



under the oak

The Voice of Organics in the Atlantic / La voix de l'Industrie biologique de l'Atlantique

ISSUE 12, WINTER 2003/04

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On The Fence Post

Welcome to ACORN News, for all Rural Delivery readers who haven't heard of ACORN. ACORN has been in existence since December 2000, and aims to enhance the viability and growth of the Atlantic Canadian organic agricultural community through a unified regional network.

Our annual Organic Conference and Trade Show is shaping up to be one of the best ever- with notable speakers including Dr. Elaine Ingham of the Soil Food Web; Debbie Field from Foodshare Toronto; Charlie Touchette and Brian Warner from the North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA); as well as many other knowledgeable regional and national speakers. Please read on for full conference details. Be sure to register before February for a free organic buffet breakfast!

At this year's conference we are pleased to coordinate events with both the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada (OACC), and the Canadian Organic Growers (COG). OACC and ACORN are hosting an Organic Potato Symposium, held a day before the ACORN Conference on organic potato research. COG will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the ACORN Conference, as they aim to move their meetings around the country.

We will be looking for new board members in the next few months before our Annual General Meeting on March 27th. Please consider giving some time to this young and quickly evolving organization. I am particularly keen to see more women and young farmers get involved with the board, to increase the diversity of interests and perspectives around the table.

See you at the conference and AGM March 25-28th.
Happy new year!

Jennifer Melanson
ACORN Director

ACORN

Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network

Message From The President

I would like to share with everyone some welcoming news from a conference/workshop that Laura and I just returned from. It was dealing with Food Security, and although I was apprehensive about their apparent theme (food is too expensive) I was heartened to realize that they were dealing with more than that issue. There were a great number of participants, I being the token male, all interested in BUILDING food security from the growing to the consumption through direct personal action as well as trying to effect policy change at all gov't levels. The amount of energy being created around this issue bodes well for all of us. The interesting thing was that this was the first time we had an agricultural group presented. The participants welcomed us and were very interested to hear the producer's point of view regarding food security. As Janet Wallace kept reiterating- "Without secure food production, ie. a viable community of farmers, there can never be food security for consumers." They welcome our continued input and to this end we are trying to arrange a "Story Sharing" process for farmers so that they can bring to light our personal stories about what we believe food security is and how we are trying to make it happen. For more information on how you can participate you can contact me. I hope everyone is enjoying the fruits of the summer season and settling in for the winter. Our conference is beginning to take shape and we expect it to be another great one. Canadian Organic Growers is planning to have the AGM at the conference. Not only will this boost attendance it will give us the opportunity to highlight all that's good about the Maritimes. So, I recommend that you register early and book your rooms as space could fill up quickly.

All the best

Doug Brown
ACORN President

ACORN's Vision

ACORN aims to enhance the viability and growth of the Atlantic Canadian organic agricultural community through a unified regional network

ACORN's Board of Directors

President- Doug Brown (Processor Rep) (NS)
Vice President- Fred Dollar (PE Producer Rep)
Treasurer- David Cozac (Retail Rep) (NB)
Secretary/Member-at-Large- Av Singh (NS)
NSOGA - Al Stewart (NS)
OCIA-NB- Karen Davidge (NB)
OCIA-PEI- Raymond Loo (PE)
MCOG- Larry Slipp (NB)
NS Producer- Brian Boates (NS)
NB Producer- Gerry Caissie (NB)
NL Producer- Judy Lien (NL)

NOTES:

Our farm profile last issue was on Atlantic Gourmet Mushrooms. Please note that this operation was no longer certified as of August 31, 2003.

Please note: ACORN's organic input descriptions in the last ACORN newsletter included some items that are not acceptable by all certifying bodies in the region. Please check with your certifying body for clarification.

Transforming Market Potentials into Market Realities

The organic market in Atlantic Canada has been estimated between 1% and 1.3% of the total \$5 billion annual food market. Market growth in this sector has been averaging 15% to 20% annually, with some market segments reaching nearly 60% in annual growth. Future market expansion is expected to continue as consumer awareness of organics increases, mainstream retail outlets expand their selection and food scares continue to make front-page news.

