

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Prepare Toolkit
- Investors Group Quote
- Organic Week
- OFC News
- Events

Now Online: Prepare Organic Food Toolkit

The Certified Organic Associations of BC is pleased to announce the launch of "Prepare Organic Food," a new online toolkit for organic food processors. Developed to encourage BC's farmers and small scale food processors to enter the burgeoning market for prepared organic foods, the toolkit covers everything from the basics of organic certification, to post-harvest handling tips and on-farm food safety steps.

"Prepare Organic Food" is an accessible, easy-to-use toolkit, that for the first time, puts the information that small-scale organic processors need together in one place. The toolkit is the third in a series of online guides prepared by the Certified Organic Associations of BC that explain the basics of organic certification to farmers and farmers' market vendors.

Farmers and food processors will find tips, tools, and easy to understand answers to common questions in the toolkit, such as:

- What are organic prepared products?
- What is the demand for organic prepared products?
- What are acceptable product claims?
- How do preparation operators become certified organic?
- How can I navigate supply chain challenges?
- What are acceptable post harvesting handling procedures?

Prepare Organic Food, along with the two other toolkits, Grow Organic Food and Market Organic Food, are all available online at www.certified-organic.bc.ca.

Organic Week: Sept. 19-27, 2015

Organic Week is coming up fast but there is still time to plan an event to celebrate organics.

Visit www.organicweek.ca for great event ideas and information about organic week.

The COABC Organic Week events will be announced over the next month, so watch for them on www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

Have fun this year and spread the good word about organics.

Reminder: Investors Group Insurance Quote

Please be aware that a representative may be contacting you to gauge interest and gather information. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

COABC is obtaining a quote from Investors group on the possibility of a Group Benefits policy for the Association.

In order to formulate a quote, Investors Group will need some basic information. Please be aware that a representative may be contacting you to gauge interest and gather this information.

The idea behind an association plan is to pool all the people within the association and "create" a large group which the insurance company looks upon as one large company.





The Canadian General Standards Board publishes an exemption for the users of these mulches

The CGSB Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture has determined that a Standards Bulletin is needed to apply the following annotation for biodegradable mulch films as of June 10th, 2015 until the new version of the Canadian Organic Standard CAN/CGSB-32.311 Organic Production Systems — Permitted Substances Lists is published and comes into effect later in 2015.

The new annotation is consistent in principle with the current wording of CAN/CGSB-32.311; but contains an allowance for producers to access a temporary exception which permits the use of biodegradable mulch films that are on the market but do not meet the requirements for biobased sources.

The temporary exception was deemed necessary by the Technical Committee on Organic Agriculture due to the lack of consistency in the application of the standard since the last publication. It was approved at the May 11-13, 2015 meeting and shall be incorporated into the final standard to be published in 2015.

For more information visit organicfederation.ca.



EVENTS

Richard Bullock: The Future of BC Agriculture

Date: July 28, 2015

Location: KPU, Richmond Campus

KPU's Institute for Sustainable Food Systems is hosting former ALC Chair, Mr. Richard Bullock, for a free public lecture on the future of agriculture in BC. In addition to Mr. Bullock's lecture, the evening's agenda includes an introduction by Delta Farmers' Institute President Mr. David Ryall, and an opportunity for audience Q&A with Mr. Bullock.

Event registration, and more information, can be found at www.rbonagriculture.eventbrite.ca.

MarketSafe Online

MarketSafe is a food safety training program for farmers, food processors and producers who make, bake or grow products to sell at local farmers' markets, farm gates or other types of temporary food markets.

MarketSafe Online is a food safety training program for those that may not have easy access or the time to take the classroom course. It is a convenient, economical way to learn about your responsibilities and best practices in selling goods at your local market.

For more information visit, <http://www.openschool.bc.ca/info/marketsafe/index.html>

Organic Road Show: UBC Event

Date: September 19, 2015

Location: UBC Farm

COABC is planning a series of events during "organic week", September 19 to 27. A number of presentations are being planned around the province over Organic Week. The sessions will provide a mix of topics from business to production.

Watch for presentations in your area. Sessions will be announced on the COABC website as they are confirmed, www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

Organic Week

Date: September 19-27, 2015

Location: Across Canada

Canada's National Organic Week is the largest annual celebration of organic food, farming and products across the country. Hundreds of individual events showcase the benefits of organic agriculture and its positive impact on the environment.

Get involved in organic week this year! Check out the Organic Week website, www.organicweek.ca, or plan an event in your community.



ThinkCanadaOrganic



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/>

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.

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 <mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca>

Social Media

COABC is on Facebook at 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.

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.

