



ACORN

Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network
Issue 31, Winter 2009

President's Message: The new organic regulation & ACORN's role

THE CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY is, after much delay, just about ready to bring in a new Canadian standard for organic products. The new standard, though, is a federal standard. It will apply only to products that cross external borders between Canada and the world and products that cross internal borders between provinces. It will not, without further action, apply within provinces.

Further action is at the discretion of provincial governments who must decide whether or not to implement the new Canadian standard. Our organization, ACORN, has to decide what role it should play in all this.

ACORN represents both certified and uncertified organic producers, and the interests of these two groups may conflict regarding provincial implementation of the new Canadian standard. Once a province implements the standard, then only certified organic products may be labelled as organic within that province.

ACORN has over 300 members, but there are only 140 or so certified organic producers in the Atlantic region. The board of ACORN, however, is heavily weighted towards certified

organic producers. For example, I have never been elected by the membership, but instead was appointed to the board by a certifying group, OCIA-NB, as specified in ACORN's by-laws. Certified organic producers tend to understand organic production as meaning only certified organic production. So the natural inclination of the board is to promote the implementation of the Canadian standard within provinces of the Atlantic region.

There are alternatives. In the last year or so, active organic lobbying groups have been established within each of the three Maritime provinces. These groups represent the interests solely of certified organic producers. Perhaps lobbying for provincial implementation of the Canadian standard should be left to them.

Implementation and enforcement of the new Canadian standard within provinces will be costly. When the New Brunswick lobbying group met with their provincial government representatives, they were told that the provincial government needed to know the costs and benefits of implementing the Canadian standard before the government would act. One thing that ACORN is very

good at is organising and finding funding for the sort of cost-benefit study that would be required. Perhaps this is a role for ACORN.

Even if organic producers are not certified, their products will not be literally organic unless they obey the new Canadian standard, including all its record-keeping requirements. Both certified and non-certified organic producers are going to need help in understanding the new standards and applying them to their own operations. Perhaps educating producers regarding the new standard is an important role for ACORN.

Perhaps, finally, it would be important to discuss this issue at the ACORN annual general meeting at conference in February (Saturday the 28th). Please come and participate.

**ACORN Conference
& Trade Show**

February 26-28 in Truro, NS

Register Today!

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IOIA Inspector Training for Atlantic Canada

IN APRIL, ACORN WILL HOLD IOIA training to the new Canadian Organic Standards in Prince Edward Island.

“Regional certifying bodies had told us of a shortage of inspectors and asked for our assistance,” said Beth McMahon, ACORN Executive Director. “For instance, PEI has only one accredited inspector.”

IOIA training has been held in the Maritimes before, but the cost and distance to travel has been prohibitive to most interested people from the area. Through the funding assistance of the PEI Department of Agriculture, the PEI ADAPT Council (ACAAF body), and the PEI Certified Organic Producers Co-operative, the cost to participants will be significantly subsidized.

The program will include the basic crop training, a one-day livestock certificate, and an advanced auditing workshop. Priority will be given to residents of Atlantic Canada to ensure that the training and skills remain in the region. Space is limited, so if you are interested in participating, please let ACORN know!

Organic Berry Network

THERE IS A WORLDWIDE DEMAND FOR organic berries—frozen, freeze-dried and fresh. Consumers are looking for their strong flavours and nutraceutical properties.

Many growers in Atlantic Canada have also identified this growing market, but without research, education, and marketing information, growing the industry can be slow.

After months of work to create and find funding, ACORN is pleased to have

been awarded over \$70,000 from the NB Agricultural Council and the PEI ADAPT Councils (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) for the three-year project.

The Organic Berry Network has already assisted three growers to attend the Ethnic & Specialty Foods Show in Toronto, which included meetings with buyers and US Consulate representatives. This was followed by a multi-store tour to gain further marketing knowledge. Findings from

the trip will be presented at the ACORN Conference by Evan Patkai on the afternoon of Sat. Feb 28th.

Anyone can join the organic berry network and there is no cost to do so. The network will issue electronic newsletters 3X/year. To sign-up, contact ACORN at 1-866-322-2676 or email admin@acornorganic.org.

What's Next with the Organic Berry Network?

February 28th, 1:00-4:00pm at the ACORN Conference: Network meeting and special presentations. Presentations will include Tekmash processing technology, Mycorrhizal Fungi research, marketing opportunities and more.