Data sourced from AC Nielson (2003) indicated that the Maritime Grocery Banner Stores sold a total of \$141 million in total fresh fruit sales in the past 52 weeks. (Ending October 4th, 2003) Of that, 1.3% was organic fresh fruit, for total sales of \$1.8 million during this period. The growth over the past year was a 58% increase in sales and a 57% increase in volume. The leading fruit sales were organic bananas at \$506,141 with organic apples second at \$457,426. Other fruit crops more relevant to our area include; organic strawberries at \$50,000 and organic pears at \$81,500.

Data was also sourced for the fresh vegetable sector. Total sales of \$147 million of fresh vegetables were sold during the 52-week period ending October 4th, 2003. 1% of those sales represented organic vegetables. (\$1.4 million) The growth in this market segment was 45% in sales over last year and projected to continue strong for the coming years. Broccoli represented the largest sales category with \$170,000 in sales. Baby peeled carrots were the next largest with \$106,675. Potatoes represented \$74,000 with cherry tomatoes and onions at \$42,000 and \$48,000 respectively in sales.

The itemized listing above does not include the private label companies like President's Choice Organics or other possible private labels. They account for nearly half of all organic vegetable sales and approximately 20% of the organic fresh fruit sales.

The reality of the current situation is that very little of the fresh fruit and vegetable products are being sourced from the region. Estimates are that 85% of all organic product in Canada is being imported from the USA. This could offer an opportunity for import displacement if producers in this region could enter those markets. The challenge in Atlantic Canada is not the lack of market opportunities, but the lack of critical mass, economies of scale and the skills and resources required to enter and supply the wholesale markets. With the current single desk purchasing programs used by the Maritime Banner Stores, the trend is to deal with fewer suppliers and to secure a consistent source of high quality, uninterrupted supply.

For more information contact:


Bev Connell, ProAgri Consulting Ltd. 902-798-2114

Gary Morton, Morton Horticultural Associates 902-679-1467

ACORN's 2004 ORGANIC AGRI-FOOD CONFERENCE AND TRADE SHOW GROWING ORGANIC OPPORTUNITIES

MARCH 25TH - 28TH, 2004 CORNWALL, PEI

- Over 25 concurrent workshops
- Organic Trade Show featuring organic products, books and food
- Thursday, March 25th - Organic Potato Symposium with Carl Leifert from the Tesco Centre for Organic Agriculture (UK)
- Friday, March 26th - Organic Buffet Dinner and Keynote with Dr. Elaine Ingham of SoilFoodWeb (US)
- Friday, March 26th - Chef's Organic Appetizer Extravaganza
- Saturday, March 27th Lunch keynote with Debbie Field of Foodshare Toronto
- Sunday, March 28th - Tour of three successful organic and transitional operations



*For more detailed
information and
to register:
www.acornorganic.org
1-866-32-ACORN*

ACORN
Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network

**ATLANTIC CANADA'S PREMIER ORGANIC EVENT FOR
FARMERS, GARDENERS, PROFESSIONALS AND CONSUMERS**

With assistance from: NB Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Aquaculture, NS Dept. of Agriculture and Fisheries, PEI Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Forestry, PEI ADAPT Council, Canadian Farm Business Management Council, and Community Animation Program



Check out www.acornorganic.org for updated conference information.

Welcome



Message from Conference Chairperson

These are interesting times for the organic industry of Atlantic Canada. Traditional organic philosophies are often in juxtaposition with global markets, centralized marketing, and farm specialization. The annual ACORN conference and Trade Show is a venue to inform and educate members of the organic community about such issues, while offering opportunity for dialogue and cooperation. This year our theme is “Growing Organic Opportunities,” and we are defining growth in our industry in terms of both agricultural production and emerging market potentials.

Internationally renowned scientists, Dr. Elaine Ingham and Dr. Carlo Leifert highlight a long list of knowledgeable and talented speakers, including Tom Manley, Les Halliday, Hans Nass, and Janine Gibson, who will share their expertise and vision for organic crop and livestock production. Charlie Touchette and Brent Warner will present alternative direct marketing options, while Debbie Field will discuss organic marketing opportunities for our region.

Organic meals, thirty-five-plus exhibits in the Trade Show, plenty of organic farmers, and the rural PEI landscape provide the final touches for a must-attend conference. I’m grateful for being part of the organizing team for this event and welcome all to enjoy, share, and learn together.

