



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

Benefits - Health Insurance

As of July 1st, 2017, the COABC is introducing a group benefit plan exclusively for its members. The Benefit plan will include coverage of Life Insurance, Drug coverage and dental coverage. Every member will have the opportunity to pick from an option of three plans based on their individual budget. Each option has a corresponding rate for single coverage and family coverage.

Some of the advantages to using the Association Plan are but not limited to;

- Significant benefit price reduction for members
- No age limit for health and dental coverage
- No underwriting for benefits
- Flexibility of coverage

Over the next few weeks Travis Forman and his colleagues will be in touch with members interested in the benefit plan. If you would like to sign up and have any questions regarding the Association Benefit Plan please do not hesitate to call or email: tforman@harbourfrontwealth.com or 604.560.8266.

Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative Renewed for Two Years: Farm Intern Funding available!

The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative has been approved for a 2-year period. Applications will be accepted starting April 26, 2017. For an application form and more details on the program, please visit the program's website. The program is designed to hire youth aged 15 to 30 for internships of up to 12 months. Producers operating a farm or ranch can hire a young person to implement an environmentally beneficial project in their operation. (*Acorn Organic E-news*)

Events Eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance

Those impacted by the following recent disaster or emergency event(s) may be eligible to apply for disaster financial assistance. For more information, and details: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca>. Or, go to the links provided in the email.

Type of event: Severe weather

Date of Event: May 4, 2017 to (end date: to be determined)

Geographic Area (subject to change): TNRD, NORD, CSRD, OSRD, CORD, RDKB, RDEK, RDCK

90-Day Deadline for Applications: August 5, 2017

Type of event: Flood

Date of Event: March 5 - April 10, 2017

Geographic Area (subject to change): RDEK, RDCK, RDKB, CSRD

90-Day Deadline for Applications: July 10, 2017





Important Survey

How does research make its way back to you

The OFC and the OACC want your help to make sure that the important research underway in organic agriculture in Canada makes its way back to you, the people who can put the research findings into practice.

By participating in this 7-minute survey, you will be providing us with insight into the resource types and information channels that are the most effective. This survey is being conducted by the Organic Federation of Canada and Dalhousie University's Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada. Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated, and will be used to help plan knowledge transfer in the upcoming Organic Science Cluster III.

This anonymous survey will be open until May 29, 2017. If you have any questions or additional comments, please contact Joanna White at joanna.white@dal.ca.

The survey can be found through the OFC website.

<http://organicfederation.ca>

Kale Breeding

with Laurie McKenzie of the Organic Seed Alliance

Date and Time: June 14; 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Cowichan Green Community, 360 Duncan St, Duncan BC V9L 3W4 (Note: The afternoon field session will be held in Cobble Hill).

Cost: \$25.00

Registration and more information found on Eventbrite.

Workshop outline:

Morning Session - Classroom (Duncan)

- Introductions
- Working with Dazzling Blue
- Brassica genetics
- Kale characteristics
- General breeding plan: years 1-2

Afternoon Session - Field (Cobble Hill)

- Roguing and selection
- Bud pollination (Selfing)
- Layout and design
- Observing physical traits

NOOA Farm Tour

Farm tour and potluck at Tasty Acres Farm in Salmon Arm.

Date and Time: Sunday, July 9, 3:00pm - 8:00pm.

Location: 4360 30 St. NE, Salmon Arm

More information: go to the NOOA Facebook page.

KPU & Science World Speaker Series

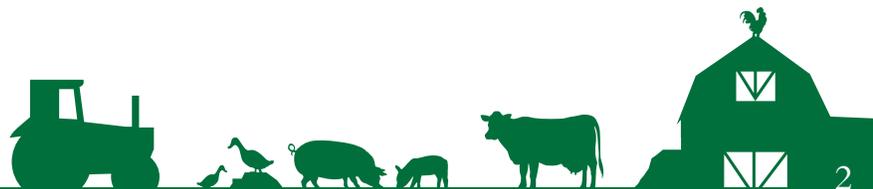
Cool Eats: The City Slicker's Diet for a Warming Planet

A special presentation by Dr. Mike Bomford (from the Department of Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems at KPU). Drawing on current research in sustainable agriculture and food systems, this talk presents practical personal choices and government policy changes to help promote a just, resilient, ecologically-integrated food system.

Date and Time: Tue., May 30, 2017 6:00pm-8:30pm

Location: Science World, 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver, BC

More information: Eventbrite.ca





Safe Food for Canadians regulations

New rules proposed to strengthen food safety

The Government of Canada launched a public consultation on new rules to strengthen food safety.

The 90-day consultation period closed on April 21, 2017. The COABC, with the assistance of the Board and Resilient Solutions Consulting, submitted feed back to the CFIA.

REMINDERS

BCCO 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 www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php.

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php” www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php.

Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly mail to: 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.

Newsletter Links

BC Agriculture Council
COABC is a member under the
Community Agriculture seat:

<http://www.bcac.bc.ca/>

OFC info-bio:

www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter

BCSPCA:

<http://www.spca.bc.ca/>

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

