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Connecting the Organic Community

November 16-18th, 2008 TCU Place - Saskatoon, SK

Check out Western Canada's leading organic conference and tradeshow featuring products, services, information, great food, music and opportunities to connect with interesting people from around the world.

Organic Connections will focus on four themes; *Transition, Farming, Lifestyles* and *Sustainability*. The program is packed with outstanding global speakers, presentations and key topics of interest to anyone who cares about reducing their dependence on pesticides, herbicides or fossil fuels, while increasing their farm profitability and improving their quality of life. The conference opens on Sunday (Nov 16th) with the first of the *Transition into Organic Farming Workshops* and an *Advanced Agronomics Workshop*. Sunday afternoon Organic Connections volunteers will be keeping those at the Santa Claus Parade warm with *Organic Cookies and Cocoa*.

Joel Salatin, Richard Heinberg and *Xingji Xiao* are the keynote speakers for the conference. *Joel Salatin's* family feeds and supplies 1,000 families, 4 retail outlets and 30 restaurants from Polyface Farm in Virginia. In addition to sharing how they achieve these outstanding farm gate sales, he will reveal why "*Everything I Want to Do is Illegal*", and advise on how "*You Can Farm*" using alternative and diverse farming practices. *Richard Heinberg* has traveled the world creating awareness of the world's energy situation. He has authored many books on the topic, the most recent titled, "*Peak Everything*". Richard will join Organic Connections via video conference to demonstrate that energy consumption can be reduced through technology and simple lifestyle changes. *Xingji Xiao*, the first organic inspector in China, will discuss global markets, trends and the state of organic production and sales in China. If you've ever wondered about organics in China, you won't want to miss this informative discussion.

The vast variety of breakout sessions will include featured speakers such as: *Dr. Martin Entz*, Cropping Systems; *Dr. Av Singh*, Advanced Agronomic Workshop; and *Don Ruzicka*, Biodiversity. Also look for presentations on alternate energy options, local food connections, organic livestock and organic solutions to production challenges. The *International Organic Marketing Panel* will round off Organic Connections on Tuesday afternoon.

Plenty of time is also scheduled for networking at the largest Organic Industry Trade Show on the prairies. Meet buyers, marketers, processors, certifiers, suppliers and more on the tradeshow floor.

Organic Connections balances informative sessions on organic production and marketing with fun, social events such as the Monday night *Olde Thyme Country Supper and Dance* and *Organic Styles Fashion Show*. Come and enjoy this celebration of organic food and farmers!

For more information on the conference and its many opportunities to participate, visit www.organicconnections.ca. Organic Connections is CASS approved.

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