



British
Columbia
Certified
Organic

ORGANIC WEEK ROUNDUP

Canada celebrated another amazing Organic Week this month! From September 8 to September 16, retailers, producers, and consumers joined in online, in stores, and at events to highlight our thriving organic sector.

Organic Week was featured in a spread in the Globe and Mail print edition that reached the homes of consumers across Canada.

COABC attended FarmFolk CityFolk's Feast of Fields event in Metro Vancouver on September 9 to showcase organic week - and we had some great conversations about organic agriculture with consumers and farmers! Online, we highlighted BC's organic farmers and joined in the Organic Week Twitter chat, to share content and answer questions about organic farming.

We can't wait to do it again next year! To learn more about Organic Week, visit: organicweek.ca

COG: JOIN NATIONAL, SUPPORT LOCAL

Canadian Organic Growers (COG) allows members and supporters to direct a portion of their membership fee to COABC! If you haven't already, please join COG and support COABC: cog.ca/home/support-our-work/become-a-member/

LIVESTOCK TAX DEFERRAL

The Livestock Tax Deferral provision allows farmers who sell part of their breeding herd due to drought or flooding in prescribed drought or flood regions to defer a portion of sale proceeds to the following year. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has released a list of regions that qualify for deferral. To see if your area is eligible, visit: agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/drought-watch/livestock-tax-deferral-provision/?id=1463574780220

FARM ADAPTATION INNOVATOR PROGRAM

The Farm Adaptation Innovator Program (FAIP) seeks to build adaptive capacity and encourage the adoption of effective farm practices to help mitigate impacts related to climate change.

Funding is open to producers, and project types supported through the program include applied research, pilots, demonstrations, and adoption facilitation. Projects may be local, regional or provincial in scope. The resulting knowledge, practice, technology or approach must be applicable at a farm-level scale by an individual farm operator.

The first round of applications closes October 12, 2018, and the second round runs from November 1 to November 30, 2018. For more information, visit: bcagclimateaction.ca/farm-level/faip-2018-2023/

BC LAND MATCHING PROGRAM

The B.C. Land Matching Program (BCLMP) provides land matching and business support services to new farmers looking for land to farm as well as landowners interested in finding someone to farm their land. Offered since 2016 in Metro Vancouver, the program is now available in four regions: Vancouver Island, Metro Vancouver, Okanagan, and Columbia Basin. For more information, reach out to land@youngagrarians.org and visit youngagrarians.org/land

ORGANIC PRICE LIST

The Organic Price List for fruits and vegetables is updated weekly on the COABC website. The Organic Price List is an important market pricing reference to help growers sell without overcharging and losing sales, or worse, undercharging and eroding the market price for other growers. certifiedorganic.bc.ca/services/organicpricelist.php



OFC ORGANIC FEDERATION OF CANADA

FBC

FÉDÉRATION
BIOLOGIQUE
DU CANADA

EVENTS



STANDARDS INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

NEW PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:
SEPTEMBER 5TH TO OCTOBER 5TH 2018

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

- What is the definition of 'production unit' for agricultural enterprises? Does each field or each greenhouse, each livestock building constitute a production unit or is it all fields, greenhouses, buildings managed by a company?
- What is the definition of "untreated seed" as it applies to 5.3 (32.310)? Can bleach be used on seeds?
- Is GE feed permitted in the 20% non-organic feed allowance for first time transitioning entire dairy herds (6.3.1 a)?
- If there is nothing showing in the "origin and usage" column of the PSL, does this mean that any form of the substance may be used? In previous versions of the PSL there were restrictions on ascorbic acid regarding its non-synthetic or synthetic nature and this is what gave rise to our question.

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 by October 5th 2018.

For more information about the Organic Federation of Canada visit: organicfederation.ca

SEED SAVING WORKSHOP/FALL HARVEST MARKET

When: Oct 13-14, 2018

*Where: Cherryville Community Hall,
158 N Fork Rd, Cherryville, BC*

Saturday Oct 13, Seed Cleaning & Saving Workshop w/Sarah Bradshaw of Wise Woman Seeds.

Sunday, Oct 14, the Harvest Market is intended to bring everyone together to purchase, trade and barter their wares for the coming winter.: bcseeds.org/event/seed-saving-workshop-fall-harvest-market/

CARROT BREEDING FIELD DAY

When: Oct 16, 2018 | 10am-3:30pm

*Where: UBC Farm 3461 Ross Dr,
Vancouver, BC*

Calling all BC carrot growers: Shape the future for creating a new BC carrot variety, see the latest carrot trials at UBC Farm, evaluate your future crop choices, and advise us on our direction with future plant breeding projects!: ubcfarm.ubc.ca/events/community-field-science-day-carrot-breeding/

CLASS OF WOOL WORKSHOP

When: Oct 25-27, 2018

Where: Pender Island, BC

The focus of the "Class of Wool" is to provide the sheep industry with trained wool classers who can improve the quality of the domestic wool clip. To fine tune the skill of wool classing, students will work with a very experienced wool classer: penderwoolworkshop.com

YOUNG AGRARIANS LAND LINKS

OKANAGAN LAND LINK

When: Oct 20, 2018 | 11am-4pm

*Where: Women's Institute Hall, 9909
Kalamalka Road, Coldstream, BC*

COLUMBIA BASIN LAND LINK

When: Oct 27, 2018 | 1-6pm

*Where: Creston Room at the Creston
Community Complex, 312 19 Ave N,
Creston, BC*

METRO VAN LAND LINK

When: Nov 17, 2018 | 1-6pm

*Where: George Preston Recreation
Centre, 20699 42 Ave, Langley, BC*

COBBLE HILL LAND LINK

When: Nov 24, 2018 | 1-6pm

*Where: Cobble Hill Farmers Institute
Hall, 3550 Watson Ave, Cobble Hill, BC*

Join Young Agrarians to network, talk land leasing, and hear from an expert panel: youngagrarians.org/land





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

BC Certified Organic Checkmark complaint information can be found at: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/standards/complaints.php.

For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COR complaint form at inspection.gc.ca/food/organic-products/file-a-complaint/eng/1518546270126/1518546271092

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.

ORGANIC PRICE LIST

View the Organic Price List, updated weekly, here: certifiedorganic.bc.ca/services/organicpricelist.php

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



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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.sPCA.bc.ca

CYBER HELP

Cyberhelp for Farmers is currently being redeveloped.

