

British Columbia Organic Grower




Certified Organic Associations of BC

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is received by all members of organizations belonging to the Certified Organic Association of British Columbia. *BC Organic Grower* is published quarterly by COABC.

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Next Issue Deadline:
March 15, 2009

President's Letter

by Peter Johnston

As I hope you all know, Canada is introducing a "Mandatory" organic Regulation at the end of June 2009. This will mean that all food coming into Canada, and all food sold between provinces, if it makes an organic claim, will have to meet the Canadian organic standard.

Because of our federal structure, provinces have control of agriculture and organic claims within each province are not subject to the same regulations, though claims can not be false or misleading.

The COABC has adopted the Canadian Organic Standard (COS) which will start January 1, 2009. The current COS was adopted in 2006 and is in two parts: the Management Standards and the Permitted Substances List (PSL). The standard is part of the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), which has standards for nearly everything, and has its own system for making and amending standards which must be followed. The Organic Standard is available free on the CGSB website (www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb).

Since all Canada's organic operations (especially those that are or will be selling outside their province) have to operate within the COS, there was a flurry of work to amend it. These amendments are to be published this December. There is one more round of amendments scheduled to begin soon and there will undoubtedly be further amendments in the future.

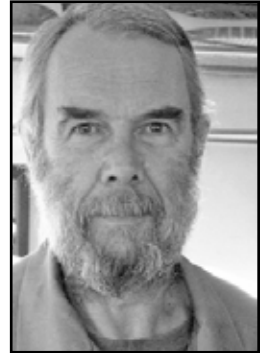
The Canadian Organic Regime (COR) is scheduled to come into effect after June 30, 2009.

As you will read in this issue, there are many aspects to the change from our BC standards to the Canadian standards, and the standards themselves are organized very differently. Gone are regulated and prohibited practices – if a practice isn't in the Standard or a material isn't in the PSL, they are not permitted. There is no mention of transition in the standards, nor of labelling. These are covered by other regulations and protocols.


COABC member Certifying Bodies will be required to certify operations to the COS as it currently exists (2006 edition), and also to the amended edition as it becomes available. Operators are not expected to be in full compliance with the amended version as soon as it appears. Allowances will be made for them to come into compliance with the amendments.

COABC operations will have a head start on using the COS, and we will transition into the COR later. This might spread out the stress, but it probably won't reduce it overall.

There will be a Canadian Organic symbol or logo, and the new labelling regulations that come into effect December 31, 2009, will help to make it more clear which food products are produced in Canada, and which are imported.



COABC operations have the advantage of being able to use the BC Certified Organic phrase and checkmark logo. It clearly identifies product that is produced in British Columbia, and it is distinctive and recognized. It also helps us identify our products as local (or at least provincial) and thus brings our products to the notice of the large number of people who are buying locally. The BCCO program and its checkmark have a reputation that we can continue to use and to enhance.

Over the next year, many of us will experience a significant amount of stress over the changes, as we become familiar with new acronyms, new names, and new details. Transitions are always stressful, and we need to try hard to not let ourselves get overstressed. The main goal is to continue to produce the highest quality food (and other agricultural products) that we can, and to continue and improve our work towards sustainability, not just in soil tilth and quality, but in all our practices. 

Want to share your photos?

The BC Organic Grower is your publication, and we want it to look like you! If you've got awesome photos to share of your farm, and the people, animals and plants who live and work there, we'd love to feature them in future issues!

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Photo: Moss Dance

Report from the Administrator

by Karen Fenske

As you read this the New Year has begun and once again COABC has risen to the challenge of bringing in a new year with exciting new plans! 2009 has a new look with a COABC logo and updated website, a fantastic new BCOG team (Moss Dance and Andrea Langlois), more regional seminars, and a new Strategic Plan to help us chart our path.



tration package within). A fun and cost-effective way to market your company is to contribute to the Silent Auction prize table. If you would like to donate food to the menu requirements, or prizes, please contact Donna Scheven, COABC Conference Coordinator at donna@dsevents.ca or (604) 607-0644.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Karen Fenske 

We are busy rolling out our Corporate Sponsorship program so if you know of an organization that would like to partner with COABC in growing the organic sector via COABC's activities please have them contact me. They will receive a presentation folder which explains the opportunities and benefits and an invitation to help us move forward. The results of this project will have a positive impact on our capacity to do more, while leaving fees at competitive levels.

We are also coming into the last stage of preparing for the 2009 COABC Annual Conference and AGM (regis-



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Welcome*

Editor's Note

by Moss Dance and Andrea Langlois

Welcome to the winter version of the Grower! We are very excited to be on board with the COABC in producing this diverse and informative publication for BC's organic farmers.



We each have our own history of involvement with the organic sector as farm apprentices, farmers, and as members of the movement towards local, sustainable food. It is an exciting opportunity to be able to engage with farmers across BC - to share, educate and grow together.



This issue of the Grower is dedicated to providing you with help and guidance as you adapt to the National Organic Regime. Many of the articles in this issue serve as excellent references, so be sure to hold onto it for awhile!

You'll see a bit of fresh design in this issue, and we will slowly incorporate new elements to the Grower for the upcoming issues. The input of readers will be essential in helping us shape the journal into something that's interesting to read, informative, and that brings forward the diverse issues and voices of organic agriculture in BC. If you would like to share information, letters, articles or story ideas with us, please contact Andrea at editor@certifiedorganic.bc.ca. 🌱

Happy Growing!

Moss Dance (Layout and Design) and Andrea Langlois (Editor)



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Dear Rochelle

by Rochelle Eisen

Dear Rochelle

I am confused about which standard we are supposed to be using in 2009. Hasn't the 2006 version been amended?

~ Slightly exasperated in Rutland

Dear Exasperated

I hear your frustration, all will work out. Let me take advantage of your question to tell you the story of The Four Amendments...

Once upon a time there was a voluntary Canada Organic standard that wanted to become mandatory. To make it happen, many people from across the land had to spend many long, arduous hours editing and discussing the legalities of our complicated organic ways and how to amend the 2006 version of the Organic Production Systems – General Principles and Management Standards¹ (simply known as the Principles) and the Permitted Substance List² (PSL), the two parts that make up the standard.

In the early stages of these discussions, we were

taught that official standards must be legally defensible and to assure a fair playing field for all users each standard had to be precise on what was required for compliance. This meant eliminating all references to a certification agency's discretionary power (in other words, allowed exceptions to the rule are now clearly outlined in the standard). We also learnt that we had to be very precise as when to use "shall," "must," "may," and "should". We were also directed to remove all the organic labelling claim references in the standard as these could only exist in the Regulation. Repetitive redundancies were eliminated.



Beyond these ad nauseum bureaucratic changes, a few minor edits were completed during the first amendment process, but none that would actually impact on operators.

Amendment two dealt mainly with clarifying various definitions and standards so that they met more of the technical requirements for a mandatory system. Some notable changes were made; see the "Amendments with Impact" articles [pages 8 &

14] for more detail.

It was during the third round of amendments that more substantive changes were made which may have an impact on assorted operations. Again, see the "Amendments with Impact" articles [pages 8 & 14] for more detail.


By the time you are reading this article the revised version reflecting all the first three sets of amendments should have been published and posted online on the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) Organic Agriculture website:
www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html .

The COABC is planning to supply hardcopies of this version to all the Certification Bodies (CBs) for distribution to their membership, with each CB having to decide how to distribute these to each member. This amended version is the version COABC will be operating with for 2009, but there will be some latitude given to allow for adaptation from the 2006 version to the 2009 version. The COABC Accreditation Committee has generated a Clarification and Guidance tool to assist CBs and licensees [see below].

There is still more work to do to clear the Future Work Lists (the collection system for petitions³ for change and other comments) and a fourth round is in the planning stage. Many of the issues⁴ raised by BC operators during Paddy Doherty's 2007 consultation process have not yet made it to their respective

Working Groups (Crops, Livestock, Processing, PLS, Greenhouse etc.) for consideration, as every issue had to be dealt with in order it was received by the CGSB.

Working Group suggestions are then voted and worked on by the Technical Committee. If passed by the Technical Committee, the amendment is approved for inclusion in the standard. Once amendment four is published operators will have a year to align to the new requirements.

~ Rochelle 

¹ The Principles can also be referred to as CAN/CGSB-32.310. CAN = Canada and CGSB = Canadian General Standards Board and 32.310 the reference number for this section.

² The PSL is CAN/CGSB-32.311

³ If you are interested in submitting a petition, contact your CB as they will have access to the necessary paperwork and procedure for you to follow.

⁴ It maybe a good idea for BC operators to look over those 2007 submissions to see if any are no longer pertinent and could be withdrawn.

Clarification and Guidance for the transition to the new organic standard in British Columbia

For CBs accredited by COABC

*By Anne Macey
Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia*

From January 1st 2009 the COABC standard will be the Canadian Organic Standard.

Since the 2006 version of the Canada Organic Standard was published it has been undergoing an extensive revision process. The amendments are known to many individuals involved with the CGSB process but the amendments have not yet been officially published. The amended version is expected to be available in December 2008.

Which version of the new standard do we use in 2009?

The answer is both. When an amendment to any

standard is published there is always a period of time before operators have to be in compliance – it is never a static situation. Generally operators are given up to a year to come into compliance, but it is also possible they could be in compliance the day an amendment is published. So if in January 2009 an operator is in compliance with the 2006 version but not the amended version, the CB must provide a timeline for the operator to make the changes necessary to meet the new requirements. This might be 12 months from date of publication, by the next inspection, the next production cycle or whatever is appropriate for the operation concerned.

Can we use the old COABC standard in 2009?

