

# E-NEWS

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THIS ISSUE

COG Membership  
AgSafe BC  
BuyBC Webinar  
BCAC 2018 Board  
Summer Events



British  
Columbia  
Certified  
Organic



## COG: JOIN NATIONAL, SUPPORT LOCAL

A strong and sustainable organic sector in Canada depends on dedicated involvement in local organic food systems. Canadian Organic Growers (COG) allows members and supporters to direct a portion of their membership contribution to their regional organic organisations, including COABC! If you haven't already, please join COG and support COABC. You can also help by sharing this campaign with your friends and neighbours and encouraging them to join as well: [cog.ca/cog\\_news/cog-launches-join-national-support-local-membership-campaign/](http://cog.ca/cog_news/cog-launches-join-national-support-local-membership-campaign/)

## AGSAFE BC

AgSafe is BC's agriculture industry Health and Safety Association (HSA) working with farmers and ranchers to improve workplace health and safety practices. Based in Langley, AgSafe offers site-specific programs, safety training, and consultation

through a team of regional safety consultants and advisors.

AgSafe offers a Certificate of Recognition program for large and small employers. Recently AgSafe launched the Safety Ready Certificate of Recognition Self-Assessment website to assist organizations assess their readiness for an audit.

For more information about AgSafe services or agriculture workplace safety call 1-877-533-1789 or visit [AgSafeBC.ca](http://AgSafeBC.ca).

## WEBINAR: BUY BC

The Buy BC Partnership Program provides \$2 million in cost-shared funding annually for three years and a Buy BC logo to support local marketing efforts. You can now view a webinar about the program, including how to apply and what is eligible for cost-shared funding support. The presentation starts

at the 6 minute mark and can be viewed anytime by registering here: [gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriservice-bc/webinars](http://gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriservice-bc/webinars)

## BCAC 2018 BOARD

Meet the farmers and ranchers who form the governing body of BC Agriculture Council:  
President: Stan Vander Waal, Floriculture  
Vice-President: Jared DeJong, Dairy  
Treasurer: Ray VanMarrewyk, Greenhouse Vegetables  
Director-at-Large: Sharmain Bennie, Poultry  
ARDCorp Chair: Allen James

BCAC & ARDCorp Directors:  
Lynda Atkinson, Equine  
Sukhpaul Bal, Interior Horticulture  
Duncan Barnett, Cattle & Other Livestock (also ARDCorp Vice-Chair)  
Terry Brooks, Aquaculture  
Rhonda Driediger, Coastal Horticulture  
Barry Follensbee, Grain, Forage & Oilseeds  
Jen Gamble, Organic  
Peter Levelton, Nursery  
Jillian Robbins, BC Young Farmers

The BCAC board also elected Rhonda Driediger as chair and Sukhpaul Bal as vice-chair of the Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI), the newest subsidiary under the BC Agriculture Council.



# OFC FBC

ORGANIC  
FEDERATION  
OF CANADA

FÉDÉRATION  
BIOLOGIQUE  
DU CANADA

# EVENTS



## STANDARDS INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

REPORT – Public comment period – April 25 to May 25 2018

- Can urine from unmedicated individuals be added into compost which is used in organic certified production?
- Is the soil container volume criteria outlined in 7.5.5 (32.310) applicable to containerized microgreen production (7.4)?
- When liquid ingredients are composed of solids dissolved in added water, is the added water excluded or included in the percent organic calculation?
- Does running a non-synthetic mineral fertilizer through an ion-exchange system render the mineral fertilizer synthetic?
- ...and many other questions.

