



ACORN

Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network
Issue 29, Summer 2008

Good News Edition

THIS EDITION OF THE ACORN Newsletter is a “happy dance” of all the successes that just seem to be piling up on each other.

I am most excited by the recent hiring of our new extension specialist, Rupert Jannasch, who is under contract with ACORN to provide assistance with the transition process. I believe Rupert will be kept busy helping farmers get ready for certification over the coming months, and I’d strongly urge you to let anyone who may be interested know about his services (they’re free!). Please read more on page three.

Another huge success has been ACORN’s new funding arrangement with the Maritime Provinces (see page three). This new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which spans the next four years, is remarkable.

So why did the provinces do it? ACORN presented the results from its financial sustainability plan back in November, which essentially demonstrated the considerable contributions the organization has made. Our government counterparts were very impressed. ACORN also provided government with quantifiable documentation that its relatively small investment resulted in considerably more funding to organics through our ability to leverage additional grants, strong planning and budgeting skills.

After years of talk, an ACORN feasibility study, and countless hours of committee work, the Atlantic Certified Organic Co-

operative Ltd. (ACO) is official. The new organization marks a coming together of MCOG and NSOGA, which quite frankly, was a move people said would never happen—but here we are!

This means that the organic community will have one more choice for accredited certification services as we move towards the December 14th deadline (which CFIA says is a firm date). To meet the regulation, the Canadian General Standards Board has also committed to finalizing the amendments to the organic standard by the end of 2008, which industry has been working on revising for the last year.

These milestones are only the tip of the iceberg, as you’ll soon realize in reading this issue. The organic community is strong and vibrant and what’s critical to realize, is just how many people have been involved in each one of these accomplishments. In many instances, many of the same people are working tirelessly on a number of initiatives to make it all happen—thank you to each and every one of them!

I’d also like to remember the people who are working at the local level, building strong farmers markets, community gardens, school programs etc.—these are exciting times!

Are you interested in getting more involved? There’s so much more to do, so if you’d like to get involved in something big or small, drop us a line.

Long live local organics!

Beth

President’s Notes

THREE RECENT EVENTS STRIKE ME AS important to the future direction of ACORN.

The first event was the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding between ACORN and the governments of NB, NS, and PEI. The new agreement gives ACORN stable funding for the next four years and allows ACORN to concentrate on service provision rather than fund raising.

The second event was ACORN’s hiring of a transition extension specialist.

ACORN’s mission is to promote organic agriculture within the Atlantic region. One obvious goal for ACORN, then, is to increase the number of certified organic farms in the region. Farmers making the transition to organic face many informational hurdles regarding both agricultural techniques and record keeping. This is where ACORN can now help.

Thanks to the initiative of our Executive Director, Beth McMahon, ACORN has acquired funding from the National Research Council to hire an experienced organic agronomist to provide technical advice to farmers and processors making the transition.

This position will ease the advisory workload of the various provincial organic extension

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ACORN's Summer Student Thinks Big

MY NAME IS MATT SARTY, AND I AM thrilled to introduce myself as the summer program coordinator at ACORN. My first month in this position has been extremely rewarding and, as the summer progresses, I hope that my participation in a variety of endeavors will have exciting results.

I am very optimistic about the possibilities of new media and the Internet's virtually unlimited potential for reaching prospective consumers and producers of organic products.

Blog

To expand ACORN's Internet presence I have started a blog, which can be accessed at acornorganic.wordpress.com. This blog provides an interesting opportunity to update frequently with ACORN news, articles, and much more while archiving previous updates; thus, it is a dynamic page that also acts as a storehouse of resources concerning organic production and consumption in Atlantic Canada. I hope that this page can become a collaborative effort with a diverse assortment of authors and concerns addressed.

YouTube

I have also created a YouTube channel as a companion to the blog. This channel can be accessed at www.youtube.com/acornorganic and features original videos that I am producing about various organic undertakings in the region. I hope that these videos both showcase organic initiatives and highlight more general concerns and visions for the future of organics.

