



## Agricultural Development Committee

Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

12:45 pm

### Regular Agenda

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Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/15-7-2025/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

[https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_ZhDEuJ3kR8C-IGUtPYFatg#/registration](https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZhDEuJ3kR8C-IGUtPYFatg#/registration)

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#### PAGE #

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

**Recognition of Territories.**

Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present via Zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)

3. **DECLARATIONS**

(conflict of interest)

4. **MINUTES**

a. **Agricultural Development Committee Meeting held April 15, 2025**

4-9

*THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on April 15, 2025 be adopted.*

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a. **Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services, ACRD regarding AVICC and UBCM Deadlines and Processes (Presentation and Report)** **10-12**
- b. **Serena Manhas, Planner 1, ACRD regarding Area D (Sproat Lake) OCP Introduction and Engagement (Presentation)**

6. **CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION**

- a. **FARM TO SCHOOL BC** **13-27**  
2023-2024 Annual Report
- b. **ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY** **28**  
Strategic Plan Summary
- c. **BC FOOD HUBS** **29-35**  
July Newsletter
- d. **BC MINISTRY OF HEALTH** **36-37**  
Farmers' Market Nutrition Program News
- e. **AGRISERVICE BC** **38-58**  
Islands Regional Newsletter – July 2025
- f. **HONOURABLE LANA POPHAM** **59-60**  
Copy of Letter from Minister of Agriculture and Food re: Farmgate Program Review

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive items a-f for information.*

7. **REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

- a. **REQUEST FOR DECISION** **61-62**  
Letter of Support for Farm to School BC

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to write a letter to the Honorable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health asking for Farm to School BC funding to be reinstated.*

8. **REPORTS**

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham (attached) **63-64**
- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
- d. Island Health – K. Ruel
- e. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell
- f. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith

g.	Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall (attached)	65
h.	Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis (attached)	66
i.	Eat West Coast – E. Goldt	
j.	Spirit Square Farmers’ Market – S. Rymer (attached)	67
k.	Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy (attached)	68
l.	Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles	
m.	4-H – P. Radcliffe (attached)	69
n.	Marine Stakeholders	
o.	Primary Agricultural Producers	
	• Shannon Farms – T. Shannon (attached)	70-73

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee accept these reports a-o for information.*

9. **LATE BUSINESS**

10. **QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public:

- Participating in Person in the Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- Emailed to the ACRD at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca)

11. **ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 18th at 12:45 pm Hybrid – ACRD Boardroom/Zoom**



# Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

## MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON APRIL 15, 2025, 12:45 PM

Zoom/Board Room (Hybrid) – 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

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### MEMBERS

#### PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm  
Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association  
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area “B” (Beaufort)  
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority  
Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast  
Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society  
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms  
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers’ Market  
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers’ Institute  
Patty Palmer, 4H  
Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found  
**Ex-Officio Members**  
Katie Miles, Coastal Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative  
Russell Dyson, Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Penny Cote, Director, ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

#### REGRETS:

Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee  
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm  
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers’ Institute, Stonehaven Farm  
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager  
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni  
Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council Dietician  
Thom O’Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist  
Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician  
Larry McMahon, Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Robert Haynes, Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Star Miklashek, Agriculture Advisory Committee  
Ray Dol, Agricultural Advisory Committee

#### STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner  
Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/15-4-2025/>

### 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:50 pm.

The Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff via Zoom.

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*MOVED:* A. Siddall

*SECONDED:* A. Lewis

*THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.*

**CARRIED**

## **3. DECLARATIONS**

## **4. MINUTES**

### **a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – February 18, 2025**

*MOVED:* C. Addy

*SECONDED:* W. Smith

*THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on February 18, 2025 be adopted.*

**CARRIED**

## **5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **a. PACIFIC CLIMATE IMPACTS CONSORTIUM**

- Alberni Valley Community Climate Summary
- West Coast Community Climate Summary

### **b. ALBERNI VALLEY FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY**

2024 Impact Report

### **c. INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF BC**

Spring News and Updates

### **d. FARM TO SCHOOL BC**

March Update – Island Region

### **e. AGRISERVICE BC**

April Islands Regional E-Bulletin

*MOVED: T. Shannon*  
*SECONDED: A. Lewis*

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive items a-e for information.*

**CARRIED**

## **7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS**

## **8. REPORTS**

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- The committee discussed how to submit resolutions to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) and the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM).

*Moved: S. Rymer*  
*Seconded: A. Siddall*

*THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors to submit a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities requesting priority boarding for agricultural producers on BC Ferries to ensure the health and safety of their livestock and agricultural products and direct ACRD staff to work with Provincial Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Agriculture, and BC Ferries Corporation in advance of UBCM on this issue.*

**CARRIED**

The committee discussed inviting the General Manager of Administrative Services to a future meeting to describe the processes and timeline of requesting resolutions of the ACRD Board to AVICC and UBCM.

- b. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith
- Held a recent meeting to discuss the Emergency Livestock Management Plan.
  - Annual Homesteaders Day will be held out at the Beaver Creek Community Hall on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-2 pm and will include interesting presenters and mini workshops.
- c. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
- Jake Van Kotten Memorial Pumpkin Contest has been added to the Fall Fair's Horticulture and Floriculture section. Pumpkin seeds are available at the Spirit Square Farmers' Market.
- d. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
- Reminder that deadline for the Growers Guide is approaching.
- e. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
- Working on food costing projections as the global market is making food security a big topic. Food on the west coast can be as much as 20% more than in Port Alberni.

- Three Community Gardens active this year, up from one last year.
  - Working on reestablishing the Farmers' Market Table, could be a shared table for producers in the area.
  - Two new additions to infrastructure on the West Coast.
    - Ucluelet Food Bank, hoping to be more of a connection hub than just the standard food bank. Being leased from the District of Ucluelet for \$1.00/year.
    - Clayoquot Biosphere Centre.
- f. Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer
- Received funding for the Farmers' Market Coupon Program. Anticipating modifications to the program from the Ministry of Health. Program will begin around the end of June.
  - Will be applying for an ACRD Grant-in-Aid to support the Music at the Market program that runs from June – August. Discussion followed regarding how the ADC can support this program.
  - City of Port Alberni did not increase rent this year. No Community Investment Funding has been received for the Market in the past three years.
- g. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy
- Dock + has been very busy, expansion is underway.
  - Ice House will be open for the season on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Working to increase offloading capacity.
  - Food hub is very busy, everyone is looking for more space. Working to help to accommodate everyone's needs.
  - Looking to grow membership in the kitchen and increase workshops and classes at the Dock+ site.
  - Will be painting a large mural on the building, partnering with the Community Arts Council.
  - Three-year business plan has been created.
- h. Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Katie Miles
- Spring meeting held last week. Main focus is the Food Security Emergency Plan which will be reviewed at the Fall meeting.
  - Working to see how all the supported agricultural organizations on the west coast can work together to better support producers.
  - Land and foreshore lease cost increases for producers will be an issue going forward. Rates are based off property assessments, and many producers have seen a huge increase this year.
  - Tofino Community Food Initiative hosting a Learn to Grow course. Looking to increase greenhouse space at the Wickaninnish Community School's Garden.
  - Seedy scheduled for Sunday April 27.
- i. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
- Increase to 34 members, group is capped for the year.

- Reinstated the Regional 4H Camp, includes all Vancouver Island and Powell River Clubs, located on Thetis Island.
  - Working on educational display boards in lieu of public speaking this year. Top three will be entered in the regional competition.
  - Manure & Seaweed sale over the next few weeks, details still to be finalized. Information will be on the Facebook page [Alberni Valley 4-H Cloverpatch | Port Alberni BC | Facebook](#).
- j. Primary Agricultural Producers
- Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
    - In addition to written report - Have started hosting weddings, have two booked for summer 2025, may increase this next year.
  - Amber Lamb, Feathers be Found
    - Attended the recent Greenhouse Growers Program through North Island College. First Aid, Foodsafe, and Market Safe certifications were all provided. Onsite learning was held at Hupacasath Community Garden. Overall, was a good program, good connections made.
  - Russell Dyson, Coleman Meadows
    - Currently have 2 applications in for a water license at the farm, has been a five-year process waiting for this approval.
  - Heather Shobe, Eden Tree Farm
    - Lots of plants growing, opened the farm stand at home, noticed 3-4 other farm stands in the area.
    - Have received meat chickens, they were quite hard to source this year.

*MOVED: A. Siddall*

*SECONDED: W. Smith*

*THAT the verbal reports a-j be received.*

**CARRIED**

## **9. LATE BUSINESS**

## **10. QUESTION PERIOD**

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in Person in the ACRD Board Room
- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at [responses@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:responses@acrd.bc.ca).

## **11. ADJOURN**

*The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 pm.*

Certified Correct:

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Heather Shobe,  
Chairperson

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Kristin Kerr-Donohue,  
Administrative Assistant



**To:** Agricultural Development Committee

**From:** Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

**Meeting Date:** July 15, 2025

**Subject:** AVICC and UBCM Deadlines

**Desired Outcome:**

To provide information about the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) and Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) Conventions and resolution processes.

**Summary:**

AVICC and UBCM were both formed to provide a common voice for local governments. AVICC provides membership to the Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and UBCM provides membership to local governments across British Columbia. Both AVICC and UBCM follow separate policies and procedures and host an Annual General Meeting (AGM) / Convention that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District participates in. AVICC AGM and Convention is held in April of each year and the UBCM AGM and Convention is held annually in September. The annual UBCM convention continues to be the main forum for policymaking and both conventions provide an opportunity for local governments of all sizes and from all areas to come together, share their experiences and take a united position.

**Background:**

**Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities**

The AVICC was formed for the purpose of representing the various municipalities, regional districts, First Nations, and other local governments of Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast, qathet/ Powell River, the North Coast and the Central Coast. There are 55 members in total and the association is administered by an elected 'Executive Board' of eight and adheres to the [AVICC Executive Policies](#). The main objective of the Association is to secure united action amongst its members and to foster co-operation and collaboration on regional issues.

The AVICC AGM and Convention is held within the first two weeks of April of each year. Board-endorsed resolutions can be submitted by members and the deadline is at least 40 days prior to the convention, typically in early February of each year. Resolutions must include a separate backgrounder document and must be relevant to other local governments within AVICC and not specific to a single member government. Resolutions must have one whereas clause and should not contain more than two whereas clauses.

<b>Timeline for AVICC Resolutions</b>	
Deadline to submit resolutions to AVICC for consideration at the AVICC AGM and Convention.	February
Deadline to submit "Late Resolutions" to AVICC	April
AVICC AGM and Convention	April

### **Union of BC Municipalities**

The UBCM adheres to the [UBCM Act](#) and [Bylaws](#). The annual UBCM Convention provides local governments with an opportunity to submit resolutions and schedule meetings with the BC Premier, Ministers, and Ministry staff to discuss topics that are relevant to their communities. Members are encouraged to submit resolutions first to their Area Associations for consideration. Resolutions that are endorsed at AVICC will automatically be forwarded to UBCM for consideration. If necessary, members may submit board-endorsed resolutions directly to UBCM prior to June 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.