No. CBs and operators have known for over a year that the Canadian Standard would be the BC standard

GREENBYTES...



Photo: Jen McMullen

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in 2009 and operators should have been expected to prepare themselves accordingly. CBs are expected to use their discretion in determining compliance and to be sure to carefully document the rationale if exceptions are made. Exceptions can only be made in an individual case. A CB cannot determine that it will continue to use an element from the old COABC standard if it is less restrictive than the Canadian Standard.

How do we handle the transition if the COABC's old and new standards are in conflict?

There are some areas where an operator might have been in compliance in December 2008 but as of January 1st, 2009 would not meet the requirements. This does not mean the operator will immediately be decertified. For example:

- ★ Changes that cannot be made before the start of a new production cycle can be deferred with express permission of the CB.
- ★ Any product produced under the old rules before December 31st can continue to be sold as organic. It is product produced after Jan 1, 2009 that must meet the new COABC standard unless a specific exemption is granted.
- ★ A phase out period for farming inputs already in inventory (e.g. soil amendments and seeds meeting the old standard) can be allowed. As yet

there is no official policy for the Canada Organic Regime (COR) to provide guidance on this matter. In the meantime CBs may allow operators to use up inventory in the spring of 2009. This period could be extended to match any future policy decision for the COR.

Can CBs have their own standards that differ from the new COABC Standard?

Yes, as long as they are equal to or exceed the requirements of the new standard. ISO compliant CBs approved to participate in the Canadian Organic Regime, will not be able to refuse certification if an operator meets the Canadian Standard. Regionally accredited CBs can elect to have more restrictive standards and only certify to their own standard. This means that the CB could delete items from the PSL but not add them. Certificates have to be clear which program and standard is being used. 🌱

If any further clarification is needed please contact Anne Macey, Director COABC Accreditation Board.

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Chick Tips

Did you know that *Salmonella Enteritidis*, an important disease causing organism in humans, lives in the intestines of chickens and rodents without causing any illness in those species? People most commonly acquire this illness from consumption of undercooked contaminated eggs or chicken. You can have your flock checked for this organism with simple swab samples taken from the environment.

Written by Dr. William Cox, BC Ministry of Agriculture's Poultry Health Veterinarian Contact him by telephone at 604-556-3023 or email William.Cox@gov.bc.ca



Special Section on the Canada Organic Standard Principles (CAN/CGSB-32.310) Amendments with Impacts

By Rochelle Eisen

The following article only focuses on amendments to the 2006 version of CAN/CGSB-32.310 that growers should be aware of, and does not discuss each requirement to its fullest, just the changes.

Be sure to read the Dear Rochelle column on Page 5 for an overall perspective. There is also a second part to this article "PSL Amendments with Impacts." Also required reading is the "Clarification and Guidance for the transition to the new organic standard in British Columbia for CBs accredited by COABC" article on Page 6, so it is clear to you when you need to be in compliance with these amendments.

Principles - Scope (Section 1)

One of the most common questions is what products are covered by the scope of this standard?

Para 1.2 specifies that only those products that have production rules in the standard may be certified under the Canada Organic Regime (COR). For now that is restricted to Agricultural crops, Domesticated Livestock (inclusive of poultry, ratites, bison, fallow deer, etc.), Apiculture and Bee products, Maple products, Mushrooms, Sprouts, Greenhouse Crops, Wild Plant Crops. This section includes the associated processed foodstuffs for humans, as well as livestock feed and other products used by livestock.

As there are no production rules for aquaculture (a possible work in progress), cosmetics, forest products or textiles, these products fall outside the scope of the standard until further notice, but are subject to the *Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act* (truth in advertising legislation).

A prohibition has been added for cloned farm animals and their descendants (para 1.4.1.k). This means a

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producer will need to know the lineage of any non-organic animal brought under organic management.

Principles - Crop Production (Section 5)

An incredible amount of time was spent trying to clarify the manure source standard (para 5.5.1) so that it worked for everyone – kudos to the Crop Working Group for persisting. The revised version prohibits manure from confined livestock operations, such as crated veal operations and hog barns where farrowing crates are used. It does not include caged poultry as long as they can completely turn around in the cage. It also prohibits manure from livestock operations where animals are kept permanently in the dark. The only other criterion is that there is enough information kept on record to affirm compliance of the source to this standard.

A very useful informative note was added to the manure source requirements suggesting that it would be best if manure did not come from landless operations, or from livestock operations that use GMO feeds. At first glance you might think that this is not an outright prohibition of high risk GMO containing manures, but don't forget the overriding 1.4.1 paragraph which prohibits the use of "materials and prod-



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- ★ GM DNA was not found in cattle manure that was collected directly from the cow and then hot composted for four months
- ★ GM DNA was found in hot composted layer manure contaminated by feed

Conclusion: Effective hot composting of manures for at least four months can degrade GM DNA, but it is critical the manure is not contaminated with intact seeds or grain.

Other Online Hot Compost / DNA resources: The Fate of the Recombinant DNA in Corn during Composting:

www.informaworld.com/smpp/content~content=a713730964~db=all

Does composting degrade modified DNA?
http://oacc.info/DOCs/compost_mclean.pdf

1 Martin, R.C. Van Acker, R. And McLean, N. 2005. Identified Risks in Canada of Co-existence between GMO non-GMO Farm Systems. 1st Annual Congress of the Quality Low Input Food Project: ORGANIC FARMING FOOD QUALITY AND HEALTH, University of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK. January, 2005

ucts produced from genetic engineering". There is no outright prohibition of these manures, but you must make sure you are not contaminating your farm. This means these manures must be properly hot composted as the heat in the piles renders down transgenic material. For more insights into this topic refer to my notes on the PSL annotation for compost feedstocks in the PSL Amendment article and also refer to the Hot Compost/DNA sidebar [above].

Principles - Livestock Production (Section 6)


Whatever you do, take my advice and do not refer to the 2006 version at all when reading these changes, as the livestock section has had a major rewrite and

reorganization and very few of the paragraph numbers in the 2009 version align with the original 2006 version, so if you haven't downloaded or received your 2009 version, read the concepts and don't fret the referenced section numbers.

Clarification was added to the livestock pasture requirement for herbivores in Para 6.1.3 making it clear that herbivores must have access to pasture during the grazing season and access to the open air at all other times as weather dictates. Exceptions are identified in paragraph 6.8 "Livestock Living Conditions" (see this discussion further on), and as in the previous version it is clear that you may confine livestock when field conditions are sub-par and animal activity would be harmful to the farm (para 6.8.2.d) and surrounding ecosystem. One key new addition in paragraph 6.1.3 is that sexually mature herbivores must be able to graze 30% of their total forage intake during the grazing season. Minimum grazing densities are also outlined in paragraph 6.1.3.a, so be sure to look at this closely as it says: "On all farms a minimum of 0.13 ha (1/3 acre) per animal unit must be devoted to grazing. (One animal unit = one cow or one bull or two calves (each 225 to 500 kg) or five calves (each less than 225 kg) or four ewes and their lambs or six does and their kids)."

As it is currently impossible to purchase antibiotic-

Raw Manure



If incorporated into the soil 90 or 120 days before harvest, raw compliant manure in either solid or liquid form can be used (para 5.5.2.5). The interval period is determined in the following manner. If the crop comes into contact with the soil, the application must be done 120 days before harvest (e.g. lettuce, potatoes, and strawberries). If the crop never comes into contact with the soil (e.g. tree fruit, cane fruit), only a 90-day interval is needed.

free vaccines, the antibiotic-free criteria was removed in paragraph 6.2.2.c.i and will remain so until such time when antibiotic-free vaccines are available. To be clear, the amount of antibiotic in a vaccine is miniscule and its sole purpose is to act as a preservative. As far as I can see, this was the only place in the standard where the antibiotic-free vaccine requirement was specifically made, and therefore this is the only place it had to be amended.

Generally, we all know if organic feed cannot be sourced in sufficient quantity and type to provide a balanced ration suited to the type of livestock, the livestock cannot be considered organic, but a 10 con-







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secutive day derogation (para 6.4.1) has been added to accommodate for "a local farm scale catastrophic event (such as fire, flood, or extreme climatic conditions)." If organic feed is unobtainable during this type of farm crisis, feed from transitional land and known to be free of substances prohibited by paragraph 1.4.1 can be fed for 10 consecutive days.

New paragraph 6.4.4.j prohibits synthetic colouring agents in livestock feed and paragraph 6.4.6 prohibits the force feeding of water fowl. A great deal of work was done reorganizing parts of section 6.7 Livestock Health Care to help differentiate how dairy versus meat animals may be treated when ill. As this has seemed confusing up to now, I am going to review components of this section, even though there are no significant changes since the 2006 version except the minimum withdrawal when using antibiotics on dairy animals has been upped to 30 days from 14 days (para 6.7.6.d).

