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Conference 2016

The 2016 BC Organic Conference will be held at the Prestige Hotel, Vernon, BC from February 26-28. The weekend will focus on Resilience, which is particularly relevant given this season of extreme heat, lack of water, and fires.

As a keynote speaker, we're thrilled to have Dr. Vandana Shiva, internationally recognized advocate for organics and non-GMO seed sovereignty.

She will be speaking about the resilience of agroecosystems through organic growing and processing, how this leads to increasing adaptability to shifts related to climate change like increased temperatures and water shortages, as well as how the



future of organics will be sustained through the younger farmers who are taking on this philosophy of living and working.

A full conference schedule will be posted to the COABC website soon.

Due to the popularity of our keynote speaker, ticket availability may be limited this year. So register now to guarantee your spot.



COABC Board Planning Session

Every year the COABC Board of Directors gathers for an in-person meeting. At the meeting the organizational direction for the coming year is set.

The board was pleased to welcome a Ministry of Agriculture representative who discussed the coming introduction of a Mandatory Organic Regulation.

This year the meeting was facilitated by Greg McLaren, of the Left Spoke Business Advisory Team. This is the second year that Greg has provided guidance for the planning session and the consistency is a great base for the days work.

The board prioritized actions centred around the key areas identified in the 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, Unity of the Organic Sector, Branding and Education, Advocacy and Alliances, Capacity Building and Standards.

Throughout the day the board reviewed achievements, discussed issues and prioritized actions. These priorities will be incorporated into the COABC operational plan for 2016.





The 2015 Canadian Organic Standards has been published!

This revised standard will guide the production and preparation of organic food in Canada until 2020!

Find links to the new standards at the OFC website; organicfederation.ca

Certified operators have a full year to come into compliance with the revised standards!

The OFC warmly thanks Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) and all the sponsors who generously supported the review of the Canadian Organic Standards.

The OFC also thanks the members and the Chair of the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture, all Working Group Conveners and all stakeholders who participated in the meetings of the working groups.

The COS review is the result of a collective effort of all of the participants and funding partners. We hope that the 2015 COS will support the work of Canadian operators and will encourage new operators to adopt organic practices.



EVENTS

Mind Your Business

What does it mean to be "In Business"? Why should you keep records? Because Richard said so? No! To better manage your farm business so you can work less and make more money? Yes! Now that you are in the farming business, learn the language of business. Be a highly effective manager, learn the macro and micro tools of financials, and benefit from some quick tips for success.

Mind Your Business! is a more advanced course that follows Richard's Planning For Profit. In 2013 Farm Management Canada, the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario and the Central Ontario Agricultural Conference hosted Richard for a web presentation archived as an Agriwebinar. Richard has generously agreed to answer questions from the Planning for Profit Agriwebinar as well as Mind Your Business! during the question period on Dec 8th, so maximize your time with him by watching Planning for Profit in advance and taking lots of notes!

Date: December 8th, 2015

Cost: \$25/webinar or \$70 for all 4 webinars

Registration closes Monday Nov 30th 2015 at midnight.

To Register: <http://store.farmstart.ca/products/farm-viability-webinars>

Pacific Agriculture Show

will showcase the latest and most innovative equipment and technology for the agriculture industry. Join thousands of farmers and agri-food producers in comparing and investigating what over 250 dealers and manufacturers have to make your operation more efficient. Location: Tradex Exhibition Centre (Abbotsford Airport)

Date: January 28 - January 30, 2016

For More Information: <http://www.agricultureshow.net/>

COABC Conference February 26-28, 2016 Vernon, BC

Dates: February 26, 27, and 28, 2016

Location: The Prestige Hotel, Vernon

COABC's Conference provides educational and networking opportunities for new and established farmers, as well as those keen to learn more about the world of organic farming. We have pulled together a diverse selection of presentations focused on our theme of Resilience, as well as a variety of other issues pertinent to the dynamic functioning of a farm operation. Highlights: Trade Show, Silent Auction, Saturday Feast, Workshops, Seed Exchange, Young Agrarians Mini Mixer

For more information: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2016/generalinfo.php>



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.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.