<b>Timeline for UBCM Resolutions and Meeting Requests</b>	
Deadline to submit resolutions to AVICC for consideration at the AVICC AGM and Convention.	February
Deadline to submit resolutions to UBCM for consideration	June 15
Deadline to submit meeting requests for Premier and Ministers at UBCM Convention	July
Deadline to submit meeting requests for Ministry, Agency, Commission, or Corporation staff	August
UBCM AGM and Convention	September

All resolutions that are submitted to AVICC or UBCM for consideration must be endorsed by the board or council of the local government which is submitting. When submitting resolutions for the ACRD Board of Directors to consider endorsing, the Local Government Act and ACRD Procedure Bylaw No. A1075 timelines should be considered, and all resolutions should be submitted at least three weeks prior to the above noted deadlines.

### **Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:**

Approximately 8 – 10 hours of staff time required for staff to draft and finalize each resolution and background document and forward to AVICC and/or UBCM.

### **Financial:**

Associated costs budgeted through General Government services.

### **Strategic Plan Implications:**

The 2024-2027 ACRD Strategic Plan may apply, depending on the topic of the resolutions or meeting request.

**Policy or Legislation:**

The Local Government Act, Community Charter, [AVICC Executive Policies](#), [UBCM Act](#) and [Bylaws](#) apply.

Submitted by: *Cynthia Dick*  
Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

Approved by: *Daniel Sailland*  
Daniel Sailland, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer



# Farm to School BC

# Annual Report

2023 - 24



Farm to School BC is a program of the Public Health Association of BC and is supported by the Province of British Columbia.

# A Message from the Executive Director



On behalf of Farm to School BC (F2SBC) and the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC), I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your significant support of our program. Your investment sows the seeds and nurtures the fruition of youth literacy and youth connection to local food systems.

2024 marked multiple major harvests, as we:

- Expanded our Regional Hub model to align with the geographic boundaries of British Columbia's Health Authorities and better support all 60 school districts
- Received over 140 grant applications, which far exceeded previous years. While we currently fund 30-40% of applicants annually, we are steadfast in our goal to fund a minimum of 50% in the coming years.
- Collaborated with local food producers and processors to provide school meal coordinators with invaluable guidance and resources.

Together, these milestones are creating vibrant ecosystems of support that bring food literacy to life in classrooms, cafeterias, and gardens across the province.

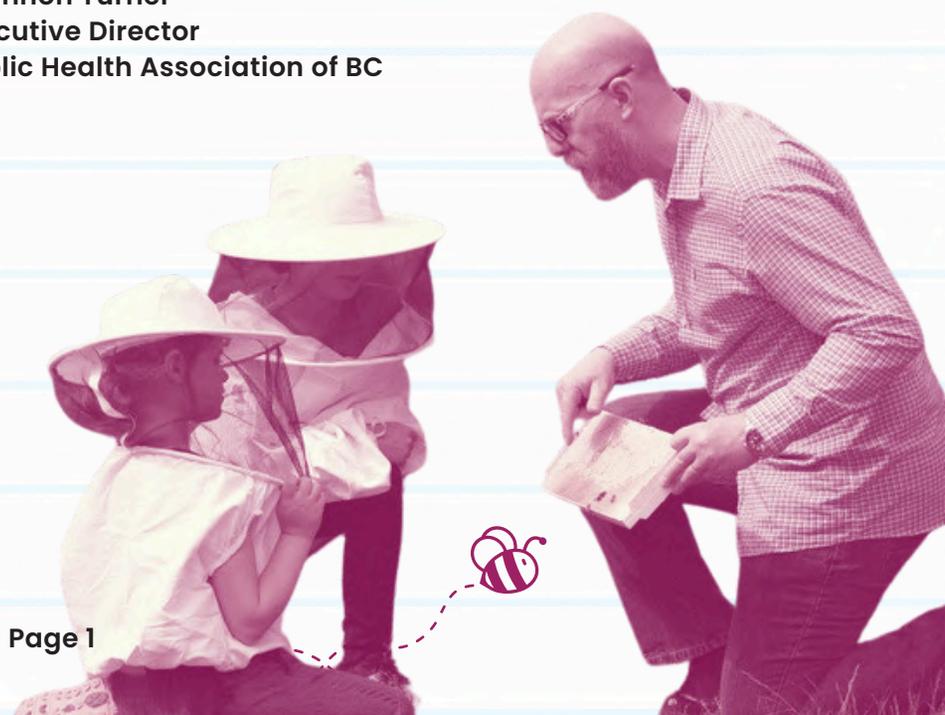
The impact of these efforts is evident in the enthusiasm and engagement of students who participate in our programs. Whether they are planting seeds in school

gardens, preparing meals with freshly harvested produce, or learning about the intricacies of food systems, students are gaining essential skills and knowledge that promote healthy habits and a deeper appreciation for the food on their plates.

We remain profoundly grateful for the Ministry of Health's partnership and leadership in making this vital program possible. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to fostering healthy, thriving futures for the young citizens of our province. Together, we are cultivating a lasting legacy of health and wellness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Turner".

**Shannon Turner**  
**Executive Director**  
**Public Health Association of BC**



# F2SBC Executive Summary



In 2024, Farm to School BC made significant strides in growing its reach. By expanding our Regional Hub Model to align with Health Authority regions, we've increased our capacity to offer direct support to school food programs and strengthen community connections across the province. By doing so, we met our goal to reach all 60 school districts, bringing the same level of support and personalized attention that has benefitted 22 districts to date.

The demand for our grant program continues to grow, breaking new records for applications received each year. While we are committed to meeting more of this growing need, expanding our funding capacity remains a key priority. We have developed a new sponsorship program designed to fund schools which fall out of our budget means.

This year we also adapted PHABC's Food Justice Framework to our granting process, a tool designed to highlight inequalities and ensure an action oriented and equitable approach to our programming has been helpful in guiding our process. This year we distributed over 50% of all funds to rural, remote and indigenous communities.

Our regional coordinators have been working closely with school meal coordinators to enhance their programs by facilitating community roundtable discussions and connecting schools with local producers and processors. We have also profiled programs through our popular webinar medium, which

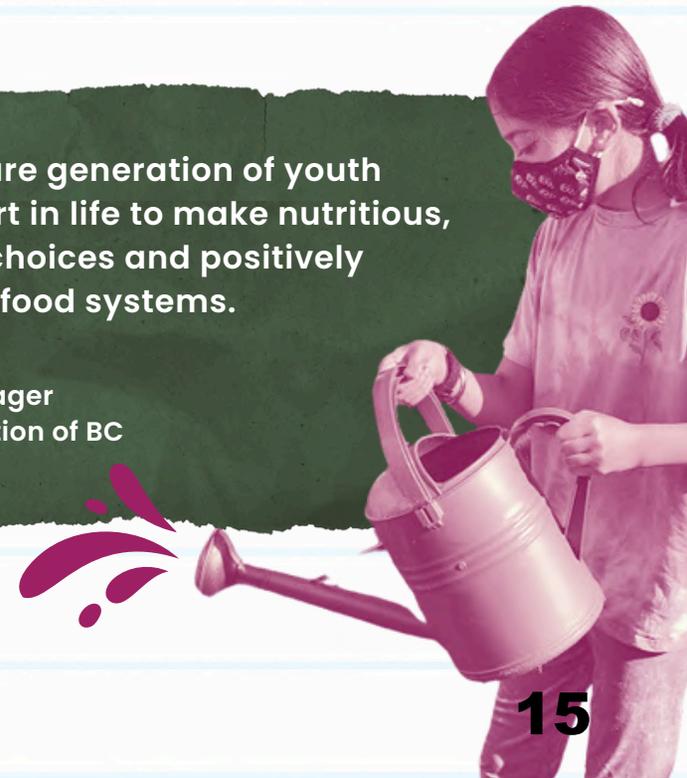
provides school food programs with solutions and inspiration that embed school meals into the classroom and community.

These efforts are helping to build more sustainable health promotion and impactful food literacy initiatives across the province, with wide-reaching action that can improve the health and well-being of students and their families.

Since 2007, F2SBC has been a trusted partner to BC schools and communities, equipping educators with professional development opportunities and resources, fostering student mental well-being, and strengthening ties between schools and their communities.

**We envision a future generation of youth given the best start in life to make nutritious, sustainable food choices and positively impact their local food systems.**

**Marcus Lobb**  
F2SBC Provincial Manager  
Public Health Association of BC



# Farm to School BC at a Glance



## Our Vision

Nourishing, local, culturally appropriate, and sustainable food on the plates and minds of all students in BC.

## Our Mission

F2SBC seeks to empower and support BC schools and communities in building comprehensive farm to school programs that cultivate vibrant, sustainable regional food systems, promote student food literacy, and enhance school and community connectedness.

## 3 Core Pillars

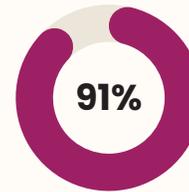
1. Nourishing, local food
2. Hands-on learning
3. School and community connectedness



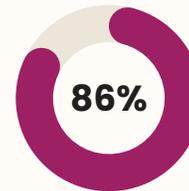
## Did you know?



Over 80% of educators agree that F2SBC funded programs make **strong BC curriculum connections**.



91% of students in F2SBC programs showed **increased willingness to try fruits and vegetables they had grown**.



86% of students in F2SBC programs showed **significant positive changes in healthy eating behaviours**.



Schools report that F2SBC garden programs foster **collaboration, joy, a sense of belonging, and community pride** in students.



"Did you know?" data retrieved from:  
Farm to School BC Evaluation Report 2020-2022

# The Growing Farm to School Movement



## The Farm to School BC movement isn't slowing down!

In November 2024, we received a record 142 grant applications from schools across BC, each filled with inspiring food literacy ideas. While we'd love to fund them all, the increasing demand continues to outpace our current capacity. Our goal is simple yet ambitious: to fund at least 50% of all applications moving forward.