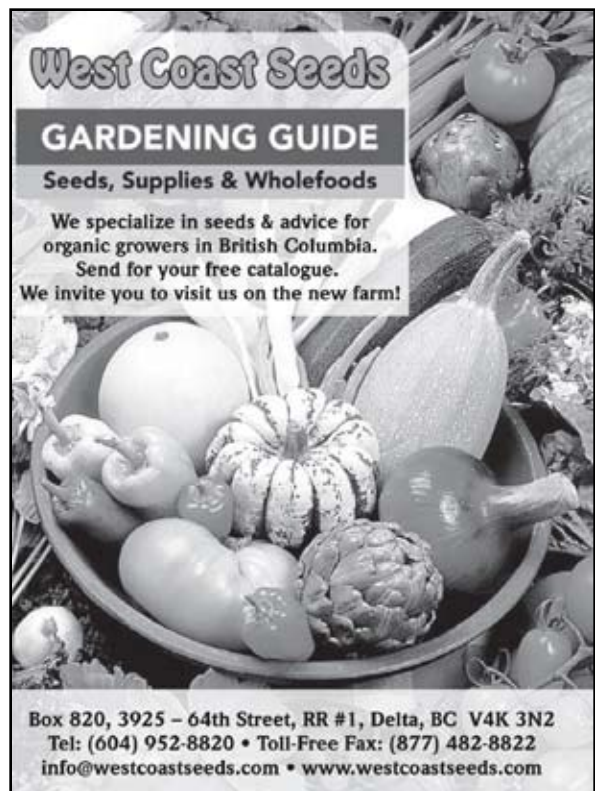
Dairy animal emergency treatment is mostly outlined in paragraph 6.7.6.d. It says emergency antibiotic treatments are permitted only with written instructions from a veterinarian (subpart i) with the following caveats: minimum withdrawal of 30 or twice the label specification whichever is longer (subpart ii); use must be documented (subpart iii); and, chronic animals requiring repeated treatment need to be culled (subpart v). The most complicated standard is subpart 6.7.6.d.iv which stipulates any dairy cow that is treated more than two times during any 12 month period with any combination of antibiotics or parasiticides (anthelmintics) has to undergo a 12-month transition before milk can be organic. This allows either two treatments of parasiticides per year or two treatments of antibiotic per year or one treatment of each per year.

The key point is that the same antibiotic derogation does not extend to meat animals (para 6.7.8). It is also important to realize that there is no allowance for hormonal treatments for meat animals (para 6.7.7) except for oxytocin as outlined in the PSL (for details read page 17). To help keep parasite loads in check, there must be sound pasture practices and fecal count monitoring done (para 6.7.9.a). Also worthy of note is the inclusion of a derogation for parasiticides (anthelmintics) on meat animals in para 6.7.9.b. But before you can evoke the derogation there must be evidence of parasite infection (para 6.7.9.b.i); written instructions from a veterinarian (para 6.7.9.b.ii); and a plan to avoid similar situations (para 6.7.9.b.vi). If you do use a parasticide on a meat animal, double

the label withdrawal is required before the meat can be marketed as organic (para 6.7.9.b.iii); and, most importantly, there can only be one treatment on animals less than a year old, and a limit of two per year for older animals (para 6.7.9.b.iv).

A derogation (para 6.8.1.g) has been inserted for bedding straw but only for animals that do not tend to eat it. In this situation, as long the straw has not been exposed to any prohibited item listed in 1.4.1 for 60 days prior to being harvested, this straw can be used as bedding for these animals.

Regarding Livestock Living Conditions, you may limit access when conditions outside would negatively affect the welfare (para 6.8.2.c) of the animals such in the case for young birds until fully feathered, or young herbivores till they build their immune systems. In fact, paragraph 6.8.10.3 stipulates that all dairy replacement calves over nine months of age shall have access to pasture. Breeding bulls are the complete exemption and they can always be confined (para 6.8.7.a), while paragraph 6.8.7.b sets the minimum space permitted for the finishing phase for cattle at 23 sq. meters/animal. Paragraph 6.8.8 determines the indoor and outdoor space for cattle (cows and calves); paragraph 6.8.9 does the same for sheep and goats; paragraph 6.8.11.2 for poul-



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try; paragraph 6.8.12.2 for rabbits; and, paragraph 6.8.13.3 for pigs.

It seems poultry densities will be on some future work list to be reviewed, but this may not happen for quite some time. If you do have any constructive ideas or comments on what could work for a standard don't hesitate to contact your CB or myself, so that this information can be added to an official petition to get this standard reviewed and possibly amended. Until this is resolved, negatively impacted producers who disagree with the current version would have to submit their case in writing to their CBs for consideration, addressing each aspect of the standard. Each CB will have to decide if they can justify an exemption to the requirements, record their decision and review the situation annually.

Paragraph 6.8.10.1.d is a new addition requiring that only outdoor hutches with access to an enclosed yard or run are acceptable for calves. This is a definite change from the previous version, while paragraph 6.8.11.1.a clarifies that it is row/battery cages for poultry that is prohibited (the 2006 version just said cages).

I know there maybe a lot more questions regarding livestock requirements in light of these amendments. I am willing to explore reconvening the livestock producer committee to review the amended standard, but only if impacted producers feel it's absolutely necessary. Please do get in touch if you have concerns.

Specific Production Requirements (Section 7)

No notable changes in the Apiculture (7.1), Maple Syrup (7.2), Mushrooms (7.3), Greenhouse Crops Production (7.5), or the Wild Crops (7.6) standards.

There are a few points worthy of mention regarding Sprout Production (7.4). Water analysis must be conducted once every six months (para 7.4.3); rinse water cannot contain soluble fertilizer (para 7.4.4); if a growing media is used, it must conform to the standard (para 7.4.5); only food contact cleaning substances identified in section 7.3 of the PSL may come into contact with seeds or sprouts (para 7.4.6).

Principles - Processing (Section 8)

The numbering has been changed around in this section, so don't refer to your 2006 version as it won't

align in all cases with the referenced paragraph numbers given here.

Ingredients/Food Additives and Processing Aids

In the 2006 version, there was a requirement that all agriculture ingredients in a 95% and above product had to be organic; this requirement has been excised. Now non-organic agricultural ingredients are allowed but only within the 5% non-organic margin and only if not available in the equivalent organic form (para 8.2.3) and cost cannot be a consideration. For example, if you use a ground meal of some type in your recipe, but it is only commercially available in its whole form then you can purchase the non-organic meal if it and the other non-organic ingredients constitute less than 5% of the product makeup. But you must be able to substantiate that any of these non-organic agriculture ingredients used (para 8.2.6) are not genetically engineered, been exposed to ionizing radiation, or derived from cloned animals. Availability must be reviewed annually.

Some other considerations to keep in mind: any non-organic ingredient used within the 5% limit must be listed in the PSL (para 8.2.7), and similarly either your processing aids (e.g. bentonite, casein) must be organic or listed in section 6.6 of the PSL (para 8.3.3). If you use a processing aid listed in the PSL you must also confirm that they are not genetically engineered, been exposed to ionizing radiation, or derived from cloned animals.

Cleaning

There has been a change in cleaning requirements as the committee recognized that rinsing is not always practical, so two approaches were provided.

If a cleaning product comes into direct contact with organic food or food contact surfaces (para 8.3.7) and you don't want to rinse or purge, you are restricted to those cleaning products listed in PSL section 7.3 and restricted by the notations as outlined.

Subsequently paragraph 8.3.8 outlines that cleaning products listed in PSL section 7.4 can be used to clean, disinfect or sanitize organic food contact surfaces and anything else in the plant you would like to clean except the food itself. You must be sure to remove the cleaning product from the food contact surface before food comes into contact with it. This means in some cases that evaporation, or drying off

the surface can assure there is no residue. In the situation where there maybe residuals, rinsing with potable water is the most appropriate action. It is important to take a close look at PSL section 7.3, as there are only a handful of cleaning products that can come into direct contact with organic food including non-synthetic acetic acid (vinegar – organic or non-organic), citric acid and hydrogen peroxide. Cleaning products that don't have to be removed from food contact surfaces include those previously mentioned plus synthetic acetic acid, isopropyl alcohol, ascorbic acid, peracetic acid, potassium bicarbonate and sodium bicarbonate.

PSL 7.4 has a slightly different focus. It covers all cleaning products that can be used on anything excluding food but if used on organic food contact surfaces they must be rinsed off with potable water. Basically, you cannot wash organic fruit and vegetables with soap and rinse it off and be in compliance with this standard. For complete details refer to the Section 7 – Permitted Substances Lists For Cleaners, Disinfectants, And Sanitizers review in the PSL Amendment article on Page 18.

Pest Control

As before, an operator must employ good manufacturing practices (para 8.4.1) such as eliminating pest habitat and food opportunities, establishing effective exclusion methods, using mechanical traps and lures and allowed repellants. If good manufacturing practices are not effective, operators can use pest control substances listed in section 6.7 of the PSL (para 8.4.2).

What is completely new is para 8.4.3, which says if the above is not effective, you may use pest control substances not listed in PSL on the exterior of your facility, but you must make sure there is no contact with organic products, and the use documented.

Paragraph 8.4.4 is not really new but it clarifies that organic products cannot be exposed to pest control products not allowed in this standard during any phase of production, transfer, storage or border crossing.


A complete rewrite was done on section 9 **Emergency Pest Or Disease Treatment** in the hopes of clarity. In the situation where any government program is doing widespread treatment of pests (gypsy moth, noxious weeds) or diseases (West Nile virus, Avian Influenza) with materials prohibited in this standard,

operators must inform their CB. Organic products exposed to these prohibited materials may lose their organic status and a transition period maybe required. This is all it outlines in the standard for emergency exposure, but the hope is that the CB will complete a risk analysis of the situation to assess how extreme is the contamination. If the risk of contamination is low (e.g. the Spinosad formulation used was not compliant) maybe only this exposed crop in the particular field needs to lose status. If the exposure was more severe a transition period for the impacted land can be imposed.

Livestock animals exposed to mandatory treatment cannot be sold as slaughterstock or as organic breeding stock as per paragraph 6.7, but can be kept in the herd. As long as the exposure occurred in the first two trimesters and these treated animals continued to be raised according to the standard, offspring of these treated animals will qualify as organic slaughterstock.

