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Thunderclap - 05May

A limited amount of Alfalfa seed has been sold in Canada this spring. Over the last three years the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) has been working tirelessly with farmers and consumers to stop the approval of GMO Alfalfa in Canada. On 05 May a 'Thunderclap' Twitter storm was organized with the hashtag #stopgmalfalfa. Please view the CBAN website for more information about GMO alfalfa, the Arctic apple and other action that CBAN is taking against GE food in Canada: <http://www.cban.ca>

#stopgmalfalfa



Arzeena Hamir @arzeena · May 5

As an organic farmer, GMO alfalfa is a huge threat. #stopGMalfalfa!



ORGANIC
PriceTracker.ca

Canadian Organic Growers' Organic Price Tracker is your source for regional prices of certified organic products sold both at farmers' markets and wholesale in Canada. This is where we need you. We need certified organic producers from all over Canada to submit either seasonally, monthly, or

weekly the pricing information (\$/unit) for the certified organic products that you sell. If you would like to contribute, you can send your price list to prices@cog.ca. Prices are confidential and no one will know how much you, specifically, are charging. As a thank-you, all contributors are entitled to be promoted both on the COG website and on COG's social media where contributor profiles are being published every two weeks. We cannot do it without you and truly appreciate all who contribute!

organicpricetracker.ca



C E N S U S • R E C E N S E M E N T

A G R I C U L T U R E

www.census.gc.ca

www.recensement.gc.ca

Farm operators were asked to update Canada's agricultural profile in May, by completing the 2016 Census of Agriculture questionnaire. The census will provide farmers, farm organizations, policy makers, stakeholders, and citizens with relevant information about the future of the Canadian agricultural sector and help them make informed decisions regarding agricultural practices in this country. If you have not completed the questionnaire there is still time. For more information: census.gc.ca





Aquaponics

Principles guiding organic aquaculture and aquaponics are similar to the principles established in organic agriculture production: GMOs, synthetic growth regulators, antibiotics, clones and other synthetic substances are prohibited. But, there is also a significant difference. The roots of terrestrial plants grown in aquaponics systems are immersed in water. This contradicts clause 7.5.3 of the agricultural organic standard, which prohibits hydroponics and promotes soil fertility management, rather than the 'cultivation of plants in aqueous nutrient solutions without the aid of the soil' (Terms and definitions -3.29).

The OFC wants to know your opinion. **Is aquaponics different from hydroponics?**

Does organic lettuce grown in water in symbiosis with cultured fish meet organic consumer expectations? How can we reconcile the marketing of a the same product certified under two different organic standards that have contradictory clauses? <http://www.theaquaponicsource.com/what-is-aquaponics/> **Please comment** - ofcfc.wordpress.com

EVENTS

The 2nd Canadian Organic Science Conference

Sharing research that grows organic

When: 19Sept2016-21Sept2016

Two days of conference presentations at the Sandman Hotel Montreal-Longueuil, a banquet, and a field day of farm visits to organic farms in Quebec.

World renowned international and Canadian scientists will present their research in all aspects of organic agriculture, including crop and livestock production, soil science, and value change development.

Registration: www.craaq.qc.ca

Location: Hotel Sandman Montréal-Longueuil 999, rue de Sérigny, Longueuil (Québec)

BC Food Systems Network Gathering

Reconciling Cultures and Re-connecting Foodscapes

When: 15 July - 17 July 2016

The Gathering will be an opportunity for various cultures to come together with the Syilx and other Indigenous people to explore together what it means to truly reconcile with the first peoples of the land and water.

Location: En'owkin Centre - Lot 45 Green Mountain Road, Penticton, BC

More information: bcfsn.org

Resetting the Table

Food Secure Canada's 9th Assembly

When: 13-16 October, 2016

In Toronto in partnership with Ryerson University, Toronto Food Policy Council, Sustain Ontario, FoodShare Toronto, Community Food Centre Canada.

More information: foodsecurecanada.org



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.