## Grant Applications Received (2022-24)

New record of **142 applications** received in 2024  
An **89% increase** from 2022



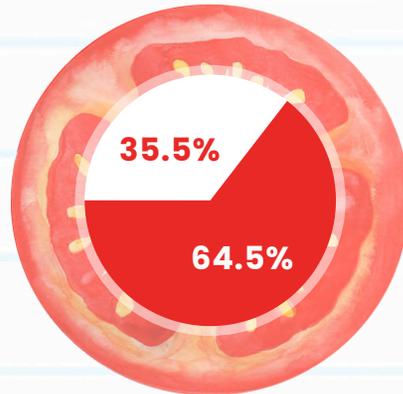
## 2023-24 School Year in Review

**We brought F2SBC programs to 35.5% of applications**

44 Schools  
8,304 Students

**Missed opportunities: 64.5% of applications**

80 Schools  
20,058 Students



# The Projects We Fund



**F2SBC's annual grants program** is designed to support new and established school initiatives that empower students to explore, learn, and grow through food. We embrace, celebrate, and fund a diversity of food education projects, encouraging schools to pursue initiatives that best serve the unique needs of their students and communities.

Since 2007, we've been supporting schools across British Columbia, beginning with a simple salad bar program. Below, you can see how innovation and creativity in food education have evolved over time.



**Over 374 schools**

have received F2SBC funding since our inception in 2007.



**Over 53,000 students**

have benefited from F2SBC funded initiatives.



School Gardens



Farm Field Trips



Cooking Programs



Native Plant Gardens

## F2SBC also supports:

- + School Meal Programs
- + Curriculum Connections
- + Indoor Growing

- + School Farms
- + Garden Maintenance
- + Bee Keeping

- + Indigenous Foodways
- + Salad Bar Programs
- + Greenhouses

# Building a More Equitable Program

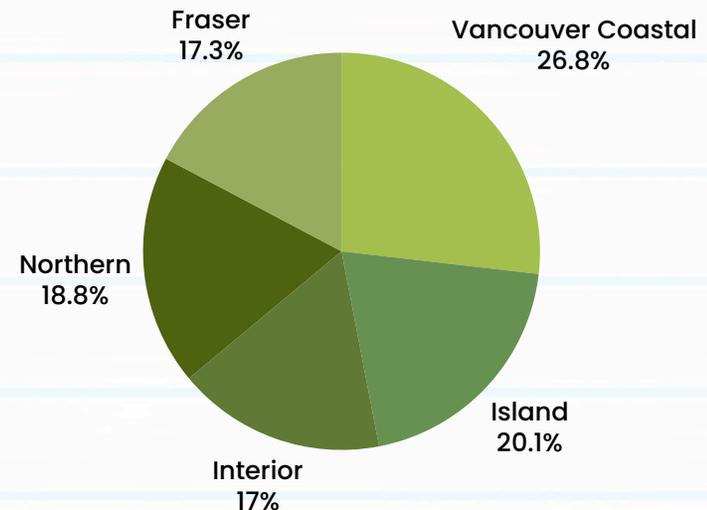


As a team, we value equity and accessibility. To support this commitment, we have focused on deepening our understanding of **JEDDI** (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Decolonization, and Inclusion) principles and **trust-based philanthropy**. Some immediate changes we've applied to our grants process include:

- **50% of our funding is reserved** for rural, remote, and First Nations schools.
- We've introduced **accessible application options**, allowing schools to apply via phone or video submissions.
- The application process has been **streamlined** to require less time and effort, with completion possible in under 30 minutes.



We're also committed to broadening our geographical reach. While we take pride in the **balanced distribution** of grants across the province, we are placing a stronger focus on rural, remote, and First Nations schools to **address disparities in access to food education**. Our goal is to increase engagement with these schools as we continue working to support all 60 school districts.



**Regional Distribution of funded programs (2023-24)**

# Engaging and Empowering Youth



## Rise Up! Strengthening Food Systems and Environmental Stewardship

F2SBC Regional Coordinators collaborated closely with Rise Up! youth (aged 15–30) on food literacy projects and facilitated the placement of 33 volunteers in meaningful food systems service opportunities across the province. The success of this pilot project has secured funding to sustain the program for years to come. **Project Report:** [www.phabc.org/riseup](http://www.phabc.org/riseup)

**97%** of youth felt more connected to their local food system.

**93%** of youth became more aware of local initiatives.

**73%** of youth learned of local advocacy efforts.

**83%** of youth made new food systems relationships.



## Spring Celebration: School Farm Field Trips

From May to June, we connected BC students with local farms through interactive K–12 school field trips. Our Regional Coordinators worked closely with schools and community partners to create engaging experiences that celebrate farm-to-school initiatives, foster meaningful connections, and promote hands-on learning within the communities we support.

**335** Central Island attendees

**93** North Central attendees

**60** Capital Region attendees

**29** Northwest attendees

# Collaborating on School Meal Programs



## Kamloops School Food Gathering

Farm to School BC and Kamloops Food Policy Council hosted a **community dialogue and learning circle** at The Stir, bringing local food champions together to strategize the future of school food in the Kamloops-Thompson district. Participants collaborated in small groups to tackle topics ranging from nutrition to food distribution, identifying assets, gaps, and next steps.

**“It’s amazing to see diverse stakeholders brainstorming together, resolving issues that could have taken weeks of back-and-forth emails.”**

- Marcus Lobb, Farm to School BC Provincial Manager



## Cultivating Connections: The Future of School Food in SD63

Farm to School BC partnered with Stelly’s Secondary and COPACS to host a **networking event** in School District 63, connecting students, staff, parents, farmers, and community organizations to **explore the future of school food in Saanich**. Guests enjoyed a delicious, locally-sourced meal prepared by Stelly’s Culinary Arts students and heard inspiring presentations on school food programs.

A group discussion led to **valuable feedback and the creation of a listserv** to sustain momentum and foster future collaboration.



# Celebrating Local School Food Champions



**Carisbrooke Elementary**  
North Vancouver School District



**Witset Elementary**  
Kyah Wiget Education Society



**Quesnel Junior School**  
Quesnel School District



**Brocklehurst Middle School**  
Kamloops-Thompson S.D.



**Gabriola Elementary**  
Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools



**F2SBC's Pollinator Awards recognize K-12 schools across British Columbia that demonstrate outstanding leadership in farm-to-school initiatives.**

These school food advocates act as pollinators within their community, exemplifying the values of F2SBC. They buzz around their gardens, kitchens, and classrooms to build healthy food systems. They also transfer and share knowledge, foster thriving learning environments, and support the development of young healthy "seeds" who will one day offer the fruits of their labour back to the environment and community.



**Flourish! School Food Society**  
*Sooke School District*



# Equipping Educators with F2SBC Resources



**Learning from the Land Toolkit:** Connects K-12 schools to Indigenous plants and pedagogy.

1,717

**File Downloads**  
(Jan 2023 - Dec 2024)

[www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/learning-from-the-land-toolkit](http://www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/learning-from-the-land-toolkit)

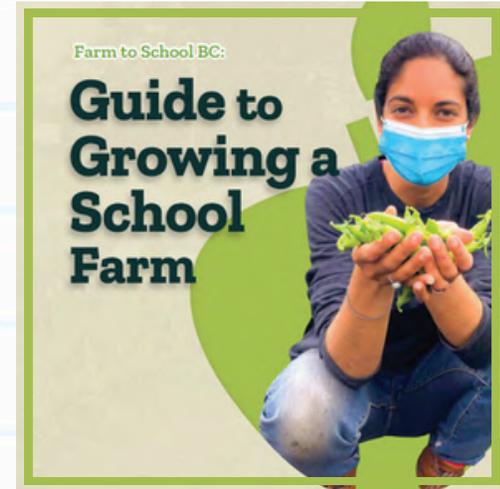


**Hands on Food:** Online resource to guide educators through using food to teach the BC Curriculum.

2,272

**File Downloads**  
(April 2023 - Dec 2024)

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



**Guide to Growing a School Farm:** Sharing lessons and stories from different school farm models.

323

**File Downloads**  
(May 2023 - Dec 2024)

[www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/guide-to-growing-a-school-farm](http://www.farmtoschoolbc.ca/guide-to-growing-a-school-farm)

# School Garden Mentorship Workshops



Farm to School BC offers a **free mentorship program for K-12 educators** and community organizations supporting existing school gardens or building a new school garden. This mentorship program provides valuable skills that support the development of a robust school garden community, hands-on student learning and a thriving garden ecosystem.

8 monthly workshops

175 educators participated

749 recording views

459 resource library views

199 active listserv members

"I have really appreciated the program, and overall support and resources. **I will definitely continue if offered again**, and will encourage teachers I work with to take part."

**FARM to SCHOOL BC** **SCHOOL GARDEN MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**

 <b>JANUARY 23</b> Establishing a School Garden Culture	 <b>MAY 7</b> Summer Maintenance and Volunteer Management
 <b>FEBRUARY 13</b> Designing your School Garden and Crop Planning	 <b>JUNE 4</b> Spring Harvest and Harvest Celebration
 <b>MARCH 5</b> Classroom Growing and Building the Garden	 <b>SEPTEMBER 17</b> Harvesting and Seed Saving
 <b>APRIL 9</b> Outdoor Planting	 <b>OCTOBER 15</b> Winterizing your Garden

Learn more at [farmtoschoolbc.ca/garden-mentorship](https://farmtoschoolbc.ca/garden-mentorship)



# Strengthening the Network



Through the years, our communications strategy has improved strengthening our capacity to promote our program's impact and expand our network for province-wide community engagement and knowledge sharing.

We communicate across **3 social media platforms**, **5 regionally focused newsletters**, **one province-wide newsletter**, and **a school garden listserv community**.

**109,110** Social Media Views

**7,284** Social Media Followers

**446** Social Media Posts

**38,149** Website Views

**1,970** Newsletter Subscribers

2023-2024 Analytics



**Connect with Us!**

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

@farmtoschoolbc

# Thank You to Our Supporters



## Primary Funder

Thank you to the BC Ministry of Health for your ongoing financial support, partnership and leadership in making this program possible.

## Regional Health Authorities

- Fraser Health
- Interior Health
- Island Health
- Northern Health
- Vancouver Coastal Health
- First Nations Health

## Regional Sponsors, Partners, and Supporters

- 4-H British Columbia
- Alberni Clayoquot Regional District
- Alberni Valley Food Security Society
- Bamfield Community School Association
- BC Chapter of the Coalition for Healthy School Food
- Beban Learning Gardens
- CRFAIR (Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable)
- David Douglas Botanical Garden Society
- Eco Living Community
- Elements Society (EcoCooks)
- Everyone At The Table PG
- FARMED Quesnel
- Farmer Cam Foods
- FarmFolk CityFolk
- Farm to Cafeteria Canada
- Flourish! School Food Society
- Food Out Front Society
- Fresh Roots
- Gilliards Farm
- Grandview Woodland Food Connection
- Groundbreakers Society
- Growing Chefs
- Growing Opportunities Farm Community Co-operative
- Island Health
- Kalum Community School Society
- MASH Hazelton
- Nanaimo Foodshare
- Nechako Valley Food Network
- Northern Health Communities Grant
- Notch Hill Community Growers
- Omineca Growers Society
- People for a Health Community Gabriola
- Plant a Seed & See What Grows
- Prince George Native Friendship Centre
- Recycling and Environmental Action Planning Society (REAPS)
- Robson Valley Community Services
- Smithers Seed Library
- Sandown Center for Regenerative Agriculture
- SPARC BC: The Social Planning and Research Council of B.C.
- Squamish CAN
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation
- Terrace Public Library
- The Kamloops Farmers Market
- The Kamloops Food Bank
- The Master Gardeners, Thompson Shuswap
- The Mount Paul Food Centre
- The Stir Food Hub
- Thimbleberry Farms
- Tree Canada
- TRU Culinary Arts
- Vancouver School Food Network
- Victoria Foundation
- Whole Kids Foundation Grant
- Woodlands School Farm
- Yellowhead Rotary Club
- Zest Food Hub



# Farm to School BC

# Annual Report

2023 - 24



Farm to School BC is a program of the Public Health Association of BC and is supported by the Province of British Columbia.