March 19th: Organic Berry Production Workshop on strawberries, raspberries and high bush blueberries. Location: Memramcook Resort (between Sackville and Moncton).

Late April: Pollination symposium for organic field berries. This two-day session will include focused presentations with Dr. Peter Kevan, University of Guelph and Chair of the CanPOLN project, as well as a field tour of pollination research plots in lowbush blueberry fields.





Organic Trade Show—Come Visit Us!

Hours: Friday, February 27th (8:30am-6:00pm) and Saturday, February 28th (9:00am-4:30pm) at the Truro Holiday Inn, 437 Prince St. Admission is free, so bring a friend!

List of Exhibitors:

AgraPoint
 Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
 Atlantic Certified Organic Co-operative
 Co-op Country Quality Organics
 Dubois Agrinovation Inc.
 Ecocert Canada

Envirem Technologies
 Farmasea
 Farmers Markets NS
 Hope Seeds
 Johnny's Selected Seeds
 Jolly Farmer
 JustUs! Coffee Roasters
 Katie's Farm Organic Dog Bakery
 Noggins Farm/Haygrove
 Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture
 OCIA
 Octa Greenhouses

Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada
 Organic Council of Nova Scotia
 Organic Meadow
 PEI Fruits and Berry Co.
 Picaroons
 ProCert
 Rare Breeds Canada
 Rural Delivery
 Seeds of Diversity
 Small Farm Canada
 SOIL Apprenticeships
 Speerville Flour Mill

ACORN Conference Partners - Thank You!



Volunteers Needed

ACORN IS STILL LOOKING FOR A FEW good hands and minds to assist with the volunteer jobs at the conference. Possible jobs include front desk registration, child care, note taking, A/V assistant, and trade show monitor. In return for every four hours you contribute, we'll give you a complimentary day pass for the conference. To find out more, contact Jessie at 1-866-322-2676 or email jessie@acornorganic.org.

Carpooling

HAVE SPACE IN YOUR VEHICLE FOR more people? Need a ride? Visit acorncarpool.wordpress.com and post your information.

Practical Skills Handbooks

An essential resource for growers interested in organic methods with farm-tested methods and research so you can



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Canadian Organic Growers
 Cultivons Biologique Canada

Finding Local Organic Seeds

RECENTLY, SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE ASKED for a directory of seeds from our region. The most obvious first choices would be our two certified organic seed houses in Atlantic Canada that deal in locally grown seeds:

Company: **Hope Seeds**

Name: Andrea Berry
Address: PO Box 130, 365 Knowlesville Road
Glassville, NB, E7L 4T4
Phone: 506-375-6934
E-mail: hopeseed@nbnet.nb.ca
Website: www.hopeseed.com
Affiliation: ACO

Description: Hope Seeds offers locally grown heritage vegetable, flower and herb seeds of a diverse selection, many with Maritime connections. Cultivars are suitable for zones 3-5. Some seeds. Certified organic by MCOG and OCIA. Hope Seeds also has a variety trials and market garden with heritage and heirloom varieties of potatoes, garlic, Jerusalem artichokes, root vegetables, beets, carrots,

rutabagas, salad greens, head lettuce, cucumbers, squash, pumpkin, tomatoes, peppers, beans, edible flowers and herbs. Visitors welcome, please contact us in advance.

Company: **Mapple Farm**

Name: Greg Wingate
Address: 129 Beech Hill Road
Weldon, NB E4H 4N5
Phone: 506-734-3361
E-mail: wingate@nbnet.nb.ca
Affiliation: OCIA

Description: Provides a select offering of certified organic seed/ plant/ growing stock including short- season sweetpotato slips; a select list of distinctive tomatoes; jerusalem artichokes; chinese artichokes; egyptian onions; french shallots; horseradish and more. Primarily a mail order source, and a brochure for the mail order can be obtained via email.

At the recent Heritage Breeds and Heirloom Seeds workshop in Debert, NS, Owen Bridge introduced his new seed business. Although only 16, Owen thoroughly impressed the group with his extensive seed catalogue and seed saving knowledge:

Company: **Annapolis Valley Heritage Seeds**

Name: Owen Bridge
Address: 8528 Hwy 201, RR#3
Middleton, NS B0S 1P0
Phone: 902-825-4732
E-mail: owen@annapolisseed.com
Website: www.annapolisseed.com

Description: This is our first year in business supplying open-pollinated, savable, non-genetically modified seeds. We have an emphasis on maintaining heritage varieties but we also sell some great varieties that are more recent introductions. We grow all the seeds ourselves on our small farm at the base of South Mountain in Nictaux, Nova Scotia, near Middleton. Everything on our farm is grown completely organically, although we're not yet officially certified.

