

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- COABC Conference
- Annie Moss
- Comment Period: Issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture
- Events



Conference 2016

With Resilience as the focus of the 2016 COABC Conference, it became clear just how strong the organic community is. There were comments about how this conference had a real sense of togetherness, with a rich diversity of backgrounds in attendance, including a healthy mix of young and older alike.

A crowd favourite was the Storytelling from the Vanguard of Organics session, where the history of the organic community and commitment to get to where we are today was described. It was a powerful session to be a part of and provided a window into the roots of COABC.

Two tenacious and spirited women who were persistent in facilitating organic agriculture and food sovereignty, both in BC and across Canada, were paid tribute to. The loss of both Mary Forstbauer and Cathleen Kneen is deeply felt within the organic community, and some reassurance is felt knowing that their good work is being carried on by many whom they mentored and encouraged.

The keynote address by Dr. Vandana Shiva was succinct and encouraging of our efforts in stewarding the land; bringing peace to the earth and to each other.

There was a strong seed component to this year's conference, with standing room only in the roundtable discussion, two presentations on seed saving, and a seed exchange on Saturday afternoon. Overall, session topics were well received, the trade show was packed, and people left inspired and uplifted.

Keep your eyes open for full conference coverage in the spring edition of BCOG, as well as session notes and photos to be posted on the website!

Thank-you to Michelle Tsutsumi for all her hard work organizing another great conference!

Brad Reid Memorial Award Annie Moss

Carmen Wakeling described this year's Brad Reid Memorial Award recipient, Annie Moss, as an "enabler", a "true change maker" and "one of the most generous, kind and determined women that she's had the privileged to get to know thru the COABC community. The award was presented at the annual COABC conference.

Annie runs Discovery Organics, a business that supports: organic and fair-trade production, the local economy, small scale farms and healthy communities. She has worked hard for the labour rights for migrant workers and fair trade production, and has had the ability to pre-finance growers all over the Americas, including here at home. Within BC she supports education/ wild crafting and wilderness programs for First Nations, and provides food to protest camps.

As an advocate for Organic food production, Annie has always made small growers a priority, spending hours mentoring and supporting new producers in BC and purchasing from them.

Congratulations Annie!





The Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is providing to the Canada Organic Office, interpretive guidance on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB32.311).

Below are proposed answers to questions, raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture. The proposed responses are subject to a 30 day comment period. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to: OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

COMMENT PERIOD - March 7 to April 7 2016

To consult the proposed answers to the questions (below) raised by stakeholders go to this link: www.organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/

- Is copper sulphate allowed as a treatment for fence-posts on pasture? (9)
- Under section 7.5.5 d. of 32.310 (Greenhouse crops), how should the soil volume of 70 L/M² be defined and how should the total growing area be defined? (286)
- Under section 7.5.5 a) of 32.310, is the requirement of 10% compost by weight or by volume? (287)
- Under section 7.5.5 c. of 32.310, what does the container height of 12 inches mean? (288)
- Are bioplastic mulches, made from corn, accepted as “biodegradable films” that can be left to decompose in the soil?

More questions to view on the link above.



EVENTS

Seedy Saturday's/ Sunday's in BC

Kamloops Seedy Saturday

March 19, 2016 - 9:30-1:00
OLPH Parish Center
635 Tranquille Rd.

Lillooet Seedy Saturday

March 19, 2016 - 9:00 to 5:00
St. Andrews's Church,
577 Main Street

Kelowna Seedy Saturday

March 19, 2016 - 10:00 to 3:00
Atrium of Building E, Okanagan
College, 1000 KLO Rd

Terrace Seedy Saturday

March 19, 2016 - 11:00 to 2:00
local health unit auditorium at
3412 Kalum St.

Duncan Seedy Sunday

March 20, 2016 - 10:00 to 2:00
Cowichan Tribes Si'em Lelum
Gymnasium 5774 River Road

Port Alberni Seedy Saturday

April 2, 2016 - 9:00 to 1:00
6211 Cherry Creek Road

Surrey Seedy Saturday

April 2, 2016 - 11:00 to 3:00
Historic Stewart Farm
13723 Crescent Road

Summerland Seedy Saturday

April 2, 2016 - 10:00 to 2:00
Location TBA

Pemberton Seedy Saturday

April 2, 2016 - 1:00 to 4:00
Community Barn, 7438 Frontier St

Fernie Seedy Friday

April 22, 2016
Location TBA

Clearwater Seedy Saturday

April 9, 2016 - 10:00 to 2:00
Clearwater Ski Hill Chalet

For more information and details
about the various seed events:
<https://www.seeds.ca/events>

Webinar: Biodynamic animal husbandry

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2016
7:30-9:00pm (Eastern)

Steffen Schneider of Hawthorne
Valley Farm will share biodynamic
insights into the nature of animals,
best practices for integrating
livestock into a diverse farm or
market garden, and strategies
for supporting animal health and
vitality.

To register or for more
information, visit: The Biodynamic
Association online.

Location: Online



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

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spc.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.

