

# SO, YOU WANNA BE A FARMER IN REVELSTOKE?



## Local Agriculture Learning Guide



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Created by the Food Security Team at  
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The Revelstoke Food Security program of Community Connections works towards implementing the recommendations from the 2014 Revelstoke Food Security Strategy. This strategy outlines opportunities that will lead to a secure food system. A system that is rooted in the community and is centered on good food that is healthy, sustainable and affordable. The Revelstoke Food Security program hopes to create a culture which supports local food production, where possible.



This guide aims to link those hoping to start or learn more about food production or the food production industry, with the skills and knowledge to do so. The goal is to increase food production in and around Revelstoke by supporting and developing new local food producers.

## Programs currently offered in Revelstoke:

The Revelstoke Local Food Initiative (LFI) has developed programs which aim to cultivate a local food system. They offer a variety of programs for children, youth and adults. Most are offered in a workshop format throughout the year, but primarily in the spring/summer season. Programs offered by the Local Food Initiative include:

Farm to Table School Program (grade 4 & 10 students)

Growing Friends Partnership (grade 4 & Mt. Cartier Court)

Little Sprouts Preschool Program ( ages 3-9)

Garden Guru series (open to all)

Community Gardens (open to all)

Seed Library (open to all)



[www.revelstokelocalfood.com](http://www.revelstokelocalfood.com)

The North Columbia Environmental Society offers the Hunting and Gathering Guru Series. Check out [www.northcolumbia.org](http://www.northcolumbia.org) for details.



## Educational Opportunities

Many agriculture-related education opportunities exist throughout British Columbia. There are both short term and long term opportunities including workshops, volunteer placements, certificates, diplomas and degree programs.

### Institutions offering educational programs relating to food production:

#### **University of the Fraser Valley,**

Abbotsford, BC,

[www.ufv.ca/agriculture](http://www.ufv.ca/agriculture)

- Horticulture Crop Production and Protection Certificate (1yr)
- Livestock Production Certificate (1yr)
- Agriculture Technology Diploma (2yrs, builds on above programs)
- Milker Technician Certificate (4 months)
- Bachelor of Business Administration for Agriculture Management (4 yrs)
- Current Agricultural Practices Essentials Certificate (4 months)
- Berry Production Essentials Certificate (6 courses)
- Integrated Pest Management Essential Certificate (5 courses)
- Field Vegetable Production Essentials Certificate (6 courses)

Also offer courses in:

- Garden Design
- Pesticide Applicators Certificate-Landscape
- MarketSafe
- Pruning



## University of British Columbia (UBC) - Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

Vancouver, BC

<http://ubcfarm.ubc.ca>

- Applied Plant and Soil Sciences
- Biochemistry (Bachelor of Science)-Wine and Plant
- Food and Nutritional Sciences
- Food and the Environment
- Food Market Analysis
- Food Science



## Okanagan College

Kelowna, Penticton, Vernon, Salmon Arm, Revelstoke, BC

[www.okanagan.bc.ca/Programs](http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/Programs)

- Food, Wine and Tourism Programs
- Viticulture and Wine Studies
- Viticulture Certificate
- Winery Assistant Certificate
- Wine Sale Certificate
- Landscape Horticulture Certificate



## Selkirk Collage

Castlegar, Nelson, Trail, BC

<http://selkirk.ca/ce>

- Professional Cook Training
- Culinary Management
- Integrated Environmental Planning
- Continuing Education
  - \* Composting
  - \* Xeriscaping
  - \* Edible Wild (harvesting)
  - \* Greenhouse for Home Gardeners
  - \* Permaculture Design
  - \* Pruning and Tree Care



Selkirk College



## Langara College

Vancouver, BC

<http://langara.ca/continuing-studies/programs-and-courses/programs/bee-keeping/>

- Urban Bee Keeping Certificate (36hrs)

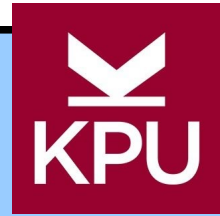
Langara.

