

E-News



September 2010

WHAT'S NEW

EXTENSION SERVICES

In 2007 the COABC received funding from BCMAL to host a service to answer questions related to organic production in BC. This money has funded Rochelle Eisen as the BC Organic Extension Agent for the last 3 years. Since January the COABC and members of the organic industry have been working to try to find funding to keep the extension position, and continue to look for funds. As of October 31, 2010 the funds will be exhausted yet there will still be questions to be answered.

As of Sept 1, 2010

For questions please contact Susan Smith the BCMAL specialist for organics. Susan.L.Smith@gov.bc.ca or 604 556-3087

Looking for answers try

Cyber-help <http://certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/>

Your CB <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/cb/>

Organic Standards <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/standards/index.php>

Organic Certification <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/cb/certification.php>

Other BCMAL Industry Specialists [BCMAL Industry Specialists](#)

NATIONAL ORGANIC WEEK

October 9th to 16th, 2010.

We will be distributing our Fall BC Organic Grower magazine and promotional material to producers and retailers to get the message out about organics. This initiative is being driven by the national office of the Canadian Organic Growers. <http://www.organicweek.ca/> The goal is to promote organics, the BC logo and the national logo. If you would like to help distribute promotional materials contact Sarah at the office.

admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

ABBOTSFORD SOIL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Farm Fest 2010: An Exciting Educational Day on Climate Change and Nutrient Management.

September 14, 2010

For more information <http://www.abbotsfordsoilconservation.com/Farm%20Fest%202010%20eFlyer.pdf>

SMALL FRUIT NEWSLETTER

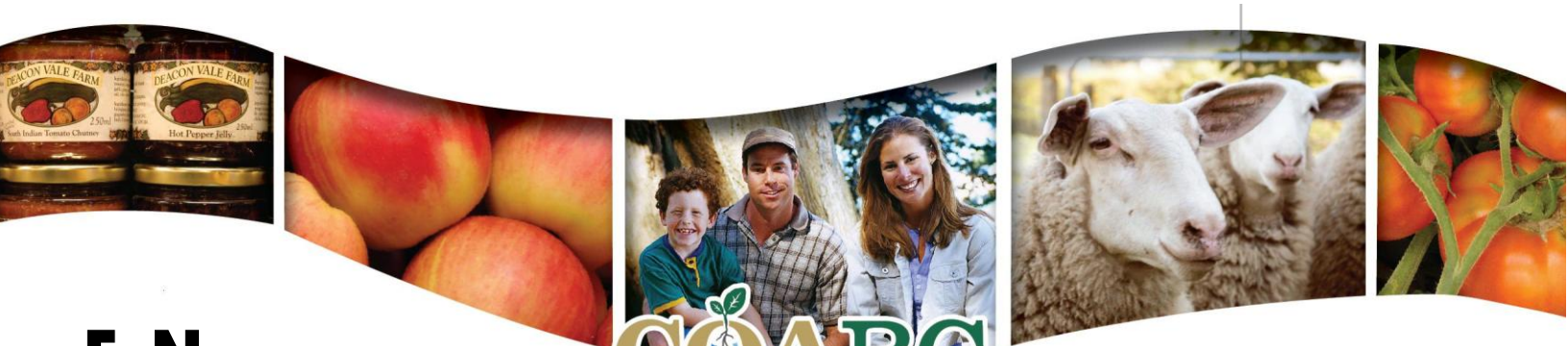
Please click on the link below, then click on the link titled "Current Issue" to view this week's Update.

[Click here](#) to view this week's Small Fruit Update.

FROM THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and Quebec Produce Marketing Association (QPMA) are pleased to offer their members a new tool to facilitate their business activities.

Members of the produce industry active within the Quebec marketplace are expected to meet certain requirements relative to language and labelling. Faced with the need to have an official translation of PLU nomenclature available for produce labelling, CPMA and QPMA facilitated the translation of a Price Look-Up (PLU) list to meet the needs of their respective memberships.



