

E-News



May 2011

WHAT'S NEW

COABC Committees

The committees for 2011-12 are currently being formed. COABC is a member driven organization which means there is plenty of opportunity to be involved. Join a committee and help move COABC forward. Please consider adding your name to one of the committees below, to do so email admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca. Thank you for contributing.

Advocacy of Operators

Mary Forstbauer

Capacity Development

Brad Reid, Susan Snow, Carmen Wakeling,

Communication & PR (Awareness)

Mary Forstbauer, Annie Moss, Clive Johnson, Roly Russell

Events

Mary Forstbauer

Human Resources (HR) Adhoc

Mary Forstbauer, Clive Johnson, Peter Stockdale, Robert Hettler, Rebecca Kneen, Paddy Doherty

Levies Committee

Annie Moss, Susan Snow

Research and Education

Paddy Doherty, Peter Stockdale, Hans Buchler

COABC Restructuring Proposal Committee

Clive Johnson, Carmen Wakeling, Kris Chand, Fred Danenhower

Future Development of Small Organic Producers \$200,000 and Under

Rob Vanderlip, Clive Johnson

Whole Farm Policy

Dave Comrie, Clive Johnson, Rob Vanderlip, Deb Corbett

Spring 2011 Grower

The Spring Grower has gone out and is now up on the website, view it at

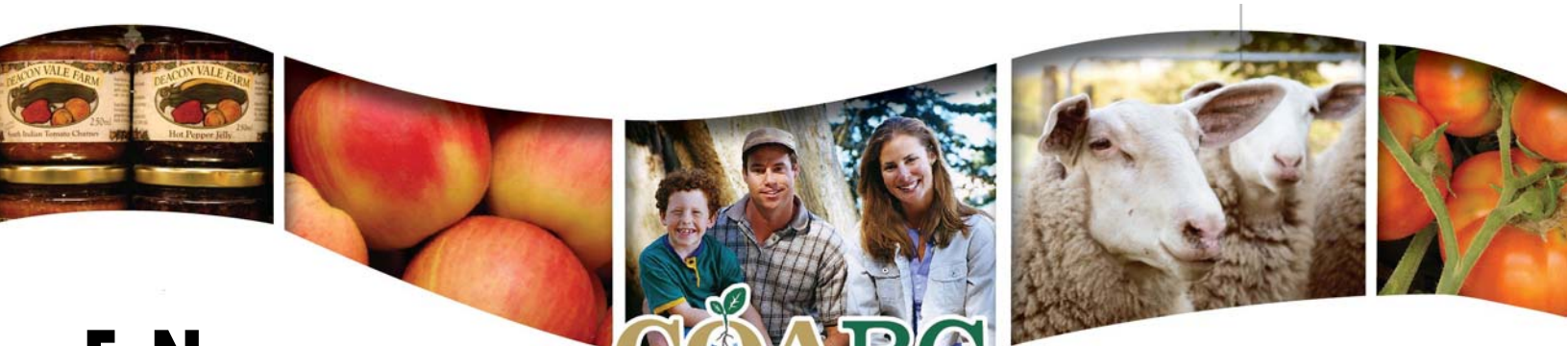
<http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/publications/bcog/issues/Vol14N2.pdf>. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue. It is a great read.

ONGOING

Newsletters for 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://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2
- **BCSPCA** [HTTP://SUPPORT.SP.CA.BC.CA/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM_ID=3181.0&DLV_ID=6821](http://support.sPCA.bc.ca/site/messageviewer?EM_ID=3181.0&DLV_ID=6821)



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- OFC <http://www.organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/pdf/COO%20Liaison%20Committee%202011%20April%2011th.pdf>

BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK LOGO

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.

REMINDER – SHIPPING IN AND OUT OF PROVINCE

For certified organic operators who wish to ship outside the province (nationally or internationally) don't forget that you now must be certified under under ISO rather than the provincial BC certified organic program.

