

## 13.3 Federal

### Organic Production Systems Task Force (OTF)

The OTF was mandated to investigate outstanding organic standard, inspection and certification issues and to recommend a regulatory scheme to resolve them. The OTF will remain in place to see the regulations through to publication. Updates from the OTF on progress towards the implementation of the national regulation are posted on the OTF website: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/orgbio/otfgtspbe.shtml>

## 14. Resources

The following resources provide either direct information, or pathways for accessing information relevant to organic agriculture in British Columbia and Canada.

### British Columbia Organic Grower

A quarterly publication from the COABC containing feature articles from members of the British Columbia organic industry, classifieds and other forms of advertisement from organic producers and suppliers. Previous issues and subscriptions are available at <http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/publications/bcog/index.htm>

### Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia Website

[www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca](http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca)

The COABC website contains descriptions of their various programs, a producer/processor database, and updated versions of the COABC Production Operation Policies and Management Standards. Other important components of the COABC website are:

- **Cyber Help for Organic Farmers:** a portal for web-based information on organic production, management, and other services including produce prices, organic news, seed sources and more.  
<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/rcbtoa/index.html>
- **COABC e-mail listserve:** a forum for organic farmers throughout British Columbia to post questions, answers and exchange ideas with regards to production and marketing issues.  
<http://www.certifiedorganic.bc.ca/contact/listserve.htm>

### Canadian Organic Growers (COG)

Since 1975, COG has been educating farmers, gardeners, consumers, the media and policy-makers about the benefits of organic farming systems. COG produces technical handbooks and a quarterly magazine, *The Canadian Organic Grower*, dedicated to organic growing. COG's website ([www.cog.ca](http://www.cog.ca)) and mail-order library contain valuable reference material. COG also tracks the growth of organics and works with the organic sector to address emerging issues of national concern.

## **InfoBasket**

[www.infobasket.gov.bc.ca](http://www.infobasket.gov.bc.ca)

A one-stop shop for Agri-food information on the Internet. BCMAL has assembled links to information sources from around the world, including governments, universities and research institutes.

InfoBasket is organized into areas of interest called Communities (e.g. Organics or Beef). Each Community is comprised of folders, such as Production and Processing, Business Management and Finance, Marketing and Trade, Regulations and Legislation, Directories and Contacts and Statistics and Market Data. Within these folders links to documents specific to agri-business needs can be found.

## **Organic Agriculture Centre of Canada website**

[www.organicagcentre.ca](http://www.organicagcentre.ca)

The OACC website provides various resources including:

- Information on OACC research projects,
- Web-based extension articles,
- Employment and research opportunities,
- A list of post secondary institutions that offer courses or programs in organic agriculture or have related curriculums.