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Enews

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2014 Conference

The 2014 COABC conference held in Nanaimo this year was well attended despite the snowy weather. It was great to renew acquaintances and make new connections throughout the weekend. These connections are one of the most valuable aspects of the COABC organic conference.

Melissa Coleman, our Saturday keynote, spoke about growing up during the years when her father, Eliot Coleman, was becoming a well-known organic farmer and activist. Her message of perseverance is one the organic community knows well.

Clara Coleman, Melissa's sister, got Sunday rolling with her presentation on four season farming. Clara like her father, believes that 'small is better' for a farm model. Clara provided practical and technical information along with many personal experiences.

Numerous speakers addressed the conference theme Work-Life Balance in their presentations and many of them will be posted in the coming weeks on the COABC website.

As in past years, the BC Seed room was a busy gathering place. This year



the room was supported by Farmfolk Cityfolk and featured an array of seed saving information.

The Saturday afternoon beer tasting featured selections from four breweries across the province. It was a great hit and a special thank you goes to Crannog Ales for all their help in coordinating and running this aspect of the conference.

The COABC conference happens because of the support from so many amazing volunteers and sponsors. Thank you to all those who donated product, time and energy to this year's conference.

COABC also extends a heartfelt thank you to our co-ordinators, Andrea Lawseth and Diane Elliot-Buckley. They were instrumental in ensuring the success of the 2014 conference .

New COABC Board and Executive

After the new COABC board was accepted at the AGM held in Nanaimo on February 23th, the 2014 executive was appointed. Congratulations to

Co-Presidents: Susan Snow (FVOPA) and Mary Forstbauer (BioD)

Vice President: Corey Brown (SOOPA)

Secretary: Arzeena Hamir (IOPA)

Interim Treasurer: Andrea Turner (PACS)

Thank you to all outgoing executive and board members for their contribution to COABC.



Carmen Wakeling the 2014 recipient of the Brad Reid Memorial Award

At the COABC 2014 conference in Nanaimo, Carmen Wakeling of Eatmore Sprouts and Greens was announced as the first winner of the Brad Reid Memorial award.

The Brad Reid award is new to COABC and is meant to honour members of the organic community who demonstrate innovation in moving organics forward.

Carmen has dedicated many years to the organic movement. Most recently, she spearheaded the creation of a logo identifying certified organic products from the Comox Valley. This work is now a template for other regions to use.

Congratulations Carmen!





Q&A Related to the Canadian Organic Standards (COS)

Are electric trainers allowed to manage animals in tie stalls?

Can organic and conventional sprouts be produced in the same facility if grown in visually distinguishable containers?

Can acetic acid be used for acidifying drinking water for animals?

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).

For more information and to read the proposed answers to various questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture, visit the OFC website, www.organicfederation.ca.

The proposed responses are subject to a 60-day comment period from March 5th to May 7th 2014.

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



EVENTS

Planning For Farmland Access In British Columbia

Date: 9:00am -10:30am, March 19, 2014

Location: UBC Campus, Vancouver or Remotely via Webinar

Join Dr. Hannah Wittman and Jessica Dennis for a presentation of their research findings on farmland demand and mechanisms of farmland access in British Columbia. The presentation will include results from a survey of prospective and beginning farmers focusing on land access as well as opportunities and challenges faced by beginning farmers. Findings from interviews and community-based research on alternative models and mechanisms of farmland tenure and access will also be presented. They will identify and discuss policy needs for further operationalizing alternative models of land tenure and access for farmland protection and to support the successful establishment of farmers on the land.

Joel Salatin Presenting in Victoria

Date: 7pm-10pm March 22 and 9am-5pm March 23, 2014

Register: <http://www.pacificrimcollege.ca>

Joel Salatin is one of the most recognized farmers and sustainable foods activist in North America and perhaps the world. An eloquent, quick-witted, and entertaining lecturer, Joel uses decades of farming experience, combined with meticulous research on timely topics, to deliver inspirational talks to audiences around the world. This one-day workshop and evening presentation is for anyone concerned about our food ecosystem and looking to foster the local, sustainable food movement.

Young Agrarians Vancouver Island: Spring Farmer Mixer

Date: March 22-23, 2014

Location: Seven Springs Resort, NanOOSE Bay, BC

Cost: \$35-\$75 (Sliding fee scale)

Feeling like you're alone in the field? Want to talk farm plans with other farmers? Start your farming season with a young farmer social. We're bringing together as many young(ish) farmers as we can for two days of skills sharing, workshops and networking.

The Mixer will be a chance to plant the seeds for meaningful projects and gatherings for 2014 and beyond.

For more information visit, <http://youngagrarians.org/vimixer/>.

Cheese Making Workshops

Date: 9:30 am -4:30 pm, April 26, 2014

Location: Fairfield Community Centre, Victoria, BC

Hosted by David Asher Rotsztain, founder of The Black Sheep School of Cheesemaking, Lifecycles is offering two different workshops on various cheesy topics, an introductory course and an advanced course. The introductory workshop provides a basic understanding of how milk evolves during the cheesemaking process, while the second level workshop builds upon the techniques taught in the introductory workshop.

For more info you can contact Lifecycles Urban Agriculture, <http://urbanagriculturehub.ca/>





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 <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.