INTERESTING

OSDP DEADLINE APPROACHING

Intake Deadline: June 24, 2011

Contact: Paddy Doherty, [osdp\(a\)certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:osdp(a)certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

The Organic Sector Development Program Strategic Initiative is a fund for the development of the BC organic sector. This is a funding program with the objective of facilitating the agriculture, agri-food, and agri-based products sector's ability to seize opportunities, to respond to new and emerging issues, and to path-find and pilot solutions to new and ongoing issues in order to help it adapt and remain competitive.

GMO CROP SAFETY ASSESSMENT STUDY

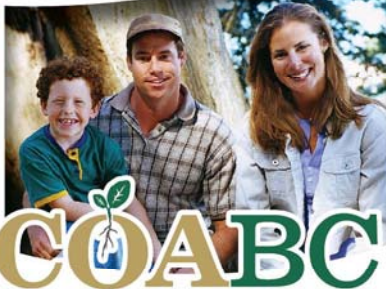
Full study details, <http://www.enveurope.com/content/23/1/10>

Results

Several convergent data appear to indicate liver and kidney problems as end points of GMO diet effects in the above-mentioned experiments. This was confirmed by our meta-analysis of all the *in vivo* studies published, which revealed that the kidneys were particularly affected, concentrating 43.5% of all disrupted parameters in males, whereas the liver was more specifically disrupted in females (30.8% of all disrupted parameters).

Conclusions

The 90-day-long tests are insufficient to evaluate chronic toxicity, and the signs highlighted in the kidneys and livers could be the onset of chronic diseases. However, no minimal length for the tests is yet obligatory for any of the GMOs cultivated on a large scale, and this is socially unacceptable in terms of consumer health protection. We are suggesting



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that the studies should be improved and prolonged, as well as being made compulsory, and that the sexual hormones should be assessed too, and moreover, reproductive and multigenerational studies ought to be conducted too.

BC Ag CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE

COABC members have been invited to participate in the BC Agriculture Adaptation Risk & Opportunity Assessment. Focus groups participants will be identified by April/May, if you are interested in participating please let the COABC office know. For more information about this initiative read their project introduction at

<http://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/wp/wp-content/media/CAI-handout-Adapt-Risk-Opp.pdf>

Project Contact: Emily MacNair, Emily@BCAgClimateAction.ca

EVENTS

NEW DATE ! ADVANCE PAYMENTS PROGRAM(APP) WORKSHOP

Date: Wednesday May 4th 2011

Location: Delta Grand Okanagan, 1310 Water Street, Kelowna

Contact: louise.laroche@agr.gc.ca

The Agricultural Marketing Programs Act (AMPA) gives authority for the Advance Payments Program (APP) and the Price Pooling Program (PPP). Workshops were held across the country, but the Kelowna session was cancelled as a result of the federal election call. Please reconfirm your attendance to the workshop with Louise Laroche by phone at 613-773-2309 or by email at louise.laroche@agr.gc.ca.

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION SPEAKER

Date: May 6, 2011, 6:30 pm

Location: Terra Nova Farm, 2631 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC

The National Farmers Union is doing a tour of Southern BC to discuss the creation of a new National Farmers Union district for BC. Please come out to Terra Nova Farm in Richmond on May 6th to see guest speaker Kathleen Charpentier.

BC INSITUTE OF AGROLOGISTS AGM AND CONFERENCE

Date: May 12 - 14, 2011

Location: Thompson Rivers University, Campus Activity Centre, Kamloops, BC

Registration online at: <http://www.bcia.com/>

BCIA is the provincial organization authorized under the Agrologists Act, a British Columbia statute, to govern the professional conduct of its members, in support of the public interest. For a listing of the sessions click on the following link, <http://www.bcia.com/events.php?page=calendar&display=event&id=575&date=1969-Dec-31&returnto=month>



DON'T FORGET

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.