# Alberni Valley

# FOOD SECURITY SOCIETY

*Nourishing the Valley,  
Sustaining our Community*

Our vision is a food secure Alberni Valley:

All people, at all times, have access to nutritious, safe, personally acceptable and culturally appropriate foods, produced in ways that are environmentally sound and socially just.

## OUR MISSION

We are a food focused action group that strives to strengthen the food system\* in the Alberni Valley. This is accomplished through

- Supporting sustainable food
- Collaborating with partners
- Supporting community-led solutions
- Education and resource sharing
- Advocating for fair-food policies

## OUR VALUES

- We collaborate
- We take action
- We engage the community
- We are sustainable
- We act with integrity

\*A complete food system includes three pillars - production, processing/preservation, and distribution. The absence of any one of these will threaten the whole system, and so are all needed to ensure a strong, vibrant and food secure community

## STRATEGIC GOALS

### SERVICE DELIVERY



Program/Service Review & Facilitation  
New Programs & Services

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Collaboration/ Participation  
Awareness

### SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION



Financial Stability  
Processes/Systems  
Capacity

### GOVERNANCE



Board Succession  
Governance Processes  
Strategic Focus  
Advocacy

### OUR PEOPLE



Volunteers  
Members  
Staff

WWW.AVFOOD.CA

FACEBOOK / AVFOODSOCIETY



**Kristin Kerr-Donohue**

---

**From:** BC Food Hubs <info@BCFoodHubs.gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 2, 2025 12:14 PM  
**To:** Amy Needham  
**Subject:** BC Food Hubs July Newsletter

**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

[View this email in your browser](#)

*foodhubs***BC**



**BC FOOD HUBS NEWSLETTER**  
A monthly update for Managers, Operators, and Industry

## July 2025 Edition

### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **Funding Programs and Updates**
2. **Community of Practice Session**
3. **Food for Thought**

## FCC AgriSpirit Fund

### Now Open! Apply By July 30, 2025

Do you have a capital project that will enrich lives in your rural community?  
The FCC AgriSpirit Fund supports projects in **communities of less than 150,000 people**. Eligible applicants can apply for \$10,000 to \$25,000

Examples of what may be considered

- Projects to support food recovery or reduction of food waste
- Initiatives that support agriculture and food
- Projects that reduce your environmental footprint
- Projects that improve accessibility and inclusion
- Construction of or upgrades to community buildings

### Who can apply?

- Charities registered with Canada Revenue Agency
- **Non-profit organizations** who partner with a municipal body, territorial or provincial government; Non-profit organizations who partner with First Nations, Inuit or Métis governments/communities; the municipal body or government/community must agree to receive contributed money.
- Town, city, rural municipality, or First Nations, Inuit or Métis government/community under 150,000 people

APPLY TODAY

---

## Traceability Adoption Program is Now Open

TAP provides cost-shared funding towards the purchase and installation of traceability systems, practices, technologies, or infrastructure to help businesses meet new and existing regulator requirements for the traceability of food, animals, and seafood products.

### Stream 1: Traceability Adoption for Private Businesses

The objective of Stream 1 is to increase and support the implementation of facility-based traceability systems for private businesses across BC's agrifood and seafood sector.

### Stream 2: Traceability Adoption for Sector Organizations

The objective of Stream 2 is to enhance and streamline information sharing across a value chain or sector to improve supply chain transparency and execute emergency response procedures (e.g. food recalls) when required.

APPLY TODAY

---

## Buy BC Partnership Program

**Buy BC Partnership Program Is Now Open**

### **Program Details:**

Buy BC Partnership Program applications are now open and accepted up to July 18, 2025 at 4PM PST.

The Buy BC Partnership Program provides cost shared funding to local producers, processors to support local marketing activities that increase consumer awareness and drives sales of B.C. agriculture, food, and beverage products.

This intake is for projects to be delivered between October 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026.

To be considered, a project must include one or more of the following eligible activities: paid advertising, product labelling or packaging with a Buy BC logo, in-store food product demonstrations, participation in market development tradeshow or sales events, or the creation of marketing materials.

For application and eligibility details, visit the Program website at:

<https://buybcpartnershipprogram.ca> and consult the Program guide. Note that an **information session/webinar will beheld on July 3, 2025 at 11:00AM PST**. Sign up [here](#) to register for the webinar. The information session/webinar will also be recorded and posted to the Program website shortly thereafter.

Please note that to be considered eligible for cost-shared funding, all applicants must first register their food and beverage products for Buy BC logo licensing. The Buy BC logo allows eligible businesses to promote their local food and beverage products right away and without having to apply for cost-shared funding.

Apply for a [Buy BC logo license](#) or find out more about [Buy BC](#).

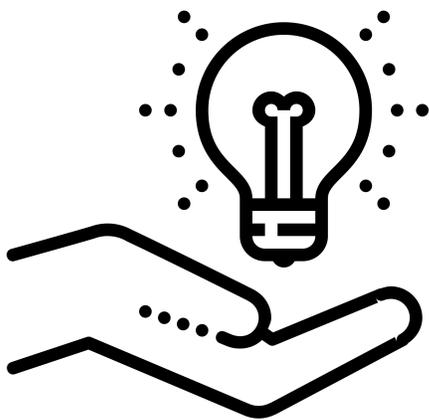
For questions, contact the Buy BC team at: [buybc@gov.bc.ca](mailto:buybc@gov.bc.ca)

**APPLY TODAY**

# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

## Join us at the next Community of Practice

These **online sessions** provide **food hub managers and operators** with conversations regarding food hub resources in an interactive and engaging environment. Participants are encouraged to share knowledge, lessons learned and work together to increase understanding and awareness in identifying best practices and partnership opportunities.



**Next CoP Session Thursday,  
Sept 18 12pm-1pm**

Roundtable conversation TOPIC:

**Lessons Learned and Best Practices in building and operating a Food Hub.**

Hindsight is 202/20 but can offer kernels of wisdom to move forward.

*How would you approach building out a food hub differently? Were there any blind spots in your organization's thinking about food hubs? What are the key challenges and solutions with operating a food hub that are perhaps surprising or weren't considered during the planning stage?*

- DAY: Thursday, Sept 18
- TIME: 12:00pm - 1:00pm
- WHERE: Zoom

If you aren't already receiving invites

to these sessions, please EMAIL  
[foodhubs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:foodhubs@gov.bc.ca)

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## Food for Thought

### Managing costs key to protecting margins for food and beverage manufacturing

Profitability is always a balancing act between managing costs and driving sales. But in 2025, that balance is proving more delicate than usual for the food and beverage manufacturing sector. While fluctuations in weather and animal health are familiar challenges that influence commodity prices, political uncertainty is adding a new layer of complexity

[In this blog post](#) on the FCC website, you will discover the cost of doing business in 2025 and three ingredients to monitor in 2025.

READ MORE

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## New Food Hub Videos!

3 new food hubs videos have been added to the Food Hubs BC playlist. Learn more about [Cowichan Farm & Food Hub](#), [Kootenay Farms Food Hub](#), and [Kitchen Connect](#)



**Looking for more information? Visit our websites:**

**[BC Food Hub Network Website](#)**

**[foodhubBC Resources Website](#)**

**Missed any of our past issues?**

**Access them here:**

[June 2025](#),

[May 2025](#), [April 2025](#), [March 2025](#), [February 2025](#), [January 2025](#), [December 2024](#),

[September 2024](#), [August 2024](#), [July 2024](#), [June 2024](#), [May 2024](#),

[April 2024](#), [March 2024](#), [February 2024](#), [January 2024](#)

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You are receiving this email because you opted in via the Ministry's Food Hub team.

This e-newsletter is prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.  
The listing of any company or product in this newsletter does not reflect an endorsement of  
the company or product by the B.C. government.

Ideas for features, food hub success stories, or comments? Contact [Foodhubs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Foodhubs@gov.bc.ca)

Our mailing address is:  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food 545 Superior St Victoria, BC V8V 0C5 Canada

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British Columbia News

## Farmers' market program delivers another bountiful harvest

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/32484>

People in British Columbia will continue to have improved access to nutritious, locally grown foods through the B.C. Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

“As the weather warms up and more people take advantage of British Columbia’s amazing farmers’ markets, we are helping people and families on lower incomes access fresh and nutritious foods grown in their communities,” said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. “The Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program promotes healthy eating and gives people an opportunity to connect with and support local farmers and producers.”

The B.C. Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is operating in more than 90 communities throughout the province, reaching families, seniors and pregnant people from more than 8,500 households.

“We all want people to be able to access nutritious, healthy food in their communities,” said Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. “Our funding will help more people, including seniors and families, put fresh food on the table, while also investing in local agriculture.”

Delivered by the B.C. Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM), the B.C. Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program is a healthy-eating initiative that strengthens local food systems throughout the province by providing an additional source of income for B.C. farmers during the market season. With funding from the Province, the program provides coupons to community partners supporting people and families with lower incomes. Coupons can be used to buy fresh, nutritious and locally grown food at more than 100 participating B.C. farmers' markets.

“This program helps people on a low income get fresh and nutritious food grown by local farmers,” said Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food. “I’m so thankful farmers in B.C. participate in this program, helping to build community and sharing the bounty of their hard work.”

This year, the Province is providing the program with \$4.25 million. Households enrolled in the program can receive as much as \$27 a week in coupons to use at participating farmers' markets for as long as 16 weeks. The coupons can be used to buy fresh produce, nuts, eggs, dairy products, herbs, vegetable and fruit plants, honey, meat and fish. To receive the coupons, participants register with community partners, which distribute the coupons to those eligible. However, the 2025 program is currently at capacity for this year and is no longer taking applications.

“The B.C. Association of Farmers’ Markets is grateful and proud to have delivered this beloved program for many, many years,” said Heather O’Hara, executive director, BCAFM. “Through the program, we reach diverse people and communities in all corners of the province every year. In 2025, we know people want to taste B.C. like never before at our incredible farmers’ markets.”

