

E-News



February 2012

WHAT'S NEW

COABC 2012 CONFERENCE

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION SPECIAL ENDS FEB 7, 2012!

For a few more days the early bird price for the COABC 2012 conference is \$195.00. After the February 7 there is a \$25 late registration fee. Reserve now at, <http://coabc2012.eventbrite.ca/?ref=ecal&ebtv=C>.

Saturday night Feast & Dance with the Jose Sanchez Cuban Dance Band.

The Jose Sanchez Cuban dance band will be coming from Salt Spring Island to create a Saturday night fiesta. The band plays amazing Cuban music in the style of the Buena Vista Social Club. See pictures at <http://sondelaisla.wordpress.com/2011/12/06/fiesta-cubano/>. Thanks to the Organic Grocer, Salt Spring Island Coffee Roasters and Ron Pither for making this possible.

Sessions

Animal Health and Welfare on Organic Farms

Farm animals make an important contribution to organic farming operations. This session will focus on the Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals and its relevance to the organic sector.

Presenter: Jackie Wepruk, General Manager of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC)

Farm Worker /Housing Conditions & Solutions - Options for farm worker's conditions on the farm

We will be taking a look at the opportunities the agricultural industry, farmers and municipalities have had in the past, present and what will be coming in the future to work out a solution for this ongoing predicament, taking into account what the cost for a better/ respectful environment will be and how this effects the quality of life for the farm worker and relationships between farmer, workers and local residence.

Presenter: Doe Gregoire, Similkameen Farmworkers Campground Society

Organic Labelling

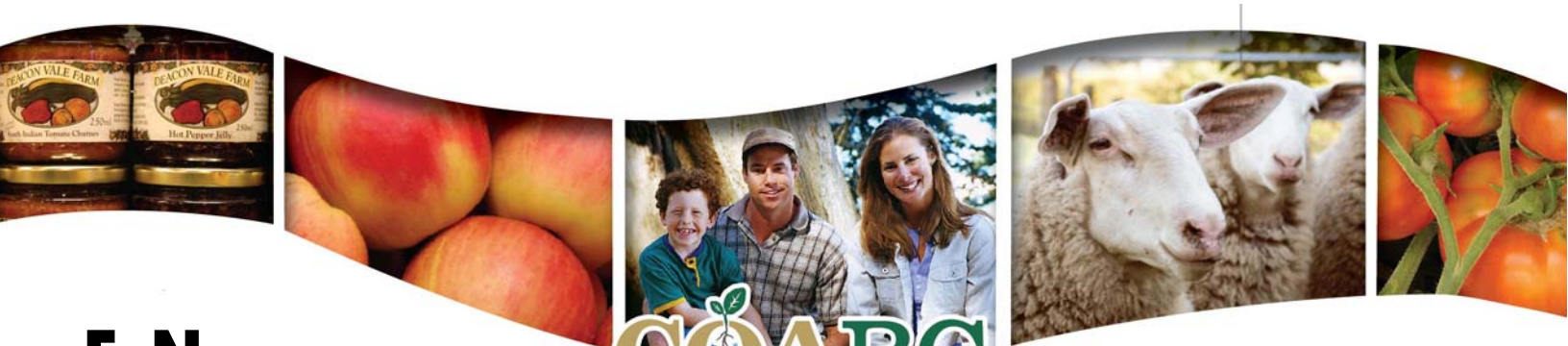
In this session Rochelle will discuss organic labeling - what is required under the Canada Organic Regime and the British Columbia Certified Organic program. She will focus particularly on good labeling practices, including use of logos and CFIA's Labelling and Advertising Requirements.

Presenter: Rochelle Eisen, Resilient Solutions Consulting

Biochar: A soil amendment for improved soil quality and carbon sequestration

Biochar is charcoal made from organic matter and is produced by pyrolysis, which is the process of heating biomass at a high temperature in the absence of oxygen. Dave McCandless built a small pyrolysis kiln to produce biochar at Fraser Common Farm Cooperative and has been experimenting with the use of biochar on the farm. Biochar has gained a lot of momentum recently and this workshop will explore the potential role of biochar in organic agriculture systems in British Columbia. The production of biochar will be discussed looking at both the possibility of on site production as well as emerging industrial scale production companies.

