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## Conference 2014: Don't Miss the Colemans

Register Visit [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca).

The 2014 COABC conference being held at the Coast Bastion Inn in Nanaimo, BC, February 21st – 23rd, will feature many practical sessions and networking opportunities.



Melissa Coleman is the Keynote speaker and will talk about her book 'This life is in your Hands'. In the book, Melissa discusses growing up with one of the organic pioneers.

Her father, Eliot Coleman, is one of the most influential organic farmers in the country, a trailblazer in the locavore and the whole food movements.

In addition to having Melissa Coleman as our keynote speaker, COABC is fortunate to offer a session from Clara Coleman as well.

Clara is a second-generation American organic farmer, consultant, writer on sustainable four-season farming and also the daughter of renowned farming pioneer Eliot Coleman.



Clara has produced year-round vegetable crops under harsh winter conditions, using unheated and minimally heated moveable high tunnels or greenhouses and like her father, she is a proponent of the 'small is better' model of farming.

## Conference Food Donations

The COABC conference relies on the generosity of our members in donating food to the conference. As a result conference participants enjoy exceptional food.

Our food coordinator is still accepting donations. If you have food products that you are able to donate please contact Diane at [conference@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:conference@certifiedorganic.bc.ca)



## Silent Auction

One of the highlights of the Saturday evening banquet is the silent auction.

Every year the auction is filled with an amazing range of items donated by this creative community. In the past, items have included clothing, books, art, food, wine, tools, seeds, and much, much more.

If you would like to donate an auction item, just bring it with you to the conference. Auction items will be on display from 6PM Friday evening until bidding closes at 9pm on Saturday.





## Organic sector invited to submit requests for modifications to the Canadian Organic Standards (COS)

The Review of the COS is underway, and all sections of the organic standards have to be revised. The review will take 2 years with the aim to publish the revised standard in 2015.

Members of the Technical Committee and the Conveners of the Working groups, responsible for the review, are ready to hear the sector's concerns about the Canadian standard.

You must carefully describe the modification that you are proposing and provide adequate background information.

Before submitting a request, consult the Final Q&As section, on the OFC website as these interpretations may provide clarification.

For more information about submitting a COS modification request, visit the OFC website, [www.organicfederation.ca](http://www.organicfederation.ca).

To ensure requests are addressed under the current review project, you are invited to submit before March 31 2014.



## EVENTS

### UBC Farm Symposium

Date: February 7, 2014

Time: 9am-2:30pm

Location: The Old Barn Community Centre Upstairs Meeting Room, UBC Farm, Vancouver

Cost: Free! Lunch is \$5 (optional)

The UBC Farm Symposium is a free day full with presentations and group activities providing insights on food system sustainability. Topics will range from hops production, institutional food procurement, community education and more. There will be snacks, refreshments, and a delicious local lunch provided.

Please register in advance at <http://symposium.ubcfarm.ubc.ca/registration/>.

### Food for the Future! Family Day Rally to Save the Agricultural Land Reserve

Date: Noon, February 10, 2014

Location: Legislature Grounds, Victoria, BC

February 2014 marks the 40th birthday of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), created to protect farmland across BC for agriculture. Only 5% of the landbase of our mountainous province is protected in the ALR, and now the BC Government is considering drastic changes to erode the reserve and the autonomy of the commission entrusted to protect it.

British Columbians from all walks of life need a reliable supply of farmland to grow food now and for the future – particularly as the benefits of local food systems and the challenges of global transport become clear.



### James Bay Seedy Saturday

Date: February 15, 2014

Time: 10am-4pm

Location: Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street

Arzeena Hamir will speak at Victoria's annual Seedy Saturday. She will talk about considerations and techniques for seed saving on a scale beyond the backyard.

The show is a community seed and garden event with commerce, education and networking opportunities for any gardening enthusiast. Purchase your seeds – flower, herb and vegetable – direct from the growers who can advise you about the best choices for your specific growing conditions. For more information visit <http://jamesbaymarket.com/SeedySaturday>.

### COG-IOIA Inspection Training Course: Basic Crop Inspection Training

Date: February 24 - 28 2014

Location: Coast Bastion Hotel, Nanaimo

COG and IOIA are co-sponsoring a course, following the COABC 2014 Conference.

This course is a comprehensive training on the Canadian Organic Standards with four days of instruction. Students will learn about the certification process, the inspection process, audit trail (record keeping) requirements, approved materials, assessing soil fertility, regulatory requirements, risk assessment, inspection report writing, inspector ethics and whole systems awareness.

For more info you can contact Ashley St. Hilaire at COG. E-mail: [ashley@cog.ca](mailto:ashley@cog.ca) ; Phone: 1-888-375-7383



# 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](http://www.organicfederation.ca/newsletter)

BCSPCA:

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

## REMINDERS

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](http://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](http://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 <mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca>

### Social Media

COABC is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986) and on Twitter, username [coabccanada](https://twitter.com/coabccanada). Join our online community.

### Remember...

Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help [www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index).

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.

