



E-News

July 2012

WHAT'S NEW

GMO APPLES

July 3, 2012 is the CFIA deadline for comments on the arctic apple application submitted by Okanagan Specialty Fruits. COABC has sent a letter which is now posted on the front page of the website. The Canadian Biotechnology Action Network has include all necessary information on their "Love the Apple" page, <http://www.cban.ca/Resources/Topics/GE-Crops-and-Foods-Not-on-the-Market/Apple>. This is important because contamination from GM apples threatens the future of our apples, and the farmers who grow them, both organic and conventional. Please help our apple industry, tell the government that you don't want to eat a GM apple!

SMALL-SCALE CERTIFICATION RESEARCH PROJECT

COABC is pleased to announce that the project is now underway. The research contract has been awarded to a consulting team consisting of Andrea Lawseth, Rochelle Eisen, Gunta Vitins and Brenda Frick. All four have extensive experience with the organic sector and are well positioned to make this project truly successful.

CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS' INTERPRETATION

Good news! The CFIA has decided to sign an extendable contract (3yrs) with the OFC for the management of the SIC. It allows organic experts to answer questions issued by stakeholders while avoiding the need to renegotiate the budget every spring.

- **Reminder:** A list of Questions and Answers is currently undergoing the public comment period The current public comment period is still underway and will end on **July 10th**. Visit the [OFC website home page](#) to read the Questions and Answers open for comment.
- Do you want to direct a question to the Standards Interpretation Committee? Please read the [guidelines](#) this will help you draft a clear question.

ORGANIC WEEK SEPT 22-29, 2012

"Canada's National Organic Week is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country. Hundreds of individual events showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its positive impact on the environment. Organic represents a vibrant alternative food system." www.organicweek.ca.

Join us in celebrating by planning an event in your community or help out by joining the COABC Organic Week committee. Contact admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca if you are interested.

SUMMER BC ORGANIC GROWER

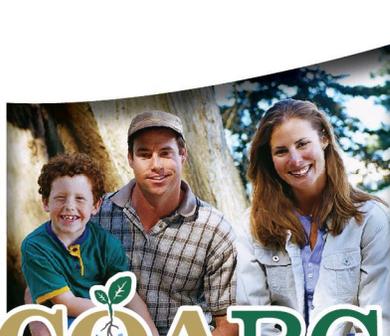
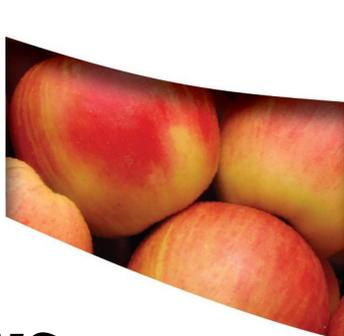
The Summer issue is on its way, watch your mail box or visit www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca for a preview. This month we are launching the BCOG in a new online format.

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.



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<http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=f79d2a33b823f8c549069c39b&id=c06fd68ca2&e=3525e11d04>

- BCSPCA http://support.sPCA.bc.ca/site/MessageViewer?em_id=5521.0&dlv_id=17041
- OFC <http://www.organicfederation.ca>
- 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

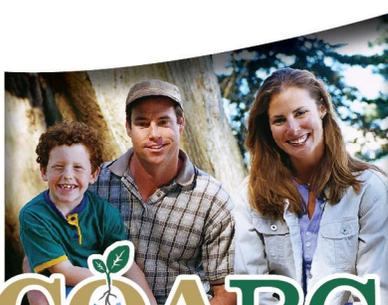
The Husky rebate program was initiated in 2005 to provide an additional funding source for COABC. When you use the loyalty card at Husky, COABC receives a 2% rebate. If you do not have a card or would like a replacement please email office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

INTERESTING

CALL FOR PRE-PROPOSALS AND COLLABORATORS FOR BIODYNAMIC RESEARCH

The Biodynamic Association is seeking creative, relevant and innovative research projects that will advance the understanding and practice of biodynamics that we can pitch to various funders who are interested in biodynamics. The Association hopes to spark a new direction and impetus for biodynamic research through a broad idea sharing process. Authors of the strongest submissions will be invited to a **gathering of researchers to be held November 14-15, 2012 in Madison, Wisconsin**, just prior to BDA's biannual Biodynamic Conference. Read more here <https://www.biodynamics.com/biodynamic-research-call-for-pre-proposals>. Submissions need to be emailed or postmarked by **July 27, 2012**.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not a competitive grant program. The BDA is not offering grants but will actively fundraise for some or all of the proposals developed through this process. The BDA already has one foundation interested in funding biodynamic research and will be cultivating others.



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Please contact Sarah Weber, Biodynamic Research Coordinator from the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association with any questions. Phone: 604-567-4998, Email: sarah@biodynamics.com

EVENTS

BC FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK GATHERING

Date: July 5-8, 2012

Location: Gambier Island, BC

Cost: \$295 (Earlybird rate)

The theme of the Gathering is **Reclaiming our Food Systems: Policy and Practice**. A food system is defined as the resources and processes that are required to feed a population. It includes producing, processing, shipping, storing, selling and consuming food, as well as the management of waste associated with all of these processes. Most of our current food policy supports the industrial food system. One of the goals of the Network is to develop and advocate policies to redesign food systems to alleviate hunger and promote sustainability - food policy that places community food security as the highest priority. For more information visit, <http://fooddemocracy.org/>.

FARM, ARTS & CULINARY CAMP FOR KIDS

Date: July 16 through July 20, 2012

Location: Foxglove Farm, Saltspring Island

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm daily

Cost: \$295 + \$20 materials fee plus HST (lunches included)

Our five-day farm camp for children ages 7-12 offers environmental literacy experiences through the exploration of a variety of habitats - by growing, harvesting, preparing and eating organic fruits and vegetables, feeding and caring for farm animals, and through nature-based art, using child-centered, fun activities. Register online or email programs@foxglovefarmbc.ca for more information.

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”. A small BC company called Okanagan Specialty Fruits has submitted a request to Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for approval of a genetically modified (GM) “non-browning” apple. 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.



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.