Presenters: Dave McCandless, Fraser Common Farm Cooperative & Jessica Dennis, UBC



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Check the Conference page on our website www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca for the most up to date information about the conference. Remember to join us on face book and twitter.

ONGOING

NEWSLETTERS FROM SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Every month the COABC receives newsletters from organizations with related interests or with whom we are members. So as not to repeat everything written, take a moment to read their newsletters.

- **BC Agriculture Council** COABC is a member under the Community Agriculture seat. Check out their new website, http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2
- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>
- **BCFMA** http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/news/bcaf_m_v22_dec11.htm
- **BCSPCA** [HTTP://SUPPORT.SPCA.BC.CA/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM_ID=4681.0&DLV_ID=13546](http://SUPPORT.SPCA.BC.CA/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM_ID=4681.0&DLV_ID=13546)

BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK 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 <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php>. For complaints against an interprovincial traded product see the COO complaint form at <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/cor.php>

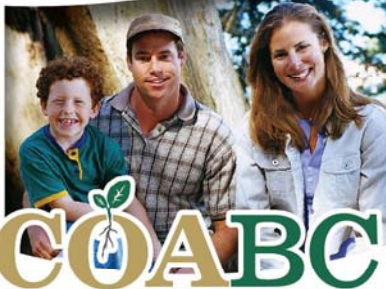
Complaints on this form are to be directed to the Canada Organic Office directly OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca.

INTERESTING

ORGANIC FARMING RESEARCH FOUNDATION SEEDS NEW ORGANIC CROP VARIETIES AND FARMING PRACTICES

Santa Cruz, CA. (January 10, 2012) Organic farmers in Oregon will be growing sweeter corn, while their counterparts in North Carolina will be testing new varieties of broccoli best suited for their farms, thanks to grants awarded by the Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) Board of Directors. Additional grants will fund projects designed to help organic growers increase their yields while decreasing their expenses and impacts on surrounding waterways, and to prevent organic seed-producing crops from being contaminated by non-organic varieties. The OFRF Board approved four grants totally \$50,640 to help grow the industry's organic knowledge. Read the entire article at:

<http://view.s4.exacttarget.com/?j=fefa1078766006&m=fe911570706002787c&ls=fe3015707663057b7d1772&l=ff5f137975&s=fe551576726601797d1d&jb=ffcf14&ju=fe9716707065047472&r=0>



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EVENTS

MARKET SAFE WORKSHOP

Date: February 12, 2012, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Location: Vancouver

Cost: \$54.00

Register: <http://marketsafe.eventbrite.ca>

This workshop is aimed at urban (and rural!!) food producers looking to increase their skill set and produce safe and healthy produce for their customers.

The MarketSafe Program was designed to increase awareness and knowledge of food safety and safe food handling procedures for farmers' market vendors, market managers, farm gate vendors, home kitchen small scale food processors, and others who may make, bake or produce food products for public consumption outside of regulated food service establishments.

SOIL WORKSHOP SERIES

Date: February 11 –March 3, 2012

Location: UBC Farm 6182 South Campus Road, Vancouver BC

Cost: \$20.00 each

Register: <http://soilseries.eventbrite.co.uk/?ebtv=C>

The UBC Farm is hosting a series of 4 soil focused workshops to be taught by Chris Thoreau. The first workshop starts February 11th and they run each Saturday until March 3rd. Descriptions of the workshops are included in the registration.

COABC CONFERENCE

Date: February 24-26, 2012

Location: Best Western Rainbow Country Inn, Chilliwack

Keynote: Humberto Rios Labrada will be speaking about the participatory farmer controlled Plant Breeding and Seed Diffusion methodologies (PPB & PSD) and his now world acknowledged & prize winning Programs of Innovations for Local Agriculture (PILA / PIAL).

BCAFM CONFERENCE

Date: March 2-4, 2012

Location: Courtenay, BC

Register: <https://www.registrationlogic.com/secure/Register.aspx?ID=171>

Keynote: Trust, transparency, and the ability to empower and educate consumers about food and farming are among the many unique values of farmers markets. But how do we honestly evaluate our progress in achieving these values, and be accountable to our communities' - our farmers', our customers' and our own expectations of integrity?



REMEMBER...

Got an Organic Question? Try Cyber-help <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>

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.