The report from the Standards Interpretation Committee can be consulted here: [organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/180425%20COO%20posting%20Public%20comment%202018-02%20REPORT.pdf](http://organicfederation.ca/sites/documents/180425%20COO%20posting%20Public%20comment%202018-02%20REPORT.pdf)

Visit [organicfederation.ca](http://organicfederation.ca) for more from the OFC, including:

- Safe Food for Canadians Regulation and Slaughterhouses: There is no requirements for mandatory certification of transporters, warehouses and slaughterhouse under Part 13 of the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) that will be enforced in January 2019.
- COG's Guide to the Canadian Organic Standards
- Call for Canadian Organic Standards working group members

## KPU PLACE-BASED FOOD SYSTEMS CONFERENCE

*When: Aug 9-10, 2018*  
*Where: Pacific Gateway Hotel, Richmond, BC*

This conference will bring together academic and community-based leaders and change-makers working to understand and advance place-based food systems as a foundational element of sustainable society: [kpu.ca/pbfs2018](http://kpu.ca/pbfs2018)

## FEAST OF FIELDS

*Okanagan: Aug 12, 2018 | 1-4pm*  
*Father Pandosy Mission, 3685 Benvoulin Rd, Kelowna, BC*

*Vancouver Island: Aug 26, 2018 | 1-4pm*  
*Kildara Farms, 11293 Chalet Rd, North Saanich, BC*

*Metro Van: September 9, 2018 | 1-5pm*  
*UBC Farm, 3461 Ross Dr, Vancouver BC*

Experience the harvest, gourmet style: [feastoffields.com](http://feastoffields.com)

## CARROT EVALUATION FIELD DAY AND FARM MIXER

*When: Aug 14, 2018*  
*Where: Sunshine Farms*  
*2225 Saucier Rd, Kelowna, BC*

Join FarmFolk CityFolk and Young Agrarians for a farm mixer and carrot

evaluation field day at Sunshine Farm in Kelowna, including a quick group evaluation and tasting of a selection of Nantes carrots as part of the BC Seed Trials; talk about exciting opportunities for commercial seed production in BC; and get a quick tour of Sunshine Farm before we gather together for a potluck mixer hosted by Young Agrarians: [facebook.com/events/235864727003564/](https://facebook.com/events/235864727003564/)

## CHEESE MAKING WORKSHOP

*When: Sep 8-12, 2018*  
*Where: Bear Valley Highlands*  
*592 Bear Valley Rd, Lumby, BC*

Join us for this 5 day cheese making workshop with David Asher, author of the book "The art of natural cheese making" David Asher is an organic farmer, farmstead cheese maker and cheese educator based on the Gulf Islands of British Columbia, Canada. A guerrilla cheesemaker, David does not make cheese according to standard industrial philosophies – he explores traditionally cultured and organic methods of cheesemaking: [bearvalleyhighlands.com/cheese-making-workshop/](http://bearvalleyhighlands.com/cheese-making-workshop/)





# REMINDERS

## BCCO LOGO

COR 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 Regime complaint submission form can be found at [certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php).

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COR complaint form at [certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php](http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php).

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Regime directly mail to: [OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca)

## PLANNING A MOVE?

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 the BC Organic Grower and other materials.

## COABC YOUTUBE VIDEOS

COABC has some awesome videos up on our YouTube channel. Watch, share, and spread a little organic inspiration! As we eagerly await spring, our current favourite is all about seeds: "Watching seeds sprout is pure magic," says Arzeena Hamir, one of the growers who shared their love of seeds with us for this video. Check out *Seeds of Knowledge* and other videos featuring BC Organic farmers here: [youtube.com/watch?v=DUCBF\\_L0Bg](https://youtube.com/watch?v=DUCBF_L0Bg)



-  /CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC
-  @coabccanada
-  @coabccanada

### NEWSLETTER LINKS

BC Agriculture Council:  
COABC is a member under the  
Community Agriculture seat  
[www.bcac.bc.ca](http://www.bcac.bc.ca)

OFC info-bio:  
[www.organicfederation.ca/  
newsletter](http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter)

BCSPCA:  
[www.sPCA.bc.ca](http://www.sPCA.bc.ca)

## CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

