

FARMERS COOPERATIVES: SYMPOSIUM FROM CANADIAN ORGANIC GROWERS

Please see below brief information about a symposium Canadian Organic Growers has organized regarding the potential of farmers co-operatives to increase organic production and markets for organic food in Eastern Ontario. Attached is a press release giving more background about the event.

You may have received an earlier version of this release with an incorrect date. Please note that the event is on March 22 and that we are now titling the event, "Exploring the Co-operative Option: Strategies for Tapping into Local Markets". Sorry for the confusion.

Colin Lundy
PO Box 87
North Gower, ON
613-493-0020

Strathmere Farms
Canadian Organic Growers - Ottawa Chapter
Growing Up Organic Farmer Outreach Coordinator

Exploring the Co-operative Option: Strategies for Tapping into Local Markets

Time: March 22– 1pm 5:30pm with a reception to follow

Location: Kemptville College

The demand for organic food in Canada far exceeds the current supply. Canadian Organic Growers has been exploring the role that Farmers' Co-operatives can play in increasing the production of organic food in Eastern Ontario for the commercial marketplace, while at the same time protecting farmers' interest within that marketplace. Through farmer owned cooperatives, COG would provide resources and supports for farmers to successfully get and stay organic, and develop markets for those organic products.

If you are an ecological farmer or a conventional farmer curious about organic production for local markets, COG has organized a symposium for you to ask questions and explore these ideas. There will be three panel presentations by experts with discussions to follow on:

1. Farmers' Co-operative Development
2. Organic Farming
3. Organic Marketplace

The event is free for farmers. Non-farmers interested in the topic are also welcome for a registration fee of \$25. Anyone interested must register in advance by March 19 for planning purposes. Email office@cog.ca or call 1-888-375-7383.