Farmers Markets, Community Gardens and CSA's

Along with expanding ACORN's Internet visibility with brand new web-based projects, I will build on ACORN's existing Internet database by adding farmers' markets, community gardens, and CSA programs to the already impressive directory of organic producers, retailers, processors, and more. Upon completing this project, ACORN's directory will allow everyone to access even more organic resources.

I am also excited to be working with several community gardens to create a

unified network of Atlantic Canadian community gardens where ideas, information, and resources can be shared. This network will be web-based and may feature a mapping element that includes gardens along with their proximities to resources. It would be completely collaborative with everyone having the ability to contribute resources and promote the network's growth. Hopefully this will serve as a central zone of communication for community gardeners and inspire collaboration between them.

Engaging Children

I am also in the process of collaborating with a Sackville artist in creating an informational poster designed for school classrooms. This poster will focus on the importance of eating local and seasonal organic food. I am hoping that the unveiling of this poster will be accompanied by a community event in Sackville, NB, consisting of fun and educational activities for children along with information concerning organics that adults will find extremely useful. Perhaps this will even inspire parents and teachers to seek local farmers, community gardens, markets, and CSA programs on ACORN's directory.

I hope that these projects, and any others I participate in, will contribute to ACORN's vision in a meaningful manner and promote the growth of organics in Atlantic Canada. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions feel free to email me at mattsarty@acornorganic.org.

Your help needed

Do you have a CSA? Please tell us, as ACORN is working to network all the CSA's in Atlantic Canada (certified organic or not).

Do you sell at a farmers market that we may not know about?

Do you know of a community garden that's "under the radar"?

Please drop us a line and let us know. We're trying to make growing and finding local organic food easier for everyone! admin@acornorganic.org or 1-866-322-2676

President's Notes

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agents who will have more time to work with existing organic producers. It will also ease the advisory workload of the various certifying bodies in the region including the new Atlantic certifying body.

The transition extension specialist position is a perfect example of how a regional organization (ACORN) can achieve economies of scale (one position instead of four) for the four small Atlantic Provinces.

The third event was the first general meeting of the Organic Council of Nova Scotia, thanks to the initiative of the Nova Scotia Organic Grower's Association.

ACORN does have a mission to lobby government on behalf of organic agriculture in the region, but it has always been slightly awkward for a regional organization to lobby directly at the provincial level. There has even been some danger that ACORN's existence could get in the way of direct provincial lobbying, as people could either assume that ACORN was already doing so, or be reluctant to form yet another organization to do it themselves.

The situation is now much clearer. New Brunswick has long had an organic provincial advisory committee, PEI producers have an effective organic producer cooperative, ACORN is working to assist Newfoundland and Labrador, and now Nova Scotia has a new organic council. Funding from the Organic Federation of Canada has strengthened these groups, and ACORN is helping wherever possible with logistical support and joint membership offerings.

I believe that these three events clarify and strengthen ACORN's role in developing organic agriculture in Atlantic Canada.

Sincerely,
Andrew Kernohan

ACORN'S New Organic Transition Specialist To Assist Farmers Converting to Organics

THE ATLANTIC CANADIAN ORGANIC Regional Network (ACORN) is pleased to announce an innovative program to assist new entrants to organic farming and individuals wishing to make the transition from conventional farming to certified organic production. Thanks to assistance from the National Research Council Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program, Rupert Jannasch, M.Sc. P.Ag, has been contracted to act as its Organic Transition Specialist. This service will start immediately.

"With the continuing growth in the organic marketplace, there has been a surge of interest in 'going organic' over the last year," said Beth McMahon, ACORN's Executive Director. "ACORN felt that the best way to assist producers would be to provide access to greater technical expertise. Furthermore, this innovative program is the only one in Canada east of the Rockies."

Mr. Jannasch is an experienced agronomist with research experience in conventional and organic crop and livestock production. He is the owner/operator of Avonmouth Farm, in Hants Co., Nova Scotia, producing certified organic blueberries, raspberries, tomatoes and mixed vegetables. He is familiar with a wide variety of organic systems having worked as an organic inspector throughout the Maritime Provinces.

Under contract with ACORN, Mr. Jannasch will provide guidance on the certification process. Activities will include writing organic plans, preparing applications, and creating audit trails, promoting compliance with organic standards, assisting with production issues for both horticulture and livestock, promoting on-farm food safety (including handling and storage), as well as to helping source organic seed and allowable inputs. He also has a special interest in nutrient balances and fertility management.

