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Conference Registration is Open

New Early Early Bird rate! Purchase now and save \$75. This rate will be offered only until December 24, 2014.

The conference, will be held in Chilliwack at the Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, February 27th – March 1st, 2015.

For the first time, we are hosting a full day workshop on Friday. This workshop is intended to help farm owners & their managers create their own farm-specific employee handbook.

COABC is pleased to welcome Sara Dent, Young Agrarians (YA) Coordinator, as our Keynote Speaker. Sara will be speaking about the growth and successes cultivated by YA in the short time that it has been present in BC. Young Agrarians will inspire you to support the movement to grow new farmers in BC and beyond!

As always, the conference will have topics of interest to everyone and the general public is welcome.

For registration and more detailed-conference information, check the website, www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.



COABC Board Planning Session

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

This year the board gathered in Abbotsford to participate in the strategic planning session. They were lead by experienced facilitator Greg McLaren, of the Left Spoke Business Advisory Team.

Identified actions centred around the 5 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 2015.





Canadian Standards Interpretation Committee: Comment Period ending December 23 2014

- Is it allowed to pasteurize organic honey?
- Can Dextrose be used as a flavouring agent in organic products?
- Relating to table 4.2 "Compost obtained from off-farm sources", which elements are considered "trace contaminants"?

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).

The proposed responses are subject to a 60-day comment period from October 27th to December 23rd 2014.

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

EVENTS

End of Season Farmer Social Pacific Agriculture Show

Date: November 23, 2014

Location: Summerhill Winery, 4833 Lakeshore Road (lower parking lot), Kelowna, BC

New & Young Farmers & Friends: join us for an end of season social at Gabe Cipes home at Summerhill Winery. Hang out, eat, relax and catch up.

Farm tour: 3pm with Gabe. Check out what has developed this year at the winery.

Potluck: 5pm bring a dish and stay for an evening in the Kekuli.

Find more information on the Young Agrarians facebook page.

Date: January 29-31, 2015

Location: TradeEx, Abbotsford, BC

PAS showcases 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.

COABC hosts a booth at the ag show and is looking for volunteers to staff it. If you are interested in attending the show, why not volunteer and save the entrance fee.

Meet Your Maker: Vancouver Island

Date: January 27, 2015

Location: Saanich Fairgrounds, Saanich,

This is an annual networking event for small-scale, regional food businesses. It is designed for BC food producers and BC food buyers. Since 2008, hundreds of restaurants, caterers, grocers, food delivery companies, food processors, farmers, fishers, and ranchers have met, negotiated, and sealed deals through Meet Your Maker, generating sales of more than a million dollars.

For more information and registration, visit farmfolkcityfolk.ca

BC Organic Conference

Date: February 27- March 1, 2015

Location: Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, Chilliwack, BC

This year, the conference features a diverse selection of presentations focused on our theme of Livestock, as well as a variety of other topics pertinent to the dynamic functioning of a farm operation, including business structure and support, technical information and land stewardship.

For more information and Conference registration visit the COABC website, www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.



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.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.