In the ACORN membership, we also know of several more individual seed savers who may be sources for interesting and climatically appropriate seed varieties. You'll want to contact them directly to find out what they have:

David Cozac is known for his dried beans, but he's got many other interesting surprises: 506-363-2845

Karen Davidge has CFIA certified seed potatoes, which are also OCIA certified organic: 506-363-3744

Essie Lom of HutLo Acres saves some bush and pole beans, among others. Contact her at hutlo@xplornet.com or 506-375-8520

Michelle Summer Fike has several herb, flower, and vegetable seed varieties, including some heritage and unusual beans, peas, and tomatoes. Contact her at michelle@pumpkinmoonherbals.com and see a partial listing of her seeds at www.pumpkinmoonherbals.com.

Michelle Smith (902-945-2428) has some hardy climate varieties -- they even do well in Cape Breton.

Janet Wallace has saved seed on both sides of the Bay of Fundy. She now lives and gardens in New Brunswick's Albert County and grows heirlooms that thrive in low-heat. 1205 Rte 915, New Horton NB E4H 1W1, janetcw@nb.sympatico.ca

Don't overlook the **Seeds of Diversity Seed Exchange Directory**, where there are several listings for grain, vegetable and flower seed savers in Atlantic Canada. Seeds of Diversity is a great organization, and if you are passionate about saving seed, trying new seed, or protecting seeds and seed saver rights, we'd encourage you to join the organization. It's \$30 a year, and you'll receive their newsletter and seed directory (with hundreds of seed varieties from across Canada): www.seeds.ca or 1-866-509-SEED. Membership starts in January, so it's a good time to join.

As for the big companies, there's also **Vesey's Seeds**, which has more than 50 certified organic offerings, which aren't necessarily from Atlantic Canada sources (www.veseys.com). **Halifax Seed** has nine seed organic varieties available (halifaxseed.com), which aren't from local sources.

Seedy Saturday and Workshops

Mark the date: On Saturday, February 28th, there will be a Seedy Saturday along with mini-workshops. This will take place in conjunction with the ACORN conference, at the Holiday Inn in Truro. There is no cost to register or participate. If you've got seeds and want a table, let us know, or just bring some to swap. Maybe you have seeds that you want to preserve? This is the place to pass them onto to our seed savers and ensure their legacy lives on.

- 9:00 Keynote Address
- 9:30 Indoor Sprouting
- 10:00 Starting Seeds for the Garden
- 10:30 Saving Seeds 101 for Beginners
- 11:00 Saving Seeds 201 for Advanced
- 11:30 Grafting

Protecting Atlantic Canadian Seeds

Do you save seeds? Are you growing a strain of beans that has been passed down to you from your grandparents, or given to you by your neighbour? Maybe you plant a type of wheat named after the community down the road. If so, you might be one of the few people, or even the only person, saving the seed. This means that the strain can be lost if crop failure hits your garden or your community.

A group of Atlantic seed savers wants to preserve plant varieties that grow well in our climate. We would like to collect the seeds, grow them out, and pass them on to other gardeners who agree to continue saving the seeds. In this way, we can help preserve locally adapted varieties and make them available to growers across the region.

If you have any seeds that have been passed on from generation to generation within your family or your community, please send us a sample, along with the story of the seed, a brief description of growing characteristics and your contact information. We will distribute the seeds at the ACORN Conference in February to people who commit to re-offering the varieties. The following year, we will have more seed to offer and share.

Please send the seeds to any of the people listed below. The story of the seed can be emailed to janetcw@nb.sympatico.ca or written on a note enclosed with the seed.

Janet Wallace
1205 Rte. 915, New Horton, NB E4H 1W1
janetcw@nb.sympatico.ca

Andrea Berry
PO Box 130, Glassville, NB E7L 4T4
hopeseed@nbnet.nb.ca, (506) 375-6934

Gilberte Doelle
Wild Rose Farm, 6804 Hwy. 1, Gilbert's Cove,
RR#1 Plympton Nova Scotia, B0W 2R0,
(902) 837-4181

Michelle Smith
2375 Hwy. 252, Whycomagh, NS B0E 3M0
(902) 945-2428

Organic Path

"The challenge is to get your head around [organic farming]. You have to change your toolbox. You're not going to be doing the same things as you did before."