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This list is currently available on the websites of both associations (http://cpma.ca/en_ind_plu.asp, www.aqdf.ca) and will soon be on the IFPS site (www.plucodes.com). It will be updated regularly, following the approval and addition of new produce varieties obtaining a PLU.

The translation is certified by a member of the Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec and respects the norms set by the Office de la langue française. This is the first time the industry has had a list of PLUs available in French and one officially certified to meet French language requirements in Quebec.

For more information, please contact :

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General Director, QPMA
(+1) 514-355-4330 x. 22
sperreault@aqdf.ca

Lianne Wand
Manager, Marketing & Communications, CPMA
(+1) 613-226-4187 x. 225
lwand@cpma.ca

HR TOOLKIT (FOR DAIRY PRODUCERS AND OTHERS)

Here is the recently completed and published HR (Human Resource) Toolkit, for employers, which is now posted on BCMPA's (BC Milk Producers Association) new website (called DairyPro BC) for the new BC Dairy Apprenticeship Training Program.

The BC Dairy Apprenticeship Program has been under development for 2 years now. The new BC dairy apprenticeship training program has targeted a planned launch date of its first course of 16 students this November 2010.

Although the link to the BC Dairy HR Toolkit focuses on dairy, you may find sections that are equally applicable and useful to employers and employees in other commodity fields (i.e. Benefits & Compensation; Recruitment and Hiring Strategies; Disciplining; Training; etc.).

Feel free to use as you best see fit. <http://dairyprobc.ca/dairypro-uploads/toolkit.pdf>

DAIRY WEBINARS

Please join the eOrganic Dairy Team at one of our upcoming webinars; these are part of a series addressing topics related to the recent USDA release of the Access to Pasture Rule. All are open to the public and free-of-charge. eOrganic is an online community of more than 600 ag service providers and farmers around the US who are providing peer-reviewed content (including articles, videos, and webinars) on certified organic agriculture at www.eXtension.org/organic_production.

September 16, 2010

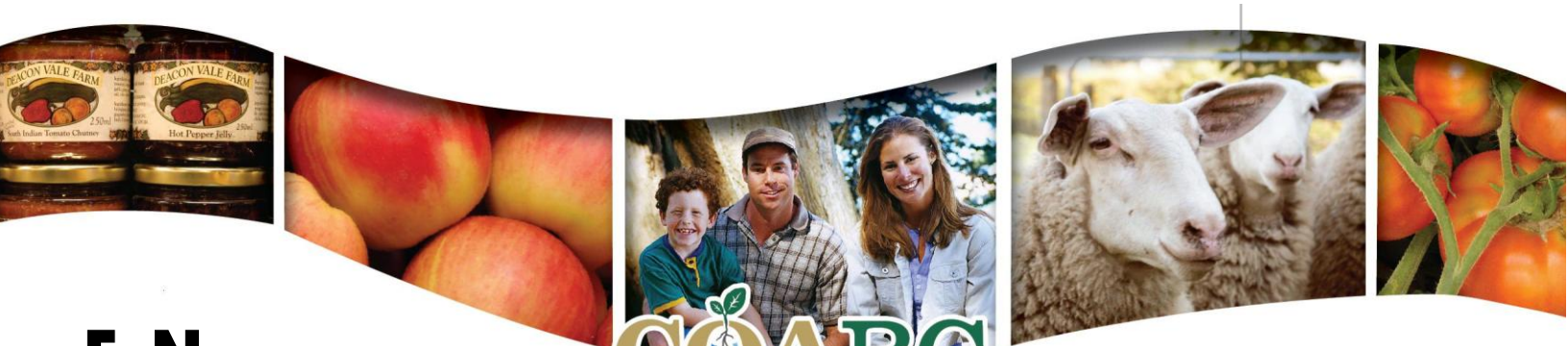
Maximizing Dry Matter Intake on Your Organic Dairy Pastures Webinar by eOrganic.

