

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Organic Certification Video
- ALR Consultation Period
- Organic Week 2014
- New Comment Period
- Events

## Organic Certification Video

The current Organic Certification and Public Education Project has been working to create a new video. The video aims to help new entrants understand the inspection process. It will be released soon and features experienced Verification Officer Dwight Brown and Certified Organic farmer Bev Wiens of Stepney Hills Farm.

Dwight describes his job as a VO, what he looks for in a livestock operation and in a greenhouse operation.

Each step of the inspection process



is covered during the 8 minute video.

This is a great new tool to help take the mystery out of the Organic Inspection process.

The final version of the video will be prominently featured on the front page

of the COABC website, [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca), and become a permanent part of the toolkit resources.

Follow us on twitter @coabccanada to get all the latest news from the BC Organic sector.

## Organic Week: Sept 20-28, 2014

Organic Week is fast approaching and it is time to start planning your events.

Your event can be as simple as a table at your farmers market with Organic information (contact COABC from some great hand outs) or as elaborate as an all organic feast.

Whatever your event, remember to

invite your local politicians. It will remind them that the organic sector is important within their riding and will encourage them to consider organics in decision making processes.

The [organicweek.ca](http://organicweek.ca) website, will have organic week events from across the country, including the COABC events. Be sure to post your event there and find others that are in your area.

## ALR Consultation Period

The BC Ministry of Agriculture is conducting consultations over the summer regarding the changes to the ALC act.

The Ministry will be holding seven regional meetings for invited stakeholders which will include regional districts, industry and other key organizations.

In addition, between July 22 and August 22 the Ministry will accept public input on the consultation questions regarding the ALC changes.

Input can be submitted via the website, <http://engage.gov.bc.ca/landreserve> or through the dedicated email address, [ALCA\\_Feedback@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ALCA_Feedback@gov.bc.ca).

Online submissions will be the only way for the general public to give input to the formation of the regulatory changes. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

At the end of the consultation process the Ministry will draft the regulatory changes for the ALC act.





## Reminder: Comment Period Ends August 4, 2014

What are the restrictions to the offspring if a non-organic animal is bred using embryo transfer and brought onto an organic farm?

Is the use of a microwave oven in organic food preparation compliant with the Standard?

Does the prohibition against using both the organic and non-organic form of an ingredient (8.2.5) apply to different varieties of grapes used in a wine, or different flours (e.g. barley and wheat) used to bake a single bread?

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). Click here to see the proposed answers to various questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to [OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca)

All final questions and answers will be posted on the OFC website.



## EVENTS

### Feast of Fields

Date: Sept. 14, 2014

Location: Kildara Farms, Sidney

Feast of Fields, a 4 hour wandering harvest festival, is an annual fundraising event for Farm Folk City Folk. With a wine glass and linen napkin in hand, you can taste the very best of BC from chefs, farmers, fishers, ranchers, food artisans, vintners, brewers, distillers and other beverage producers from across the province.

Feast of Fields highlights the connections between farmer and chef, field and table, and farm folks and city folks. Feast of Fields is a gastronomic journey towards a sustainable, local food system.

For more information visit, [www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca](http://www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca)

### National Organic Week

Date: Sept. 20-28, 2014

This is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country. Organic advocates across Canada are encouraged to celebrate with us. In Canada, there's a lot to celebrate. We're supporting a growing organic sector, transparent food source and a source of food that is sustainable in the future.

Check [www.organicweek.ca](http://www.organicweek.ca) for events.

### Organic Processing Inspector Course

Date: Nov 10-14, 2014

Location: Mississauga, Ontario

Cost: \$1750

The course includes comprehensive training on the Canadian Organic Standards and four days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus one-half day for testing. Core instruction includes: how to conduct processing facility inspections, applicable organic certification processing/handling standards, regulatory requirements, audit control, HACCP/Organic Control Points, structural pest management, sanitation, ingredients, labeling, inspection report writing, communication skills, and inspector protocols. For more information visit, [www.cog.ca](http://www.cog.ca).

### Gathering the Seeds of Knowledge: 2nd biennial BCSeed Gathering

Date: Nov 14-16, 2014

Location: Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond, BC

Theme: Sharing the knowledge of seed growing and saving, with an emphasis on learning from our seed saving knowledge keepers.



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](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.