—Frazer Hunter

After more than a year, The Organic Path is complete!

This exhaustive resource is based on the experiences of Maritime organic farmers and the lessons they share about going organic. It provides the steps to help users be better prepared to develop their market, minimize financial risk and prepare for certification challenges. In addition to strategies, tactics, and resources, there is also downloadable Cost of Production worksheets. These COP Excel sheets are for grains, market garden, livestock and dairy. They offer sample data to modify or are fully customizable (for templates see http://acornorganic.org/organicpath/foundation/costs_revenues)

ACORN offers access to this great resource directly from its website—<http://acornorganic.org/organicpath>. There are also plans to print CD's with the content on it to distribute to users. This project was funded through the New Opportunities and Business Development Investment Initiative (NOBDI) under the Renewal Chapter of the Canada-Nova Scotia Agricultural Policy Framework Agreement.

Silent Auction Donations Needed

EACH YEAR, ACORN HOLDS ITS annual fundraising auction during the conference. We rely upon the generosity of our members and the community to contribute products, gift certificates, and unique items. Do you have something that you would consider donating to our worthy cause? Don't be modest – we'd love your handknit mittens or your neighbour's pottery. Please contact Jessie to tell her about your donation and bring it with you to the conference (if not possible, we'll figure out something), 1-866-322-2676.



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Contact: Maurice Girouard

Community Shared Agriculture Conference 2008

I ATTENDED AN EXCELLENT CONFERENCE held at the beautiful Geneva Park Conference Centre in Orillia Ontario on November 21-23. Featured speakers included veteran CSA farmer Fran McQuail from Meeting Place Farms and new and upcoming CSA farmers like Angie Cook from Fertile Ground CSA.

CSA stands for Community Shared Agriculture and is a unique relationship between a farmer and a consumer. The consumer buys a share of the upcoming harvest at the first of the season and during the growing season receives a share of the harvest from the farm.

There are many different models within the CSA and every farmer finds a model that fits their lifestyle and farming operation. It is often looked upon as the consumer being an investor in the farm and the dividends from that investment being a weekly delivery of fresh, local and often organic produce. This particular model of selling for a farmer is very attractive as the spring is often the time of year when costs are high due to seeds, inputs, equipment and infrastructure improvement expenses. The CSA model gives the farmer the upfront "seed" money at the time of the year when they would often need to see the bank for an operating loan. The consumer is truly investing in the farmer and the farm.

The conference highlighted many important aspects of running a CSA. They include budgeting, membership recruitment and turnover, season extension and different models which CSA farms use.

Because the traditional CSA model has the farmer receiving the members' share fees at the first of the season, budgeting accurately is a much-needed skill in running a CSA successfully. If the farmer is not careful they could easily spend that early season money quickly without making sure a budget plan is in place to carry the farmer through the entire season. Many of the farmers who spoke at the conference rely on the CSA and the farmers market for the majority of their farm income. A high percentage of the CSA farmers who spoke at the conference sold at least one farmers market but they often said the CSA was the majority of their farm income.

Recruiting and retaining CSA members can be a challenge but getting marketing information out to the public is imperative. Attractive business cards, brochures and an informative website are all essential in getting the word out about a new business. Posting information in health stores, alternative health therapy centres and other places where your prospective members shop were ideas offered by the speakers. Keeping those members year after year can be made easier by being upfront about your policies and how the program works and by delivering to your customers what you agree on. Sending out an end of season survey is a great way to find out what worked and what didn't for your customers during the season.

Season extension is a very important aspect in running a CSA. If you are planning on giving your membership vegetables for a set number of weeks you have to be able to provide them with a wide variety of veggies each week regardless of the weather. Using hoop houses, row covers, plastic mulch, greenhouses and lots of hardy late and early season greens allows you to easily stretch the normal growing season which many people are used to. Many of the CSA farmers used a number of these techniques and typically had a CSA season of 16-20 weeks.

There are many different ways of getting the vegetables to the members. The traditional method is having the customer go directly to the farm to pick up their veggies. This means less time spent travelling by the farmer and more time at the farm interacting with the CSA members. Some of the CSA speakers could not have a farm pick up due to the distance the farm is from the main group of their members, so they decided to go with a general distribution drop off spot where the customers would meet them. Often a church parking lot or health food store in the closest town would serve as the drop off location. Dealing with shade, adequate parking and space could sometimes be issues that the farmers would have to find solutions for.

