



What's New

- ✓ **Feb 20, 21 & 22 The 2009 COABC Annual Conference and AGM** registration is on-line at the COABC website. You have the opportunity with the full-registration to enter the Pacific Ag Show. Register at: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/AGM2009/index.htm>
- ✓ **All members:** we are planning the COABC Annual Conference and AGM so begin to think of items you would like to donate to the traditional **Silent Auction** which will run at the Saturday night feast. Small and big items make the auction fun for everyone. Your donations make the event possible! **Contact our Conference Coordinator with your items: Donna Scheven** donna@dsevents.ca
- ✓ There is information on the **3 different Technical Workshops on the new Canadian organic standards**, Feb-Mar 2009, Cross Country Producer Workshop info is at COG site http://www.cog.ca/shop/index.php?main_page=index&cPath=2_66
- ✓ Please have patience about having free access to the amended 2008 version. Key people across the country are negotiating for free access and have suggested if they need a multitude of voices to make noise, they will be in touch – so for now, hold the course. Rochelle covered the changes in the 2008 version from the 2006 version including manure sourcing requirements, compost feedstock requirements in the current BCOG. Also there is a new FAQ covering the standard being developed on the COG website <http://www.cog.ca/faq/>
- ✓ **New BCOG Schedule** go to www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/publications/bcog/index.htm
- ✓ **PACS 2009 AGM, February 7, 2009 10 AM to 3 PM, at the Schubert Centre, Vernon, BC**
- ✓ There is still funding available through **COABC's Regional Seminar Series** to help put on production seminars. Talk to Rochelle 250.547.6573 extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca
- ✓ **OPR Organic Products Regulation & national Canada Organic Standard (COS)**
 1. The new implementation date for the **national Organic Products Regulations is 30 June 2009**. <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/partII/2008/20080917/html/sor279-e.html>
 2. The BC Certified Organic Program has adopted the CGSB Organic Production Systems General Principles and Management Standard (CAN/CGSB 32.310 – 2006) and the Permitted Materials Lists (CAN/CGSB 32.311 -2006) as its reference documents (see Book 1 Version 8, 3.1.6, 3.1.7). This comes into force **January 1, 2009 – as of that date all certification decisions must reference the CGSB standard not the COABC standard Version 7**. We are still waiting for the word “go” before we print the revised standards for COABC licensees. *Anne Macey, Director, COABC Accreditation Board*
- ✓ **Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI)** product listing updates can be found at the COABC website: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews/news.htm>

- ✓ **Notes from the COO Liaison Committee Meeting - December 22nd, 2008 can be found at info@organicfederation.ca**



In the Works

- As for **VO LIVESTOCK TRAINING** it was decided at the BOD retreat in November to deal with New Standard training for now and explore VO training needs starting in fall of 2009 for spring 2010.



Events

Check the **COABC Events page** for more details: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/events/events.php>