Requirements for Adding or Amending Substances in Can/CGSB-32.311 Organic Production Systems

Section 10 is now Requirements for Adding or Amending Substances in Can/CGSB-32.311 Organic Production Systems - Permitted Substance List. These requirements used to be in Section 11, while Section 10 dealt with labeling, but as all labelling information has to be in the Organic Production Regulation, all references to labelling have been removed from the standard.

I am not going to review the requirements for adding or amending a substance, but am happy to respond to questions about this section anytime. And if you want to petition for the addition, amendment or even deletion of a substance, I will be happy to assist. Each CB will also have the paperwork for this process, and remember there already exists a large backlog of submissions yet to be dealt with, so there is a possibility anything raised at this point may take at least a year to get to the table for discussion. 

You can contact Rochelle Eisen, Organic Extension Agent at 250.547.6573 or by email at extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

PSL (CAN/CGSB-32.311) Amendments with Impacts

by Rochelle Eisen

This article only discusses substantive changes made to the **Permitted Substance List** by Amendments 1 thru 3. These changes may require operators to modify their current activities to assure compliance in 2009.

4 – PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS FOR CROP PRODUCTION

4.2 - Soil Amendments

The levels of acceptable trace contaminants in **ash (plant and animal)** from off-farm sources now have to meet the category C1 requirements outlined in Environnement Quebec's "Guidelines for beneficial use of fertilizing residuals" www.mddep.gouv.qc.ca/matieres/mat_res-en/fertilisantes/critere/index.htm. For arsenic (13 mg/kg), cadmium (3 mg/kg), chromium (210 mg/kg), copper (400 mg/kg), lead (150 mg/kg) and mercury (0.8 mg/kg).

The **bone meal** annotation duplicates the specified risk material requirements outlined in the CFIA's Fertilizer Regulation and states "*Permitted only if guaranteed free of specified risk materials including the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia (nerves attached to the brain), eyes, tonsils, spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia (nerves attached to the spinal cord) of cattle aged 30 months or older; and the distal ileum (portion of the small intestine) of cattle of all ages.*" All bone meal sold in Canada probably complies with this regulation.

It's important to recognize that the requirement to use **organic alfalfa meal and pellets** if commercially available extends to blended fertilizers containing alfalfa. The same would be true with oil **seed meals and fertilizers containing oil seed meals**. An entry for oil seed meals was added to this section during the amendment process as an allowed input.

Clarification has been added to the **cannery wastes** origin and usage requirements saying that the source must be organically grown or composted as outlined under the "Composting feedstocks" entry.

Ethoxyquin is now clearly prohibited as a **fish-based soil amendment product** preservative. **Sulphuric acid** has been added so it can be used to adjust the pH of fish-based products, but it is identified as the least preferred chemical following; organic vinegar,

organic citric acid, and phosphoric acid.

Mined sulphate of potash magnesia, **langbeinite** has been added as allowed.

The **compost** entry has been divided into 4 categories: composting feedstocks; compost produced on the farm; compost obtained from off-farm sources; and compost tea.

Regarding **composting feedstocks**, clarification has been added to assure all **animals manures destined** to be composted comply with the source requirements laid out in paragraph 5.5.1 of CAN/CGSB-32.310 (the Principles). **Forestry plant and plant by-products** have also been added, as well as **soils and minerals** complying with this standard, are acceptable as composting feedstocks.

The most important **new composting feedstock requirement** pertaining to all other materials besides animal manures (remember animal manures must comply with 5.5.1 in 32.310) is the following. If there is chance that any non-manure compost feedstock maybe contaminated with prohibited materials, either don't use it or have test results verifying that the source is clean, or documentation that these contaminants will break down during composting. It is important to remember that no matter what the source the composting feedstock criteria must be satisfied somehow. For example, to the best of my knowledge most herbicides used at least in residential areas in Canada do breakdown during thermal composting (F.Y.I. quoting this article to your CB will not be sufficient due diligence). On the other hand, aminopyralid a commercial herbicide sold in Canada under the following brand names Restore, Milestone, and De-750 does not break down even when hot composted. The same is true for its relative Clopyralid found in many Canadian commercial products such as Eclipse, Lontrel, Curtail, Prowl, Ultimax, Flaxman, Transline, Prestige, Prevail, and Fieldstar.

I remember a few years ago south of the border in Washington State when clopyralid residue traces were found in commercial composts and causing "injury to non-target plants" (people's gardens etc.). Officials figured that the herbicide was getting into the landscape waste recycling stream, probably from clopyralid-treated grass clippings being used in the composting process. I am sure there have been similar problems north of the border, although none received as much press coverage as what hap-

pened in Washington. Picloram (brand name Tordan, Grazon) is another known herbicide with long lasting residues that don't breakdown even when hot composted. Supposedly the pesticide Diazinon doesn't breakdown well during the composting process either, another good reason we should be pleased Diazinon was phased out for non-agriculture use in both Canada and the USA by 2004. Diazinon is still available for agriculture use in both countries.

Clarifying additions were made to what cannot be used as a **composting feedstock** – any source fortified with substances not listed in the PSL, such as pulp and paper mills to which urea and phosphoric acid are commonly added are prohibited. Also leather by-products, and animals and animal by-products that are not guaranteed free of specified risk materials are prohibited, along with glossy paper, paper with coloured ink and waxed cardboard etc.

Beyond satisfying all the compost feedstock criteria, you have three options on how to handle **on-farm compost**. The material must either:

- 1) Reach a temperature of 55°C (130°F) for four consecutive days or more and be turned sufficiently to make sure the entire pile reaches this temperature for the minimum amount of time.
- 2) Meet Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) limits for acceptable levels (MPN/g total solids) of human pathogens. Currently those requirements are "fecal coliforms < 1000 MPN / g of total solids calculated on a dry weight basis, OR No *Salmonella* sp. with a detection level < 3 MPN/4g total solids calculated on a dry weight basis." See Table 1 in CCME's Guidelines for Compost Quality www.ccme.ca/assets/pdf/compostgdlns_1340_e.pdf
- 3) Or, treated as raw manure and abide the pre-harvest interval requirements outlined in 5.5.3.3 of CAN/CGSB 32.310.

Similarly, compost feedstocks used in **compost obtained from off-farm sources** must meet the same composting feedstock requirements as on-farm compost, plus it:



Photo: COABC

GREENBYTES...



Photo: Pine beetle-killed Lodgepole Pines. Public Domain Image

With the BC government's recent public warning about possible health risks from exposure to B.C. pine forests sprayed with arsenic based pesticides

between the mid 80's until 2004, organic growers need to practice sufficient due diligence if purchasing any type of pine derived product for use on-farm.

- 1) Must satisfy the CCME's Category 'A' requirements for both trace contaminants and foreign matter. Refer to pages 16 and 17 in CCME's guide.
- 2) Cannot lead to a build up of heavy metals in the farm soil.
- 3) Must meet the same CCME's limits for acceptable levels (MPN/g total solids) of human pathogens as on-farm compost.

As before, all materials used for **compost tea** must comply with the requirements for each component in the standard, but criteria have been added for foliar applications of compost tea to reduce the human health risk. Therefore if compost tea is applied directly on edible parts of plants, the operator must substantiate that "best practices known to eliminate pathogens during the process have been used" or abide by the 90/120 day pre harvest requirement for raw manure applications as outlined in 5.5.3.3 of CAN/CGSB 32.310.

The entry for **plants and plant by-products** (hay, straw, leaves, crop residues) used as soil amendments has been modified to make it clearer that if treated with anything not listed in sections 6.4.1 and 6.6 of the PSL these sources can only be considered as compost feedstocks.

Processed (mechanically or physically treated) **animal manure products** are allowed as long as any substances added comply with this standard; secondly the manure priority in paragraph 5.5.1 of 32.310 has been satisfied and lastly the product free of human pathogens. If not considered safe, it should be applied as if it is raw manure (5.5.2.5 of CAN/CGSB 32.310).

The origin and usage criteria for **worm castings** (also called vermicompost, worm compost, vermicast, worm humus, or worm manure) has been clarified to make it clearer that the feedstocks must meet the new compost feedstock criteria no matter if they are produced on or off-farm.

4.3 – Crop Production Aids and Materials

This section may seem like it is saying all of these products are allowed, but that is not the case. In fact, there has to be a brand name product registered in Canada for the particular use you want and that commercial product must also meet all other criteria laid out in this standard. Therefore keep in mind this section is a list of generic products that would be allowed for, but only if there is an acceptable and compliant registered product.

Notable amendments to this section include:

Non-synthetic ethyl alcohols have been included as solvents to extract botanical insecticides.

Both **natural chelates** and **synthetic chelates** must now be specified in the PSL to be allowed. What is the difference between a natural and a synthetic chelate? Soil humic complexes and other organic soil acids that have not been chemically altered would be examples of naturally occurring chelates. If chemically treated, they would be classified as synthetic chelates. Lignin sulphonate, a by-product from the chemical pulp and paper industry is also an example of a synthetic chelate. From what I have read, supposedly natural chelates are preferred as they have increased bioavailability versus their synthetic counterparts.

If sanitation and trapping are not effectively handling a rodent problem, **cholecalciferol (vitamin D3)** can be used (as was in Book 2 ver 7) outdoors and inside greenhouses. Unfortunately right now in Canada there are no PMRA registered products containing vitamin D3.



Photo: COABC

One significant addition to this section is an entry for **formulants** which are materials commonly added to pest control products to improve their sprayability, solubility, spreadability or stability. Operators will need to confirm that all formulants present in any product that comes into direct contact with a crop is either on List 4A or 4B of the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) Regulatory Note REG2007-04 or are non-synthetic. Formulants classified as List 3 in PMRA Regulatory Note REG2007-04 may be used with passive pheromone dispensers. Formulants classified as List 1 or List 2 in PMRA Regulatory Note REG2007-04 are prohibited. REG2007-04 can be found at <http://www.pmlra-arla.gc.ca/english/pdf/reg/reg2007-04-e.pdf>

Hydrated lime now can be used as a plant disease control product.