Farmers’ markets are a central part of many communities in B.C. Every year, they generate more than \$232 million for local economies, helping farmers, small businesses and communities thrive. Support for farmers’ markets strengthens local food systems and helps foster the sector’s resilience and self-reliance.

### Quick Facts:

- The Ministry of Health has been funding the B.C. Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program since 2012.
- In 2024, the program supported 8,609 participants through 235 community partners in 94 B.C. communities.
- Each year, almost five million people visit B.C. farmers’ markets, which are a gateway to experiencing the culture, flavours and food of the province.
- BCAFM is a registered B.C. non-profit society that strengthens farmers’ markets, supports B.C. farmers and educates the public about choosing healthy, B.C.-grown products.
- The group is committed to nurturing a secure food system and ensuring the viability of farming for the future.

### Learn More:

For more information about the B.C. Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program, visit: <https://bcfarmersmarket.org/coupon-program/how-it-works/>

To locate a participating farmers’ market in your community, visit the B.C. Farmers’ Market Trail: <https://bcfarmersmarkettrail.com>

To learn more about government supports for B.C. farmers, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2025AF0001-000001>

To discover how you can enjoy more B.C. food and beverages, visit: <https://buybc.gov.bc.ca/>

### Ministry of Health

Media Relations  
250 952-1887

The B.C. Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.

**From:** AgriService BC <AgriServiceBC@agriservicebc.gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 2, 2025 2:30 PM  
**To:** Amy Needham  
**Subject:** Islands Regional E-Bulletin - July 2025

No images? [Click here](#)



# Islands

## Regional Newsletter

### July 2025



#### **Feature of the month:**

- Water storage event in Alberni Valley a success

#### **News and events**

- **July 22nd:** Irrigation field day and on-farm demonstration in the Comox Valley
- B.C. Land Matching Program
- Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI)

## Drought and wildfire preparedness

- BC Premises Identification Program: Is your BCPID info up to date?
- BC AgriWeather
- Snow survey and water supply Bulletin
- Emergency preparedness and temporary foreign workers

## Programs and funding opportunities

- Introducing: Climate Agri-Solutions Fund
- The B.C. Crop and Livestock Reporter Program
- Buy BC Partnership Program Funding
- Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program
- Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program

## Resources

- "Enhancing Soil Water Holding Capacity Through Bale Grazing" factsheet
- Updated B.C. silvopasture resources
- New local food literacy resources

A graphic with a light blue background. The text "FEATURE OF THE MONTH" is centered in a dark blue, sans-serif font. Two horizontal lines with diamond-shaped arrowheads point towards the text from the left and right sides.

## FEATURE OF THE MONTH

## Water storage event a success

Over a dozen producers from Alberni Valley and Coombs joined Andrew Bennett of the [Irrigation Industry Association of British Columbia](#), alongside local government and Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff, for a fascinating day of water storage and irrigation learning on June 22nd. Dogs, sheep and chickens roamed, children played, and eagles soared overhead at [Morning Star Woollen and Flora](#) in Alberni Valley while we enjoyed conversation and shared stories of our various water challenges and solutions.

Andrew's infectious enthusiasm and deep knowledge were apparent as we discussed many topics. The conversation covered water storage, including how much water crops need (and how to figure it out), sizing a dugout for particular situation, assessing soil in relation to both crop water needs and suitability for dugout construction. Alternative ways to reduce water demand were discussed, including growing crops that finish before the dry season — such as fall-planted grains — and improving infiltration by constructing swales. We also talked about some of the challenges of constructing and lining dugouts and alternative storage options, like

cisterns and bladders, for rainwater collection. Provincial supports were noted for on-farm water management, [the Environmental Farm Plan and Beneficial Management Practices](#), [the Agricultural Water Infrastructure program](#), and much more.

More workshops on irrigation and other water topics are coming to Vancouver Island, including July 22nd in the Comox Valley and August 7th in the Cowichan Valley. Registration links will be posted at [Exploring Irrigation Efficiency in British Columbia](#) when available.

We hope to see you at these events and... Stay Hydrated!

[Southern Irrigation  
workshops](#)

[More water workshops](#)

NEWS AND EVENTS

## Save the date: Irrigation field day and on-farm demonstration in the Comox Valley

**Location:** Comox Valley

**Date:** July 22, 2025

Registration link coming soon



Southern Irrigation events

## The Islands have a new land matcher!



Young Agrarians is excited to announce that a new Vancouver Island-Gulf Islands Land Matcher has joined the B.C. Land Matching Program (BCLMP) team: Ari Westhaver! Kiyomi Ito, the former Land Matcher for the region, will still be around at Young Agrarians, in her new role as B.C. Apprenticeship Program Coordinator for the YA Apprenticeship Program. From now on, Ari is the go-to person to get you connected with the BCLMP on Vancouver Island & the Gulf Islands. You can reach him at [ari@youngagrarians.org](mailto:ari@youngagrarians.org).

*The B.C. Land Matching Program is funded by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative, with additional support from Columbia Basin Trust, Bullitt Foundation, Cowichan Valley Regional District, and the Real Estate Foundation of BC.*



**B.C. Land Matching Program**

**B.C. Apprenticeship Program**

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## Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI)



The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC are completing an Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI). Crews were in the Capital Regional District June 16th to June 27th and **will be in Cowichan Valley Regional District July 7th to July 25th.**

The ALUI program started in Pitt Meadows in 1996 to support the Ministry's Strengthening Farming Program. Since then, ALUI's have provided insight into the current state of the farming landscape across the province, including within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

**Agricultural Land Use Inventory data has been used to:**

- Model potential impacts of climate change and different adaptation strategies;
- Model agricultural water demand for current and future climates;
- Inform the development of municipal Official Community Plans and Agriculture Area Plans;
- Understand the extent of actively farmed land and other major activities on the ALR land base; and
- Understand impacts to agriculture from new developments, bylaws, or regulations.

Visual observations are conducted from public roads using vehicles marked with “Ministry of Agriculture and Food” or “Government of BC” signs. Watch for survey crews making frequent stops between the hours of 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM across these regions.

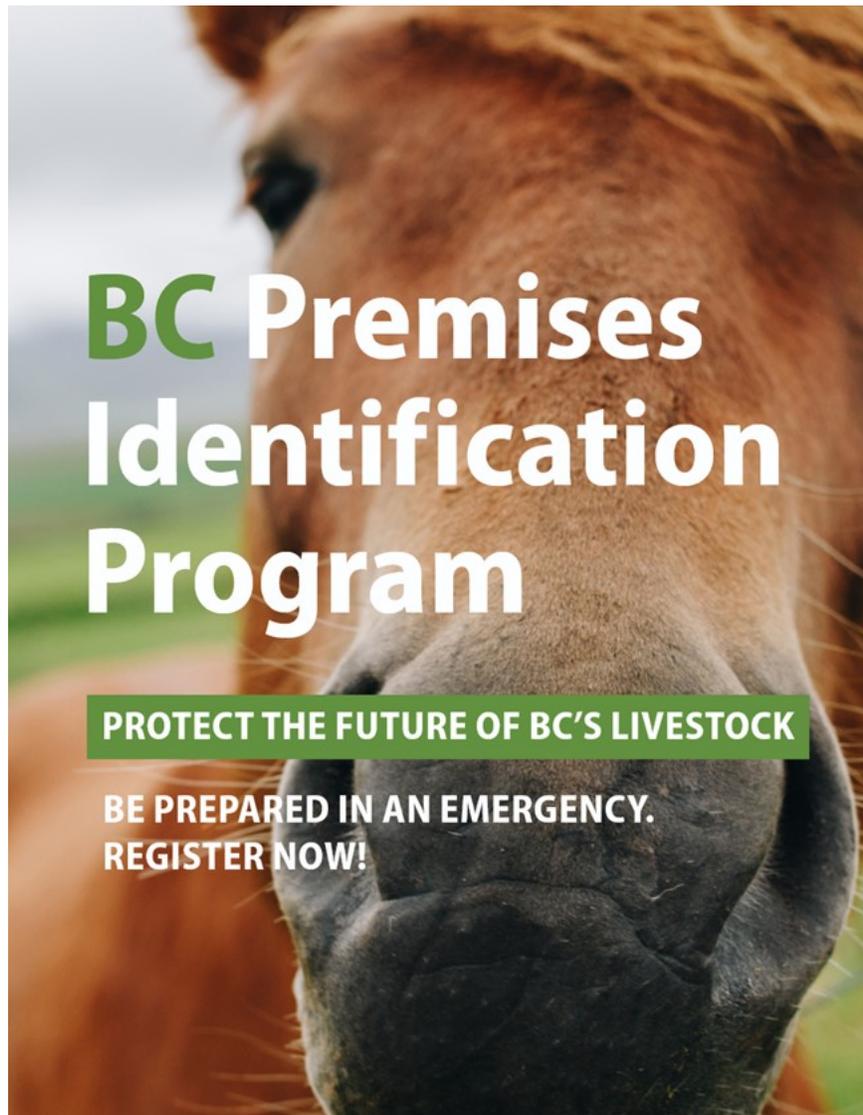
*This project was funded in part by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.*

[Learn more](#)

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## DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE PREPAREDNESS

**Emergency management for agriculture  
- Is your BCPID info up to date?**



If you keep livestock, poultry, or bees, its time to update your [BC Premises ID](#) — it could make all the difference in an emergency. Take five minutes to login to your account and confirm your details to make sure you are prepared in the event of an emergency.

**Not sure if your animals require registration?**

Check the [BCPID brochure](#) for a full list of species that need to be reported. Your animals rely on you. Help us support you—keep your BCPID info current. [Register or Reconfirm your account now!](#)

**Have a Premises ID, but no online access?**

Click "[Get Access](#)" under the Access Paper Account section and enter your account number and phone number.

Trouble logging in? Questions? We're here to help: [BCPID@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCPID@gov.bc.ca) | [1-888-221-7141](tel:1-888-221-7141)  
(Ask for Premises ID)



Register or reconfirm

---

# BC AgriWeather



[The BC AgriWeather website](#), developed and operated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, provides weather station data and hosts weather-based decision-support tools for public use, at no cost to users. Producers can access more than 230 weather stations throughout B.C. to view and download current and historical weather data, analyze crop water demand, and track thermal units via desktop and mobile devices.

BC AgriWeather helps agricultural producers make informed decisions in their daily operations as weather conditions change. Please visit our [Tools Webpage](#) to explore

additional online water tools that the Ministry operates to support the agricultural sector.

[BC AgriWeather](#)

[Tools webpage](#)

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## Snow survey and water supply bulletin

The June 15, 2025 *Snow Survey and Water Supply* Bulletin has been released.

The full report PDF (19-pages, 2.7 MB) is [available online](#).

An online version of the current snow basin indices map can be found [here](#).

