <http://bpt.me/2474414>

Changes to the Canadian Organic Standards

Crop Production Feb. 2, 2016, 7pm
EST presented by Maureen Bostock

Livestock Production Feb. 4, 2016,
7pm EST, presented by Anne Macey

Preparation including Processing
Feb. 9, 2016, 7pm EST presented by
Rochelle Eisen

More information and registration:
[http://www.cog.ca/our-services/cos-
updates-webinars/](http://www.cog.ca/our-services/cos-updates-webinars/)

8th Organic Seed Growers Conference

WHEN: Feb. 4-6, 2016

LOCATION: Corvallis, Oregon

More information: [http://seedalliance.
org/2016-conference-agenda](http://seedalliance.org/2016-conference-agenda)

The largest organic seed event in the
U.S. Expand your seed knowledge
and skills, hear the latest in scientific

research, and discover new resources
and tools that help you breed, grow,
and sell more seed. Includes more
than 80 experts in the fields of organic
plant breeding, seed production, seed
policy, and much more.

SEEDS – Theatre Series

A Porte Parole Production
Directed by Chris Abraham

Porte Parole's Seeds is a dramatic re-
enactment of the 4-year legal battle
between Monsanto, one of the world's
biggest biotech corporations, and
Saskatchewan farmer Percy Schmeiser.
This play by Annabel Soutar sparks
conversation and debate about
genetically modified food, bio patents
and our food future.

WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 6th 2016 –
8:00pm

LOCATION: Vernon and District
Performing Arts Centre

For more information and tickets:
<http://www.ticket seller.ca/seeds>

KPU Small Farm Sessions

The 3rd Annual Small Farm Sessions
are a full day of technical session and
trade show for farmers with diverse
operations connected with the local
sustainable food system. Our 2016
theme is Water Management and
Irrigation.

WHEN: 13 Feb. 2016 from 8:30 AM to
3:00 PM

LOCATION: KPU - 8771 Lansdowne Rd
Richmond, BC V6X 3X7 CA

More information: [https://www.kpu.
ca/events/kpu-small-farm-sessions](https://www.kpu.ca/events/kpu-small-farm-sessions)



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.

