

# E-News

July 2011

## WHAT'S NEW

### COABC Conference 2012

**SAVE the date! February 24-26, 2012**

Planning for the 2012 conference is underway. The Chilliwack Best Western will host the event and we will have the opportunity to explore the beautiful Fraser Valley.

The conference coordinators (a team this year) have been hired. Peter Leblanc and Andrea Lawseth will work together to create an exciting conference for 2012. Peter and Andrea are well connected in the food community in the Lower Mainland and have worked together on many projects including the Surrey Urban Farmers Market. COABC extends a warm welcome them! One of the first tasks will be indentifying speakers. If you have suggestions for conference speakers please email them to [admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca](mailto:admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca).

### National Organic Week

October 15-22 has been announced as National Organic week. It is scheduled to overlap with World Food Day. COABC will be participating on the National Committee again this year to plan events and promotional materials. The committee is open to ideas and suggestions.

While there will be a National program for Organic week, planning a smaller celebration in your own community can be a great way to connect to your neighbours and raise the awareness about organic food on a local level. The COABC is able to provide promotional material to our members who coordinate activities in conjunction with National Organics Week. So start planning in your community event now.

### BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK AND THE CANADA ORGANIC LOGO

The COABC promotions committee is reminding all members that using the BC Certified Organic Checkmark to identify your product will help consumers recognize it as certified organic.

**ISO operators are fortunate to be able to use the Canada Organic label AND the BC Checkmark side by side.** Because the Checkmark logo includes the words "certified organic" and is approved by the CFIA, ISO operators can use it to help consumers recognize their certified status.

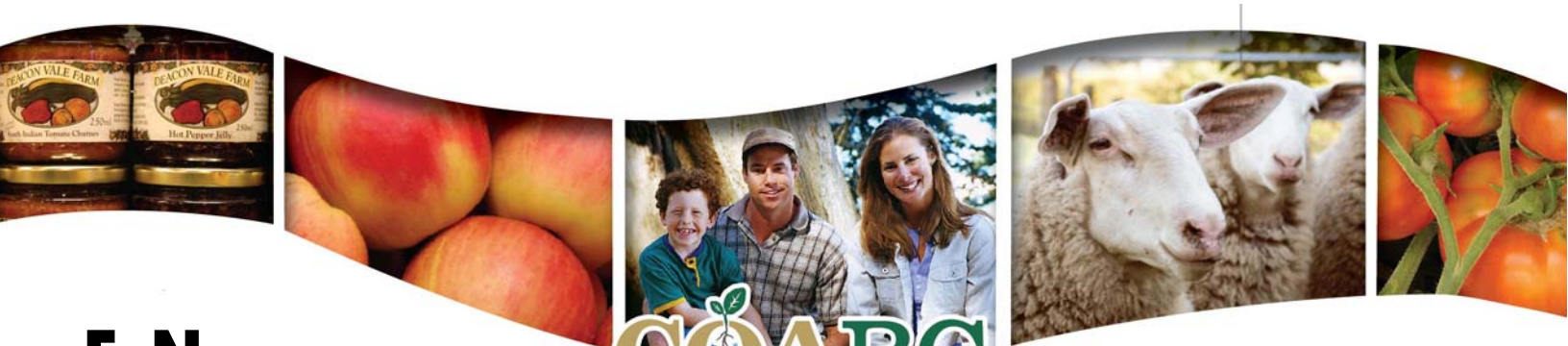
The Edible Vancouver Summer issue has sold out but spots are now available for the Fall issue. This issue will continue the COABC story and include the introduction of the Canada Organic Logo. If you would like to take advantage of this affordable advertising opportunity, please contact [coabcpromo@gmail.com](mailto:coabcpromo@gmail.com).

## 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.  
[http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page\\_id=2](http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2)
- **BCSPCA** [HTTP://SUPPORT.SPca.Bc.ca/SITE/MESSAGEVIEWER?EM\\_ID=3643.0&DLV\\_ID=8441](http://support.sPCA.bc.ca/site/messageviewer?em_id=3643.0&dlv_id=8441)
- **OFC** <http://www.organicfederation.ca/>
- **BCFMA** [http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/news/bcaf\\_m v19\\_may11.htm](http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/news/bcaf_m v19_may11.htm)



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## **BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC CHECKMARK LOGO**

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.

## **“WHAT IS ORGANIC FARMING?” BOOKLET NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE**

Are you familiar with the green “What is Organic Farming” booklet? The booklet is now available on our website as a downloadable resource. On the Education page under the Marketing Toolkit tab there are a number of tools and resources available to help members.

## **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](mailto:OPR.RPB@inspection.gc.ca).

## **INTERESTING**

### **COABC FACEBOOK PAGE**

Yes, COABC now has a Facebook page! Over the summer, we will be tweaking the page and adding a link to our website. This will be a great way to use technology to connect with other organizations and each other. Help create a vibrant online organic community and “Like” us at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Certified-Organic-Associations-of-BC/208548192519986>.

### **THE GLEN VALLEY ORGANIC FARM BLOG**

COABC board member Chris Bodnar is the regular contributor to the Glen Valley Organic Farm blog. The blog presents issues pertinent to the small-scale organic farmer. Read the blog at <http://www.glenvalleyorganicfarm.blogspot.com/>.

### **DAVID SUZUKI: SMALL FARMS MAY BE BETTER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND BIODIVERSITY**

An article by David Suzuki <http://www.straight.com/article-398870/vancouver/david-suzuki-small-farms-may-be-better-food-security-and-biodiversity>

### **HST VOTE**

The vote on extinguishing the HST takes place in July. While COABC has not taken a stance on the issue, the BCAC has expressed their support for the HST. Read their reasoning in the BCAC newsletter link above.



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## EVENTS

### **BC FOOD SYSTEMS NETWORK 13<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GATHERING: DIVERSITY AND RESILIENCE**

Date: July 7-10, 2011

Location: 100 Mile House, BC

Registration online at: <http://drupal.fooddemocracy.org/gathering-registration>

The BCFSN is looking forward to hosting discussions and activities that will bring participants to a dynamic "learning edge" and promote healthy associations between the people, plants and animals in the bioregions that have recently formed within the network.

### **SAANICH STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

Date: July 10, 2011

Location: Beaver Lake Regional Park, Pat Bay Highway #17, Saanich

Contact: 250-475-5558

The Annual Saanich Strawberry Festival celebrates 45 successful years of community involvement and support. The event originated as a celebration of the agricultural roots of Saanich and has blossomed into a grand festival for all ages.

### **GRUBS SUMMER CAMP: GROWING ROOTS IN URBAN SOILS**

Date: July 11-15, 2011

Location: Victoria, BC

Ages: 6-9

Cost: \$175

Turn your kids "green" at a GRUBS Camp with Lifecycles Project Society and the Greater Victoria Compost Education Centre. This exciting day camp offers fun and educational agriculturally-based experiences including: Exploring urban farms; building our own compost bins; playing with worms; learning about local food; planting seeds and growing veggies; outdoor games and activities; daily farm field trips; and much more! More details at <http://lifecyclesproject.ca/>.

### **FOXGLOVE FESTIVAL**

Date: Sunday, July 24th, 2011, 12:00- 6:00

Location: Foxglove Farm, Salt Spring Island

Cost: \$5 donation, children under 12 free

Come join us for our annual festival with live music, guided tours, kids activities, prepared farm food, homemade ice cream, and farm-stand. The day's schedule will be posted on the website, <http://www.foxglovefarmbc.ca/>, in early July.



## 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.*