Respectfully, Av Singh



Our Keynote Speakers

Dr. Elaine Ingham is an energetic, easy-to-understand speaker who explains what life in the soil is all about. Behind this ‘user-friendly’ approach lies a wealth of knowledge gained from years of intensive research into the organisms, which make up the soil food web.

Elaine aims to reduce reliance on inorganic chemicals. While truly an academic, Elaine is also passionate about sharing her knowledge and research findings with those at the grass roots level of working with soils. Elaine offers a way forward for sustainable farming. A way of improving the soils we work with now and a way to keep soils in this healthier state without damaging any other eco-system.

Debbie Field- For the past eleven years Debbie Field has been the Executive Director of FoodShare Toronto. FoodShare Toronto works with diverse communities to improve access to affordable healthy food – from field to table. It is the largest food security organization in Canada, with a \$3million annual budget and a staff of 22.



Highlights at a Glance

- * Organic Appetizer demonstration with the PEI Culinary Institute
- * Screening of the film “Animals”, by Jason Young, best documentary at Atlantic Film Festival 2003
- * Organic Marketplace Trade Show with over 35 booths



Conference Theme

The title of the conference is “Growing Organic Opportunities” and it has three central themes:

- A- ANIMAL- Livestock production and processing with emphasis on pasture-based livestock
- B- BUSINESS- Business development with emphasis on alternative marketing and distribution systems
- C- CROP- crop production and processing with a focus on grain and oilseeds

Workshops are listed in the conference program by themes (A, B & C)

The Conference Committee is pleased to provide a scent-free, smoke-free environment for all sessions.

Thank you for co-operating.

Thursday March 25th



Organic Potato Symposium

Thi□

latest research in the field, and identify research gaps.

8:00-8:30	Registration
8:30-10:15	Dr. Carlo Leifert, Professor of Ecological Agriculture, Tesco Centre for Organic Agriculture, UK. - Novel strategies for the control of fungal crop diseases.
10:15-10:40	Break and Poster viewing
10:40 - 12:20	Invited Speakers - Insect, Weed and Disease Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gilles Boiteau, AAFC- Physical barriers against insect potato pests: Locking the door to insects.• Guy Bernard, NBDFAFA- Use of the propane flamer to control insect pests of potatoes• Christine Noronha, AAFC- Biological control agents of insect pests on potatoes• Jerry Ivany, AAFC- Physical weed control in potatoes• Rick Peters, AAFC- Seafood processing waste for nutrition and disease control in organically-grown potatoes
12:20 - 1:20	Lunch and Poster viewing
1:20 -3:00	Invited Speakers - Nitrogen Management and Organic Potato Production Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bernie Zebarth, AAFC- Nitrogen management in organic potato production: Challenges and opportunities• Yves LeClerc, McCain Foods- Potato varieties suitable for organic production• Robert Coffin, Cavendish Farms- Potato variety trials, nutrient management and pest control: Bridging the gap between organic and conventional agriculture• Agnes Murphy, AAFC- Building disease and pest resistance through breeding• Derek Lynch, OACC- Current approaches to organic potato production
3:00 - 3:30	Break and Poster viewing
3:30 - 4:00	Panel of 5 potato growers
4:00 - 5:00	Open Discussion of Research Needs and Strategies
5:00 - 6:00	Poster viewing and informal discussions
7: 00 - 9:30	Dr. Elaine Ingham, Soil Foodweb Inc.- Compost Tea for Disease Suppression and Soil Stimulation- Methodology to Support Success of Procedure

If you are not registered for the potato symposium, you can attend Dr. Elaine Ingham's Thursday night keynote address for just \$10- see registration form





