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## More Conference Sessions

Join us for the BC Organic conference in Chilliwack at the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, February 27th – March 1st, 2015.

### Animal Welfare Challenges and Certification in Organic Farming (Dairy Production):

This session will discuss the organic livestock production standards and provide an orientation for those considering improving their animal welfare standards and/or certification on an existing farm operation or for new applicants.

Broad animal welfare topics will be discussed using the organic dairy production challenges and issues in animal welfare as a reference. The topics will include the organic and animal welfare certification standards, assessment and how they work.

Challenges and issues in animal welfare in organic dairy production, such as pasture access and management, dam-calf separation, calf raising systems, sickness and medication use will also be discussed.

### Crowd Funding for the Organic Sector

Chantal Shauch and Gunta Vitins will discuss crowdfunding and its potential to raise funds for the organic community and your projects. You

are guaranteed a dynamic informative session lead by sector experts: Chantal Shauch of Junxion Strategy - experienced crowdfunder and author of "Organic Sector Crowdfunding Report 2014" and its companion guide "Crowdfunding Essentials"; Gunta Vitins - Chair of the Organic Value Chain Roundtable, policy wonk and visionary who spearheaded the crowdfunding reports with funding from AAFC; and Anne Macey, President of the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance, who will share info on their crowdfunding experience when raising funds for agricultural infrastructure on the island.

### Farm Story: Getting Along in the Potato Business

Join Doug and Anna Helmer as they tell the story of the farm and share what they know about building soil health, managing potato crops, equipment selection, marketing and getting along well with others.

For registration and more detailed conference information, check the website, [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca).

## Create Your Own Handbook Session

For the first time, COABC is hosting a full day workshop on the Friday of the conference.

This workshop is intended to help farm owners & their managers create their own farm-specific employee handbook.

A well-crafted handbook can effectively communicate the benefits and responsibilities of working on your farm, as well as foster a fair work environment and help your employees identify with your business values.

The session will be facilitated by Kevin Koopmans (Community Futures South Fraser) and Dr. Lorne Owen (Project Consultant, BC Agriculture Centre of Excellence, University of the Fraser Valley).

The workshops material is based on the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture Guide to Developing a BC Agriculture Employee Handbook.





## Canada Organic Standard Review: Gatineau Meeting Held in December

The committees reviewing the Canada Organic Standard had a productive meeting in December.

The agenda was loaded but the Technical Committee worked to listen, debate and make thoughtful decisions about the 201 items presented by the Conveners of the Working Groups.

The COS review is an enormous task. The working groups have held 72 meetings since the fall of 2013, the Technical Committee has met three times and the 8 Working Group Conveners have put in over 1500 hours to lead their WG and prepare the recommendations to the TC.

The OFC will publish a full report early January which will present the complete list of TC recommendations.

A ballot will be prepared and led by CGSB in order to confirm the recommendations adopted by the Technical Committee during the current review.

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



## EVENTS

### Meet Your Maker: Vancouver Island

Date: January 27, 2015

Location: Saanich Fairgrounds, Saanich, 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](http://farmfolkcityfolk.ca)

### Pacific Agriculture Show

Date: January 29-31, 2015

Location: TradeEx, Abbotsford, BC

PAS showcases 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.

COABC hosts a booth at the Ag show and is looking for volunteers to staff it. If you are interested in attending the show, why not volunteer and save the entrance fee.

### 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](http://farmfolkcityfolk.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, including business structure and support, technical information and land stewardship.

For more information and conference registration visit the COABC website, [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca).



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## 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.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](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](http://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.

