

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- COABC Sponsorship 2014
- Conference 2014
- YA Website Launch
- CGSB Meeting for Organic Agriculture
- Events

## COABC Sponsorship 2014

As all of us in the BC organic sector know, BC has a robust organic marketplace. The market report released this year shows that two thirds of consumers purchase organic groceries weekly! The report claims that the COABC checkmark program "has fostered a unique awareness in BC of how certified organic food and farming differs from conventional production."

As seen in the report, the vibrant BC Organic community grows every year. COABC continues to facilitate that growth by promoting awareness through channels such as our quarterly magazine, our website and our annual conference.

COABC is offering the opportunity to support the awareness building work that COABC does on behalf of

the BC Organic Sector. Our partner fund goal this year is \$50,000. Please help us reach that goal.

The COABC partner fund directly supports:

- the BC Organic Grower quarterly
- the COABC and Cyber-help for Farmers websites
- the Annual Organic conference
- Organic Week Promotions

As a COABC partner, your brand will be acknowledged at all the events that COABC attends like the Pacific Agriculture Show, the Organic Okanagan Festival, the COABC conference and during Organic Week. We also feature our sponsors prominently on the COABC website and in the well read BC Organic Grower magazine.

Let's grow organics together!

## Conference 2014

The 2014 conference committee is also in full swing. The "Work-Life Balance" conference will offer a wide variety of practical information, philosophical ideas and social fun.

The 2014 annual conference will be held at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo, BC, February 21st – 23rd, 2014.

Please check the website frequently for updates, <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conferenceagm.php>



## Young Agrarians Launch Online Farm Resource Map

Young Agrarians is a collaborative network strategy with a lens on new entrants into ecological agriculture. The idea is not to recreate the wheels already turning, but to network up and make visible what is happening on the ground. The goal is to make the educational programs, resources and tools out there more readily available to new farmers.

The Young Agrarians believe that collaboration and communication is key to growing the next generation of farmers in Canada.

The new U-MAP is an interactive Resource Map focused on centralizing information for new and existing farmers in the certified or uncertified organic sector. Add your resource to the map or find a resource.

Check it out at <http://youngagrarians.org/>.



# First in-person meeting of the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture

The first meeting will be held on December 11-13, 2013, in Gatineau, QC.

The review of the Canadian Organic Standards is finally underway: The Working Groups (WGs) have been re-established and are meeting regularly. The proposed amendments to the Canadian standard, which have been submitted by operators and stakeholders over the recent years are being analysed. There are over 200 items on the Review work-list related to the General Principles and Management Standards, and over 150 items on the work-list related to the Permitted Substances Lists. The WGs' amendment proposals will be submitted to the CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture, also called the Technical Committee (TC), will vote on the recommendations.

CGSB is finalizing the re-establishment of the Technical Committee, to ensure that it is balanced and representative of the Canadian organic sector. The Working Group Conveners have selected Hugh Martin as the Interim Chair of the Technical Committee; Hugh will become the permanent Chair if his nomination is approved at the committee's first in-person meeting in December.

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## EVENTS

### Land Linking - Armstrong | Hosted by Young Agrarians

Date: November 9, 2013

Location: Oddfellows Hall, Armstraong, BC

Want Land? Got Land? Are you a farmer looking for land? Are you a landowner looking for farmers?

We Want You!

2pm-6pm Land Linking Workshop on the nuts and bolts of land linking. If lucky, you may meet your future farmer, or find the right owner with a great piece of land to farm on!

6pm-midnight, Foodies & Farm Lovers: Join us for an evening of entertainment and celebration for an all ages Young Agrarians dinner potluck. Bring a dish to share and tools to eat with. Bring an instrument let's dance the night away!

More info at <http://yalandlinkingarmstrong.brownpapertickets.com/>

### Bioengineering Workshop: Agricultural Ditches

Date: November 9 & 10, 2013

Location: Abbotsford & Yarrow, BC

Cost: \$150 for SERBC members, \$200 for non members

The Society of Ecological Restoration- BC Chapter presents a workshop that will focus on agricultural ditches- particularly learning how to stabilize slopes and add habitat diversity using live willow and dogwood stakes. We will explore specific benefits of bioengineering to the Fraser Valley's ditches and general techniques which can be applied on slopes across BC. For more information, visit <http://serbcworkshop2013.eventzilla.net>.



### Field to Fork: Research Showcase and Agri Tasting

Date: November 13, 2013 3:00-5:00pm

Location: University of the Fraser Valley, Canada Education Park, 5579 Tyson Rd, Chilliwack, BC

RSVP: [yvonne.contreras@ufv.ca](mailto:yvonne.contreras@ufv.ca)

Bringing together growers, buyers, chefs, suppliers, students and researchers for collaboration and inspiration.

Results of 2013 Fraser Valley Field Trials:

- Potato, carrot (organic and conventional) and berry trial
  - Organic insect and disease control trials
- Cooking and tasting demos of varieties by UFV culinary arts students, Field to Fork hors d'oeuvre and canapes.

More information at <http://www.ufv.ca/trades/field-to-fork/>.

### GE Foods and Human Health with Dr. Thierry Vrain

Date: November 26, 2013, 6:30 pm

Location: Watermark Beach Resort Hotel, 15 Park Place, Osoyoos, BC (on Highway 3 downtown Osoyoos), Vineyard Room

Dr. Thierry Vrain, a former soil biologist and genetic scientist, worked for Agriculture Canada for 30 years. He was the designated spokesperson to assure the public of the safety of GMO crops. Since retiring 10 years ago, after taking into account scientific evidence ignored by most of the bio-tech industry promoters and government regulators, Dr. Vrain has reversed that position. He will be joined by Dr. Shiv Chopra, a former Health Canada senior scientific advisor who now acts as a regulatory whistleblower.



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php)" [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php](http://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](http://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](http://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.