Friday, March 26th

- 9-10:00** **Opening and Plenary Session-** Kevin MacAdam, PEI Minister of Agriculture & Forestry; Bill Breckman, AAFC- National standards; Paddy Doherty, Canadian Organic Initiative- Organic regulatory framework; Gary Morton, Morton Horticultural Associates-Marketing opportunities; Carlo Leifert, Tesco Centre for Organic Agriculture- Recent developments in EU Organic Food Market
- 10-10:30** **Coffee Break and Trade Show**
- 10:30-noon** **A) Introduction to the Soil Food Web- Dr. Elaine Ingham, Soil Foodweb Inc.**
This session will explore what a soil foodweb is; what foodweb your plants require; the cast of characters in foodwebs; foodweb functions; and management practices which help/hinder the soil foodweb.
- B) Community based partnerships - Building non-profit mechanisms for distributing healthy food. Debbie Field, Food Share Toronto**
This workshop will explore the variety of ways that farmers and consumers can more directly work together. The Good Food Box, invented by FoodShare Toronto will be profiled, as well other box programs, Community Supported Agriculture, Farmer's Markets and Buy Local Campaigns. By building local partnerships, food producers and consumers across North American are finding they are able to achieve many of their separate goals through a unified approach that prioritizes local food production and healthy food.
- Noon-1:15** **Lunch and Trade Show**
- 1:15-2:30** **A) Primer on Livestock Nutrition- Tom Manley, Homestead Organics**
Organic farmers need to understand the nutritional needs of livestock in order to produce tasty and nutritious organic animal products. The animal's behaviour, growth pattern, reproductive capacity and food production are intimately linked to the feed it consumes. This presentation will provide farmers with the basic understanding of protein, energy, feedstuff selection and feed management in order to make informed management and purchase decisions.
- B) Organic Regulatory System Panel- Paddy Doherty, Coordinator of the Canadian Organic Initiative Project, Bill Breckman, AAFC, and Janine Gibson, COG**
The Organic Regulatory System/National Standard Panel will provide participants with current information about the proposed Canada organic regulation and the national Organic Standard. Organic operators will learn how a Canada organic regulation will affect their business - advantages and disadvantages.
- C) Demonstrating and improving the "added value" of organic food for consumers; the link between agronomic practices and food quality characteristics- Dr. Carlo Leifert, Tesco Centre for Organic Agriculture**
Recent Developments in the EU Organic Food Market will be presented together with a description of the main drivers of consumer demand. Existing data on the links between agronomic practices (fertility management and crop protection practices) and food quality characteristics will be reviewed. This will include a description of the work plan of the EU Integrated project "QualityLowInputFood" which focuses on "Improving the quality and safety and reduction of cost in the EU Organic and "Low Input" Food Supply Chains"
- 2:30-3:00** **Coffee Break and Trade Show**

- 3:00-4:00** **A) Pasture management and parasite control- Dr. Av Singh, AgraPoint Intl. Inc. and John Duynisveld, Beef Producer/AAFC Biologist**
 Intestinal parasites are a major deterrent in the widespread adoption of organic beef and lamb production. Av Singh will highlight leading efforts in the US, the EU, and in Canada for alternative parasite control, with a significant emphasis on sound grazing principles. John Duynisveld will introduce multi-species grazing and leader-follower systems as practical solutions for parasite management.
- B) Retail Opportunities**
 A frank discussion of retailers' concerns; addressing issues of distribution, supply, and refrigeration. This session offers a unique environment for retailers to form collective strategies for the future of their industryC) Compost Tea: Brewers; principles and practices; applications- Dr. Elaine Ingham, Soil Foodweb Inc.
 How to make quality active aerobic compost tea, including the principles, practices and applications.
- 4-5:15** **A) Managing nutrients on farm- Derek Lynch, OACC and Shauna Mellish, PEIDAFAF**
 Using data from research trials, long-term cropping studies and modeling of whole-farm nutrient flows. Derek will lead a discussion on the challenges of managing nitrogen and phosphorus in organic production systems. Shauna will explore how conventional nutrient management plans can be used on an organic operation.
- B) Strategy workshop for community projects focused on food- Getting Your Message Out: Communications, Branding and Marketing your farm, business or non-profit food organization- David Kraft, Strategic Communications Inc.**
 This presentation will touch on some of the benefits of research, principles of campaigning and communication tools which can be accessed by non-profit organizations working within relatively limited budgets. He will also outline basic principles of branding and strategic planning as they can be used by small businesses and farmers in order to expand market share.
- C) Organic Cereal Production and Research- Loic Dewavrin, Longpres Farm and Dr. Hans Nass, AAFC**
 Loic will describe the transition process (both challenges and opportunities) to organic farming on the Dewavrin 1500 acres grain farm. Technical and financial aspects of the transition will be detailed, as well as various farm experiments made by the Dewavrin brothers. Hans Nass will discuss cereal and weed trials.
- 5:15-6:00** **Organic Appetizer Chef's Demo- featuring students from the Culinary Institute of PEI & the First Annual ACORN Silent Auction**
- 6-6:30** **OACC Advisory Forum OACC Advisory Forum, moderated by Dr. Ralph Martin and OACC staff.**
 The OACC Advisory Forum is an opportunity for farmers, students and others involved in organic agriculture to provide feedback to OACC staff about what OACC should change or do better.
- 6- 7:00** **Trade Show reception**
- 7-9:00** **Organic Buffet Dinner and Keynote- Dr. Elaine Ingham, Soil Foodweb Inc.**
 Biological successes in Non-Toxic Agriculture- Before & after examples of agriculture, orchards, vineyards and landscape transitions from toxic chemicals to 100% biological.
- 9-12:00** **ACORN Social featuring Celtic Knot**
 This music group specializes in traditional and other styles features Amanda Mark (flute, tin whistle, bass guitar, vocals), Kevin Jeffrey (guitar, percussion, vocals), Laurie Murphy (percussion, vocals), and Emily Ledwell (keyboard, bass, vocals).



