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COABC Conference 2014 Sessions

Registration is now open!
Visit www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca. The Earlybird deadline is January 31, 2014.

The 2014 COABC conference being held at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo, BC, February 21st – 23rd, will feature many practical sessions and networking opportunities.

Below are a few of the sessions being offered at the conference. Look for the full schedule and program on our website.

Pesticides: where do we come from, and where are we going?

Presenter: Dr. Warren Bell - Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment (CAPE)

This overview of pesticide use and historical and political patterns shows the steady pattern of moving away from oil-based chemical solutions towards biological pest controls -- and how much work is needed to reach this goal.

Growing Success Panel

Presenters: Andrew Arkesteyn-Vogler - Crisp Organics Ltd., Carmen Wakeling - Eatmore Sprouts & Greens Ltd., Hermann Bruns - Wild Flight Farm

This panel session will focus on growing your small business to one of a medium scale.

Establishing a provincial farmland trust in British Columbia: A community dialogue

Presenters: Heather Pritchard and Jessica Dennis

Farm Folk City Folk is exploring the development of a new provincial farmland trust to protect farmland and to support secure access to land for farmers. We are in the process of researching and gathering expert and community input on the most suitable model for establishing this new farmland trust in BC.

Pest Café - Pest and Weed Management

Presenters: Moss Dance - Ripple Farm, Arzeena Hamir - Amara Farm, Megan Halstead - Halstead Farm

This will be an open-space session to discuss key weeds and pests that are major concerns for organic farmers. Panelists will provide their practical solutions for managing pests and weeds and facilitate a discussion and world café with participants to delve into issues pertaining to you.



Four Season Harvest Session

Presenter: Clara Coleman - Four Season Farm Consulting

Clara Coleman is a second-generation American organic farmer, consultant, writer and keynote speaker on sustainable four-season farming and daughter of renowned farming pioneer Eliot Coleman. For three years, she created and operated a successful intensive 2-acre vegetable farm known as Divide Creek Farm located in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado.

During this session, Clara will discuss the benefits of soil blocks, seed starting and variety selection, appropriate crop planning using movable high tunnels, various pruning and trellising techniques, successful soil bed preparation (indoors and out), and effective sales and marketing methods for small scale farmers.





Canada's Organic Inputs Directory Launches New Website!

Have you started thinking about which inputs you will be using on your farm this year? The Organic Federation of Canada and Peppersoft Inc. have just released the newly upgraded version of Organicinputs.ca.

Organicinputs.ca is the nationwide, searchable directory that will help you find the products you need. In this comprehensive list, all of the products are either approved for use or have been found compliant with the Canadian organic standard.

Search by keyword, brand name, ingredient or a problem to which you need a solution. Type in your postal code to find products located nearest you.

"This is the most complete list that's on the market for Canadian growers. It's easy to search and find what you need. I would certainly recommend it to other farmers." - Simon Jacques, Organic Bean Farmer.

Check out Organicinputs.ca today!



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.

UBC Farm Symposium

Date: February 7, 2014

Time: 9am-2:30pm

Location: The Old Barn Community Centre Upstairs Meeting Room, UBC Farm, Vancouver

Cost: Free! Lunch is \$5 (optional)

The UBC Farm Symposium is a free day full with presentations and group activities providing insights on food system sustainability. Topics will range from hops production, institutional food procurement, community education and more. There will be snacks, refreshments, and a delicious local lunch provided.

Please register in advance at <http://symposium.ubcfarm.ubc.ca/registration/>.

Food for the Future! Family Day Rally to Save the Agricultural Land Reserve

Date: Noon, February 10, 2014

Location: Legislature Grounds, Victoria, BC

February 2014 marks the 40th birthday of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), created to protect farmland across BC for agriculture. Only 5% of the landbase of our mountainous province is protected in the ALR, and now the BC Government is considering drastic changes to erode the reserve and the autonomy of the commission entrusted to protect it.

British Columbians from all walks of life need a reliable supply of farmland to grow food now and for the future – particularly as the benefits of local food systems and the challenges of global transport become clear.

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; Phone: 1-888-375-7383



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.