"We would encourage anyone with a question about organic production or certification to call Rupert Jannasch. There is no cost for the service and it is available for anyone who is considering transition or already underway," said Ms. McMahon.



Mr. Jannasch can be reached by telephone, e-mail and via the ACORN website. As well, he will have group meetings and make direct farm visits. Due to the large geographic area encompassed by the Atlantic Provinces, the number of farm visits will be limited. These services are available in English and French.

Going Organic?

Contact Rupert Jannasch for free assistance at:

Mail: 5184 Hwy 215, R.R.1 Newport, Summerville, N.S. B0N 2A0

Tel/Fax: 902-633-2358;

Cell: 902-790-2452

E-mail: rjannasch@ns.sympatico.ca

Website: www.acornorganic.org

2008 ACORN Board of Directors

Andrew Kernohan, NS Producer (OCIA rep.), President

Gary Ogle, Retailer (Veseys Seeds, PEI), Vice-President

Angela Patterson, NS Producer (NSOGA rep), Secretary

Doug Nichols, NS Producer, Treasurer

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ACORN Secures \$180,000 in Operational Funding

THE ATLANTIC CANADIAN ORGANIC Regional Network (ACORN) has just signed a four year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the three Maritime Provinces.

Under the MOU, the PEI Department of Agriculture, the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture, and the New Brunswick Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture will provide \$60,000 each over the course of the next four years, ending March 31, 2012.

"This funding is a serious commitment on the part of our Maritime governments to support organic agriculture," said Andrew Kernohan, ACORN President. "We are very appreciative."

ACORN is the industry organization that promotes organic agriculture and processing for Atlantic Canada. It is a non-profit, membership based organization, which began in 2000. ACORN offers a number of services and programs to encourage organic production and consumption, including its well-known annual Organic Conference and Trade Show. More recently, ACORN hired a Transition Extension Specialist to provide free technical expertise to producers "going organic".

In December 2008, Canada's first Organic Products Regulation will come into effect. This will require all products labeled as "organic" to meet the Canada Organic Standards through an accredited certification body.

"The organic market is witnessing very strong growth," said Beth McMahon, ACORN Executive Director. "We anticipate that the new regulation will provide even more interest in the market since consumer awareness and confidence will surge."

There are currently 170 certified farms and businesses in Atlantic Canada, which represents more than 25% growth since 2002.

"Making the transition to organic agriculture can take more than three years, so demand is far outpacing supply," said Ms. McMahon. "With this investment from the Maritime Provinces, ACORN will have the capacity to help more operators tap into the market."

New Brunswick Organic Committee Launches Farm Workshop Series

TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF ORGANICS IN NB, the ACORN NB Organic Committee is organizing a series of mini workshops on a variety of topics. Each workshop will be held at an organic farm and consist of a farm tour, presentation and potluck meal.

Although there is no cost, people are asked to pre-register two days in advance of the workshop, as some farms have limited space (and it's nice for farmers to know how many people are expected).

Please bring a chair, potluck item and your own dishes/cutlery. Wear appropriate clothing and footwear please.

To register, email admin@acornorganic.org or call 1-866-322-2676.

How we started our organic farm apprenticeships and WWOOFing program

Amarosia Organic Garden/Jardin biologique Amarosia (Rowena Hopkins and David Méthot)

August 4 @ 4pm
469 Route 530, Grand-Digue, NB
www.amarosia.com

Energy lines, broadcasting circles, and biodynamic preparations

Slipp Farms 1784 (Larry Slipp) with Charles Hubbard
August 16th @ 10am
4910 Route 102, Central Hampstead, NB

This is a full day workshop featuring Charles Hubbard, Shinimicas Rogation Centre, NS, who will use the Slipp farm to demonstrate energy lines and farm planning for optimizing energy fields. For those who can't make it in the morning, there will be a recap at 3pm, followed by a demo on biodynamic preparations. Potluck lunch and an optional evening organic beef BBQ.