## Kwantlan Polytechnic University

Vancouver, BC

<http://www.kpu.ca/rfs>

- Commercial Bee Keeping Certificate
- Richmond Farm School



## Gaia College

Victoria, Burnaby, BC and Online

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

- Organic Land Care Diploma
- Ecological Landscape Design
- Organic Horticulture Specialist
- Organic Land Care Accreditation
- Organic Master Gardener Course
- Plant Knowledge for Organic Gardeners



## Thompson Rivers University (TRU)

Kamloops & Williams Lake, BC

[www.tru.ca/act/culinary/retail\\_meat\\_program.html](http://www.tru.ca/act/culinary/retail_meat_program.html)

- Meat Cutter Certificate (9 months)
- Culinary Arts-Professional Cook level 1 &2 (certificate)
- Culinary Arts-Professional Cook level 3 (apprenticeship)
- Horticulture (certificate)
- Applied Sustainable Ranching



## Organic Farming Institute of BC

Online and Field Courses in Similkameen Valley

[www.ofibc.org](http://www.ofibc.org)



- Training in Organic Farming (40-60 hours online courses, plus field training)

### Community Farms

Community farms are multifunctional entities that incorporate a wide variety of activities on a shared land base. In a community farm the land is held “in trust” rather than privately owned. A community group governs the land use agreement and the land is used by a community of farmers, mostly volunteers, with the primary focus of creating local food production using sustainable practices. Community farms are more than just food production. Environmental education, agricultural mentorship and training, social services, conservation of natural and cultural heritage, outdoor recreation and provision of co-housing are just a few of the initiatives that are currently developing on BC Community farms.





Community farms have been a way to address some of the challenges faced by farmers and communities. The main barrier for new farmers is the high cost of land and that most cannot afford farmland. Community farms address some of the challenges faced by farmers by:

- Supporting local food systems by supplying locally grown food
- Protecting farmland for long term food production
- Allowing new farmers access to affordable land through long term leases
- Providing support and flexible labour pools

There are a number of examples of community farms in operation throughout BC. Providence Farm on Vancouver Island has been part of the Cowichan community since 1979. They provide a therapeutic community for those with mental health challenges, as well as support farming internships, volunteers and workshops. Horse Lake Farm in the Cariboo is a further example.



Locally, Patchwork Farm in Coldstream, BC is in operation with a number of organizations including Okanagan College and the Food Action Society of the North Okanagan, among others.

British Columbia currently has no farmer accreditation program, and a self-directed apprenticeship program may be the best method for learning farming practices. This method involves combining education from agriculture programs and several summers of farm work to build on knowledge and get a good understanding of farming operations and workload. The downfall of a short-term farm mentorship program is that they are not intense enough and give the wrong impression of farming. Whereas, working as a farm hand requires a longer commitment from both the participant and farmer, offering a great opportunity to learn about farm operations and farming seasons.

### **Incubator Farms**

Incubator farms operate as training farms and provide resources for individuals to start up small and sustainable farms without going broke. An incubator farm provides a plot of land, access to farm infrastructure, farm training and business training. They are not as involved in the community as community farms, but are open to anyone wishing to get into farming. The potential farmer usually pays a small fee in exchange for land use, equipment and support.

There are examples of established and operated incubator farms in BC. Haliburton Farms, located in Victoria is an example. The City of Kamloops is in the planning stages of developing an incubator farm as a way to support and educate new farmers.



[www.haliburtonfarm.org](http://www.haliburtonfarm.org)



## WWOOFing

WWOOF = World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms, or Willing Workers on Organic Farms is a worldwide movement linking volunteers with organic farmers and growers to promote cultural and educational experiences based on trust and non-monetary exchange, thereby helping to build a sustainable, global community.

Volunteers (or WWOOFers as they are called) live alongside farm hosts, helping with daily tasks and experiencing life as a farmer. Host farms open their homes to receive visitors from their own country or abroad who want to connect with the land and support the organic movement.