Both **synthetic and non-synthetic pheromones** (as was in Book 2 ver 7) and other semiochemicals may be used as pest control.

Both **pyrethrum** and **rotenone** can be used if the commercial product contains only acceptable formulants and the **botanical pesticides** criteria as outlined in this section has also be satisfied. December 31, 2008 was the last day for sales of all domestic and commercial non-piscicide (non-fish killing) rotenone products in Canada. Last day for legal use of stocked inventory is Dec 31, 2012.

This may also be the time to point out that the PSL includes generic material (e.g. neem and rotenone) that aren't registered for use in Canada. This was done purposely to assure that imported food and food products from jurisdictions where the use is legal could be traded/marked and used in Canada.

Any item in section 4.3 that is appropriate can be used as a **seed treatment** along with microbial products, kelp, yucca, gypsum, clays, and botanicals.

The origin and usage note for **lime sulphur** (calcium polysulphide) has been simplified from the previous version. Lime sulphur is now "allowed as fungicide, insecticide and acaricide (mite control) on plants."

Latex paint which has been commonly used as a tree sealant and to offset southwest injury protection has been deleted to align with the USDA National Organic Program.

Regarding all **cleaners, disinfectants** listings previously in this section – each entry has been reviewed and if retained has been moved to section 7 - Permitted Substances Lists for Cleaners, Disinfectants and Sanitizers of the PSL [See chart

on facing page]. Some uses have been restricted, be sure to review this section.

5 – PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

5.1 - Classification

Livestock product substances are now categorized into a) Feed, Feed Additives and Feed Supplements and b) Health Care Products and Production Aids. Refer to section 7 for cleaning product listings.

5.2 – Feed, Feed Additives and Feed Supplements

Organic **milk replacer** must be used when commercially available and if non-organic milk replacer is used, not only does it have to be antibiotic and animal fat free, but it cannot contain any by-products.



Photo: COABC

5.3 – Health Care Products and Production Aids (Livestock)

Only 3% pharmaceutical grade **hydrogen peroxide** can be used as an external disinfectant, while a 35-50% food grade source must be used for livestock drinking water (dilution rates are listed in the guidance document).

The **chlorohexidine** entry was clarified to make it clear that it is only allowed for use as a post-milking teat dip (no pre-milking use allowed). The **mineral oil** origin and use entry was simplified to “for external use only”.

The **oxytocin** origin and usage entry has been expanded to make it clearer that meat from treated animals will not lose organic status, as long as the withdrawal time requirement specified in par. 6.7.6.d [editorial note: current version shows 6.7.6.c this needs to be corrected] of CAN/CGSB 32.310 is adhered to and the oxytocin is being used for post parturition therapeutic use only (e.g. retained placenta and failure to let down milk).

SUMMARY TABLE for PSL 7.3 & 7.4 (Cleaners, Disinfectants and Sanitizers)

If You Use These Types Of Cleaning Products	Type of Contact	Is An Intermediary Step Necessary?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-synthetic acetic acid - Vinegar (organic or non) - Citric acid - Hydrogen peroxide 	In direct contact with organic food	No – see PSL 7.3
All the above plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Synthetic acetic acid - Isopropyl alcohol - Ascorbic acid - Peracetic acid - Potassium bicarbonate - Sodium bicarbonate 	In contact with food surfaces before food comes into contact with the food surface	No – see PSL 7.3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bleach (chlorine) - Caustic potash (potassium hydroxide) - Detergents - Iodine - Lime - Lye (sodium hydroxide) - Phosphoric acid - Potassium permanganate - Soaps - Soap-based algaecide demossers - Sodium borate - Surfactants - Wetting agents 	In contact with organic food surfaces	Yes – see PSL 7.4

6 – PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS FOR PROCESSING

As mentioned elsewhere, cleaning products have been moved into Section 7, so the title of this section was modified to reflect that change.

6.3 – Non-organic Ingredients Classified as Food Additives

Both **sulphurous acid** and **potassium metabisulphite** can be used when making certified organic fruit-based alcoholic beverages. The maximum allowable levels are outlined in the standard and vary with the residual sugar levels. Potassium metabisulphite is permitted as an alternative to sulphur wicks and bottled SO₂ as it is safer, more readily available, and easier to handle in smaller quantities.

The **calcium chloride** origin and usage note was clarified to make it clear it can be used in “milk products/fat products/fruits and vegetables/soybean products.”

The origin and usage restriction for sodium hydroxide has been deleted.

6.4 – Non-organic Ingredients Not Classified as Food Additives

Natural **potassium iodide** is now permitted when legally required. A notation was added to the **salt (sodium chloride)** origin and usage requiring that “only substances listed in table 6.4.1 or 6.4.2 may be added to mined or sea salt.”

There is no longer any restrictive annotation for **oxygen**, while the annotation for **nitrogen** has been changed to require the use of food-grade quality.

6.6 – Processing Aids

Bentonite and cellulose have been added as filtering aids; the cellulose has to be non-chlorine bleached.

Rice hulls, powdered milk and **egg white** were removed. This means only organic forms of these three items are acceptable.

Calcium hydroxide (Lime) has been added, with no restrictions.

Activated charcoal is now clearly prohibited for use in processing maple syrup.

The **casein** annotation was modified making it mandatory to use organic casein if it is commercially available.

Gelatine (gelatin) can now be used as long as guaranteed free of specified risk materials, and the organic form used when commercially available.

There is no longer any restrictive annotation for **oxygen**, while the annotation for **nitrogen** has been changed to require the use of food-grade quality.

A new addition to the Processing Aid section is **vegetable oil** which can be used “as a sprayed-on greasing agent.” There is one caveat – the source could not have been manufactured using synthetic solvents.

6.7 – Pest Control Substances

Ammonium carbonate can be used as an attractant in insect traps while **boric acid** can be used for structural pest control (e.g. ants) if there is no direct contact with organic food or crops.

Usage of **cholecalciferol (vitamin D3)** as a bait has been restricted to the exterior of food processing and storage facilities. And as mentioned in section 4.3, there are currently no PMRA registered rodenti-

cides containing vitamin D3 available.

Neem oil, an extract from *Azadirachta indica*, a tropical shrubby tree, has been added to the PSL but as there are no registered PMRA products containing neem it cannot be used within Canada. Neem has been added to the PSL to allow ingredients and products produced in other countries where it is legal to use neem to be imported and used in Canada.

7 – PERMITTED SUBSTANCES LISTS FOR CLEANERS, DISINFECTANTS, AND SANITIZERS

For complete insight to the revised cleaning requirements, be sure to read the Cleaning portion of the ‘Principles Amendments with Impacts’ article on Page 12 as well as the Summary Table on Page 17.

7.3 – Food-grade cleaners, disinfectants and sanitizers that are allowed without a mandatory removal event

Potassium bicarbonate has been added as a non-rinse material but for equipment only.

7.4 – Cleaners, disinfectants and sanitizers that shall be removed from surfaces in contact with organic food

The entry for **bleach** was slightly modified to make it clear that any chlorinated water applied to crops or food from any source cannot exceed the legal free chlorine levels for safe drinking water. For BC, that level is 0.2 mg/L.


A **soap** listing was added and the origin and usage annotation clearly outlines what are acceptable soaps as products consisting of fatty acids derived from animal or vegetable oils. Similarly, an entry for **surfactants** was added to make sure that all surfactants used are biodegradable (same requirement as detergents). 



Photo: COABC

THE 2008 BC ORGANIC SECTOR STRATEGIC PLANNING PROJECT

Developed by Karen Fenske of StratPoint Solutions for COABC

Executive Summary

Change is constant, change is challenging and CHANGING A CULTURE is exactly what the organic sector is doing. Those who practice and support organic agriculture are in the process of shifting the world to sustainable behaviours which will provide healthy people, thriving animals, and nutrition packed plants. Their goal of resurrecting our world from a self-destructive path is being achieved one farm at a time, one consumer at a time and one member of the next generation at a time.

Though this project began in search of an answer to increase supply, the results represent a broader picture. Organic practices impact environmental protection and restoration, animal welfare, food safety, food quality, food security, standards, climate change, health, and social welfare issues. The sector has a variety of stakeholders who play foundational roles such as accreditation and certification, advocacy, communication, advertising, information, research, education, marketing, and organizational capacity development. This plan includes actions for all segments of the sector which will not only increase supply but move forward the organic movement with a collaborative and organized approach.

The BC organic sector maintains a double digit annual growth pattern. This demand has presented attractive financial returns, sparking interest among new entrants and conventional participants. However, this demand which continues to outstrip supply has presented problems with import infilling, reduced profit margins and integrity issues. The BC Organic sector sits on the crest of continued advancement with choices to promote local produce, healthy food, positive environmental and socio-economic impacts and inclusion of more producers.

During the period of this plan, the Federal Government Growing Forward plan will be put into action, the Canadian Organic Regime is expected to be implemented, the market will need time to recover from this year's turbulence and the human resource issues will need time to transform. This will be a period during which people need to use the many resources available to strengthen the tools that are already in place and to be creative about developing initiatives which will require minimal resources with a broad impact. Funding will need to be injected into the most strategic initiatives.