Organic Potatoes Good Spring Farm (Karen and Brock Davidge)

August 19 @ 4pm
730 Route 616,
Keswick Ridge, NB

Small scale seed cleaning Hope Seeds (Andrea Berry)

September 24th @ 4pm
365 Knowlesville Rd.,

Knowlesville, NB
www.Hopeseed.com
Take a tour, learn about seed cleaning, and thresh some beans and peas.

Grass fed beef David Bunnett Family Farm

Date: TBA (September)
4663 Route 880
Havelock, NB
www.davidbunnettfamilyfarm.com

Alternative Farm Energy Big Sky Farm (David Cozac and Debbie Russell)

Date: TBA (September)
789 Tripp Settlement Rd.,
Keswick Ridge, NB

Funding for this project is through the Organic Federation of Canada.

Funding for NB Farmers

FUNDING TO ASSIST ORGANIC FARMERS in NB has been renewed by the New Brunswick Dept. of Agriculture and Aquaculture. The Organic Development Initiative helps with the costs of transitioning to organics, education, soil improvement and more. The guidelines and applications are available on the NBDAA website: www.gnb.ca/0027/0017-1-e.asp

Also available to all NB farms is the Agri-Food Market Development Program that provides grants for local marketing initiatives, including signage. Details at: www.gnb.ca/0027/MARketGuide.pdf



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The Maritime Organic Grains Network Presents: 2008 Organic Field Tours

MARITIME ORGANIC GRAINS NETWORK (ACORN and the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada) will be holding field days in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia:

July 21 (rain date July 23) 1:30 pm The Maritime Organic Grains Network and the Province of PEI host an Organic Field Day and Finger Weeder Demonstration.

Location: Barnyard Organics, 1934 N.Freetown Rd, Freetown PEI.

July 24 (rain date July 29) 1:30 pm The Maritime Organic Grains Network and the Province of NS host an organic field day at the NS Agricultural College, Truro, NS.

Location: Meet at the MacRae Library parking lot, NSAC Campus, Truro NS, for shuttle.

July 28 (rain date July 30) 1:30 pm The Maritime Organic Grains Network and the Province of NB host an organic field day and

then Traveling to the Sussex Coop Organic Feed Mill Tour 3:30 pm.

Location: Good Food Farm 12446 Route 114, Penobsquis.

Location: Sussex Coop Feed Mill

There is no charge to attend and everyone is welcome!

What you will see: The plots that are included at these sites are the wheat fertility trial, two different varieties of milling wheat and Nutriwave (composted chicken manure) added to the different varieties at different times and different rates. This is the second year for this study and we collected some interesting preliminary data last year. The wheat variety trial, which is a demo of different wheat varieties side by side, includes Red Fife (local seed and Prairie seed), Helena, AC Walton, AC Barrie and Acadia. One feature is a trial that shows two strips side by side: one with oats (last year) and one with clover (last year) will show a comparison of the amount

of fertility provided to barley, oats, corn (NS, PE) and wheat, as well as hullless oats and barley. The Hullless Oat Seeding Trial will show different seeding rates to provide the optimal yield. The Corn Weed Management Trial (NS, PE) will show different methods of under seeding corn to control weeds. Oilseed Pumpkins (NS, PE) are being grown to find out more information on fertility, planting date and varieties best suited for this area.

Maritime Organic Grains Network is a three-year initiative founded by ACORN and the Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada to help boost production and information on Maritime organic grains and oilseeds. The project is funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and the Maritime ACAAF Councils. There is no cost to join. For more, see <http://acornorganic.org/grainsnetwork.html> or contact Mark Bernard (902) 439-1182 or mbernard@nsac.ca.

Sussex Co-op to Become Atlantic Canada's First Manufacturer of Organic Feed

SUSSEX CO-OP RECENTLY RECEIVED certification to manufacture organic feed at its Sussex feed mill. The Co-op will begin manufacturing organic feed late this summer and will be the only mill in Atlantic Canada to do so.

Ecocert, an internationally recognized control and certification organization and one of the world's leaders in the area of organic farming products, granted the certification.