In this webinar, USDA NRCS animal scientist Karen Hoffman will describe how organic dairy farmers can maximize dry matter intake from the pasture. She will discuss the connection between milk production, a cow's rumen and pasture quality, including plant density, number of tillers/plants, pasture height, and species composition. She will take a look at protein and energy relationships in the pasture and ways to balance them to enhance dry matter intake and encourage high animal performance. Registration information and an archive of the presentation (posted 1 wk following the webinar date) appear at: <http://www.extension.org/article/18624>.

October 1, 2010

Setting Up a Grazing System on Your Organic Dairy Farm Webinar by eOrganic.

In this webinar, Cindy Daley, professor in the College of Agriculture at the California State University, Chico, and Sarah



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Flack, national consultant on grass-based livestock farming, will address the basic principles of setting up a grazing system to improve pasture quality and animal performance. They will discuss paddock size calculations, recovery periods, maps and record-keeping, avoiding pasture pitfalls, and further resources. Registration information and an archive of the presentation (posted 1 wk following the webinar date) appear at:

<http://www.extension.org/article/28799>.

ENVIRONMENTAL FARM PROGRAM – NEW BMP’S

The Environmental Farm Program has a whole new range of fundable BMP on-farm projects that organic producers might be interested in exploring. If you have done your EFP and it is less than 5 years old you may instantly qualify for some of the new funds. If your plan is older than 5 yrs it will need to be updated. There is a group of skilled advisors available to help update plans or initiate new plans.

Complete details on the BC EFP program can be found at http://www.ardcorp.ca/index.php?page_id=40

All the BMP categories can be found [here](#) . The newest ones are from #30 and up.

FOR OKANAGAN PRODUCERS AND PROCESSORS

Are you:

- ✓ A local business wanting to showcase your products and services on a Valley wide forum?
- ✓ Wanting to source local products and services and support the local economy?



Our Okanagan is an online tool developed to promote awareness of your business throughout our Okanagan. By **connecting** those looking for a local product or service with those that can provide them, we **create more opportunity** for all of us. If you offer a product or service, please **register and create a profile**, allowing consumers and businesses alike to **see what the Valley really has to offer**.

Register before Sept 15, 2010 and be entered to win a draw for \$1000.00. www.ourokanagan.ca No Cost to Register

\$ 8,660,000 INVESTED IN ORGANIC RESEARCH

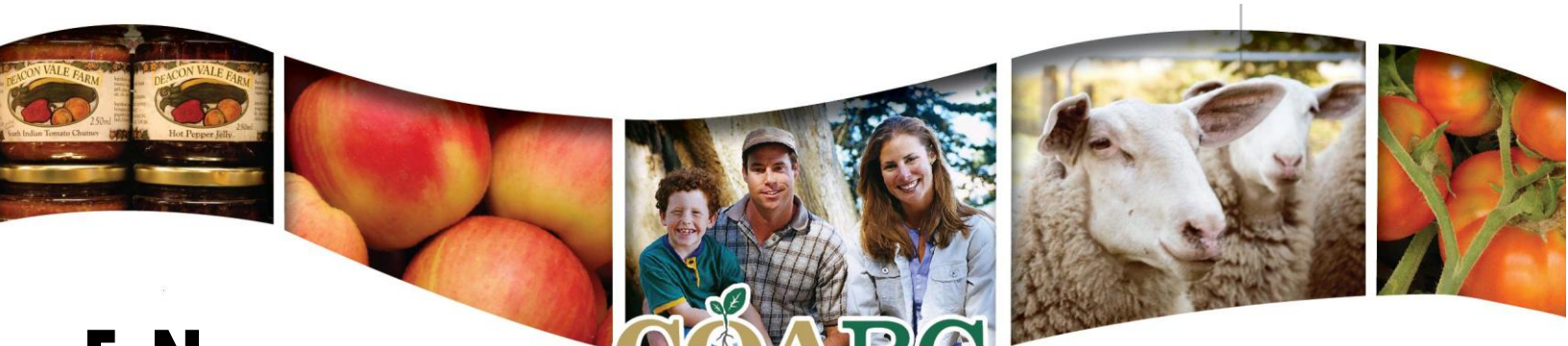
On September 1st, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Gerry Ritz [announced a funding of \\$6.5 million](#), matched by \$2.2 million from industry partners to establish Canada’s [Organic Science Cluster \(OSC\)](#).