Saturday, March 27th

- 7:30-9:30** **Organic buffet breakfast and ACORN AGM**
Screening of NFB film, "Animals" by Jason Young. "Animals", winner of three awards at the 2003 Atlantic Film Festival, takes us deep into the heart of the animal-human relationship, with all its contradictions.
- 9:30-9:45** **Trade Show**
- 9:45-11:00** **A) Down and Dirty: Organic Research from the OACC Field Plots to You- OACC Staff**
This session will cover examples of OACC research in the Atlantic region in 2003. The main categories are potato varieties and fertility, cereal varieties in intercrops and monocrops, crop rotation, nutrient supply rates of organic amendments, wheat seeding rates and fertility, and vermi-composting.
- B) Agritourism Ventures that Increase Family Farm Profitability- Charlie Touchette and Brent Warner, North American Farmers Direct Marketing Association (NAFDMA)**
Agritourism is a general term often used to describe non-traditional income streams on farms. In this presentation we will detail over 40 different activities employed by conventional farmers that have diversified their farm businesses in ways that effectively increased profitability. Many of the ventures can be adapted from no till pumpkin farms to dwarf tree apple orchards to organic grain farms to conventional cattle ranches.
- C) Organic Cereal Production, Quality and Markets - Loic Dewavrin – Longpres Farm, QC; Tom Manley, Homestead Organics; Gary Morton, Morton Horticultural Associates**
Description of Quebec Organic Grain Growers Union, its origins, accomplishments, and current projects will be highlighted. Loic will also discuss the financing, industry representation issues and needs for more member involvement in the union. Tom Manley will review the many quality issues in grain marketing and suggest on-farm practices and decisions that will manage quality, improve sales, and increase profits. Gary will highlight organic crop marketing opportunities.
- 11-11:15** Coffee Break and Trade Show
- 11:15-12:30** **A) Turning Potential into Reality- Marketing opportunities for livestock- Bev Connell, ProAgri Consulting**
Bev will highlight organic livestock marketing opportunities.
- B) Leadership and Management Development in the Organic Sector- Phil Ferraro, Institute for Bioregional Studies**
This workshop will discuss the future of organics from social, economic and environmental perspectives and will introduce participants to the skills, networks, broad perspectives, and positive attitudes they will need to become effective, progressive leaders for the organic industry.
- C) Heritage Wheat Panel- Jen Scott, researcher; Stu Fleischhaker, Speerville Mill; Nick Stam, baker**
The Heritage wheat project was started as a partnership between Speerville Mill, the Maritime Organic Growers' Co-op, and the NBDAFA in 1998. Since then, a number of farmers in the Maritimes have grown and evaluated heritage wheats in an organic production system. This presentation will highlight preliminary data from the field and the bake tests, as well as a proposal for exciting future work.
- 12:30-2:00** **Organic Lunch with Debbie Field, Foodshare Toronto- Eat it, Grow it, Share it Campaign**
We often think that hunger, lack of sustainability in agriculture and diet related illnesses are disconnected problems. Debbie will argue that they are connected to our current food system and could be eliminated if we built a more local food system that cared about the needs of farmers and consumers. She will also provide ten simple suggestions for individual, community and social policy action that could transform our current food system.
- 2-3:15** **A) Forages for a Healthy Rumen and Heritage Breeds- Dr. Les Halliday, PEIDAFAP; Jann Chute, Stepping Stone Heritage Farm**
Dr. Les Halliday addresses how good quality forages can influence animal health, growth rates and natural behavior. This workshop will provide farmers with an understanding of how forage management techniques effect the quality of nutrients in livestock feeds. Jane Chute offers an introduction to Rare Breeds and the agencies dedicated to their preservation.

