

The Alberni Clayoquot Regional District has hired a team of professionals to help with implementation of specific items of the 2011 Agricultural Plan.



THE INITIATIVES

The following items have been identified by the ACRD as the key initiatives in the current phase of the project.

- 1) Realizing Improvements to Farmers Markets
- 2) Identifying Opportunities Through Farm Gate Sales
- 3) Developing Local Marketing Opportunities in the Alberni Valley, on the West Coast and Across Vancouver Island
- 4) Including Shellfish Growers in Local Agricultural Initiatives
- 5) Identifying and Securing Grant Opportunities



WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

This project requires the participation of all related interest groups. Please contact us with feedback, requests, suggestions and information.

We are actively collecting data and contact sheets for interested farmers, buyers or community groups. Please let us know if you would like to be in our database.



CONTACT US

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ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

ACRD Agricultural Plan

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT



Are you a farmer within the ACRD?

Are you a retailer, wholesaler, restaurateur or individual looking to purchase locally grown agricultural products?

*Look inside to
see what's new!*



About the Team



THE ROAD AHEAD

A number of projects have been identified for implementation. Our focus is on action, outcomes and the creation of effective strategies with a goal of expanding a viable and thriving agricultural sector. Key projects include...

- *Delivery of a comprehensive survey to farmers for identification of needs and best supportive practices.*
- *Expansion of the local Farmers Directory and Buyers Guide*
- *Exploration and Development of a 'Grown in the ACRD' brand.*
- *Development of a pamphlet for producers identifying local marketing opportunities and providing guidelines for connecting with and meeting the needs of buyers.*
- *Expanding local social media and internet exposure for local agricultural interests*
- *General promotion and support of both small and large scale farmers and sustainable farming practices*



Connie Kuramoto - Team Leader

Connie is the current manager of the Canadian Mental Health Association's Healthy Harvest Farms in Port Alberni. She has extensive experience in the Horticulture and Agriculture industry, including managing both a market garden and commercially run greenhouses and instructing Horticulture at VIU and elsewhere. Connie is the owner of "Gardens on the Go", which offers Horticulture training, services and consultations. Connie is passionate about all aspects of food security, including both ecological and economic factors.



Anna Lewis - Project Assistant

Anna Lewis was raised on an Alberni Valley family farm that currently has four generations residing on it. She has witnessed several evolutions of traditional farming, including beef, dairy, hops and forage. She inherently understands the challenges facing small and large scale agriculture having worked in dairy, greenhouse production, silviculture, market gardens, and community gardens. Anna has relevant experience with the process of agricultural based business start-up, market research, niche marketing, bookkeeping, grant

applications, survey development, conducting interviews and she knows the importance of due diligence.



Heather Shobe - Project Assistant

Heather Shobe is owner/operator of Eden Tree Farm and Gardening, a small farm in the Alberni Valley. Her business projects include starting a local Fruit Gleaning Project and spearheading a School Garden initiative. Heather has extensive experience with farm marketing and market research, as well as small farm start-up and operation. She also has experience with identifying and completing grant applications and funding for various projects. Heather is an active member of Alberni Valley Transition Towns Food Group and a board member on the local Vancouver Island Health Authority Community Food Action Initiative.