---

## Information regarding temporary foreign workers on-farm

With wildfire season upon us, it's important to be prepared for evacuation alerts and orders. For producers with temporary foreign workers living on-site, it is important that you and your workers know your rights and responsibilities in the event of an emergency. An updated document providing information regarding On-Farm Temporary Foreign Workers is available on the Ministry [website](#).

[Learn more](#)

PROGRAMS AND FUNDING  
OPPORTUNITIES

# Introducing: Climate Agri-Solutions Fund

Say hello to the Climate Agri-Solutions Fund (CAF)! We are pleased to share the BC Climate Agri-Solutions Fund (BCCAF) has expanded into a new program, now known as the Climate Agri-Solutions Fund. CAF helps B.C. and Yukon farmers implement beneficial management practices in the areas of nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing.

## Funding is available to support farmers in:

- New adoption of nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing practices.
- Expanding nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing practices on a farm area where these practices have not been previously used.

CAF also supports farmers who have previously received funding through BCCAF to continue the adoption of nitrogen management, cover cropping and rotational grazing practices.

**Maximum funding amount:** \$100,000

**Cost-shared funding ratio:** 85%

Applications will be accepted on the IAF Client Portal starting on June 25, 2025 and will remain open until funding is fully allocated. **Don't delay submitting your application, we anticipate funding will be fully committed within a few weeks!**

**APPLICATIONS OPEN ON JUNE 25, 2025**

[Learn more](#)

## NEW! Book a call

There are now more ways to get in touch with the IAF Team! In addition to contacting IAF by email ([caf@iafbc.ca](mailto:caf@iafbc.ca)) and by phone (250-940-6150), starting on **June 25** you can book a 10-minute phone consultation with an IAF staff member to discuss your CAF application.

Prior to booking a call, please start a draft application, as you must provide your application ID number (example: CAF-202526-0####) when you book the call. This

gives you and the IAF staff member a specific application to reference and provide support for during the 10-minute phone call.

[Learn more](#)



## B.C. Crop and Livestock Reporter Program

### Become a volunteer crop and/or livestock reporter

Are you a weather-watcher who checks the rain gauge each morning? Do you enjoy discussing farming and crop conditions with your neighbours? Would you like to contribute local information that helps develop and support B.C.'s agriculture data? The data benefits all those involved in B.C.'s agriculture industry and helps the general public to understand the challenges facing our producers.

Consider becoming a Volunteer Crop and Livestock Reporter with the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food today!

**Contest Alert!** Crop reporters that report weekly for at least 50% of the growing season will be entered into a draw to win a basket of delicious B.C. food products valued at approximately \$150!

[Learn more and signup](#)

## Summer Intake - Buy BC Partnership Program Funding



*buy***BC**

Cost shared funding is available for B.C. producers and processors to support local marketing activities that increase consumer awareness and sales of B.C. agriculture, food, and beverage products.

The application intake for Buy BC Partnership Program funding opened on **June 27 and closes on July 18, 2025 at 4:00 PM PST** for projects to be delivered between October 1, 2025 and March 31, 2026.

Note that to be considered eligible for cost-shared funding, all applicants must first register their food and beverage products for Buy BC logo licensing. The Buy BC logo allows eligible businesses to promote their local food and beverage products right away and without having to apply for cost-shared funding.

[Learn more](#)

[Apply](#)

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## Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program



Funding remains available for this year's Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program intake. Submit your application now to receive support for your knowledge or skill-building event.

[Apply now](#)

A new infographic has been published summarizing the results from the 2024-25 Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program and the impact of last year's funding on B.C.'s agriculture and food sector. Click the button below to learn more.

[Infographic](#)

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## Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program



**Starting on July 18, 2025**, the Stream 3: Assessments, Engineering Studies or Plans, category will have eight activities available for funding:

1. Water supply assessments or feasibility studies in key agricultural areas to determine available water supply.
2. Engineering studies or plans for water purveyors to assess and determine opportunities for upgrades and expansion of existing purveyed water systems.
3. Dam engineering assessments, including redetermination of Consequence Classification.
4. Dam emergency plans.
5. Dam safety reviews.
6. Other professional consultative services as required under the Dam Safety Regulation (DSR).
7. Drainage master plans, dike engineering studies or design plans, or any professional consultative services for water purveyors on drainage or dikes to assess and determine opportunities for upgrades or expansion of existing diking and drainage infrastructure.
8. **NEW!** Facilitation and strategic engagement for communities to support collaborative planning to address agriculture water supply challenges or user conflicts.

This new activity field will be available on the application starting **July 18th**.

[AWP webpage](#)

[AWP newsletter](#)

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## BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

[Insurance and Income Protection Programs](#) are an important part of a farmer's overall risk management strategy. AgriStability and Production Insurance work together to provide the best coverage for producers.

## AgriStability

[AgriStability](#) helps stabilize farm income by managing the risk of large income declines. The AgriStability program is based on the income and expenses of individual farms.

### AgriStability Enrolment Deadline Extension for 2025

The 2025 AgriStability enrolment deadline has been extended to **July 31, 2025**. This extension provides additional time for producers to register as they manage challenges such as production loss, increased costs, and changing market conditions.

Sign up for AgriStability using our [online form](#) or by sending the completed [printable/fillable PDF](#) to BC AgriStability.

### Rapid Support Available

The interim rate for the 2025 Program Year has increased from 50% up to 75%. Farmers experiencing losses can apply for interim payments under AgriStability for quicker financial assistance.

### Utilize Risk Management Programs

Producers are encouraged to use the comprehensive [suite of business risk management \(BRM\) programs](#), including AgriStability, to protect their operations and contribute to a resilient agriculture sector.

### Have questions about AgriStability?

- Call [1-877-343-2767](tel:1-877-343-2767),
- Email: [AgriStability@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AgriStability@gov.bc.ca), or
- Visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/AgriStability](http://www.gov.bc.ca/AgriStability)

We're available Monday to Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Service is available in English and Punjabi.

## Production Insurance

[Production Insurance](#) helps producers manage their risk of crop losses caused by hail, spring frost, excessive rain, drought, flooding and other extreme weather events. In British Columbia, Production Insurance is available for:

**Need help with Production Insurance?**

- Phone: 1-888-332-3352 toll-free
- Email: [ProductionInsurance.Kelowna@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ProductionInsurance.Kelowna@gov.bc.ca)
- Visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/CropInsurance](http://www.gov.bc.ca/CropInsurance)

Staff are available to help with the application and renewal process.

## RESOURCES

### **\*NEW\* "Enhancing Soil Water Holding Capacity Through Bale Grazing"**



*Photo Credit: Josh Stobbe*

A new factsheet is now available on the [BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food website](#).

The factsheet discusses how bale grazing can increase water holding capacity, potential risks, and evidence from Northern B.C. (the Peace Region).

Stay-tuned for an upcoming video on the same topic!

# Updated B.C. silvopasture resources



Check out the recent additions to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Agroforestry [webpage](#) including:

## **Silvopasture in British Columbia Information Series**

A modular series covering basic, intermediate, and advanced silvopasture planning, implementation, and management topics. Thirteen of the sixteen units have been posted as PDFs and narrated presentations.

## **Silvopasture Case Studies: Producer Perspectives – Silver Hills Ranch**

A new AgriService BC video showcasing silvopasture use at Silver Hills Ranch, near Vernon B.C., illustrating how it's been integrated into the ranch production cycle. Highlights include discussion of maintaining and enhancing forage values, ecosystem values, and timber values on the ranch.

[Agroforestry website](#)

[Silver Hills video](#)

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## Is your business market ready?

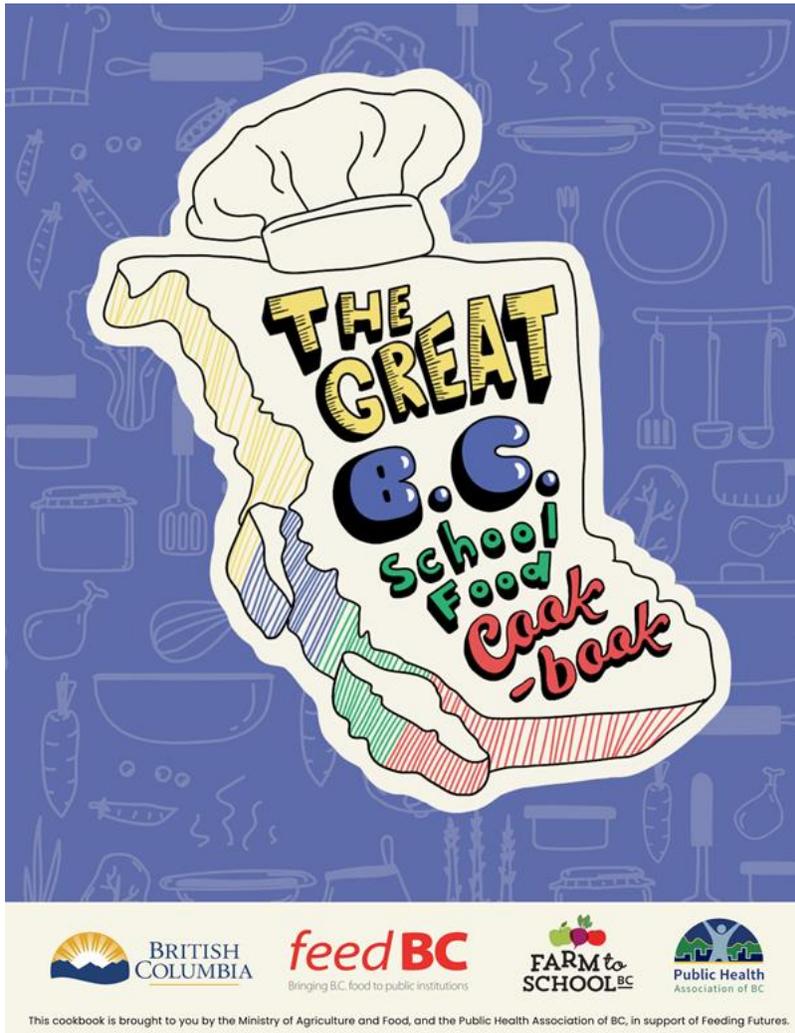


The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food market readiness webpage now features a series of how-to resources providing tips and best practices for B.C. agrifood and seafood businesses. Learn how to use market research, improve your sales pitch, sell your product, develop an e-commerce plan, and more. No matter where you are in your market readiness journey, find information and resources to help you enter or expand your market for a B.C. food product or service [HERE](#).

[Learn more](#)

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## New local food literacy resources



Discover free, ready-to-use local food literacy resources on the Feed BC in K-12 website—designed to connect classrooms with B.C. food, farmers, and processors!