A strategic plan is a tool that can be used like a map to maintain course on the way to the target. Regular

performance evaluation is required to ensure stakeholders can adjust to the external impacts quickly and efficiently. COABC is expected to take ownership of this plan with the hope that at some point in the future the BC Organic Sector Roundtable (BCOSR) would take on this responsibility.

In conclusion, this plan will challenge BC sector participants while at the same time provide recognition of the many players that can work together. There is more work to do and the pieces are in place. The mistake that people make is seeking the "one thing" that will make it better today. Reality is, no one thing will take the organic movement forward rather it is the synergy of human beings' activities that advance change. This need for diversity is the strength of the BC organic sector and working together is the key. This plan supports that vision.

Emerging Trends

- ★ Governments around the globe are including directives and increasing financial support to develop and implement SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES that have a positive impact on climate change, social and environmental factors, and health.
- ★ The trend towards SAFETY AND EQUIVALENT SYSTEMS is increasing standardization, assessments and labeling practices on global, national and provincial levels.
- ★ The DEVALUING OF FARMING as a respected career choice means fewer people are choosing to work as agricultural producers. However, there has been a steady increase of organic producers.
- ★ The AGING POPULATION is an issue impacting every sector. As organic sector producers and participants involved in the movement for decades are aging, the need to find new operators to continue production and new advocates to keep the momentum going is urgent. There is also a reduced number of researchers, educators, standards and policy makers, and agriculture professionals.

...continued on page 26



FROM FIELD TO TABLE....BC ORGANIC! CONFERENCE and AGM
Tradex, Fraser Valley Trade and Exhibition Centre, 1190 Cornell St., B.C.
February 20 – 22, 2009

We are very excited with what we have planned for you at this years COABC Conference and AGM. Mark your calendars so you can join us for the workshops, the Organic Tastings, Organic Feast & so much more!

GENERAL

The conference package, including workshop program and registration form, are included in your copy of the BC Organic Grower and are also posted on COABC's website at www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca

The COABC Conference will be held at the Fraser Valley Trade and Exhibition Centre (Tradex) which is situated in the heart of British Columbia's picturesque Fraser Valley. Tradex is the second largest facility of its kind in British Columbia and an industry leader in a growing market.

The Centre is located just 50 minutes from Vancouver along the scenic Trans-Canada Highway and immediately adjacent to the Abbotsford International Airport (YXX). The street address is 1190 Cornell Street. The Centre offers a large parking lot and is minutes to the Best Western Bakerview Inn which boasts a central location in the Fraser Valley. The Bakerview location is close to various sports venues, the business district, excellent shopping and outdoor activities. You can take in the spectacular view of Mount Baker.

If you're flying into the Abbotsford Airport and **you need ground transportation arrangements, call the conference office and we'll gladly assist you.**

The **Friday night 'Organic Tastings' reception** will be held at Peardonville Hall at 29450 Huntington Road, Abbotsford. The **Saturday evening Organic Feast (with entertainment and Silent Auction)** will be held at Bradner Hall at 5305 Bradner Road, Abbotsford.

ACCOMMODATION

When you're booking, you must say that you want the COABC attendees rate of \$89.00/day plus tax. The Best Western Bakerview Inn is holding rooms at the conference rate. The rate will be held until February 1st. For those of you travelling with pets, they are most welcome to stay at the Bakerview.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Every effort will be made to enhance your enjoyment of the Conference. If you have dietary, child care or other requirements, **please contact the Conference office.**

TRADE SHOW

Trade shows are a great way to showcase your products. We welcome suppliers of approved inputs: seeds; appropriate technology; marketing tools; resource materials;the list is endless. Producers, distributors, retailers, processors – **book your Trade Show tables through the Conference office.**

POSTER SESSIONS

We are pleased to offer free space for poster presentations. If there's something related to organic production that you want the rest of us to know about, **contact the Conference office to book free space.**

CERTIFIED ORGANIC ASSOCIATIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Conference Coordinator: Donna Scheven, email donna@dsevents.ca Phone: 604-607-0644
Conference Office: 8561 Bradner Road, Abbotsford, BC, V4X 2H5



FROM FIELD TO TABLE.....BC ORGANIC! CONFERENCE and AGM
Tradex, Fraser Valley Trade and Exhibition Centre, 1190 Cornell St., Abbotsford, B.C.
February 20 – 22, 2009

Conference Schedule

Friday

- 1:00 – 3:00 pm How Do I Transition to Certified Organic?
Organic Misconceptions & Pitfalls
Producer Perspective
- 3:00 – 3:45 Fresh Voice Winners
5:00 - 9:00 Reception: Organic Tastings and cash bar (at Peardonville Hall)

Saturday

- 9:00 – 10:00 am Organics Under the Canadian Organic Regime
10:00 – 10:30 Food Safety on the Farm
10:30 – 10:40 Break
10:40 – 11:30 Research in the Field
Research in the Greenhouse
11:30 – 12:00 Energy in the Field
12:00 – 1:00 Lunch
1:00 – 2:00 Trends in the Market Place
2:00 – 2:15 Opportunities in the Market Place
2:15 – 2:30 Break
2:30 – 3:30 Pricing and Getting into the Market Place
4:00 – 5:00 PAS Viewing time
6:00 – 10:00 Organic Feast for COABC Stakeholders and the public
(includes the feast, entertainment and silent auction at Bradner Hall)

Sunday

- 8:30 -10:00 Light Breakfast
10:00 -12:00 COABC AGM
Closing Keynote and farewells
Directors Lunch
Directors Meeting
To be announced: A Round Table session for VO's, CC and CB Administrators

CERTIFIED ORGANIC ASSOCIATIONS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Conference Coordinator: Donna Scheven email donna@dsevents.ca Phone: 604-607-0644
Conference Office: 8561 Bradner Road, Abbotsford, B.C., V4X 2H5



FROM FIELD TO TABLE...BC ORGANIC! CONFERENCE and AGM
Tradex, Fraser Valley Trade and Exhibition Centre, 1190 Cornell St., Abbotsford, B.C.
February 20 – 22, 2009

REGISTRATION FORM:

Registration Deadline is February 06, 2009. Late registration subject to \$20 additional fee, except Option 4.

Name: _____ Farm Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

I am a member of (certifying body): _____

Please choose from these options:

_____ **Option 1: Full Conference:** _____ x **\$145.00** = _____

Includes Pass to Friday & Saturday COABC and Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association (LMHIA) Short Course workshops, a pass to the Pacific Agriculture Show, Poster Session, Organic Tasting Reception; Saturday Organic Feast, entertainment and Silent Auction; Sunday Brunch and COABC AGM

_____ **Option 2: Mini Conference:** _____ x **\$105.00** = _____

Includes pass to the Friday & Saturday COABC and LMHIA Short Course workshops, a pass to the Pacific Agriculture Show, Poster Session and Saturday night Organic Feast, entertainment and Silent Auction

_____ **Option 3: Saturday (conference only):** _____ x **\$75.00** = _____

Includes pass to the Friday & Saturday COABC and LMHIA Short Course Workshops, a pass to the Pacific Agriculture Show

_____ **Option 4: Friday (evening only):** _____ x **\$12.00** = _____

Includes appetizers, Organic Tastings and cash bar (maximum 100 tickets)

_____ **Saturday (evening only):** _____ x **\$35.00** = _____

Includes Organic Feast, entertainment and Silent Auction

TOTAL: _____

_____ I would like to volunteer to assist during the conference.

I have the following dietary requirements: _____

The item I can donate to the auction is (describe): _____

The food I can donate for the meals is (describe): _____

Program Administrator:



Please make your cheque payable to COABC and mail it and this form to:
COABC Conference Office, 8561 Bradner Road, Abbotsford, BC, V4X 2H5

Conference Coordinator: Donna Scheven, email: donna@dsevents.ca, Phone: 604-607-0644

For more information about the Pacific Agriculture Show go to: <http://www.agricultureshow.net>

For more information on the Lower Mainland Horticultural Improvement Association (LMHIA)

Short Course workshops go to: www.agricultureshow.net

Growing Malt Barley: Tips from a Maltster

By Matthias Haaben

As an organic producer of malt, I would like to find a significant local source of organic barley for my needs. While I'm not an expert in grain farming, I hope that the following tips and thoughts can help organic farmers who are considering growing malting barley.

The choice of barley, crop rotation, and how you fertilize influences the protein levels in the grain, which is important in malting. Moderate climate and moisture conditions during the growing season are favorable for the developing of the malting quality in barley. The best soil is one that can hold water, such as light clay or a mix of sand and clay. Irrigation is a benefit because you can control the moisture and therefore the development of the protein. In terms of fertilizer, you must be very careful with the addition of nitrogen to your soil, as this will impact protein levels.

When it comes to keeping the weeds under control, a lot of farmers let the weeds grow for awhile and plow them under before seeding the barley. I am not clear on exactly what the right crop rotation is, although I know that some farmers grow barley on wheat stubble and others on canola stubble. Others think that growing barley after legumes would be best, although I think that legumes are not the best to have ahead of malting barley because of the amount of nitrogen they leave in the ground, which can lead to high protein content in the barley. With wheat stubble the challenge may be that there will be enough wheat seeds left on the ground to result in a barley crop contaminated with wheat, as wheat is very hard, if not impossible, to clean out of the barley.

Bin space is also an important factor. Gambrinus has limited bin space and the barley sometimes needs to be stored on-farm until we have the capacity to receive. We strive to make this work for everyone involved.

Price-wise, it's hard to predict where the market is going. The last grain I purchased was around \$10.50 a bushel (\$482/mt) for grain. Yet, I paid more than this a few days earlier, and less a few days later. Predicting grain prices is like looking into a cloudy crystal ball!


