

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Organic Certification Session
- COABC Vancity Project
- New Comment Period
- Events

Organic Certification Session

As part of the Vancity Project, a presentation was arranged at Kwantlen College's sharing farm in Richmond for students of the agricultural program. Rochelle Eisen, Cara Nunn and Chris Bodnar all came to speak to various aspects of the project.

Using a power point slide show with visual cues, Cara opened the presentation with thanks to Vancity for their support of this project. She then went on to describe the need for changes in the paperwork and cost structure of the certification program if we are to attract new farmers. The main way this project will address these concerns is through the creation of an on-line database and application form. This will streamline the paperwork process and reduce costs to both the certifier and the farmer.

Rochelle Eisen spoke about increasing value for certification costs, which includes a host of tools for farmers now available on the COABC website. She led us through a series of screenshots listing the wealth of information available in the toolkits and where to find them on the website. There were also links to the many marketing tools developed at a national scale for organics that are available free through the website.

Chris gave a strong, positive message about the value in organic growing to kick off an hour long question and answer session.

There were lively discussions about the value of certification, the direction of the industry, reasons why the public perception of organics may not be valid and ways to change it, and many aspects of small scale farm certification.

The presentation was well received and enjoyable to facilitate with a group of twenty up and coming farmers! Connections were made for future discussions and information on both sides of the table. It was a great opportunity!



Vancity

COABC Vancity Project Filming

On a rainy Okanagan day, filming for the project videos commenced.

The training videos will be aimed at helping new entrants through the certification process and answering frequently asked questions.

Bev Wiens of Stepney Hills Farm graciously allowed the crew to film her entire inspection by Verification Officer, Dwight Brown.

The crew managed to cover all the shots listed in the short time that Dwight was available and even got to the farmer's market for some additional shots before it closed.

We have some great footage and now the hard work begins with organizing, editing and compiling the footage into a meaningful document. The videos will be posted on the COABC website upon completion. Stay tuned.





New Comment Period

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.

The proposed responses are subject to a 60-day comment period from June 4th to August 4th 2014.

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

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



EVENTS

BC Food Systems Network Gathering

Date: June 26-29, 2014

Location: Sorrento, BC

Register: <http://bcfsn.org/2014-gathering/>

The BC Food Systems Network will host its 16th Annual Gathering in Sorrento, BC, in the traditional territory of the Secwepemc Nation. This year's Gathering theme is "Revisiting our Roots: Honouring Our Bio-Cultural Heritage."

The BCFSN supports a sustainable system that recognizes food as the basis of health and cultural integrity, and that protects and enhances the quality of land, air and water for future generations.

The Soil that Feeds Us: Webinar

Date: June 26, 2014

Registration: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6085491554063313921>

What insights can farmers bring to public health crisis of antibiotic resistance and the obesity epidemic? On this webinar, we bring together emerging perspectives from farming, soil science and public health from presenters Christine McCullum-Gomez, PhD, a registered dietitian and a nationally recognized expert on food, nutrition and environmental health; Healthy Food Action's Dr. David Wallinga, MD; and the Izaak Walton League's Agriculture Program Director Bill Wenzel.

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

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,



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.