"There is a increasing demand for organic feed and a growing desire among farmers, and dairy processors in particular, to enter into the organic market in Atlantic Canada," says Dave Arsenault, Manager of the Sussex Co-op. "We look forward to being in a position to meet that demand by manufacturing organic feed at our mill."

Organic feed is already being sold in the region but was manufactured elsewhere, notably Ontario and Quebec.

"We are trucking our organic grains to organic feed mills in Ontario and Quebec and then we have to transport the feed back before selling it to our clients. Manufacturing the feed in Atlantic Canada will have a positive environmental impact because less transportation will result in reduced emissions," Arsenault said.

For Beth McMahon, Executive Director of the Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network (ACORN), having access to regionally produced organic feed will be a boost for organic farming in the region.

"Having to get feed from markets outside our region has been a definite stumbling block for farmers. There are very few certified

organic livestock farmers in Atlantic Canada compared to other parts of the country. I'm sure that having this local supply for feed will encourage others to get involved in organic farming because of reductions—not only in transportation costs, but also in the amount of time it takes to get delivery of the product," says McMahon.

Arsenault says that manufacturing organic feed will help the mill develop new markets.

"We have the capacity for storage of organic grains and part-time processing of organic feed for distribution throughout Atlantic Canada. Our hope is that, with time, we will be able to boost production of organic feed as market demands for this type of product increases."

Arsenault estimates that the demand for organic feed could quadruple within the next few years.

Canada's Organic Regulation: Coming Soon!

DESPITE SOME RECENT SECOND THOUGHTS, on June 12th the CFIA Canada Organic Office confirmed that the implementation date for the Organic Products Regulations (OPR) would remain December 14, 2008.

To ensure preparedness, a system is being created to assist with the transition to the regulation. Elements of the discussions include the development of a "stream of commerce" policy. This includes the conditions to identify and permit food produced, packaged and labeled before the regulation to stay on the shelves until sold.

The Canadian Organic Office is also expected to release the second Organic Products Regulations later this summer. This would encompass the changes that industry and legal experts had flagged. The new regulation will be posted in the Canada Gazette.

Average pricing of certified organic beef in Maritimes:

Lean ground beef: avg. 3.99/ lb

Boneless round roast: avg. 5.77/ lb

Sirloin: avg. 8.27/lb

T-bone: avg. 10.00/lb



The Organic Value Chain Roundtable in Memramcook

The fourth meeting of the national Organic Value Chain Roundtable (OVCR) was held March 5-6, 2008 in Memramcook, New Brunswick, overlapping with our own ACORN Conference.

The invitation to come to Memramcook was graciously accepted and all involved were happy to come to the Maritimes and very impressed with the ACORN Conference and Trade Show. The food was a highlight for participants; with this being the first time a predominantly organic menu was offered to the roundtable (thanks to ACORN).

Key to this meeting was building support for the new agricultural policy framework: Growing Forward. The draft letter of support for Growing Forward was reviewed and amended to include all the important issues of the organic sectors represented at the table.

The final document "Growing Forward with Organics" was completed and submitted since the time of this roundtable. This extensive document paralleled the key issues of the new policy with the organic sector and the important role organics will play in achieving the goals.

There is a great deal of work being done by the roundtable and its working groups. Updates were provided, including:

The Increasing Canadian Capacity Working Group gave an overview of a benchmarking study on organic tomatoes and tomato products that will provide valuable information regarding the factors affecting their competitiveness as well as identify market opportunities. Another similar study is underway for beef. These studies will provide a model for future studies of other organic agri-food products.

The Working Group on Regulations is documenting and analyzing regulatory impediments, as well as identifying existing best practices governing the marketing of Canadian organic products domestically and internationally.

The Research and Innovation Working Group provided the roundtable with an overview of scientific evidence supporting the public benefits of the multi-functionality of organic farming, including environmental, animal welfare and rural revitalization.

The Market Development and Branding Working Group reported on its progress towards a comprehensive international and domestic market development strategy. The working group has collaborated with Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on the public awareness campaign for the "Canada Organic" designation and logo. An update was provided on the Government of Canada's review of "Product of Canada" labeling, which generated much discussion.

An overview was given of a benchmarking study of imported organic products currently available in Canadian retail with the goal of identifying those products that could be displaced by Canadian organic production and processing.