I also expect the grain to be clean when delivered. Some batches are clean enough to be hauled in without the grain going through an extra cleaner, but most organic barley contains quite a bit of wild oats. Our cleaner in the malt house cannot separate

these two grains, which means your lots need to be cleaned prior to delivery.

All varieties recommended by the Canadian Barley Technical Centre are acceptable. These are Copeland, Metcalf, Harrington, Kendall and Newdale. Newdale is a new variety that we have not yet malted at our facility, so I have yet to test the performance of this barley. My favorite is Copeland, which should give a 120% yield on the same field as Harrington. This yield is close to what you can achieve with feed varieties and if a farmer's barley fails to meet my specifications, it can still be marked as feed barley, which is something I can assist with.

For the malting process, the following specifications are needed:

- ★ Germination power: above 95%
- ★ Protein: below 11% (some grain between 11% and 12% will be accepted, but don't count on it)
- ★ Assortment: plumpness of 95% or higher. I expect more than 50% on a 7/64 screen.
- ★ Moisture: below 13.5%
- ★ The grain has to be free of foreign seed and there must be no insect infestation

This pretty much exhausts what I know about barley growing and I hope this information is helpful to farmers. 

Matthias Haaben is the General Manager of Gambrinus Malting in Armstrong B.C.



Photo: U.S. Department of Agriculture



Sponsorship Programs



Become a COABC Sponsor and cultivate the growth of certified organic food and agriculture throughout British Columbia.

The Certified Organic Associations of BC relies on generous financial partnerships with allied organizations to support our operations and essential programs. This is your opportunity to expose your brand to a large and growing target market.

Please join us in promoting a healthier, more vital and prosperous region by becoming a sponsor of COABC. Our diverse sponsorship programs include value-added sponsor benefits and comprehensive exposure. For more information, and to reserve your exclusive sponsorship opportunity, please contact the COABC Sponsorship Administrator, Karen Fenske at 250-260-4429.

In addition to sponsorship COABC offers advertising in their journal that is distributed to over 700 organic producers in B.C. For more information about advertising please call the COABC office: 250-260-4429.

Good for You, Good for the Environment

202-3002 32nd Ave, Vernon, BC V1T 2L7 Phone: 250-260-4429 Fax: 250-260-4436
www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca



Sponsorship Programs

Sector Quarterly Journal BC Organic Grower (BCOG)

It goes out to close to 700 subscribers in the BC organic sector including all members of the organizations belonging to the Certified Organic Association of British Columbia. The BCOG has been in print for over 10 years and is well respected in the sector. It is a source of technical learning and sector information, including research updates and events. Your support will help keep this valuable tool available and support more cutting-edge content.

Annual Conference

This is the organic sector event of the year! This fun and educational opportunity has become a tradition which includes special speakers, workshops, networking and social events. All COABC members, organic agricultural enthusiasts, and the general public are invited. Advertising for the 2009 conference will have a reach of 1,142,000. Your support makes this event possible!

Website

When people are looking for BC organics they discover our website first! It has experienced a 194% increase in traffic since 2004. Our website includes a user-friendly database of certified products, who produces them, how to become certified, local events, learning options and so much more. COABC members, those thinking of becoming certified and consumers have come to rely on this site! Being a sponsor of the COABC website represents a partnership with people who are working to provide healthy food, from healthy soil, with sustainable practices.

Cyber-help for Organic Farmers

One of the best online farming resources in BC and across Canada! It experiences an average of 11,000 page views monthly and has over 60 relevant incoming links from web sites and blogs. It is #1 ranking on Google for organic farming news, organic fruit prices, organic companies, and organic seed sources searches. Our objective is to encourage organic and alternative food production in Canada by improving accessibility to quality organic farming content online. Visit www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca to learn more. Your support will increase our capacity to provide more current information, answer more Q&A and provide more up-to-date coverage of Canadian farming networking opportunities.

Pacific Agricultural Show (PAS)

The PAS is an annual event which attracts over 7500 farmers and producers from across BC, Alberta and the Pacific Northwest. It is the largest BC agricultural show with over 200 exhibitors, high-end educational sessions and infinite networking possibilities. As the sponsor for this event you will make it possible for COABC to provide an organic presence in the agriculture sector of BC.

Regional Seminars

In just 3 years over 15 workshops have occurred in various regions of the province. Our objective is to encourage organic food production in BC by sponsoring educational events that bring the expert to the growers in their own communities. The goal is to improve the knowledge base of BC producers so that they can either improve on what they are already doing or expand into new organic opportunities. Your support will allow us to continue this project and eventually increase the diversity of speakers.

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www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca



Photo: Carrie Ferguson volunteers to bring in the Transparent Apple harvest at Ripple Farm. By Moss Dance

...continued from page 19

- ★ Reduced VOLUNTEERISM is being felt across the nation. This affects organizations in several ways: there are fewer people to do the work and some tasks that volunteers once did are now paid positions. The long term affect of a lack of volunteer participation in policy development and standardization activities could compromise Canada's ability to influence policy and international standards.
- ★ There is increased support for healthy, safe food, good animal welfare practices, fair labour practices, and sustainable practices that REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS and IMPROVE HEALTH at the consumer, organizational and government levels. There is a strong consumer demand for LOCAL products and AUTHENTICITY in product development and advertising can dictate success or failure.
- ★ The internet has created A GLOBAL WORK PLACE where people can work from anywhere; communication is easy and information is at your finger-

tips. Opting to collaborate can be easy, cheap and environmentally friendly.

- ★ There are a variety of factors that are contributing to a "DOOM AND GLOOM" world economic forecast. This results in "tight pockets" for low-risk initiatives. Not-for-profit organizations are implementing Sponsorship Programs to diversify their funding base. This provides money to the organization for development and meets individual and corporate social responsibility goals.
- ★ The need to feed the rising global population has lead parties to turn to alternative methods.

Bindweed Support Group

Are you are field bindweed sufferer? Do you suffer in silence? Did you just wake up one morning and it was there? Have you been ignoring the signs? Stay tuned for "The Bindweed Monologues" in the Spring '09 Issue of the BCOG.



In the meantime, contact
Rochelle Eisen 250-547-6573
extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca
 to join the...

Field Bindweed Sufferers Society (FBSS)

An informal approach to a serious problem – you don't have to feel alone anymore!

Though some organizations have chosen to “teach people to fish” and grow their own food, others have moved towards doing whatever it takes to increase yields including GENETICALLY MODIFYING elements of the food-chain. This will impact the organic movement as it becomes harder to source seeds, as the air becomes filled with contaminated particles and our ability to prevent GMOs in the food chain becomes impossible.

- ★ More organic products are available, mostly from imports, which has impacted the premium prices that producers have been used to. Producer PROFIT MARGINS will continue to decline as the economies of scale and resources available to large companies and importers increase their competitiveness.
- ★ To increase production, the most popular direct solutions appear to be increasing MARKETING-PROCESSING COOPERATIVES and implementing VALUE-ADDED PROCESSING.
- ★ In the past, there has been a trend to centralization, with a few large players providing the market. Though some producers continue to increase their capacity, there exists the growth of smaller operations. It is possible that with the “buy local” trends and the cultural shift to reduce the environmental footprint the emergence of smaller organic MICRO-PRODUCERS will continue.

Recommendations

Movement in one area won't increase supply but action in the following areas will.

One of the key solutions to sustaining the BC organic sector will be to COLLABORATE. Around the globe organic organizations are recognizing the ease and benefits of working together to maximize resources to achieve a greater impact over a broader range of people. Insufficient human and financial resources combined with the long “to do list” of a diverse sector has made progress a complex task. This has led to a perceived lack of cooperation and disorganization along the BC organic value-chain. Developing the BC ORGANIC SECTOR ROUNDTABLE will provide the missing link in the BC organic infrastructure. Much like the Table Filière Biologique du Quebec the BCOSR would bring industry leaders and governments together to create and advance the agendas of industry and sector participants for BC. This group will bring together players from all points in the value

chain: producers, processors, retailers, ministries, aligned and complimentary organizations, and others, to build and implement a shared strategic vision for their sectors. This should be a priority especially in light of tough times when “doing a lot with a little” will be the motto for success.

Continuing to ADVOCATE for and against the many issues which impact organic practices and outcomes such as GMOs, miss-aligned taxation policies, import efficacy, etc. needs to happen in order to maintain a thriving organic marketplace. The OFC, COO, OTA, National Organic Value Chain Roundtable, and COABC will all need support from the BC organic sector. Ensure mechanisms are in place to provide volunteers and communication liaisons. The BCOSR can produce an organized approach to policy makers. This could result in more support for RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT for ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION in such ways as to reduce greenhouse gases.

The organic sector needs CLEAR MESSAGING to the government about its environmental benefits. A message needs to be drafted that defines what organic systems can do in language that governments and agriculture professionals recognize. SUBSTANTIATING CLAIMS regarding organic products and systems either through current or new research will be essential to maintaining credibility. In general, there needs

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<p>625B Veterans Avenue Box 372 Keremeos BC V0X 1N0 ph: 250-499-2900 fax: 250-499-2960 Info Line: 250-498-3011 svalley@vip.net</p>	

to be a better understanding of the overall health and wellness, social and environmental sustainability, nutritional benefits and other leading benefits of organic farming.

Training up NEW FARMERS is a challenge to be addressed with urgency. Though there has been a steady increase of organic producers over the past decade, it takes years of education and communication to lead a cultural shift. Many of this and the next generation have no idea where their food comes or how to grow it. Continuing to EDUCATE, at all levels including the children of the next generation, the importance of farming is the one way to have a positive impact on Canada's food security situation. Continue to develop and support learning options such as mentorship and apprenticeship programs, formal and workshop structures, and increase one-to-one on-site and long distance choices. The addition of the Organic Extension Services has proved to be a well received and fills a valuable gap. More funding to expand this type of service will be critical for sector development.

