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CFIA Small/Micro Business Consultation on Safe Food for Canadians Regulations Ends June 30, 2015

CFIA is currently holding consultations with Small and Micro Businesses on the new Safe Food for Canadians Regulations.

There is a webinar offered June 20, 2015 that will provide the opportunity to supply CFIA with input on the impacts that Small and Micro Businesses will face under new regulations.

With these consultations, CFIA aims to better understand the food safety challenges and costs that micro and small businesses face, and to seek their feedback on options that could reduce the burden associated with certain requirements.

A discussion paper is available at: www.inspection.gc.ca/safefood.

The definition of micro and small businesses is noteworthy. A micro business has been defined as a business that generates annual gross food sales of \$30K, and a small business generates \$100K.

CFIA would like to hear specifically from MSBs on the types of tools, guidance resources and support that would assist them in producing safe and compliant food.

Please participate in the consultations by reviewing the proposals in the discussion paper, completing the questionnaire and attending the final english webinar.

Edible Vancouver Organic Week Listings

This year for Organic Week, the Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA), will sponsor a special events listing in the Edible Vancouver magazine. This will run partnered with the COABC page.

If you have a special event planned please send the details to Mary Forstbauer at bcbiod@yahoo.ca and to Inga Liimatta <inga@ediblevancouver.com> for inclusion in the special

events happening during organic week.

Please provide the following information for your in the listing: event host, date, time, location and webpage/facebook link providing more information.

The submission deadline is June 27, 2015.

Please note: we will try to include all events, however advertisers on the COABC page will receive priority.

Organic Week Sept. 19-27, 2015

Once again Organic week is approaching. Now is the time to plan events that celebrate the organic sector.

Every year, the members of this creative community plan great events to bring more awareness to the Organic Sector.

With the growth in Organics and the interest the provincial government is taking in our sector, there has never been a better time to host an Organic Week event.

The COABC Organic Week events will be announced over the next month, so watch for them on www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

Also be sure to visit www.organic-week.ca for great event ideas and information about organic week.





Agriculture Standard's Review Almost Completed

The last meeting of the CGSB Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture was held May 11-13 in Gatineau. The review of the agriculture standard was finalized by addressing comments received during the 1st ballot, assessing new items such as the use of biodegradable mulches, and analyzing the merger of organic aquaculture and agriculture standards.

The Technical Committee reviewed all of the recommendations issued by the Working Groups (WG). The WG's were responsible for the analysis of comments issued by the voting members of the TC who were not satisfied with some of the proposed modifications to the Canadian Organic Standards.

The OFC will soon post on its website the 32.310 and 32.311 drafts that will go to ballot.

Contrary to what had been planned, there will not be a public review, as the merger of the aquacultural and agricultural standards was not successful. After a full day of discussion between the representatives of the aquaculture sector and the TC members, the aquaculture representatives concluded that the aquaculture standard was not well enough understood and that it was preferable to continue sharing information and concerns before merging the two standards.



EVENTS

Domestic Market Workshop: The "Inside Scoop" on a Market Driven Marketing Plan

Date: June 12, 2015

Location: Prince George, BC

The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture invites you to participate in another round of Domestic Marketing Workshops. Get the "inside scoop" on market drivers, trends and buyer requirements from experienced food industry professionals including representatives from Gordon Food Service and the Overwaitea Food Group.

Please register at <http://groundedstrategies.ca/domestic-marketing-workshops/>

NOOA: Farm Tour

Date: July 5, 2015

Location: Roots and Greens Farm, Grindrod, BC

This family farm grows everything from Asparagus to Zucchini as well as berries and rhubarb. Farm tour starts at 2pm and ends with a pot luck.

There is a theme of "seeders" so come out and view how others seed their fields - bring your seeder to brag about or to ask advice on.

For more information email northorganics@gmail.com

MarketSafe Online

MarketSafe is a food safety training program for farmers, food processors and producers who make, bake or grow products to sell at local farmers' markets, farm gates or other types of temporary food markets.

MarketSafe Online is a food safety training program for those that may not have easy access or the time to take the classroom course. It is a convenient, economical way to learn about your responsibilities and best practices in selling goods at your local market.

For more information visit, <http://www.openschool.bc.ca/info/marketsafe/index.html>

Organic Week

Date: September 19-27, 2015

Location: Across Canada

Canada's National Organic Week is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country. Hundreds of individual events showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its positive impact on the environment.

Get involved in organic week this year! Check out the Organic Week website, www.organicweek.ca, or plan an event in your community.





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.

