

E-News

October 2012

WHAT'S NEW

COABC MET WITH NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

At the Organic Okanagan Festival COABC executive and board members met with the new Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Norm Letnick. Summerhill Pyramid Winery graciously hosted the meeting. The regulatory gap in BC around the word Organic was discussed along with the threat posed by the possible introduction of the GMO apples. The Minister was receptive and asked many questions in order to understand the organic sector better.

ORGANIC WEEK PROCLAMATION

For the second year in a row the BC Government proclaimed in BC. Minister Letnick presented the proclamation to COABC President, Mary Forstbauer and COABC Co-secretary, Rebecca Kneen at the opening ceremonies of the Organic Okanagan Festival. The Festival is hosted annually by Summerhill Pyramid Winery in Kelowna.

ORGANIC WEEK SUCCESSFUL ACROSS CANADA

From September 22-29, 2012 the Canadian Organic sector celebrated Organics. The Canadian Organic Trade Association coordinated an Organic Week insert for the Globe and Mail again this year. Read the articles at <http://www.organicweek.ca/images/GlobeInsert2012.pdf>

During Organic Week the OFC put out numerous press releases featuring Organics in Canada. All are posts are on the front page of the OFC website <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>. The most recent asks for comments on how to manage GMO contaminates, read the article and comment [here](#).

Visit COABC or Organic Week on facebook to see Organic Week pictures.

GMO APPLE PANEL

COABC helped co-ordinate the "Arctic" apple panel that took place at the Organic Okanagan festival during Organic Week. The panel made up of Dag Falck from Nature's Path, Fred Dannenhower from the Similkameen Organic Tree Fruit Growers, Fred Steele the Past Vice-president of BC Tree Fruit Grower's and Jim Wood of Old Meadow Organic Farm was very informative. Thank you to the panelists and Phil Jackson, the moderator, for making the session successful. We will be posting some or all of the panel in the near future. Watch for more information.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE CANADIAN ORGANIC STANDARDS

The Organic Standards Interpretation Committee (SIC) provides interpretive guidance to the Canada Organic Office on issues related to the National Standards for Organic Agriculture (CAN/CGSB 32.310 and CAN/CGSB 32.311).

Questions: How should the minimum buffer zone be measured in an orchard? Can green char be used in organic agriculture? Can livestock feed harvested from the buffer zones around organic cropland be fed to livestock in transition to organic?

[Click here](#) to consult the proposed answers to the various questions (also attached), raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

The proposed responses are subject to a 60 day comment period starting October 4th and closing December 3rd 2012. All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca



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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=5768dac289&e=3525e11d04>
- **BCSPCA** http://support.spca.bc.ca/site/MessageViewer?em_id=6521.0&dlv_id=19941
- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter>
- **Shared Harvest** <http://www.sharedharvestbc.blogspot.ca/>
- **OACC Organic friends E-zine** <http://www.oacc.info/FriendsE-zines/august2012.asp>

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 .

REMINDER – SHIPPING IN AND OUT OF PROVINCE

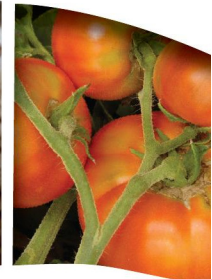
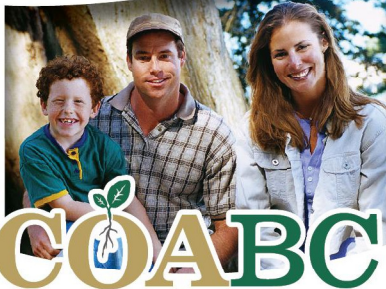
For certified organic operators who wish to ship outside the province (nationally or internationally) don't forget that you now must be certified under under ISO rather than the provincial BC certified organic program.

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 .

“WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?” BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Are you familiar with the green “What is Organic Farming” booklet? The booklet is now available on our website as a downloadable resource. On the Education page under the Marketing Toolkit tab there are a number of tools and resources available to help members.



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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.

INTERESTING

A BC HACCP PLAN WORKSHOPS

“A BC HACCP Plan” workshops are scheduled for the fall/winter of 2012-13. These food safety planning workshops may be of interest to farms and other businesses considering, or already involved in, food processing. The workshops are a valuable education tool for owners and employees. What’s more, they offer an opportunity to network, and to access information that will help enhance your bottom line in these changing economic times. Information about the workshops and on-line registration is available at www.ssfpa.net/foodsafety.

YOUNG AGRARIANS FILM

Meet the future of farming. This short film by Hannah Roessler from the BC Food Systems Network annual gathering at Gambier Island on July 7-9, 2012 was made for the Young Agrarians project. It is a quick view into what the new generation of agrarians are about, why they are doing what they are doing, what growing food means to them..... short and sweet. Enjoy it [here](#).

THE GMO APPLE PETITION

The Okanagan Greens Society are circulating a Stop the GM Apple petition that close to 1000 BC residents have signed. Please help by following this [link to the petition](#) printing copies, circulating it around your networks and mailing it back to the Okanagan Greens Society before January 12, 2013! The petition will be presented to the Provincial Government in 2013.

EVENTS

PERMACULTURE CUBA 2013

Date: May and June, 2013

Location: Cuba

An Immersion Experience in Sustainable Urban Agriculture in the Heart of Cuba. For seven weeks, ten Canadians will have the opportunity to live, work and learn within the thriving urban agriculture and permaculture movements in Cuba. Grounded in a model of partnership, experiential education, and collaborative learning. To view the Permaculture Cuba 2013 brochure on-line, please go to: <http://theurbanfarmer.ca/cuba-programs/permaculture-cuba-internship/>.



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.