B) Farmers' Markets and CSA's: Tightening the Nuts and Bolts- Charlie Touchette and Brent Warner, NAFDMA

Meeting up with consumers nearer their urban settings is one strategy to increase sales without committing to increase capital investment or unknown liabilities on the farm. Farmers' Market and Consumer Supported Agriculture strategies are the ideal way to accomplish these goals. This presentation is provided for groups who have an understanding of, or already participate in farmers' markets and CSA's, and would like to expand on their development and efficiency.

C) Cover cropping and Intercropping for nutrient cycling - Claude Bertheleme, NBDFAFA and Janine Gibson, organic inspector

Using a combination of research and anecdotal experience from the fields, this session addresses why cover crops are so important to growers; a description of the various cover crops; practical information to help growers select the most appropriate cover crop; and the benefits of intercropping.

- 3:15-4:30** **Wrap-up and Conference Summary- Phil Ferraro- ADAPT; Rob Assels- ACORN Input Project; Charlie Touchette, NAFDMA**
- 4-6:00** **Canadian Organic Growers (COG) AGM**
- 6-7:00** **COG and ACORN Reception- Open to Everyone.**

ACORN Organic Tour (Sunday, March 28th)

Visit three successful and innovative organic and transitional operations close to Charlottetown. Tour includes greenhouse, dairy and potato farms.

Conference Information/Contacts & Requests

The Market Place Trade Show

Promote your business, agency or not for profit organization at the largest gathering of the organic farming community in Atlantic Canada. Contact the ACORN office or visit our website for a trade show reservation form.

HST included- **Table Display - \$115**
Literature Distribution - \$86.25

Sponsorship Opportunities

Show your support for ACORN and the Conference and highlight your business through joining the Conference as a sponsor. We offer a variety of options to suit any business or organization, including sponsoring the keynote address, nutrition breaks, meals. Contact the ACORN office for more details.

Volunteers Needed

Willing to share a few hours of your time while at the Conference? Volunteers are needed before and throughout the Conference. Volunteer for four hours, and attend educational sessions free that day. Contact Laura MacKay at 902-425-1797 or info@acornorganic.org for more information.

ACORN Organic Calendar

ACORN invites you to submit your photos of Atlantic Organic Farms, Processing Operations and Retail Venues for publication in a New 2005 Atlantic Organic Calendar. This full-colour calendar will include photos, recipes, important organic events, quotes, organic research tidbits and tips on food preparation. Promote your operation to organic consumers! Include photos of farm landscapes, farm processes, heritage plants and vegetables, people at work, people enjoying food, farmers' markets, etc. If you are interested in submitting photos, please contact Laura MacKay- 902-425-1797/ info@acornorganic.org. All submitted photos will be displayed at the conference, and conference participants will be invited to vote on the best photos. The 12 most popular photos will be announced at the Conference, and winners get their photos published.

Conference Location

This year's conference site is the **Howard Johnson Dutch Inn**. Book your room by **February 21st, 2004** to ensure that you receive our conference group room rate of \$69.00, single or double. Parking is free. Reservations requested after February 21st, 2004 will be accepted at the best available Howard Johnson Dutch Inn rate of the day, provided guestrooms are available.

TO BOOK A ROOM CONTACT: The Howard Johnson Dutch Inn-
Tel: 902-566-2211 Fax: 902-566-2214

The Fine Print

In order to confirm food and accommodation details with the hotel, we need to know ahead of time exactly how many people are participating in the conference. Please comply with the following deadlines – it makes planning smoother and easier, and guarantees you'll be fed and sheltered!

*** Book with the Dutch Inn by February 21st** – you will receive the conference room rate. After this date, the room rate could be higher and accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

***Register for the Conference by February 21st** – We can guarantee your place at the conference, and you'll receive a free organic buffet breakfast.