There are several websites for WWOOFing around the world:

- [wwwoof.ca](http://wwwoof.ca)
- [wwwoofinternational.org](http://wwwoofinternational.org)
- [wwwoofindependents.org](http://wwwoofindependents.org)

### HelpX

Online listing of working holidays on farms, boats, etc.

[www.helpx.net](http://www.helpx.net)





<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regional Training &amp; Work Opportunities</b></p>	<p>Hanna &amp; Hanna Orchards, Salmon Arm BC</p>	<p>Golden Ears Farm, Chase BC</p>	<p>Grassroots Dairy, Salmon Arm BC</p>
	Employment-Full time	*	
	Employment-Part time	*	
	Employment-Seasonal	*	
	Internship	*	
	Volunteer		
	WWOOFing	*	
	Student		
	Senior (+55)		
	Therapeutic		
	Workshops	*	
	Education		*
Tours	*	*	



Wildflight Farm, Mara BC	*		*																*
Terra Firma Farm, Revelstoke BC		*	*																*
Sun Lodge Farm, Nakusp BC					*			*	*	*									
Sandy Acres Berry Farm, Salmon Arm BC	*		*																*
Patchworks Farm, Coldstream BC	*		*					*		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Larch Hills Winery, Salmon Arm BC																			*
Harmonious Homestead and Ewe, Salmon Arm BC				*								*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*



Sectors Represented at Regional Farms	Grassroots Dairy, Salmon Arm BC	Greenslide Cattle Co., Revelstoke BC	Golden Ears Farm, Chase BC
Bee-keeping			*
Canning			
Chickens			
Construction			
Dairy	*		
Fruit and Berry			
Gardening-general			
Greenhouse			
Harvest Methods			
Land Management			
Livestock	*	*	
Vegetables			
Viticulture			
Wool			



## Organizations offering opportunities for food production learning:

Organization	Description
<p><b>Young agrarians</b> youngagrarians.org</p>	<p>Young Agrarians (YA) is a network for new and young ecological and organic farmers. They link new entrants into agriculture with mentors and resources to help them gain skills and knowledge to develop agriculture activities. Their U-Map shows land and employment opportunities around the province.</p>
<p><b>Farm Folk/ City Folk</b> www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/ resources/knowledge-pantry</p>	<p>FarmFolk CityFolk is a not for profit society that works to cultivate a local, sustainable food system. Their projects provide access to &amp; protection of food lands; support local growers and producers; and engage communities in the celebration of local food.</p>
<p><b>Seed Mentorship Program</b> www.bcseeds.org/seed-mentorship-program</p>	<p>This program focuses on seed collection and connects new farmers with experienced seed growers to build on their seed growing and farming knowledge. This program helps cultivate a new generation of vegetable seed growers while acknowledging the experience of our existing seed growing community.</p>
<p><b>BC young farmers (BCYF)</b> bcyf.ca</p>	<p>BCYF assists young farmers in BC with information, education and support to ensure farming remains a success in our province! Through our events &amp; workshops, our members have an opportunity to expand their knowledge and exchange ideas that can positively influence farming in BC.</p>

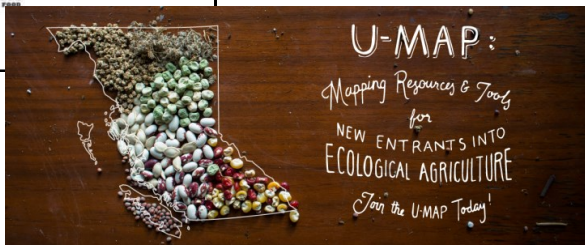
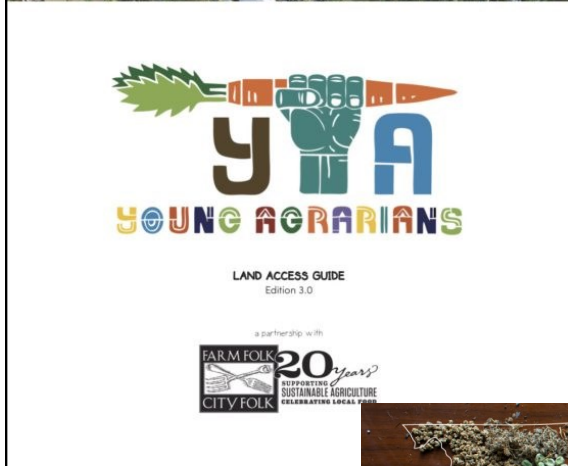