Regardless of the tools, for SUCCESSION from aging to new stakeholders to be successful, an attitude of cooperation will need to be fostered using communication and conflict resolution skills and professional mediators. "Passing the baton" is a difficult process during which seasoned members have to give room for new participants to put their energy and ideas into action while new stakeholders can admire the hard work and progress made by their predecessors. Each group can glean valuable knowledge from the other; the trick is learning to work together. Another challenge is that those who once volunteered need to be able to "let go" of any resentment that exists because "they worked hard for no pay." If this isn't kept in check new participants will turn away. As well, those who choose to work for small not-for-profits can't necessarily expect the "corporate rate." SEEKING BEST PRACTICE can add new innovation with tried and true methods!



Photo: COABC

Though more sector members are computer and internet savvy, there are still many who won't use the computer and its tools, which means information access has improved but the traditional methods are still necessary. There is a plethora of information regarding organics and developing tools which aid end-user ability

to navigate the information efficiently will still be important. Even with all this, INFORMATION REGARDING MARKET OPPORTUNITIES still needs to be gathered and provided in a usable format.


The movement to buying locally produced food may result in retailers, wholesalers and distributors buying closer to home. The logistics and economics of sourcing from many small producers is a hurdle vendors will need to address to keep their customers. Suppliers and vendors can work together to ensure expectations are clear, distribution is efficient and paperwork is straightforward. In this vein, developing marketing and/or processing COOPERATIVES via the Co-operative Development Initiative will be critical to maximize energy efficiency and minimize transportation. Providing more staff in the form of EXTENSION WORKERS who can facilitate the progress of the groups and then work alongside industry to develop the infrastructure will be constructive.

At the same time, the BC government Budget Consultation Committee recently recommended that more money should be allocated to DEVELOP THE BC PROCESSING INFRASTRUCTURE. This continues to be the weakest link in the value chain. Working towards on-farm value-added processing, small scale certified processors or renovating current processors to run organic lines will require financial support mechanisms for INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT, and energetic producers and industry members. A long term goal could be to follow the lead of other countries who are working on guidelines to certify organic cosmetics and new products; the BC sector has other issues which require urgent attention at this time.

Some global and Canadian provincial organic leaders are in the process of exploring and experimenting with frameworks within which MICRO-PRODUCERS of organic products can be included while providing a guarantee to the consumer that standards are being met. BC is at a critical stage of either welcoming these micro-producers into an organized framework within which they can contribute effectively to the organic sector or they will organize themselves. It is recommended to explore the option of ANOTHER LEVEL OF PRODUCER as it could mean an increase in organic movement participants and a stronger voice. Ignoring this trend will result in producers who don't certify or don't renew certification which will weaken the organic sector. Legislating the word "organic" may be a partial solution that does not have a consensus at this time.

The trend towards safety and equivalent systems has resulted in the development and implementation of the Canadian Organic Regime (COR). Focusing energy and resources to IMPLEMENT THE COR in the immediate future are required and a plan for contin-

ued evaluation will need to be developed. There is anxiety around preparedness and final outcomes of the implementation which planning, communication, and training can alleviate. However, not until most people have lived through it will the tension subside. The strong consumer demand for local products will also have a positive impact on BC products which have been certified therefore a BRANDING CAMPAIGN FOR THE BC CERTIFIED ORGANIC PROGRAM would be timely.

Finally, it is preferred by this project's committee that COABC CONTINUES to operate with the vision, mission and purposes as outlined in their declarations. The idea of becoming just an accreditor is not well supported or recommended at this time. Without COABC there would not be an organized body to move the organic movement forward in BC. However, in making this recommendation COABC is not responsible for all the organic sector work and should be diligent at taking the time to decide what they will do and how they will do it because it does not have the staff, volunteers or money to do everything that can be done. The best practice is to implement an annual planning meeting in late fall during which activities would be chosen and resources allocated via the budget, and the operational plan and the board workplan. 

Funding Partners for The 2008 BC Organic Sector Strategic Planning Project.:



Jerry Kitt
(780) 356-2285



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Husky Mohawk Community Rebate Program

COABC is involved with the **Husky Mohawk Community Rebate Program** in order to raise additional funds for the organisation. Husky forwards 2% of the loyalty card users' purchases to COABC in the form of a rebate. All COABC members were sent a card in 2005 and a small amount of members have been using the card resulting in an average rebate of \$125 per quarter. We still need more help to raise funds using this loyalty program.

If you would like to receive a card or additional cards, please contact the COABC office at (250) 260-4429 or email us at office@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

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Events and Announcements...

Regional Seminars

The Regional Seminar Series sponsors educational events that bring the expert to the growers, to support encourage organic food production in BC. Money is available for additional events. Contact Rochelle Eisen, your Organic Extension Agent for funding details at 250.547.6573, extension@certifiedorganic.bc.ca.

COABC Research Fund

The COABC has developed a research fund for research in BC and it is looking for project proposals that offer relevant solutions to practical problems in organic production. Project results should have a broad application to organic farmers in BC. The COABC contribution to projects is typically \$5,000 or less, but the COABC will consider a larger contribution. There is no requirement for matching funds, but preference will be given to projects that match COABC Research Funds with the Organic Sector Development Program or another source. Applications will be accepted once every year. See the website for deadlines, contact, applications and process: <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/programs/research.htm>.

Hopper Research Update

BCMAL's entomologist Tracy Hueppelsheuser provided an update on the preliminary review of their first year of data and it appears they were getting some level of grasshopper control with Entrust (Spinosad). Of course, she still has to crunch the numbers, repeat the experiment (a few more times), and if the numbers ring true, apply to get the product registered for this use. Tracy also made sure to point to some excellent resources on grasshoppers, including one by Canada's leading grass-

hopper expert Dr. Dan Johnson from University of Lethbridge that can be found at http://people.uleth.ca/~dan.johnson/htm/dj_gh_guide.htm. She also mentioned Dr. Stefan Jaronski, with USDA ARS in Sidney, Montana and the website www.sidney.ars.usda.gov/grasshopper/.

EFPP Update

The Environmental Farm Program will be continuing in 2009. All levels of government and industry representatives are at the table reviewing the existing program so it may look and feel a little different especially after April 1, 2009. Contact Paddy Doherty 250.747.3287 or paddy@quesnelbc.com for further information.

BC Agri-Food Sector Climate Action Initiative

Factsheets Now Available

Two factsheets on climate change and the BC agriculture sector are now available on the COABC website at: www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/infonews.htm. **Fact Sheet 1** addresses the question: What is climate change & how will it impact BC agriculture? **Fact Sheet 2** focuses on the issues and opportunities that are relevant to BC agriculture in relation to greenhouse gas emission offsets. The Climate Action Initiative is a joint undertaking of the BC Agriculture Council and the Investment Agriculture Foundation with funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

CLASSIFIEDS

42,000sqft Dutch-style, glass greenhouse with 2500 sqft header house, automatic venting, gravel floor. Looking to rent all or part, price negotiable. Prefer organic grower or group of growers. Ladner near Tsawassen. Call John: 604-952-4476

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Item	Units	Unit Price	Quantity Discount	Quantity	Total
Plastic 10 lb apple bags/vented	250/wicket	\$12.00	4 wickets \$40.00		
Stickers 1" round	1000 pc roll	\$11.00	10 rolls \$90.00		
Stickers 1 1/4" round	1000 pc roll	\$11.00	10 rolls \$90.00		
Twist Ties 10" (15,000 per case)*	1000 pc	\$13.00	Full Case-\$165.00		

The packaging materials above are only available to COABC Certified Organic members.

Have you signed a new Consent to use Official Marks Declaration Form (revised July 2006)? Y/N

Have all your labels been reviewed by your CB? Y/N

With which products will you be using the packaging materials? _____

Promo Materials: available to everyone	Member \$	Non-member \$			
Cloth Aprons with 3 pockets	\$12.50	\$12.50	PST taxable		
NEW bucket hats size M or L	\$15.75	\$15.75	PST taxable		
Ball Caps	\$13.10	\$13.10	PST taxable		
Green T-shirts L or XL *	\$18.00	\$18.00	PST taxable		
Natural T-shirts (Logo) M or L*	\$10.50	\$10.50	PST taxable		
Natural T-shirts (Plain) S M L XL or XXL *	\$6.50	\$6.50	PST taxable		
Organic Tree Fruit Management	\$32.00	\$39.95	No PST		
Steel in the Field	\$25.00	\$25.00	No PST		
Livestock Nutrition	\$12.00	\$12.00	No PST		
Sub-total (before taxes and shipping):					

*Limited quantities available - please contact the COABC office for availability

GST # 887782431 RT 0001

Postage Rates

Minimum charge of \$10.00 per order for any promo and/or packaging materials

GST will be added to postage amounts

Rates vary and will be calculated at the office

An invoice will be sent with your order. Postage and applicable taxes will be added to your invoice.

Please do not send payment before receiving invoice.

Quit talking to the fencepost...

Bring your ideas
to the **COABC**
Conference!

2009 **FRESH VOICES CONTEST**

**CALL FOR AUDIO, VISUAL OR WRITTEN
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OF SUCCESSFUL ORGANIC FARMING**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:
JANUARY 23, 2009**

**First Prize - \$500 • Second Prize - \$300 • Third Prize - \$200
plus expenses paid to Abbotsford to attend the conference**

More information at: www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/AGM2009/contest.php



British Columbia
Certified Organic