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Organic Week 2015

The sixth annual National Organic Week started in BC with the Ministry of Agriculture presenting a Provincial Organic Week Proclamation to Carmen Wakeling the COABC Co-Chair.

COABC launched the first annual Organic Roadshow with the premiere of the new video Organic: A Manifesto. The video features organic farmers from across BC and is the first in a series of four.

During organic week the video was shown throughout the province at the Organic Week Roadshow events. The road show, generously supported by the Ministry of Agriculture, hosted 12 presentations and drew many participants.

The Minister of Agriculture, Norm Letnick held a press conference with COABC Co-Chair, Carmen Wakeling announcing more details about the plans to regulate the word organic by 2018 and to showcase the new BC Organic consumer education campaign.

The campaign, building on the Think Canada Organic initiative, will help BC consumers identify organic products and understand the value behind the organic label.

Posters and postcards are available to promote BC organic products year-round. If you would like to use these materials in your promotions, please contact the COABC office. Also visit the COABC website or facebook page to view the Manifesto video.

Organic Manifesto

I am organic.

I live in muddy boots not dress shoes. I'd rather birth calves than visit the mall. I prefer shovelling manure to sitting in front of the computer.

I'm more than a farmer – I'm an accountant, mechanic, lawyer, scientist, weatherman, marketing expert and salesperson. I'm proud of the dirt under my fingernails.

Every day I seed, weed, feed, breed, rake, disc, plow, and plant. I nurture healthy soil that grows healthy food – that grows healthy people!

I don't spray Round Up - I round up my grass fed, pastured livestock. Pests are no match for my crops! I say no to GMOs!

I'm excited to sell my certified organic, heirloom, sustainable, local, farm-fresh, free-range food at farmers markets; it's food, as grandma knew it.

I believe in letting Nature do what it does best; in cover crops, not monocropping; and that the earthworm is a truly proud and noble creature.

I work long hours in rain or shine – or wind, sleet, snow, hail and fog. My back aches, my belly is full, and my heart is happy.

I'm a steward of the soil. I care for the entire ecosystem. I'm part of a growing movement to build a better food system!

I speak the language of seeds, I respect the mysteries of the soil, and I'm a sucker for cute farm animals!

Most importantly, I AM ORGANIC!



DISCOVER ORGANIC
IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

- It's great-tasting and nutritious
- It reduces our exposure to pesticides and GMOs
- It's produced and certified to meet national Organic standards
- It's healthy for soil, plants and animals, & reduces our carbon footprint!

THINK
before you eat

TO KNOW IT'S CERTIFIED ORGANIC, LOOK FOR:





You are invited to submit nominations for the Standards Interpretation Committee

Deadline: November 9, 2015

The Canada Organic Office, in cooperation with the Organic Federation of Canada, has established a permanent system for the maintenance of the Canadian Organic Standards. An important element of this system is the Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC).

Since SIC's first meeting on December 8 & 9, 2009, over 250 questions from the sector have been analyzed by the SIC and final answers posted on the OFC website.

In accordance with SIC Terms of Reference, the terms of one committee member, Rochelle Eisen, is ending in December 2015 and one position is currently vacant.

People ending their terms may run for re-election but must be nominated again. Appointments to the SIC are for three years.

We will accept nominations until November 9th, 2015.

SIC nominations should be sent to the OFC at info@organicfederation.ca



EVENTS

Technologies for Small Farm Businesses

This fall, Beyond the Market is hosting workshops in Terrace and Smithers on low-cost technologies for your farm or food business. The workshops will give you an introduction to available tools for your small business, help you assess your technology needs, and show how to use important tools and processes for inventory, time management, billing and payment systems, branding and marketing, and more!

Workshop facilitator, Diandra Oliver, is a co-founder of Home Sweet Home Grocery, a community-funded food business in Prince George. She brings extensive teaching experience and practical knowledge of technologies she uses in her day-to-day to operate and promote her small food business.

Terrace

Date: Nov 14, 2015, 09:00am to 12:00pm

Location: Best Western Terrace Inn, Terrace, BC

For more information visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/technologies-for-small-farm-businesses-terrace-tickets>

Smithers

Date: Nov 15, 2015 from 1:00 pm to 4:00pm

Location: Prestige Hudson Bay Lodge - 3251 East Highway 16 Smithers, BC

For more information visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/technologies-for-small-farm-businesses-smithers-tickets>

November 12 – December 3: Keeping Your Flock Healthy Workshop Series, Langley, BC

Dates: November 12th, 19th, 26th and Dec 3rd from 6-8pm.

Location: Kwantlen Polytechnic University - Langley Campus

Keeping Your Flock Healthy is a free course intended for owners of small flocks who wish to learn more about poultry diseases and ways to prevent them. This course will focus on health and biosecurity related to small lot poultry production. This session is co-presented by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at KPU.

Webinars: COGS - Changes to the Organic Standards

Part one: Crop Production - Nov 6, 3:00 PM EST

Part Two: Livestock Production - Nov 13, 11:00 AM EST

Part Three: Preparation and Processing - Nov 20, 11:00 AM EST

Fee: \$25.00

For more information and to register: <http://cog-shop.myshopify.com/collections/courses>



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.