The CFIA provided an overview of its On-Farm Food Safety Recognition Program that provides producer organizations with the opportunity to develop strategies and tools to implement food-safety programs. The organic roundtable will look at options for the organic sector under this program with the possible creation of OFFS for organics.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the Canada Organic Standard. The standards are continually updated and improved upon by industry representatives, thus requiring funding for their maintenance. Options will be presented at the next Organic Value Chain roundtable meeting, which is planned for late September 2008 in Calgary.

Allison Grant has been a member of Atlantic Canada's Organic Community for fifteen years. Her current role as Coordinator for SeaSpray Atlantic Organic Farmers Cooperative plus many years of experience in retail, marketing and participation with certifying bodies and organic organizations has led to her appointment as a member of the OVCR.

New Certification Body Launched

ON MAY 29TH, THE ATLANTIC CERTIFIED Organic Co-operative Ltd. (ACO) held its first organizational meeting to elect a Board of Directors.

Atlantic Certified Organic is the result of many months of work by industry leaders to assess and create a regionally based accredited organic certification body.

"ACO has been developed to meet a need identified by the organic community of Atlantic Canada to have a regionally based accredited organic certification program," stated Ted Wiggans, ACO President.

ACO is currently in the review process for accreditation by CAEQ (Committee on Accreditation for Evaluation of Quality), a division of the Quebec based CARTV.

A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed at the meeting between Maritime Certified Organic Growers (MCOG), Nova Scotia Organic Growers Association (NSOGA) and ACO. This agreement provides the details of the transfer of certification services from MCOG and NSOGA to ACO.



ACO Board of Directors [l-r]: Tim Livingstone, Ted Wiggans, Murray Bunnett, Larry Slipp, Danny Bruce. In front [l-r]: Angela Patterson and Margie Loo. Missing: Mark Bernard, Dennis Laffan, Cyril Welsh

"The farmer isn't going to notice much of a difference," said Heather MacKenzie, ACO Accreditation Coordinator. "There's not going to be more paperwork than before."

ACO will begin certification services during the month of July and is already accepting new member application inquiries.

The new ACO Board of Directors has regional representation and is comprised of Ted Wiggans, President; Angela Patterson, Vice President; Murray Bunnett, Treasurer; Margie

Loo, Secretary; Tim Livingstone, Larry Slipp, Danny Bruce, Mark Bernard, Dennis Laffan and Cyril Welsh. The following Committee Chairs were appointed by the Board: Mike Hutton, Certification; Tim Livingstone, Appeal; and Roxanne Beavers, Technical.

ACO is also pleased to announce that Andrea Berry has accepted the position of ACO Administrator and can be reached at: PO Box 130 Glassville, NB, E7L 4T4; Telephone: 506-375-9190 or 1-888-375-9190, and email aco@nb.aibn.com.

Accredited Certification in Atlantic Canada

WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING CERTIFIED, there are many options to choose from. So just how do you choose one? Contact them as ask important questions relevant to your operations (eg. Do you offer NOP certification? What are the rates? If you grow a specialty commodity, do they understand your needs?). You can also ask for an application. It's also important to ask around and see if their other clients

are satisfied with the service. If you aren't happy with the decision you make, or maybe your operations shift, you can change certifiers though—nothing is carved in stone!

Atlantic Certified Organic (ACO) Co-operative
Administrator: Andrea Berry,
PO Box 130, Glassville, NB, E7L 4T4
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e-mail: aco@nb.aibn.com