- **Sunday February 8, 2009 NOAA at the AGM and potluck lunch.** Odd Fellows Hall, 3005 Wood Avenue, Armstrong BC. Start time is 10 am. Following lunch there will be a presentation on the new standards and how they are to be implemented and how they will change your operations. Remember to bring some food, plates and cutlery. See you there!
- **Tuesday, February 10th, 2009 MEET YOUR MAKER in Vancouver - Where food producers and food buyers find each other** See their website for more info http://www.getlocalbc.org/en/news_events.php
- **February 10th and 11th, 2009 Kitchen Table Sustainability** - Transform Your Community Engagement with Sustainability: Introductory and Masters Workshops, Vancouver
- **Wednesday February 11th, 2009, Weed Management Seminar for Ranchers and Private Landowners** Southern Interior Weed Management Committee, The Latest Information on Weed Identification, Control Methods and Successes, Programs and Costs. Phone: (250) 851-1699 Email: siwmc@telus.net 10:00am – 3:30pm Location: Forster's Convention Centre, 1250 Rogers Way, Kamloops
- **Feb 19-21, 2009 The Pacific Agriculture Show "A world of technology... For a growing industry"** is the premier event and exhibition for B.C.'s agriculture industry – the third largest in the province with over 21,000 farms. Thousands of farmers and agrifood producers from the Western Provinces will be attracted to this exhibition to see the latest equipment and technology, and products that will assist them in achieving maximum production with the highest level of efficiency. The cost is approx \$9 at the door or is included with your COABC registration.
- **February 24 - 26, 2009 Mastering Value Chain Implementation - Customer Focused Collaboration**
This two-and-a-half-day value chain management program offers executives, managers and their business partners an opportunity to learn the value of customer-focused collaboration and how to better manage value chains. The program starts with a Networking Reception at 6:00 pm on the first evening. Day Two session starts at 8:30 am and Day Three at 8:15 am. Full registration includes two breakfasts and two lunches, the Networking Reception and a Banquet Supper. Guest speakers will provide basic trends and tips for providing customer focused solutions in retail and food service industries. These executives in residence will be available for discussion in small group tasks and one to one discussions. David Parker has been with ABG since its founding in the late 1970s. David delivers nearly 100 presentations annually, primarily in North America, in the areas of sales, business, value-based solutions, financial management, coaching and supervision skills, team development, and communications. A limited number of hotel guest rooms have been held for your convenience at a discounted rate, until Feb. 10, 2009 Location: Best Western Conference Centre, **Richmond, BC** Phone: Bill Henderson at 250-356-1675 Email: bill.henderson@gov.bc.ca
- **Feb 22-23 in Banff Cereals Research Symposium in Organic Agriculture**
<http://www.organicagcentre.ca/Symposia/cereals.asp>
- **Saturday, February 28, 2009 COSSPA Poultry Grower Information Day** Central Okanagan Small Scale Producers Association (COSSPA) will be hosting a poultry grower information day for all small scale producers in the Okanagan. This event is taking place in the Memorial Hall at Oyama Community Club,

15710 Oyama Rd., Oyama, BC. For more information or to RSVP please contact Keith Duhaime, Agricultural Support Officer, Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission at (250) 762-5873 or kduhaime@shaw.ca

- **March 2,3 & 4 Irrigation Design** Maybe you will expand an existing system or start a whole new project! Here is an opportunity for you to learn about and get answers on many aspects of irrigation. This year there will be an added benefit of a fully illustrated irrigation manual that will be provided with each registration. Visit my web site www.irrigationdesign.ca for course details and the registration forms or contact me directly 250-801-8350. Class size is limited, so please register early.
- **March 14, 2009 Soil Foodweb Workshop with Matthew George of Soilfood Web Canada** www.soilfoodweb.ca A one-day course on soil biology, compost and compost tea to kick-start the farming year. Learn about the soil foodweb, biological farming and different kinds of compost. Learn how to make compost and compost tea using up-to-date and innovative methods. Lunch is provided. Registration: Before March 1 \$100.00; After March 1 \$120.00. Contact Kathy 250-748-0487 homefarm@telus.net 5855 Clements St. (next to fairgrounds), Duncan. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- **Tuesday, March 17, 2009 The BCAC Annual General Meeting** for 2009 had been scheduled for at the Ramada in Abbotsford. Lunch will be served at noon followed by the AGM. *Christine Koch, Acting Executive Director, BC Agriculture Council / ARDCORP*



Keep In Mind

- **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.**
- Feel free to send questions regarding the New National Standards to the Organic Extension Agent, Rochelle Eisen at extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca
- **NEW!! Cyber-help** <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html> has NEW links:
 - A forum link to our produce prices: <http://friendfeed.com/search?q=organic%20fruit%20prices>
 - to our fruit-growing page: <http://www.baylaurelnursery.com/catalog/fruitTrees.html>
 - to our tracking system: <http://www.uvm.edu/vtvegandberry/budgetlinks.html>
 - to our Home page (re seed sources): http://amaranthinstitute.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=55&Itemid=90