Find posters, slideshows, and activity sheets on 10 B.C. foods, highlighting the people, places, and stories behind what we eat. Plus, explore The Great B.C. School Food Cookbook—a collection of tasty, student-friendly recipes from schools across the province, all featuring B.C.-grown ingredients.

[Feed BC in K-12](#)

[Cookbook](#)

[Visit AgriServiceBC website](#)

Missed the last e-bulletin? Catch-up on previous issues [here](#).

**Want to grow your farm or food business?**

**Contact your local Regional Agrologist**

Thom O'Dell - North Island  
Email: [Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca)

Bejay Mills - Central Island  
Email: [Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca)

Megan Halstead - South Island  
Email: [Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca)



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
and Food

AgriService BC connects farmers, food processors and new entrants to agricultural services, programs and information that can help them succeed.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)



May 29, 2025

File: 0280-30

Ref: 204719

John Jack, Chair  
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District  
3008 Fifth Ave  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2E3  
[aneedham@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:aneedham@acrd.bc.ca)

Dear John Jack and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors:

Thank you for your letter of May 6, 2025, regarding Farmgate Plus licence requirements, and specifically in relation to the feasibility study requirement and the 25 animal unit limit on annual production for each licence.

As per the Meat Inspection Regulation, and as noted on the [Farmgate Plus licence site](#), an applicant who is within 100 km of an existing licensed abattoir is required to submit a feasibility study. Staff inform me that for the purposes of the licence application review process, the 100 km limit is interpreted in a practical way to mean one-hour travel time from any provincially licensed abattoir. I also understand that the feasibility study requirement has never been used to reject a Farmgate Plus application in the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District. Travel time is an important consideration for a slaughter establishment as it impacts animal welfare and producer costs.

A potential slaughter establishment operator for whom the 25 animal unit limit is a constraint should consider the abattoir class licence, for which there is no established production limit. Ministry staff in the Meat Inspection Program are available to assist and support applicants who have questions about choosing the appropriate licence class.

.../2

The Board's suggestions are appreciated, and they will be taken into consideration moving forward.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lana Popham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Honourable Lana Popham  
Minister



**To:** Agricultural Development Committee

**From:** Amy Needham, P.Ag, Sustainability Planner

**Meeting Date:** July 15, 2025

**Subject:** Letter of Support for Farm to School BC

**Recommendation:**

***THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to write a letter to the Honorable Josie Osborne, Minister of Health asking for Farm to School BC funding to be reinstated.***

**Desired Outcome:**

That the ACRD support local agricultural education by directing staff to write a letter of support for Farm to School BC, which provides gardening support and mentorship to schools across BC, encouraging them to integrate plants and growing into their curriculum for all grades.

**Background and Summary:**

Over the last 18 years, Farm to School BC has made a significant impact on communities, schools, and students in every corner of British Columbia. This includes funding over 374 school grants for projects such as school gardens, farms and food literacy activities and developing dozens of classroom learning resources to integrate food literacy into education curriculum. Since 2020, Farm to School BC Regional Coordinators have provided hands on support for over 150 schools, and all 60 school districts, including independent and First Nations schools. These collective efforts have helped bring healthy, local food into schools and fostered a province-wide network of hundreds of farmers, educators, health professionals, youth and community partners. For a deeper look at the recent impact of our program, explore their latest Annual Report, attached as an information item to this agenda.

Locally, the ACRD has worked closely with Farm to School BC over the years, from being an active member of the Alberni-Clayoquot School Food Working Group to organizing professional development-day workshops in partnership with the Alberni Valley Food Security Society. Over the 2024-2025 school year, these partners also successfully applied for a TD Friends of the Environment grant and supplemented three SD70 school gardens (EJ Dunn, Bamfield Community School and Eighth Ave. Learning Centre) with dozens of perennial edible and medicinal plants, and also held educational sessions with the students themselves so that they could be involved with and learn about planting, watering and caring for their school garden.

The Ministry of Health did not fund Farm to School BC for the 2025/26 school year. As a result, they are operating in a limited capacity for the time being and actively exploring new opportunities and alternative funding to continue the program.

**Time Requirements – Staff & Elected Officials:**

Writing a letter of support for Farm to School BC would take the Sustainability Planner approximately one hour.

**Financial:**

There are no financial implications for utilizing existing staff to draft a letter of support.

**Strategic Plan Implications:**

ACRD Strategic Plan objective 1.2.2 reads ‘work with regional agricultural producers toward identifying and addressing challenges faced by regulations and climate change.’ Supporting positive programs such as Farm to School BC’s work in school gardens inspires passion for food production in students and creates the next generation of agricultural producers.

**Comments:**

Staff have been involved firsthand with the important and positive work that Farm to School BC has done across the ACRD. From helping forge connections amongst teacher champions at professional development-day workshops to using school-grown produce in Smoothie Fridays at ADSS, their influence in our area is broad, far-reaching and important to support.

**Options Considered:**

1. That the Agricultural Development Committee accept this report for information.
2. That the letter to the Minister propose that the Province levy a 2% tariff on all American foods sold in BC to help fund the program in 2026/2027.

Submitted by: Amy Needham  
Amy Needham, M.Sc., P.Ag., Acting Planning Manager

Reviewed by: Cynthia Dick  
Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

Approved by: Daniel Sailland  
Daniel Sailland, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer



**To:** Agricultural Development Committee  
**From:** Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner  
**Meeting Date:** July 15, 2025  
**Subject:** Staff Update Report

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**Summary:**

- Previous business from April:
  - A UBCM resolution to reinstitute priority ferry boarding for livestock and agricultural products has been approved by the Board and will be going before UBCM in September.
  - On June 20, 2025 elected officials of the ACRD met with BC Ferries to discuss priority boarding concerns and possible solutions.
  - The ACRD Board passed an amendment to Bylaw P1480 'Development Procedures and Fees' to exempt farm status properties in the ALR that meet current ALC guidelines from Temporary Use Permit fees for agri-tourism accommodation at their April 23, 2025 meeting.
  - A letter was sent to the province asking them to review their Farmgate Plus program to increase the allowable number of animal units and amend the requirement for a feasibility study to specify 100km distance by road. The Minister's reply was presented to the ACRD Board of Directors on June 25, 2025 and is attached in this agenda as an information item.
  - A letter of support for the Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon program was sent to the Minister of Health, Josie Osborne, on June 3, 2025. No reply has been received.
- Progress on the Food Security Emergency Plan continues with dedicated interviews and meetings held with all collaborating municipalities and First Nations. Three municipalities and three First Nations are confirmed collaborators on this project. 'What We Heard' reports for both projects will be presented to the Board on July 23, 2025.
- Progress on the Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan continues with map data submitted to the province to run a specialized Agricultural Water Demand Model that will provide information on the amount of water that would be needed to better and more efficiently use agricultural land in the Alberni Valley to grow food.
- A letter of condolence was sent to the family of Bill Thomson on behalf of the Agricultural Development Committee. Bill was a longtime committee member and chair, and integral to the development of the Alberni Valley Agricultural Plan. He will be sorely missed.
- *Noctua pronuba* monitoring update:
  - Ten volunteers stepped forward to set up *Noctua pronuba* unitraps at their properties, stretching the entirety of the Beaufort range from Bryson Road all the way down to Horne Lake Road. There are also two true armyworm traps being monitored.
  - So far a total of two *Noctua pronuba* and zero true armyworm moths have been captured.

- There was an on-farm dugout workshop held on June 22 with Ministry of Agriculture & Food staff to discuss practical aspects of applying for water licenses, designing dugouts and other water storage options, and applying for funding. 15 producers attended the session from across the region, some from as far away as Campbell River, Black Creek and Errington.

Submitted by: Amy Needham  
Amy Needham, M.Sc., P.Ag., Acting Planning Manager

Reviewed by: Cynthia Dick  
Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

Approved by: Daniel Sailland  
Daniel Sailland, MBA, Chief Administrative Officer

## ALBERNI DISTRICT FALL FAIR ADC COMMITTEE REPORT FOR JULY 2025

- We are grateful for the support of the ACRD Grant in Aid to assist with the promotion of Agriculture Education this year. We are working with Nancy Wilmot to have continuous videos of helpful growing tips and hope to incorporate the past local producer video's into the presentation on a tv screen in a rest area located in the building.
- We are working in partnership with the AV Food Security Society and ACRD to update our Farm Gate brochures. We hope to have these printed prior to the end of summer.
- The Fibre Guild will be in the building, and any other organizations or producers that fit within agriculture education are encouraged to have a table.

Submitted by : Ann Siddall

## Kristin Kerr-Donohue

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**From:** Anna Lewis <anna@avfood.ca>  
**Sent:** June 27, 2025 9:08 AM  
**To:** ACRD Administration; Amy Needham  
**Subject:** AVFSS Update for ADC Meeting

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

**[CAUTION]** This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Thanks for the reminder Amy! I believe you have the one-pager from AVFSS strategic planning to include already.

Happy Friday!  
Anna.

- **AVFSS Summary (April 15 – June 2025):**

- Gleaning registration opened May 1 and has seen strong participation: 29 gleaners (7 interested in being pickleads), 30 homeowners (more homeowners reaching out daily), and 3 windfall donees. Cherry trees are abundant and having difficulty keeping up! Doorhangers available to promote the program.
- The Grow Local team completed all EJ Dunn and Eighth Avenue workshops and delivered a successful Pro-D Day event, as well as supported the Bamfield medicine garden build under the TD FEF Grant. Final grant reporting has been submitted.
- The Dry Creek Community Garden hosted a May work party and is undergoing structural planning with member surveys, updated contracts, and potential new infrastructure (second tap, new beds). Picked up a composter from the ACRD (thank you!), compost from Organics program, and looking for other items to be donated.
- AVFSS received \$4,200 from the ACRD Grant-in-Aid to support an online farm directory
- Strategic Plan was finalized, adopted by the board, and is being integrated into communications, website, and print materials.
- The Growers Guide was distributed;
- AVFSS will also assist with updating Fall Fair's farmgate brochures, aligning efforts with the farm directory.
- Canada Summer Jobs posting received ineligible applications; one student was hired and then released due to residency requirements.
- AVFSS hosted the 2025 Island Food Hub Gathering and continues to participate in Island Health's bimonthly Food Hub meetings.
- Letter of support submitted for Sproat Lake OCP process.
- AVFSS presented the \$800 Edna Cox Bursary

From: Sarah Rymer <no.rymer.reason.farm@gmail.com>

Sent: June 27, 2025 10:21 AM

To: Amy Needham <aneedham@acrd.bc.ca>; ACRD Administration <administration@acrd.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Reminder to Submit Reports/Updates for July 15 ADC agenda

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD  
Spirit Square Farmers Market

BC Farmers Market Nutrition Program started last week (June 21). Three community partners this year - Sage Haven, island health and CMHA. Teresa O'Neil is the Market's coupon manager.

