

Celebrating 20 Years Together

COABC

Certified Organic Associations of BC

Enews

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Special points of interest:

- **Comments are required** on the Low Level Presence Consultations www.agr.gc.ca/llp. See story for details
- 2013 Conference information is now available. Visit www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

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COABC Conference Registration Open

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary of COABC, this year's theme is

"Organics: Past, Present, and Future".

Registration is open for the 2013 Certified Organic Associations of BC (COABC) Conference, which is being held at the Prestige Hotel Vernon from February 22nd to the 24th, 2013. Make sure you take advantage of the Early Bird deadline and register by January 31st, 2013.

To register please visit: <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2013/>

infonews/conference2013/ or check out the Conference page on the COABC website at <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2013/>.



We are pleased to announce that Lucy Sharratt,

the co-ordinator of the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network (CBAN) will be the keynote speaker for the 2013 conference.

Sharratt has extensive experience as a researcher and campaigner with organizations concerned about genetic engineering and global justice issues. She worked as Coordinator for the International [Ban Terminator Campaign](#) in 2005/6 (the international moratorium on Terminator at the United Nations was upheld and strengthened in this phase of the campaign).

Low Level Presence Consultations

On December 18, 2012 the federal government held a face to face consultation in Ottawa that COABC was invited to attend. Cathleen Kneen agreed to represent COABC as a past board member. From the meeting Cathleen concluded

"that we should ALL take advantage of the opportunity to state our opinions through their website consultation. The government has swallowed the industry line totally (but we already knew that); they are trying to see if there is a way they

can slide it past the organic sector and we have to make sure that is not going to happen."

The consultation document is at www.agr.gc.ca/llp and this will be open for comments until **January 19, 2013**.



Standards Interpretation Committee; 2012-2013

In compliance with the Terms of Reference of the Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC), the elections held to fulfill three positions of the SIC have been completed; Maureen Bostock and Rochelle Eisen will continue to hold a seat and Roxanne Beavers

joins the SIC for a first mandate. She replaces Gérard Bouchard who has completed a three-year mandate. These three members are elected for a three-year mandate. The other SIC members are: Jean Duval, Dag Falck, Janine Gilson and Ted Zettel.

The OFC members and the COO thank Gérard Bouchard for the quality of his work, as well as the stakeholders that have submitted candidates.

“This mutual agreement will facilitate trade between the two countries”

Canada and Switzerland Reach an Organic Equivalency Agreement

Switzerland and Canada have concluded an organic equivalency agreement. Swiss and Canadian Regulations on production, processing and labeling of organic products along with the control systems are deemed reciprocally equivalent.

Canada recognizes all Swiss products with organic ingredients originating from Switzerland, EU member states or Canada as equivalent. In return, Switzerland will add as soon as possible Canada on its list of recognized products. This mutual agreement will facilitate trade between the two countries and

will consequently galvanize the trade of organic products.

Extract from a press release issued by the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture at <http://www.blw.admin.ch>



Love the Apple

The Apple No GMO Panel Discussion videos are now completed and posted as a five-part series.

As you may recall, this panel discussion was held at the 7th Annual Or-

ganic Okanagan Festival on September 23, 2012. The panel included Fred Danenhower, Jim Wood, Fred Steele and Dag Falck.

To view the video clips visit,

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

Help circulate the apple petition visit www.okanagangreens.ca

Events

PACIFIC AG SHOW

Date: January 24-26, 2013

Location: Tradex, Abbotsford, BC

COABC will once again have a booth at the Pacific Ag Show. The Ag show will showcase the latest and most innovative equipment and technology for the agriculture industry with over 250 dealers and manufacturers present. For more information on the show and the short courses offered, visit <http://www.agricultureshow.net/>.

YOUNG AGRARIANS: First (ever) Young Farmer Mixer + Sleepover

Date: January 26-27, 2013

Location: Summerhill Pyramid Winery, Kelowna

Register: <http://youngagrariansmixer.eventbrite.com/>

This event will bring together young-ish ecological farmers for two days of skills sharing and open conference space. Please contact Coordinator - Sara Dent, s@saradent.ca for more information.

COABC 2013 CONFERENCE

Date: February 22-24, 2013

Location: Prestige Hotel, Vernon, BC

The theme this year, to help us commemorate the 20th anniversary of COABC, is *Organics: Past, Present and Future*. The Conference provides educational and networking opportunities for new and established farmers, as well as the general public. We feature educational topics presented by knowledgeable speakers who are experts in their field. Join us!

Newsletters from Supporting Organizations

Every month the COABC receives newsletters from organizations with related interests

- **BC Agriculture Council** COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat. [HTTP://US2.CAMPAIGN-ARCHIVE2.COM/?U=F79D2A33B823F8C549069C39B&ID=CE3E7C179D&E=3525E11D04](http://US2.CAMPAIGN-ARCHIVE2.COM/?U=F79D2A33B823F8C549069C39B&ID=CE3E7C179D&E=3525E11D04)

- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter>
- **Shared Harvest** <http://www.sharedharvestbc.blogspot.ca/>
- **BCSPCA** [HTTP://SUPPORT.SPCA.BC.CA/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM_ID=6941.0&DLV_ID=21921](http://SUPPORT.SPCA.BC.CA/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM_ID=6941.0&DLV_ID=21921)



Reminders

HUSKY REBATE PROGRAM

The Husky rebate program contributes 2% of purchase to COABC. You can at no additional cost to yourself help COABC by using your Husky loyalty card. Need a new Card? Email office@certifiedorganic.bc.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.

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://www.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.