<p><b>Sooke Regional Food Chi Society</b> <a href="http://sookefoodchi.ca/farmer2farmer-network/new-farmer-mentorship-program">http://sookefoodchi.ca/farmer2farmer-network/new-farmer-mentorship-program</a></p>	<p>This program assists the transfer of valuable information gained by experienced farmers throughout their lifetime to new farmers across the region. They do this through training, networking, and partnership opportunities through farm tours, one-on-one mentorship, sharing of resources and connecting community members. Drawing on regional knowledge, expertise and success of local farms we work to encourage new growers in the region.</p>
<p><b>Agriculture and Agri-food Canada</b> <a href="http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/youth-in-agriculture/?id=1391690826829">http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/programs-and-services/youth-in-agriculture/?id=1391690826829</a></p>	<p>Online resource providing information on programs , training and mentorship in agriculture across Canada.</p>
<p><b>Chef Training-Invermere</b> <a href="http://www.sd6.bc.ca/dtss/course_outlines/chef%20training/intro%20page.htm">www.sd6.bc.ca/dtss/course_outlines/chef%20training/intro%20page.htm</a></p>	<p>Local program offered in school district 6 in Invermere, BC. Provides high school student the opportunity to develop food skills by offering a chef training program for school credit.</p>
<p><b>C.R.A.F.T. - Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training</b> <a href="http://craftfarms.ca">http://craftfarms.ca</a></p>	<p>Ecological farming community which joined together and is working cooperatively to provide education and support for prospective future farmers. In Ontario, CRAFT interns live, work and learn on a farm for a full growing season, with invaluable opportunities to learn necessary skills by working alongside experienced farmers.</p>
<p><b>Market Safe</b> <a href="http://www.foodsafe.ca/marketsafe">www.foodsafe.ca/marketsafe</a></p>	<p>A food safety training program for farmers and producers who make, bake, or grow products to sell at local farmers' markets or other temporary food markets.</p>

## Access to Land

Land Prices in BC have increased dramatically, making it very difficult for young farmers to purchase farmland. Land Sharing is an option to utilize someone else's land to produce food. There are different types of agreements that can be used to secure your access to shared land such as leases, memorandums of understanding, and agreements.

Check out the Young Agrarians' BC Land Access Guide for ideas, tips, and templates or their Land Matching Services. They also list land available for use on their UMap: [www.youngagrarians.org](http://www.youngagrarians.org).



## **Access to Capital & Advisors**

Starting or expanding your food production business can be scary, but there are experts around to help you. Check out these resources for loans, business advice and infrastructure support:

### Community Futures Revelstoke

- Business Counselling & Loans
- Basin Business Advisors Program (Agriculture Specialist)
- [Communityfuturesrevelstoke.com](http://Communityfuturesrevelstoke.com)

### Ministry of Agriculture

- Agriculture and Seafood Programs
- AgriServiceBC
- Starting a New Farm resources
- Regional Agrologists:  
Okanagan: Laura Code, [laura.d.code@gov.bc.ca](mailto:laura.d.code@gov.bc.ca), 250-260-4626  
Kootenays: Kevin Murphy, [kevin.j.murphy@gov.bc.ca](mailto:kevin.j.murphy@gov.bc.ca), 250-428-3201

### Kootenay & Boundary Farm Advisors Program

- Agricultural Advisors—connect with specialists & experts
- Educational Events
- [www.kbfa.ca](http://www.kbfa.ca)

### Revelstoke Credit Union

- Local Banking & Loans
- [www.revku.com](http://www.revku.com)