The funding awarded through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Growing Forward Program, is meant to support growth in the organic sector by strengthening the science behind organic agriculture in Canada.

The Organic Federation of Canada is the applicant on behalf of the Canadian organic sector, but the OSC will be managed by the [Organic Agriculture Center of Canada](#).

The OSC:

- involves [80 lead and collaborating scientists, the longest standing and leading scientists in organic agriculture](#), who will be working alongside other scientists who are leaders in their respective disciplines;
- will run until March 2013, spans the country with activities in nine provinces, engaging all major agricultural universities in Canada and enlisting the collaboration of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientists;
- [involves twenty industry partners](#), representing many aspects of the organic sector across the country, that will contribute \$2.2 million in matching funds to support research activities;



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- includes 30 research activities
 - o that will set the groundwork for significant improvements in [phosphorus use efficiency](#) in organic crop production,
 - o lead organic into an era [of low-till production without herbicides](#),
 - o provide a landmark breakthrough in energy efficient [organic greenhouse production](#),
 - o develop effective systems for management of [organic horticultural crops](#),
 - o characterize the contribution of organic production [to reducing greenhouse gas emissions](#),
 - o establish benchmarks for [animal health and welfare in dairying](#),
 - o and address barriers in [high value fruit production](#).

The Organic Science Cluster will serve to strengthen the capacity and market for domestic organic production while supporting ecologically sound farming practices.

Regular updates will be posted on [OACC website](#).

SPEEDY RECOVERY TO MARY FORSTBAUER

Mary Forstbauer, COABC Secretary recently went under heart surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Hello everyone

Thank you for all your prayers and healing thoughts this past month. Thank you for your calls, cards and flowers. I am now the proud owner of a new aortic heart valve. On Aug 19, 2010 My open heart surgery was successful. After one week in hospital I was released to the care of my family. At home I am taking it easy and walking as instructed by my medical team. (My walks the first week were 5 minutes but they felt like I had run a marathon). I am slowly increasing my walking time and activities. The healing time is about 12 weeks. Once my heart healing has been completed I will undergo knee replacement on my right knee hopefully late fall or early winter. I am healing and look forward to returning to the markets next spring as the new Super Organic Earth Mother. A special thank you to my good friend Mhora who has stepped forward and looked after the markets that she and I have been attending this summer.

Mary Forstbauer aka Organic Earth Mother: farm@forstbauer.com

ONGOING

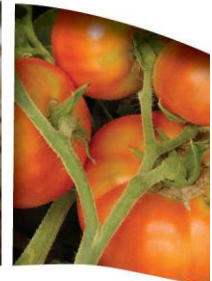
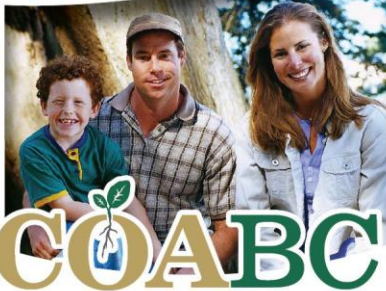
Labour Needs Survey on farms with less than \$100,000 in gross receipts

The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council is researching the labour needs on farms with less than \$100,000 in gross receipts. Your responses will be used to better understand employment needs of smaller farms and will ensure that operations from British Columbia are represented in the research.

Go to www.cahrc-ccrha.ca Or call CAHRC at 1-866-430-7457 ext. 228 to complete the survey by phone.

All respondents can enter for a chance to win \$100

About CAHRC: The Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC) was created to address human resource issues facing agricultural businesses across Canada. CAHRC works with industry leaders, governments, and education stakeholders to research, develop and communicate solutions to the challenges in agriculture employment and skills development.



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“What is Organic Farming?” Booklet now available as pdf

Are you familiar with the green “What is Organic Farming” booklet? If you would like a copy we now have an electronic version as a pdf document. Please contact the office to get your copy. admin@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

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.