Some farmers who were regularly selling at a farmers market would take the shares with them and distribute them there during regular operating hours. This method can be a real "win-win" solution for the farmer, the market

and the CSA members. Some farmers did a combination of market, drop off and farm but these were fairly large farmers with often having more than 200 memberships to satisfy. A few farmers did a home delivery but they emphasized that a delivery fee of at least \$5/week was essential and that it took a lot of time to do the deliveries, especially if their customers were home and were known to be chatty.

The CSA model is a very attractive one for small-scale farmers who want to start out on their own or to diversify their existing farm. I chose to start a CSA last summer in addition to attending two weekly farmers market. The CSA model is a very satisfying way to market your produce as you are weekly educating your membership about the vegetables they are receiving that week by providing them with easy to use recipes, helpful storage tips and interesting facts.

Knowing the faces of the people you are growing food for has been a very enjoyable experience. Seeing your members every week and getting to know their new veggie favourites and knowing that their kids ate purple carrots for the first time and loved them is a great feeling.

Two pieces of advice that I would give are 1) to start out small and to ensure you are comfortable growing vegetables on a fairly consistent scale and 2) schedule to ensure the weekly commitment can be achievable on behalf of you the farmer.

We started out small with only 13 members because we wanted to ensure the CSA was the right fit for our operation. We have quickly expanded to 30 members for the 2009 season and look forward to expanding to 50 for 2010. We had grown vegetables for four years on a part time basis so we felt we had enough experience under our belts to comfortably commit to growing for our 16-week membership season.

See you at the ACORN CSA workshop on Thursday, February 26th!

Jen Campbell,
Jen and Derek's Farm, PEI
JenAndDereksFarm@gmail.com
<http://farmfreshveggies.blogspot.com/>

Standards Revision Process: Where it's at!

By Roxanne Beavers

ON ACORN'S BEHALF, OVER THE LAST year I have been attending Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) meetings to amend the Canadian Standard for Organic Production Systems.

This process has been driven by the Canadian Organic Growers, and funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The previous version of the Standard was only released in 2006, but when the new Canadian Organic Regulation was being developed it became apparent that there were administrative changes needed to the Standard to come in line with the Regulation (for example, removal to references to labeling which are covered by law). There were also corrections, clarifications, and changes proposed to the Standard based on new research. There were three in-person meetings and corresponding ballots of proposed changes.

The working and task groups (Permitted Substances List, Livestock, Processing, Crop, Maple, and Honey; all of which have members from Atlantic Canada), have done a considerable amount of work on the proposed changes. Anything new or unresolved will go onto a "Future Work List" to be dealt with in the next round of revisions.

Highlights

—Proposed Changes to the Standard:

- Definitions have been added for hydroponics and areoponics (air root systems), and clarification that these systems are not possible in certified organic because they do not rely on soil and soil processes. A definition has also been added to soil.
- Cloning processes / cloned animals are defined and clearly prohibited in the scope of the standard.
- For manure sources (5.5.1), the wording has changed to state that conventional manure may be used provided it is from a system where animals are not fully caged,

can turn 360° and are not permanently kept in the dark. A note has been added to prioritize the use of manure from transitional or extensive livestock operations and not from landless operations or those using feed containing GMOs.

- Clearer requirements for grazed animals in section 6.1.3: the consumption of grazed forage during the grazing season should be a minimum of 30% of the total forage intake for mature ruminants, and a minimum of 1/3 acre (0.13 ha) per animal unit must be devoted to grazing.

- In 6.7.10, a withdrawal period of 30 days is specified for dairy animals treated with antibiotics (or 2X the label withdrawal period for medication, whichever is longer). Although this change was controversial, it was based on discussions with organic producers across Canada and will double the current requirement of 14 days.

- Use of conventional straw for bedding in dairy is permitted under 6.8, provided that it is free from non-PSL substances (i.e. unsprayed) for 60 days prior to harvest.

- Section 6.8.11 contains a new table for stocking rates for pigs, layers, broilers, turkeys and rabbits. There are some changes, which are either clarifications (new categories) or increases in space for the animals.

- In the Permitted Substances List (PSL), the compost section has been expanded to clarify requirements for feedstocks, worm castings, compost tea and processed manures. On-farm compost must reach 55°C for four consecutive days, or meet CCME compost quality guidelines for pathogens, or be considered aged manure. Off-farm composts must meet CCME compost quality guidelines for pathogens and trace contaminants.