More vendors each week.

Collaborated with the Port Alberni Port Authority on Port Day by staying open until 1pm.

Music at the Market starts July 6, which is sponsored by Dock+.

A few new food/farm vendors - Cry Havoc Sauces, Atwood Catering and Darby Farm.

Garlic Festival returns Sept 20, Kids market will be in August.

Drop ins always welcome \$15/week.

Looking for a new market manager.



3140 Harbour Rd. Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 4B9  
778-421-8612  
info@thedockplus.ca  
www.thedockplus.ca

June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

### **Prepared for the Alberni Clayoquot Agriculture Development Committee**

The Dock+ Food Hub is very busy with lots of activities amongst our seven anchor tenants and kitchen members.

#### **Expansion Project**

The expansion project is still underway and we have received an extension on our deadline for completion which is July 30<sup>th</sup>. The building itself is complete and the High-Pressure Processing equipment that Nova Harvest is installing in the addition is arriving over the next month and will be started up, tested and Nova team will be trained in its operation before they can fully utilize it for their operations.

In the meantime, the electrical portion of the expansion project is still underway as we work with electrical engineers and BC Hydro to install the new transformer, under ground lines and remove some power poles that are currently located in the parking lot.

#### **Sponsorships and Community Awareness**

We continue to look for opportunities to increase awareness of the Dock+ and specifically the kitchen as we have room to accept new members.

We recently did a video shoot and advertising with Edible Magazine. The video shoot took place in the kitchen and highlighted success of our members and showcased the possibilities in the kitchen.

We are officially sponsoring the Music in the Market for the Spirit Square Farmers Market. This is a great partnership and opportunity to reach out to community and agri-folk who may wish to use the kitchen for their harvests.

The community mural project in partnership with The Community Arts Council has been a huge success. The mural serves as a vibrant community placemaking, wayfinding, and marketing tool.

It has already garnered more attention and awareness about The Dock+ kitchen, and it's been working perfectly as a meeting place to show people around.

#### **Kitchen Members**

We welcomed [License to Grill](#) as a new Full Time Kitchen Member! They are making Vietnamese food made from scratch and with lots of love.

And we also welcomed Cry Havoc Sauces, a hot sauce producer that is utilizing the kitchen and has products available for purchase at the Spirit Square Market.

Island Coastal Economic Trust has released a wonderful new article highlighting all the success stories from The Dock+ since its launch in 2019. We're so proud of our tenants and kitchen members.

[Read the Article](#)

## ACRD ADC 4-H REPORT June 28, 2025

**Educational Display Boards** – 21 of an eligible 22 members completed their Ed board, for many this was the first time making one

The Boards were judged and the first 3 from Port Alberni 4-H District went on to the Regional Education Display Board competition held in South Malahat 4-H District (Saanich) in April – our members brought home 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> place – a very respectable showing for first time competing!

A successful **Manure and Seaweed sale** was held in May that raised funds for the club to buy T-shirts as well as equipment for the Beef Project members (blow dryer and chute for use at fairs)

**4-H members** are busy working with their Project animals and preparing to attend the Coombs Fair in August and the Alberni District Fall Fair in Sept

Business meetings continue to be held once a month – members are doing well learning to run the meeting themselves

Several members attended the **Arrowvale Farm Sheep to Shawl** event in early May and helped with washing the fleeces after the sheep were sheared – this day was a great educational experience for the members!

**District Judging Rally** was held on May 31 with 17 members and 7 Cloverbuds in attendance. For most of our members this was the first time attending a formal 4-H judging rally and it was an excellent learning experience for them. They judged Horses, Dog Leashes, Eggs and a Safety Class which was Oven Mitts!

**4-H Regional Judging Rally** was to be held here in Port Alberni in June – it has been postponed until October 3 due to other Districts being too busy to attend until the fall

Respectfully submitted

Patty Palmer  
Key Leader in Training, Port Alberni 4-H District

From: Tanya Shannon <thecabin@shannonfarms.ca>  
Sent: June 25, 2025 10:14 AM  
To: Amy Needham <aneedham@acrd.bc.ca>  
Subject: Shannon Farms report for July 15th ADC

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD  
Hi Amy,

Short update on the Farm, and info for our culinary events this summer. Could you also pass on the posters and menus to staff & board directly regarding the culinary events? I've talked to a couple that were looking for the information on them.

Farm update:

- Cabin is almost 100% full this summer, including bookings, tours, culinary events, and two weddings
- Silaging went well, full bunkers - fertilizing and watering now to prep for second cut, and cows are out pasturing. Otherwise the normal day to day operations.

Culinary Events:

We are hosting two culinary events this summer, and the core idea behind both is that we highlight and support local agriculture producers, fishermen, and small related businesses, while hosting a fun and memorable night on the farm.

We have access to the Old Puckers bus for each event to offer shuttle service for an additional fee per person. All details on our website [www.shannonfarms.ca](http://www.shannonfarms.ca)

Heifers & hors d'oeuvres

Our small bites night on the farm, happening Saturday, July 26th, at 6pm. Chef Celise Dupas of Grassroots Cafe and Chef Martin Dean of Neck of the Woods catering (Martin is ADC member Erica Goldt's partner!), and Antidote Distilling providing bar service. Tickets are \$125 each, and includes all food, as well as a welcome tasting from Cherry Creek Cidery - guest choice of Vanilla Cider (alcoholic) or their new Sparkling Lemonade (non-alcoholic).

Gather & Graze

Our sit down, long table, fine dining surf and turf dinner experience on the farm, happening Friday August 15th and Saturday August 16th. Limited seats remaining for both nights. Catered by Chef Matt Dunk and Chef Megan York (of V9Y Culinary), this event has served appetizers during cocktail hour, followed by a four course surf and turf dinner. Bar service provided by Antidote Distilling. Tickets are \$250 each, and include all food, as well as guest choice of drink flight with the four course dinner (Antidote cocktails or mocktails, Dog Mountain Brewing craft beer, or paired wines chosen by Nilo of Antidote).

Please find posters and food menus for each event attached.

Thanks so much,  
Tanya

# HEIFERS

& hors d'oeuvres

## GRAZING TABLE | SEAFOOD BAR | SERVED APPETIZERS

*Dietary friendly menu with an assortment of vegetarian and gluten free options*

Join us for a fun, casual, evening on the farm where you can mingle with friends, have fun, and enjoy delicious food and drinks.

We're proud to support and highlight local agriculture and seafood products!

### Tickets \$125 each

*Includes all food, and Vanilla Cider welcome tasting from Cherry Creek Cidery*

Available at Grassroots Cafe  
or by contacting Tanya at 250-720-5867 or [thecabin@shannonfarms.ca](mailto:thecabin@shannonfarms.ca)

**19+ EVENT**

Saturday, July 26th, 2025 | 6 PM

The Cabin at Shannon Farms | 8865 Beaver Creek Rd, Port Alberni

## MENU

### Seafood Bar

Oysters

Charred Humbolt Squid

Halibut Ceviche

Mussel Escabeche

Dungeness Crab Rolls

### Served hors d'oeuvres

Lingcod Pastrami

Tuna Conserva

Side Stripe Shrimp Croquettes

Beef Tartar

Bigleaf Maple Syrup Ice Cream Sandwich

### Grazing Table

A bountiful selection of the Alberni Valley's finest local agricultural products & accoutrements



**ANTIDOTE**  
DISTILLING COMPANY

**NECK OF THE WOODS**



**ANTIDOTE**  
DISTILLING COMPANY

**NECK OF THE WOODS**



# Gather & GRAZE

**\$250 per person**

*(inclusive of taxes and gratuities)*

Includes served appetizers, and four-course surf & turf dinner, with guest choice of drink pairings.

## OUTDOOR CULINARY EXPERIENCE

The Third Annual Gather & Graze dinner is a fine dining, culinary surf and turf experience set amongst the trees at The Cabin at Shannon Farms.

Guests will enjoy served appetizers during cocktail hour, followed by a sit down, four-course, family-style meal prepared by Matt Dunk and his team, with their choice of flight pairing (selected wine, Antidote Distilling cocktails or mocktails, or Dog Mountain Brewing craft beer).

Our goal is to support local producers, foragers, fishermen, and small businesses by purchasing their products, and showcasing them in an upscale dinner experience. Guests will enjoy a unique atmosphere, meet new people, and learn about local agriculture and small businesses.

Please note that because this dinner will include a variety of ingredients from the Alberni Valley and Pacific Ocean, and is served family style, allergies or food intolerances won't necessarily be able to be catered to.

There are 48 seats available for each night. If you would like additional ticket information, have any questions, or would like to purchase tickets, please contact Tanya Shannon at [thecabin@shannonfarms.ca](mailto:thecabin@shannonfarms.ca) or text/call 250-720-5867.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 2025 | 5:30-9:30PM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 2025 | 5-9PM

THE CABIN | 8865 BEAVER CREEK RD, PORT ALBERNI, BC

# Gather & GRAZE

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## COCKTAIL HOUR

### **Devilled Quail Eggs**

Local quail eggs, with a devilled filling of local mustard, fresh herbs, and mayonnaise, finished with shaved pickled beet and fresh micro greens

### **Fruit & Cheese Skewer**

Fresh fruit & basil, water buffalo bocconcini, with a balsamic reduction glaze

### **Elote Tostada Bite**

Roasted corn with feta, sour cream, and spices, topped with cabbage slaw, on a corn tortilla tostada, finished with cilantro, green onion, and micro greens

### **Hot Salmon Bite**

Local salmon with a hot honey glaze & candied jalapeños

### **Raw Oyster Bar**

Petit oysters, freshly shucked, with your choice of vinaigrettes and hot sauces

## DINNER

### **Green Salad**

Fresh mixed greens, tomatoes, cucumber, berries, micro greens, fresh herbs, buffalo feta and maple candied hazelnuts

*Dressings*

*Raspberry (oil based) | Creamy Herb (yogurt based)*

### **Surf**

Pacific lingcod, halibut, & prawns on a bed of handmade tagliatelle pasta, in a fresh, tomato based white wine sauce with roasted peppers and garlic

Fresh BC Dungeness crab with garlic butter and lemon

Local baguette with herb infused butter

Seasonal vegetables

### **Turf**

Sous vide local beef tenderloin with creamy mustard sauce

Smoked and grilled pork steak with homemade apple maple BBQ sauce

Herbed mashed potatoes

Seasonal vegetables

### **Dessert Board**

Chocolate base, coffee infused cheesecake mousse, topped with chocolate glaze and coffee bean

Crisp meringue with local fruit compote, topped with Chantilly cream and fresh fruit

Apple crisp, with hazelnut oat streusel, topped with local Bigleaf maple ice cream

*Final Bite*

Lavender infused petite four with honey

*Please note the menu may be adjusted due to seasonal availability of ingredients*