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COABC Conference 2014

The Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) is pleased to announce that the 2014 annual conference will be held at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo, BC, February 21st – 23rd, 2014. This year's theme is "Work-Life Balance".

Conference co-coordinators Andrea Lawseth and Diane Elliott-Buckley will be working together to organize the event.

Information about registration and accommodation will be available shortly.

Session topics will include:

- Work-Life Balance
- Four Season Harvest
- Apprenticeships - challenges and opportunities
- Business Planning for Small Farms
- Professional Farmer Certification
- Pest Management
- Organic Standards Review
- Pesticides and Health
- Certification 101
- Biochar
- Value-Added Ventures
- And more...

The planning committee is currently seeking food and silent auction donations for the conference. Please reply to this email and let us know what you will have available to share. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged on the COABC website and in our conference program.

Details will be made available as planning progresses. Please check the conference website frequently for updates.

<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conferenceagm.php>



Organic Week Success

The success of Organic Week across Canada goes to show the great momentum currently behind the sector. Individuals, organizations and businesses all hosted events to celebrate organics.

In BC the provincial government recognized the contribution of organics within the province by proclaiming Sept 21-28, 2013 Organic Week. Visit the COABC website to read the proclamation.

Just prior to Organic Week, COABC posted promotional material for certified operators. Many of these items are not specific to Organic Week and can be used throughout the year.

The special Globe and Mail organic section created by COTA was a very prominent feature. A number of BC organic champions like Rochelle Eisen and Linda Edwards were quoted in the section.

Congratulations to all of you for creating a thriving organic sector.

Next Year, Organic Week is September 20-28. Start planning now!



Questions and Answers on issues related to the Canadian Organic Standards

Can conventional straw be used as a compost feedstock for compost that is used to grow organic mushrooms?

Does the prohibition against using both the organic and non-organic form of an ingredient (8.2.5) apply to different varieties of grapes used in a wine, or different flours (e.g. barley and wheat) used to bake a single bread?

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). Click here to consult the proposed answers to the various questions (also attached), raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

The proposed responses are subject to a 60 day comment period starting August 28th, ending October 28th 2013

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

Canada's Organic Input Directory

Have you visited lately?

Organic Inputs.ca | ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA

OFC FBC
ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA
FÉDÉRATION BIOLOGIQUE DU CANADA

EVENTS

Reel Change

Date: Oct. 17, 2013 - Nov. 16, 2013

Location: Kamloops, Vernon and Kelowna

Fresh Outlook is proud to host its 5th annual REEL CHANGE SustainAbility Film Fest in Kamloops October 17th-19th, in Vernon October 25th-28th, and in Kelowna November 1st-16th. The roster includes everything from internationally acclaimed films about human survival and electronic waste, to Canadian-made films about threatened wild salmon stocks and urban rivers. It also features a locally made documentary about SPIN (small plot intensive) farming.

Free public lecture "The Sustainable Food System Imperative: Change is not Optional, It's Essential"

Date: October 19, 2013

Location: Morris J Wosk Centre for Dialogue (SFU), 580 W. Hastings, Vancouver, BC, Salon 10-20

Dr. John Ikerd, world renowned leader in sustainable agriculture and economics will discuss the critical role of sustainable agriculture in building healthy communities and provide insights on how to put ideas into action. A prolific speaker and writer, John Ikerd is author of *Small Farms are Real Farms*, *Crisis and Opportunity: Sustainability in America* and *The Essentials of Economic Sustainability and Sustainable Capitalism*. For more information visit, <http://www.kpu.ca/science/agriculture.html>.



Hands In the Dirt: Film Launch and Panel Discussion

Date: October 26, 2013

Location: 5-306 Abbot St. (Buzz code #8, Vancouver BC)

RSVP: dandyshots@gmail.com (capacity limited)

Look forward to a lively discussion on topics such as land defence, the Agricultural Land Reserve, greenwashing, decolonization, race in the food movement, and gentrification/speculation. The event includes Film Screening, Filmmaker Q&A and Panel discussion featuring: Kimi & Kareno (Sweet Digz Farm), Donna Passmore (Farmland Defence League), Nick Montgomery (settleragrarian.org), Khalilah Alwani (DTES Neighbourhood House), Mel Sylvestre (UBC Farm)

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>.



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.