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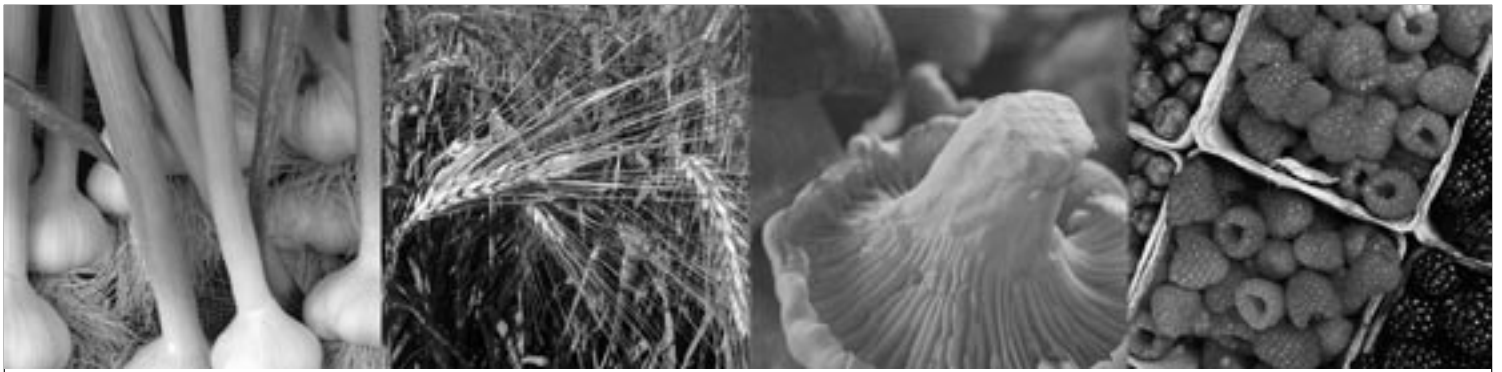
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Contact Shonda Babineau @ CO-OP Atlantic Brokerage (506) 858-6178 or shonda.babineau@coopatlantic.com



Save the Date: ACORN's Organic Conference & Trade Show Feb 26-28th

ACORN IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT it's 9th Organic Conference and Trade Show will take place in Truro, February 26-28th.

The theme of the conference will be Organics: Good for You, Good for the Planet, with focus on the health and environmental aspects of organics.

A number of workshop topics relating to the theme have already been suggested, including health benefits of grass-fed beef, alternative farm energy, carbon sequestering in organic agriculture, understanding farm nitrogen needs and cycling.

ACORN is also planning another symposium (at this time we're thinking it will be on organic berry production), Seedy Saturday, and organic tour. Once again, all food served at the conference will be certified organic, with the great majority from local sources.

What to get involved in planning the conference? We'd love to have you. Most of the work is done by email and conference calls. Drop us a line at admin@acornorganic.org or call 1-866-322-2676.

Organic Tour

ON OCTOBER 6 & 7, WE ARE HOPING to bring a group of interested people to Toronto to the Ethnic & Specialty Foods show, which also includes the All Things Organic Canadian show.

At the show, you'll get a better understanding of the organic and natural food market—what's hot? what's new? what's missing? Following this, we'll take a tour of Whole Foods Market, the world's largest retailer of natural and organic foods, and then the Big Carrot Natural Food Market, a worker owned co-operative for 25 years. We'll also visit an organic farmers market and eat supper at an organic pub.

Sound interesting? If you want more information, let us know at admin@acornorganic.org or 1-866-322-2676.

Organic Inspector Training

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING an organic inspector? Or maybe you are and you want to up-grade your training? If so, ACORN would like to know.

There is a short supply of International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA) accredited inspectors in Atlantic Canada. Training offered by IOIA takes place over several days and includes a mock inspection. There are various levels offered by IOIA, from beginner to advanced, and special training for livestock and processing.

ACORN is currently investigating the interest from the organic community and how to best meet that need. If you, or someone you know, is interested please call us at 1-866-322-2676 or email admin@acornorganic.org.

Learning Resources

LOOKING TO BUILD YOUR LIBRARY? The ACORN Office keeps a few books on hand to sell to members. Currently, we have:

Building Added Value through Farm Diversification (\$29)

Cultivating Agritourism: Tools and Techniques for Building Success (\$29)

Gaining Ground: making a successful transition to organic farming (\$70 and includes a one year Canadian Organic Growers membership). Also available in French (Terre en Devenir)

Marketing on the Edge: A Marketing Guide for Progressive Farmers (\$33.50)

Organic Livestock Handbook a Canadian Organic Growers publication (\$30)

Under Cover: A guide to cover crops in the Maritimes (\$10)

Coming Soon:

Organic Fieldcrops Handbook (\$40). Also available in French Guide de production biologique des grandes cultures

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