

E-News



August 2012

WHAT'S NEW

SMALL-SCALE CERTIFICATION RESEARCH PROJECT

The first consultation for the project was conducted on at the BC Food Systems Network conference on July 6, 2012. There were many urban agriculturalists in attendance. The discussion focused on the barriers to certification for small-scale and urban operations and potential solutions to these issues. It was great to see so many young farmers participating in the conversation. More consultations will occur over the next 10 months. If you know any non-certified producers that would be willing to participate in these consultations, please let us know at admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

ORGANIC WEEK SEPT 22-29, 2012

Do you attend a farmer's market in BC? Plan an event and join in the celebration of organics. The COABC office can send promotional material for your organic week events. Let us know how you plan to tell the community about organics and we will help promote your event. Contact admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca for more information.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CANADA ORGANIC OFFICE

On June 20th, 2012 the Canada Organic Office completed the amendments to the current COO Operating Manual V13, 2010. The amended COO Operating Manual dated June 20, 2012 (V14) is now available and will replace the COO Operating Manual 2010 (V13). The amended COO Operating Manual comes into effect on June 26, 2012. Please note that the manual will be posted on the [CFIA web site](#) at a later date. Please find attached a copy of the final COO Operating Manual (English and French) for your information.

CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS' INTERPRETATION

Can inputs, which have been produced using substrates from GE plants, be used in organic food production?
Are topical applications of antibiotics in milking cows requiring a 30 day withdrawal?
Is crop rotation mandatory in organic systems? Is training of staff working in organic facilities mandatory?
Mandated by the Canada Organic Office, the Canada Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) is proposing answers to these pertinent questions and all Canadian organic stakeholders are invited to issue their comments. All received comments will be assessed by the SIC.

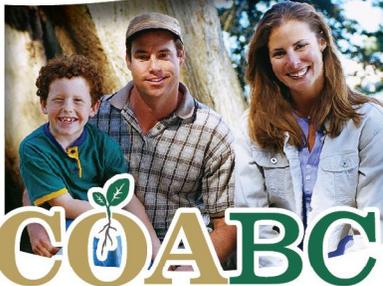
[Please click here](#) to read and comment the Q&As submitted to the current public comment period. Deadline for issuing your comment at OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca is **September 17th 2012**. Thanks in advance for your attention!

ONGOING

NEWSLETTERS FROM SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Every month the COABC receives newsletters from organizations with related interests or with whom we are members. So as not to repeat everything written, take a moment to read their newsletters.

- **BC Agriculture Council** COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat.
<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=f79d2a33b823f8c549069c39b&id=6b144e0ae4&e=3525e11d04>
- **BCSPCA** http://support.spca.bc.ca/site/MessageViewer?em_id=5741.0&dly_id=17701



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- OFC <http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter>
- Shared Harvest <http://www.sharedharvestbc.blogspot.ca/>

BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK LOGO

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 <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php>.

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php>.

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca.

SOCIAL MEDIA

COABC is on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986> and on Twitter, username coabccanada. Join our online community.

REMEMBER: HUSKY REBATE PROGRAM

The Husky rebate program was initiated in 2005 to provide an additional funding source for COABC. When you use the loyalty card at Husky, COABC receives a 2% rebate. If you do not have a card or would like a replacement please email office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

INTERESTING

GM APPLE CLOSER TO U.S. APPROVAL: FARCE OF CANADIAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION EXPOSED

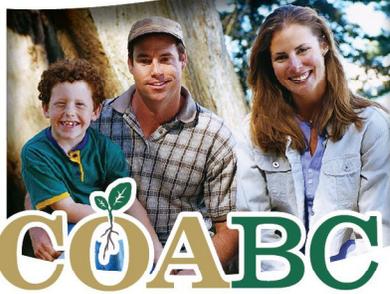
Press Release: The U.S. Department of Agriculture posted over 160 pages of data from Okanagan Specialty Fruits pertaining to their request for approval of a genetically engineered (genetically modified or GM) "non-browning" apple. The U.S. public now has 60 days to comment before a final decision is made by U.S. regulators.

This public comment period in the U.S. comes just six days after the closing of a public comment period in Canada, July 3, 2012. However, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's comment process was based on two pages of bullet points describing the data submitted by the company – the data itself was not provided.

"The CFIA should be deeply embarrassed for wasting Canadian's time on a false invitation to comment on the GM apple," said Lucy Sharratt of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network. "The CFIA public comment period was always a sham because it was based on no data but this farce is now completely exposed." CBAN has sent a letter to the CFIA expressing frustration about the lack of transparency and asking for an immediate halt to review of the GM apple.

The U.S. announcement comes just days after a consumer poll commissioned by BC and Quebec apple grower associations found that 69% of Canadians do not want the GM apple.

View the CBAN letter regarding the "Arctic apple" consultation period [here](#).



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EVENTS

"PEOPLE OF A FEATHER" MOVIE & PIZZA

Date: August 9, 2012, 6pm

Location: Foxglove Farm, Salt Spring Island

Movie by Joel Heath, Canada, 2011, 90 min (In English and Inuktituk w/English subtitles)

Using stunning time-lapse photography and underwater footage taken over the course of seven years, this film shows how a traditional way of life is being ravaged by environmental change.

Vancouver Film Critics Circle winner: **Best Film of 2011 BC**

FEAST OF FIELD

Dates: August 12, September 9 and September 16, 2012

Locations: Okanagan, Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island

Website: <http://www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/events/feast-of-fields/>

FarmFolk CityFolk's annual local food celebration and fundraiser, Feast of Fields, has become a culinary tradition during harvest season. While drawing in the fresh country air, guests stroll across a farmer's field, wine glass and linen napkin in hand, tasting the very best their region has to offer. The Feast highlights the connection between farmers and chefs who offer mouth watering creations using the freshest local, seasonal and sustainable ingredients. Accompanied by BC wines, beers and spirits, Feast of Fields is a gastronomic picnic for the palate.

ORGANIC OKANAGAN FESTIVAL

Date: September 27, 2012

Time: 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Location: Summerhill Pyramid Winery, 4870 Chute Lake Road, Kelowna, BC

The theme for the 2012 Organic Okanagan Festival is "Love the Apple – NO GMO". Contamination from GM apples threatens the future of our apples, and the farmers who grow them. The OOF vision of celebrating organic apples includes stations with organic apple tastings, organic apple pie making demos, an organic apple juice bar, organic orchardists' forums, apple art and much more! We have had preliminary conversations with the Canadian Organic Trade Association, the Certified Organic Association of BC and on-going calls with the NO GMO apple team.

SALT SPRING ISLAND APPLE FESTIVAL

Date: September 30, 2012

Location: Salt Spring Island, BC

Website: <http://saltspringapplefestival.org/>

The Salt Spring Island Apple Festival is an incredible little community event, attracting about 1500 apple lovers, celebrating the apples (and food) of Salt Spring Island and connecting you with the farms and farmers that produce this very special diversity of tasty, healthy food.



REMEMBER...

Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>

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.