CHC OFFS Manuals

On Farm Food Safety Manuals are available on the CHC member website.

If you do not have the CHC member password for COABC please contact Kristy at office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca

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.

Reminder – shipping in and out of Province

For certified organic operators who wish to ship outside the province (nationally or internationally) don't forget that you now must be certified under under ISO rather than the provincial BC certified organic program.

INTERESTING

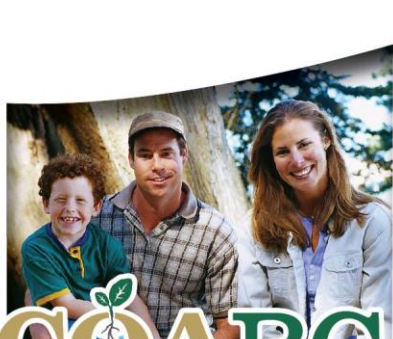
RESEARCHERS SHOW THAT ORGANIC FARMING ENHANCES BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL PEST CONTROL

Media Contact: Jennifer Martin, (202) 720-8188

WASHINGTON, July 1, 2010 – A team of researchers from Washington State University and the University of Georgia have found that organic farming increases biodiversity among beneficial, pest-killing predators and pathogens. In potato crops, this led to fewer insect pests and larger potato plants.

“It’s always been a mystery how organic farmers get high yields without using synthetic insecticides,” says co-author Bill Snyder, associate professor of entomology at Washington State University. “Our study suggests that biodiversity conservation may be a key to their success.”

Ecosystems with more total species, and more beneficial species that are relatively evenly distributed, are thought to be healthiest. The use of insecticides harms biodiversity by reducing the number of species and by making some species (often pests) much more common than others. The study, which was funded by USDA’s National Institute of Food and



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Agriculture (NIFA) and published in the July 1 edition of the journal *Nature*, shows that organic farming practices lead to many equally-common beneficial species, and that this reduces pest problems.

In potato fields that used conventional control practices (e.g., applications of broad-acting insecticides), usually just one species of beneficial predatory insect or pest-killing pathogen was common. In contrast, in organic fields several beneficial species were about equally common. Experiments showed that groups of evenly-abundant beneficial species, typical of organic farms, were far more effective at killing potato beetle pests. Because natural enemies are usually more even in organic crops of many different kinds, not just potato, these benefits could be widespread.

NIFA funded this project through the National Research Initiative Arthropod and Nematode Biology and Management competitive grants program.

Through federal funding and leadership for research, education and extension programs, NIFA focuses on investing in science and solving critical issues impacting people's daily lives and the nation's future. For more information, visit www.nifa.usda.gov.

EVENTS

MIDDLE EAST MARKET OPPORTUNITIES AND HALAL CERTIFICATION, September 22, 2010

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada would like to invite you to attend a free seminar on Middle East Market Opportunities and Halal Certification.

Three out of Canada's top 12 agri-food and seafood export markets are located in the Middle East. In 2009, Canadian agri-food and seafood exports to the Middle East region (excluding Turkey), reached \$1.87 billion, making it a lucrative market for Canadian exporters. This seminar will provide you with an overview on trends and opportunities, halal certification and branding in the region.

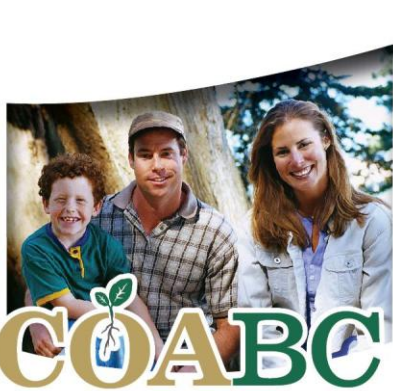
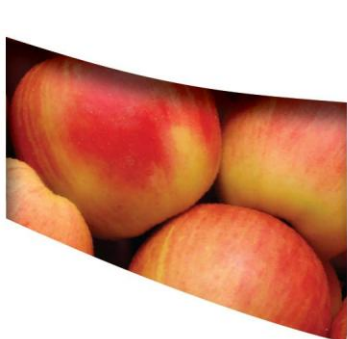
Registration deadline of Wednesday **September 15, 2010**.