***We must confirm final numbers with the Howard Johnson Dutch Inn on March 19th. After this date, we cannot guarantee that meals will be available.**

Cancellation Policy – The ACORN office must receive cancellation of registration by March 19th. A 15% administration fee will be retained. Cancellations after this date will not be refunded, except in the case of medical or family emergency.

Conference Registration Form



Delegate Information

Name 1: _____

Name 2: _____

Farm/ business: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Town _____

Prov: _____ Postal code: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

URL: _____

ACORN Member Non- Member

Please send me Information about the:

Trade Show Conference Sponsorship Opportunities

Please indicate what best describes your involvement in the organic industry:

- Consumer Home Gardener Farmer
 Processor Food Service Retailer
 Distributor Product Supplier Industry Professional
 Media Government/NGO Media
 Other _____

Child's Name	Age	Children's Program (6-15)	Child Care (under 6)	Considerations (allergy, disability, etc.)

Early Registration Deadline - February 21st, 2004

Send registration form & cheque payable to:

ACORN

RR#1 Kennetcook, NS, B0N 1P0

Phone: 902-632-2523

Fax: 902-632-2837

admin@acornorganic.org

or call us to register

SAVE 25% on Conference Price by Becoming a FULL ACORN Member

Select your conference package and meals	Fees for full members*	Fees for non members	Totals
Organic Potato Symposium- includes workshops, lunch, evening keynote with Elaine Ingham, and proceedings	1 Adult- \$51.75 2 Adults- \$92.00	same	
2 Day Conference Pkg - includes workshops, Trade Show, & Friday and Saturday Lunches	1 Adult @ \$70.25 2 Adults @ \$132.25	1 Adult @ \$86.25 2 Adults @ \$161.00	
Friday Conference Pass - includes workshops & Trade Show, and Friday lunch	_____ # @ \$40.25	_____ # @ \$51.75	
Saturday Conference Pass - includes workshops, Trade Show & Saturday Lunch	_____ # @ \$40.25	_____ # @ \$51.75	
Half Day Conference Pass (no lunch) Day: _____	_____ # @ \$14.95	_____ # @ \$17.25	
Children's Program	_____ # @ \$20.70/day		
Child Care	_____ # @ \$20.70/day		
Friday Keynote Buffet Dinner & Social Keynote with Elaine Ingham, SoilFoodWeb	_____ # Adult @ \$30.00 _____ # Children 5 -12 @ \$15.00 _____ # Children 5 & Under Free		
Thursday Keynote only	_____ # @ \$10.00		
Friday Keynote only	_____ # @ \$10.00		
Saturday Breakfast - Register before February 21 st and breakfast is included in the conference fee	_____ # Adult @ \$12.65 _____ # Children 5-12 @ \$5.75 _____ # Children 5 & Under Free		
Chef's Appetizer Extravaganza - included with Friday dinner buffet ticket	_____ # Adult @ \$5.00 _____ # Children @ \$2.00		
Organic Tour - Includes transportation, lunch, and tour	_____ # @ \$28.75		
ACORN Membership Fee	_____ # @ \$30.00		
Donation to ACORN			
Total Payable to ACORN			

HST has been included in all prices shown. Business # 88144 0317

***you are a FULL member of ACORN if you have paid your \$30 annual membership fee**



Check out www.acornorganic.org for updated conference information

ACORN Annual Conference In Review

The ACORN Annual Conference has been a great place to connect with a variety of people in the organic movement. The first conference, held in Charlottetown, I attended with a group of people looking into the viability of an Organic Food Growth Fund, a Community Economic Investment Fund (CEDIF), which would invest in a range of organic businesses in the Atlantic region, with great tax advantages for investors. We met many innovative producers and processors, and gained enormous insight into the opportunities in the local industry at that conference. We were impressed with the positive energy exuded by conference participants.

The second conference, in Moncton, held the same energy, and I gained a key contact, which would lead to a summer apprenticeship on an organic farm on the Eastern Shore. It just happened at dinner one evening that I mentioned my intention to apprentice on an organic farm, and one of the producers at the table mentioned that she was interested in creating a couple of apprenticeship positions and wasn't sure how to get in contact with "willing workers". It couldn't have been a more direct connection.

