

What is K.O.G.S?

Kootenay Organic Growers Society (KOGS) is a not for profit Kootenay based certifying organization dedicated to the production and promotion of organic agriculture and products. We are committed to supporting and strengthening sustainable agriculture and related businesses in our home region.

We support the goals of Community Food Security, which means that all people have dignified access to food that is safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate, and which has been produced in a manner that is environmentally and socially sustainable.

As a certifier we are responsible for ensuring that only farmers and processors that meet the Canadian standards for organic agriculture can market their product as 'BC Certified Organic'. We are one of 14 certifying bodies based in BC that are accredited through the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC).

All programs and certification are supported by member fees and fundraising. Please consider supporting KOGS for a stronger local economy.

- Organic food is a booming \$3.7 billion business growing at approx. 20% annually.
- Organic agriculture promotes practices that build the soil as the foundation for healthy crops and livestock. Better for you and better for the environment.
- Certified Organic means no:
Artificial Additives or Preservatives
Irradiation
GMO's or Synthetic Fertilizers
Hormones or Antibiotics
Herbicides or Pesticides

Our membership extends over the entire West Kootenay area (from Fruitvale to Nakusp to Invermere).

KOGS membership is not just for farms or processors seeking certification. Join KOGS as an Associate Member and

- Support local farmers and agriculture
- Support the future of organic farming
- Learn more about organic agriculture
- Receive discounts at participating stores.

Current Certified Members

Bee Greens, Winlaw

Cripple Crow Ranch, Winlaw

Crooked Horn Farm, Winlaw

Edible Acres, Windermere

Glade Valley Gardens, Glade

Hummingbird Farm, Winlaw

Jamelin Farms, Fruitvale

Janet Spicer Farming, Nakusp

Kootenay River Farm Co., Shoreacres

Lazy River Organics, Winlaw

McIntyre Farm, Argenta

Meadowbrook Farm, Salmo

Ravine Creek Farm, Winlaw

Steel Horse Farm, Glade

Tipiland Organic Produce, Argenta

Tula Berry Farm, Passmore

Membership Application

Name

Farm Name (if applicable)

Mailing Address

Telephone

Email

Crops Grown/ livestock/Products

Associate Member – \$40 year

Certifying Member - \$40 year

Corporate Member - \$50 year

Please send your completed form with a cheque payable to KOGS to:

Kootenay Organic Growers Society

Po Box 684,

Nelson, BC, V1L 5R4

KOGS is a registered not for profit society.

Why buy local produce?

Locally grown produce is the freshest, tastiest and most nutritious food.

When you buy locally you know you are buying the freshest possible food. You get to enjoy all the flavor and nutrition that is normally lost if shipping produce to market. Local farmers can also grow old fashioned variety of tomatoes or peaches, harvested just as they are bursting with flavor rather than resorting to varieties bred to withstand the rigors of long distance trucking and storage. In addition, eating locally grown food is usually what is best suited to our dietary and health needs.

It helps small family farms exist.

Buying local makes good economic sense, too. When you buy fresh produce your food dollars go directly to the pockets of the farmer rather than shipper, brokers and wholesalers. That money stays in the local economy, helping to keep our region vibrant and strong. This means greater job security for everyone as money circulates among our own communities instead of heading to shareholders who have never even heard of the Kootenays!

Local farms preserve rural areas for future generations

Once lost to development agricultural land is generally lost forever, not only as a source of food, but also as a source of beauty. It is the beauty of the Kootenays which draws the artists, the tourists and those who wish to live in a green and healthy environment.

Buying locally grown food supports ecological diversity

Local farmers respond to consumer demands by growing a huge variety of plant species that might otherwise be ignored or become extinct. By eating locally grown farm produce you will experience a world of taste, color and texture not available at the supermarket!

It provides long term security and safety

Any community unable to feed its own population is vulnerable. There is an even greater risk in expecting a continuous and secure source of food from somewhere across the world.

Organic Certification

Organic certification is a process that assures consumers that products labeled 'Certified Organic' have been grown, processed and handled in compliance with standards designed to promote a healthy environment and to keep growers and customers safe from harmful contaminants.

If you are interested in certification:

- Contact the KOGS office.
- Become a member of KOGS. Submit a complete application form with applicable fees. Deadline is 1st April.
- KOGS Certification Committee will review your application and a Verification Officer will conduct an inspection of your farm.
- The Certification Committee will review your application, make a decision based on the inspection report and advise you on your certification status.
- Farming practices must be reviewed annually for certification.

For more information contact KOGS at:

KOGS, Po Box 684, Nelson, V1L 5R4

E-mail: office@kogs.bc.ca or www.kogs.bc.ca

Tel: 250-352-9784



LOCAL

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CERTIFIED ORGANIC

-Better together

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certifying body

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