Event Details:

- Date: Wednesday September 22, 2010
- Time: 9:00am to 12:00pm (registration begins at 8:45am)
- Location: Library Square
- Registration: Free – (space is limited*)

Speakers and Schedule:

- 8:45am - 9:00am: Registration
- 9:00am - 10:00am: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges in the Middle East region
Mr. Rick Seguin - Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada, Dubai
- 10:15am - 10:30am: Break
- 10:30am - 11:15am: Requirements and Certification of Halal Food Products
Dr. Sabir Ali - Director, Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America
- 11:30am - 12:00pm: Branding Canada in the Gulf Region
Ms. Emily MacKenzie, Marketing and Trade Officer, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



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For more information, please contact:

Jeffrey Lang

Senior Marketing and Trade Officer

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Ph: 604-666-1066

Email: jeffrey.lang@agr.gc.ca

HOME GROWN PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION AT MUSEUM OF VANCOUVER

Home Grown: Local Sustainable Food

August 26, 2010 to January 2, 2011

Home Grown is a photographic exploration of local food production and sustainable farming in Vancouver and the surrounding region, presented by Museum of Vancouver (MOV) and FarmFolkCityFolk.

In photo-journalistic style, 39 stunning images by photographer, Brian Harris, contain a call-to-action for individuals and communities to reclaim control of local food systems and to think carefully about the ethics of food consumption decisions that are made everyday.

Accompanying programs will give a deeper understanding and appreciation of local food production issues as well as the inspiration and skills to start a backyard or community garden.

Presenting Sponsor: Left Coast Naturals

See the website for details <http://www.museumofvancouver.ca/exhibition.php?id=18>

2011 COABC Conference "The Next Generation"

Sidney on Vancouver Island, March 4th – 6th, 2011

The 2011 COABC conference is only 6 months away. See the Fall Edition of the "BC Organic Grower" for more details.

Organic Okanagan Festival

September 26, 2010. Kelowna

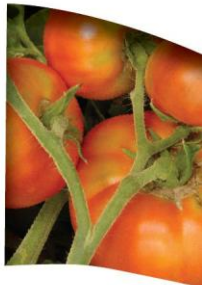
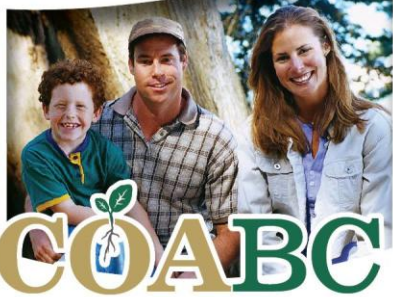
http://www.okanangreens.ca/festivals_detail.php?festivals_id=5

Building Sustainable Communities Conference

Kelowna, November 15th – 18th, 2010

<http://www.freshoutlookfoundation.org/conferences/bsc10/bsc10.asp>

Speakers include Canadian Green Party leader **Elizabeth May** will sit on the panel following presentations by Dr. Bill Rees (UBC), Mark Holland (HB Lanarc), and Tom Osdoba (University of Oregon). The panel also includes **Geoff Meggs** (author, journalist, and Vancouver councillor) and **Pamela Goldsmith-Jones** (West Vancouver mayor), and will be moderated by **David Beers** (journalist and founding editor of The Tyee). Another great addition is former BC Liberal leader **Gordon Wilson**, who will present his ideas for an Agricultural Land Trust and companion Farmstead Act. And landscape architect/planner **John Buchko** will introduce the topic of Biophilia in Urban Environments.



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DON'T FORGET

Newsletters for supporting organizations

BC Agriculture Council under the Community Agriculture seat. http://www.bcac.bc.ca/index.php?page_id=2

BCSPCA Find out what is happening at the BCSPCA at http://support.spca.bc.ca/site/MessageViewer?em_id=2001.0&dlv_id=5801

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.