The third conference, in Halifax, was similarly fruitful, as I connected with a researcher working with the Genuine Progress Index and got involved with a research project examining the social determinants of farm viability and rural community resilience, as well as several other initiatives around local agriculture.

Being thoroughly convinced of the networking value of the ACORN Annual Conference, I would encourage all to attend, especially those interested in establishing and deepening a connection with the Atlantic organic community.

See you there!

/Laura Jean
ACORN Coordinator

Need to contact us?

ACORN OFFICE
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Tel: 902-632-2523

Toll free- 1-866-322-2676

Fax: 902-632-2837

admin@acornorganic.org
(marketing, input, operations)

info@acornorganic.org
(communications, membership, volunteers)

www.acornorganic.org

Organic Production Courses

The Institute for Bioregional Studies and ACORN are holding Organic Production Courses in Fredericton, New Brunswick, March 6&7, and Truro, Nova Scotia, March 13&14.

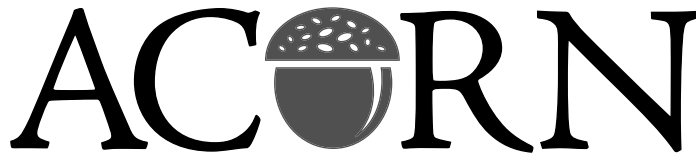
The objectives of this course are to:

- Provide a definition of what Organic Agriculture is and document the history of the movement from early pioneers to present day industry leaders;
- Present the Canadian Minimum Standards for Organic Agriculture and review the major requirements that have to be met in order to become certified;
- Examine how to make a transition to Organic Agriculture and to make ongoing management decisions based upon ecological principles;
- Assist each participant to evaluate farm practices according to organic standards and to start designing a farm plan according to ecological principles; &
- Discuss the ecological practices of Organic Agriculture which enhance the long-term stewardship of the land, air and water including:
 - Soil Fertility and Stewardship,
 - Weed Control,
 - Compost,
 - Crop Rotations and Companion Planting,
 - Cover Crops and Green Manures,
 - Insect and Disease Control,
 - Livestock Husbandry,
 - Greenhouse Production,
 - Holistic Farm Planning and Design.

Contact the Institute for Bioregional Studies for more information-
Phil Ferraro- Fortune, RR#4 Souris, PE, C0A 2B0
902-687-2662

ibs_pei@yahoo.com

Or check out www.acornorganic.org for more details.



Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network
The Voice of Organics in the Atlantic Region!

Membership Form

ACORN's Vision

ACORN enhances viability and growth of the Atlantic Canadian organic agricultural community through a unified regional network.

ACORN's Mission

ACORN is a non-profit organization that promotes organic agriculture by: facilitating information exchange between and amongst organizations and individuals; coordinating informal education for producers through to consumers; and networking with all interested parties both regionally and nationally.

Membership Benefits

Regional certified organic producers and processors automatically become Voting Members of ACORN. For the annual fee of \$30, all stakeholders can become Full Members of ACORN, and receive the following benefits:

- A copy of ACORN's Organic Resource Directory, produced every two years
- Quarterly newsletters (print)
- Monthly email newsletters
- Notification by email of urgent industry news
- Enhanced entry in the Resource Directory for certified operations
- 50% discount on newsletter and web advertising
- Voting privileges at our AGM

To become a new member, or to renew your existing annual membership, please fill out the form below and return it along with payment. Thank you for your interest in ACORN, and in promoting certified organic food in the Atlantic region!

ACORN Membership toll free: 1.866.32.ACORN email: admin@acornorganic.org web: www.acornorganic.org



Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network

ACORN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in ACORN is open to all organic food stakeholders.
Thank you for helping build the Atlantic organic food industry!

Name: _____
 Farm / Business: _____
 Address: _____

 Tel: _____
 Fax: _____
 Email: _____
 Web: _____

Full Membership \$30

Donation to ACORN _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Contact us toll free: 1.866.32.ACORN
for updated mailing information
email: admin@acornorganic.org
web: www.acornorganic.org

please check the boxes that best describe your involvement with the organic industry:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> consumer | <input type="checkbox"/> home gardener | <input type="checkbox"/> farmer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> processor | <input type="checkbox"/> retailer | <input type="checkbox"/> distributor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> supplier | <input type="checkbox"/> professional | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> media | | |