



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

#COABC 2018 Keynote Speakers

We're excited to welcome our keynote speakers for COABC's 2018 Conference. Our theme this year, inspired by unpredicted weather and a need to adapt as food producers to these meteorological events is, "Bioregionalism: Creating Resilience in a Changing Climate."

Dawn Morrison



Dawn is of Secwepemc ancestry and is the Director of the Working Group on Indigenous Food Sovereignty. Dawn has consistently organized and held the space over the last 10 years for Indigenous food sovereignty related research,

action and policy proposal projects including: Decolonizing Research and Relationships, Indigenous Food Sovereignty Learning Circle, Strengthening Indigenous Food Sovereignty in Canada, and Wild Salmon Caravan.

Kent Mullinix



Kent is Director - Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). Before joining KPU Mullinix held the Endowed Joint Chair in Pomology and was an Associate Professor, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture, Washington State University, and the Director of Agriculture Programs at Wenatchee

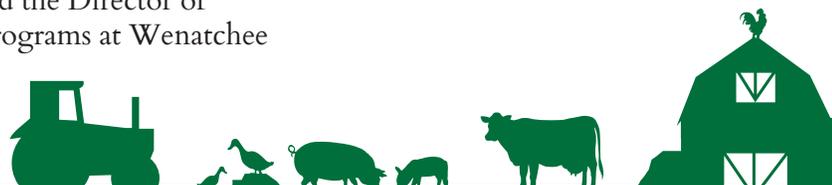
Valley College. There he led the development of innovative and award winning undergraduate and technical agriculture education programs. Prior to that, he was a fruit crops research specialist for the Universities of Missouri, Minnesota and Kentucky.

Stay tuned for more info on the COABC Conference Page: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/conference2018/

Organic Certification Regulation

Beginning fall of 2018, producers, processors and handlers of organic food and beverage products will require documentation verifying their products have accredited organic certification. There are new resources up on the COABC website, including the COABC Organic Week Roadshow 2017 Info Session Presentation and the Province of B.C.'s Frequently Asked Question.

For more info: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/OrganicCertificationRegulation.php





Events

Standards Interpretation Committee

Public comment period:
November 20 to
December 20 2017

Below is a list of questions raised by organic stakeholders, regarding the National Standards for Organic Agriculture.

- Can non-agricultural substances including peat moss be used as a mushroom substrate/growth media or as a casing layer on top of a mushroom bed without being composted first?

- Can honey harvested from wild bees be certified to the "Wild Crop" requirements in Clause 7.6?

- Is activated biochar permitted?

- When used in a multi-ingredient fertilizer, is the use of non-organic oilseed meal subject to the commercial availability restriction?

- Can stored organic hay be sprayed with substances listed in 4.3 and/or 5.2 of PSL?

...and many other questions

The proposed responses are posted on OFC website, and are subject to a 30 day comment period.

All comments regarding these answers should be sent to OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca

Keyline Water Management

When: Dec 1, 2017
Where: KPU, Richmond

Are you interested in flood and drought-proofing BC's agricultural land? This free, information-packed seminar and networking event may be for you!

More info: crkeyline.ca/events/keyline-water-management-seminar-project-wrap

COG Webinar: Vegetable Production

When: Dec 4, 2017
Where: Online

David Cohlmeier presents on boosting sales (and prices) with greater consistency and quality.

More Info: cog-shop.myshopify.com/collections/online-courses/products/webinar-organic-vegetable-production-profitability

COG Webinar: More Greens in Your Milk

When: Dec 14, 2017
Where: Online

Rob Wallbridge presents on making the transition to organic dairy production.

More info: cog-shop.myshopify.com/collections/online-courses/products/webinar-transition-to-organic-dairy-production

Spreadsheets 101 for Farmers

When: Dec 28, 2017
Where: Amara Farm, Merville, BC

Curious about spreadsheets and how they could be used to improve record keeping on your farm? Learn the very basics from cells, moving around and adjust sheets, to creating a spreadsheet that will work for you right away.

More info: www.eventbrite.com/e/spreadsheets-101-for-farmers-tickets-39782494512?aff=efbevent





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.

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.

Farmer Profiles

See your farm featured on the Think Canada Organic Website and social media as part of the #ThinkBCOrganic campaign! Check out other profiles here: <http://thinkbcorganic.ca> and reach out to assistant@certifiedorganic.bc.ca if you'd like to submit your profile.



-  /CertifiedOrganicAssociationsBC
-  @coabccanada
-  @coabccanada

Newsletter Links

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

www.bcac.bc.ca/

OFC info-bio:

www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter

BCSPCA:

www.spc.bc.ca/

Organic Questions?

Try CYBER-HELP!

www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index

