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BC Organic Week Materials

We have lots to celebrate in BC - new research (view it at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca) indicates that Canada's organic market grew to \$3.7 billion in 2012, with BC as the nation's hotspot where two thirds of consumers purchase organic groceries weekly!

To support this growth and to help BC producers promote their certified organic products at farmers markets and at retail, COABC has created BC Organic Week materials that producers and supporting retailers can download and customize. Check them out at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

Colourful posters and infocards sporting Organic Week graphics and the new Think Before You

Eat brand messaging are being printed and displayed across BC, generating lots of BUZZ! (Note: These on-line resources are password protected. Obtain the password from your certifier or from the COABC office).

COABC will be developing more exciting Think resources customized for BC to promote certified organic products all year round.

Stay tuned for more marketing resources this fall and winter from COABC, as part of COABC's on-line toolkits project. Special thanks to the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC for funding this important work!

Globe and Mail Organic Special

Watch for the Globe and Mail Organic Week spread. This year, as in the past the Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) and its partners have planned a Globe and Mail special about organics.

Watch for the special section this year during Organic Week. In the meantime, check out the spread from last year on the organic week website.

This special is only one of the many ways in which the organic community will celebrate Organic Week. There are also many events happening around the country.

If you have planned an event, we can help you get it up on the National Organic week website. Send us the details and we will help get it the word out.

Check out all the Organic Week happenings across the country and find an event near you at www.organicweek.ca.



2013-2015 Review of the Canadian Organic Standards

While CGSB was negotiating and finalizing the 2-year review workplan with SCC, the organic sector has not been idle. Under OFC initiative, important preparatory work has been accomplished.

The Work Lists (WL) have been completed and prioritized. All questions submitted by the Standards Interpretation Committee (48 in total) to the Technical Committee (CGSB Committee on Organic Agriculture) have been integrated in the WLs.

The Working Groups will be back to work very soon. Seven WG conveners are actively reestablishing their working groups and preparing their agenda and meeting schedule. The mandate of the Working Groups will consist of preparing and proposing amendments to the standard, basing their work on the WL items. Current WG Conveners are:

- Jean Duval (Crop Production, Maple, Mushroom, Greenhouse, Sprout, Wild crops),
- Anne Macey (Livestock Production, Honey),
- Rochelle Eisen (Preparation, Organic Plan, Definitions and Terminology),
- Janine Gibson (PSL- Livestock Production),
- Linda Edwards (PSL- Crop Production),
- Dag Falck (PSL-Processing),
- Ted Zettel (Permanent PSL Project).

The WG Conveners will not work in a vacuum: producers will be consulted about specific issues on OFC Blog. Check InfoBio where Conveners will invite you to comment various issues. All received comments will help the Working Groups draft and propose pertinent amendments.

CELEBRATE ORGANIC WEEK SEPTEMBER 21-28 2013



EVENTS

Freak'n Farmer Adventure Obstacle Race

Date: Sept. 21, 2013, 9am

Location: Covert Farms, Oliver, BC

The Freak'n Farmer is an adventure obstacle race with both 5K and 12K distances taking place on Covert Farms in Oliver, BC. We have 18 "farm chore" style obstacles laid out on the organic farm, including onion sack hauling, tomato crushing, tractor tire flipping and more. The event finishes with wine tasting from our local surrounding wineries, organic food and live music. We also have a shorter race for kids, camping for the weekend and tons of laughs! Spectators welcome, bring your bike and your appetite!

Oak Street Farmers' Market Celebrates National Organic Week!

Date: September 25th from 3-7 pm

Location: 949 W 49th Avenue, Vancouver

For Organic Week we will be holding the following events during our weekly farmers' market -- Zucchini Races on our own hand-made race-track from 3-7 pm using Organic Zucchini's donated from Forstbauer Family Natural Food Farm! -- A scavenger hunt around our farmers' market focusing on organic food and sustainable farming!

Organic Okanagan Festival

Date: Sunday September 29, 2013, 11-5

Location: Summerhill Pyramid Winery, Kelowna

Contact: wendy@okanagangreens.ca

The Organic Okanagan Festival (OOF) has become the most comprehensive, approachable and enjoyable green living exposition in the Okanagan Valley! Since 2006, we have showcased over 50 to 70 exhibitors each year, collected over \$10,000 in food and funds for the Kelowna Community Food Bank and hosted nearly 1000 inspired guests annually!

The 2013 Festival theme is "Taste Organic!". Aligned with National Organic Week in Canada, OOF is inviting local chefs and restaurateurs to offer more Okanagan organic food than ever before!

The Salt Spring Island Apple Festival 2013

Date: Sunday September 29, 2013 from 9-5

Location: Fulford Hall, 2591 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

Contact: harryburton@shaw.ca

Featuring: •304 apple varieties displayed in 2011 at Fulford Hall •Historical reenactments 2013: Henry Ruckle, Maggie & Capt. Apple (new SSI superhero) •16 farms on the Apple Festival tour •Apple Luscious Organic Orchard will have about 100 of the best apple varieties for tasting at their farm •Apple baking, orchard tours, apple ID, educational info, apple history and apple sales •Leading experts in orchard bee pollination and fantastic lunches by some great island chefs.

Info at www.saltspringmarket.com/apples



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.

