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Vancity Project Wraps Up

At the end of September the Vancity Organic Certification and Public Education Project Wrapped up.

Under the project COABC has been able to make many improvements to the website, work to create an online process and increase communications and outreach activities.

We developed an online certification process to help streamline applications and save time. Through this process we discovered that there were more technical challenges to creating a workable database than we had originally anticipated.

As a result of this exercise, we are now well placed to take the next steps to expand the online form system.

The Project team offered workshops on adopting organic practices and developed resources and training to

cultivate a better understanding of organic methods.

These education sessions became part of the overall outreach strategy to reach growers. We also attended numerous events aimed at the growers, consumers and policy makers.

Throughout the project, we had very positive feedback at both events and sessions. This reinforces the importance of in-person interactions.

In addition to the in-person aspects to the project, we also built our social media presence. Thank you to everyone who has participated in our #icertifybc campaign by sending in the reasons that you certify. Some of the posts will be featured in upcoming BC Organic Grower magazines.

Vancity



Organic Week Celebrations

Organic Week 2014 was a very busy celebration for COABC. To kick it off, we partnered with UBC Farm to present a "Certification Made Easy" session to young and new farmers considering certification.

Also the Executive Director of Operations, Jen Gamble was presented with the Organic Week proclamation that the Provincial government created.

During the week we presented a second certification workshop partnership with the Comox Valley Organic Collective. The sessions were well attended and we've had very positive feedback.

To wrap up the week, COABC shared a booth with the Canada Organic Trade Association at the 9th annual Organic Okanagan Festival in Kelowna.

Feel free to share your organic week pictures with us online as well. Join COABC on Facebook and Twitter.





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).

Nominations - Organic Standards Interpretation Committee

The Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is an advisory body that has been created to assist the Canadian Organic Office (COO) in the interpretation of the Canadian Organic Standard. The SIC is accepting nominations until Nov. 3, 2014.

For more information on the nominations and the comment period, visit www.organicfederation.ca.



EVENTS

Organic Processing Inspector Course

Date: Nov 10-14, 2014

Location: Mississauga, Ontario

Cost: \$1750

The course includes comprehensive training on the Canadian Organic Standards and four days of instruction including a field trip to a certified organic operation, plus one-half day for testing. Core instruction includes: how to conduct processing facility inspections, applicable organic certification processing/handling standards, regulatory requirements, audit control, HACCP/Organic Control Points, structural pest management, sanitation, ingredients, labeling, inspection report writing, communication skills, and inspector protocols. For more information visit, www.cog.ca.

Gathering the Seeds of Knowledge: 2nd biennial BCSeed Gathering

Date: Nov 14-16, 2014

Location: Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond, BC

This event presents an unique opportunity to:

- support a provincial gathering of seed growers, community leaders, and farmers from across BC
- showcase innovative practices in seed

cultivation, harvesting and storage to an educated audience, and

-participate in the strong and committed community of seed practitioners from across North America.

Small-scale seed growers, community leaders, seed networks and young urban farmers from across BC will bring their seeds to clean, test a variety of cleaning equipment, learn, share experiences and launch the BC Eco Seeds producer cooperative. We will decide how, together we can improve the quality, quantity and diversity of locally grown seed.

Small Scale Food Processor Association Business Networking Events

Date: October 29 to November 19, 2014

Location: Victoria, Abbotsford, Squamish, Vancouver

The Small Scale Food Processor Association (SSFPA) is hosting a business networking tour. Each Business Networking Event includes educational presentations from featured presenters and SSFPA Gold Sponsors and Peer to Peer networking opportunities provide complimentary snacks and refreshments.

Sessions start at 6:30pm and finish at 8:30 pm. Limited seating and pre-registration required.

Visit www.ssfpa.net for more information and to register.



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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.