- A substantial revision to the requirements for adding substances to or amending the PSL. This will clarify the circumstances under which synthetic substances can be permitted in organic production,

which will allow the use of products like synthetic pheromones and formulants that are accepted in most other standards, while not opening up the list broadly.

- Cleaners, sanitizers and disinfectants: The existing section has been split into two new lists (7.3 and 7.4) to identify those that can be used without restriction (including ethanol and vinegar), and those which can be used if the equipment is rinsed / washed before contact with organic food (including dilute bleach and soaps).

According to CGSB, the goal is to release the new version of the Standard as soon as possible to correspond with the date that the Regulation comes into effect (June 30, 2009).

What's also important to note, is that once the current standard revision process is completed, that a new "priority work list" will be generated (for issues that still need to be included or revised) and industry is hoping to tackle these as soon as possible. Maintaining a standard that is relevant to our community takes significant time and resources, and it's good to realize what an accomplishment every standard is.

Revised Standard Available Now

The new standards are now available on the CGSB website. Unfortunately, copies of these standards are not free and must be purchased. Note that they are referred to as 2006, issued October 1, 2008. They cannot be called 2008, as that would have required the committee to vote on the entire standard (not just the amended sections). The standard (32.310) is \$93.50 + GST and the Permitted Substance List (32.311) is \$81.00 + GST.

www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/cgsb/on_the_net/organic/index-e.html



Looking for Farm Apprentices?

ONCE AGAIN, ACORN IS WORKING WITH the SOIL program (a national program) for 2009 to promote organic farm apprenticeships in Atlantic Canada.

ACORN has hired Nicole Arsenault, who is based in Halifax, as our Apprenticeship Coordinator. Nicole is responsible for helping promote the program to both potential apprentices and farms. She will be holding information workshops over the coming months and getting the word out.

We have also just finished publication of the newly revised apprenticeship handbook, which includes all new resources for the Atlantic Canada region. This book is free for

all farms that join the SOIL program (\$30 annual fee payable to ACORN). It provides teaching ideas, sample contracts, and many additional resources and contacts.

If you are new to offering a farm apprenticeship, or just looking for fresh ideas, you should also consider attending our up-coming workshop series. Led by organic farmer and educator, Rowena Hopkins, the workshop will cover strategies for recruitment, logistics of room and board, effective communications and conflict resolution, ideas for teaching strategies and more.

Saturday, January 24th in Summerside at the Trinity United: 9:00-11:30am

Saturday, January 24th in Charlottetown at the Farm Centre: 2:30-5:00pm

Saturday, January 31st in Grand Pre at the Just Us museum: 2:00--4:30pm

Sunday, February 1st in Truro at the NSAC (Cox Institute): 2:00-4:30pm

TBA: Two workshops will be held in New Brunswick in February

Cost is just \$10. To pre-register or for more information on joining the SOIL program, contact ACORN at admin@acornorganic.org or call 1-866-322-2676. You can also visit the SOIL website at www.soilapprenticeships.org or contact Nicole directly at Nicole@acornorganic.org.

Putting Your Best 'Food' Forward: Strategies for the Family Farm

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF EXPLORING scale-appropriate technologies and creative ideas for on farm food safety, harvesting and handling.

This special workshop is part of ACORN's Farmer-Chef project, which is working to get more local organics into local kitchens. Featured speakers include Leopold Bourgeois, who has recently completed a food safety leadership program, and Allison Grant, who has completed her HACCAP training. Both understand the pressures and constraints on the family farm and will offer appropriate strategies to participants.

February 9th in Dieppe (translation provided English and French); 1 – 4 pm.

February 10th in Fredericton (English only): 1 – 4 pm.

Cost is \$15 and includes refreshments. This workshop is sponsored in part by the Canadian Organic Growers Growing Up Organic project, the Really Local Co-operative, and ACORN. To register or for details, contact Theresa at 1-866-322-2676 or email theresa@acornorganic.org

ACORN Annual General Meeting

ALL ACORN MEMBERS ARE INVITED to attend the Annual General Meeting on Saturday, February 28th, 7:45am-9:15am, at the Truro Holiday Inn.

During this meeting annual reports will be provided, including financials. Board vacancies will also be filled through nominations and voting.

Any new business items that you wish to put on the agenda should be sent to the ACORN office by February 2nd. To do so, email us at admin@acornorganic.org or call 1-866-233-2676.