



Cooperative Community Farms

A project of FarmFolk CityFolk

Sharing Farming on Shared Land.

✓ *Are you interested in farming with other people?*

✓ *Do you want to make sure your farm remains farmland after you retire?*

✓ *Would you like to support a sustainable food supply in your community?*

If you want to farm, are concerned about farmland disappearing, and want to help build healthy, local food systems, you know there are some real challenges.

Cooperative Community Farms are part of the solution. They can help address some of the challenges faced by farmers and communities because they:

Support local food systems by supplying locally grown food;

Protect farmland for long-term food production through land trusts, covenants, and other means;

Give new farmers access to affordable land and housing through long-term leases;

Provide supportive and **flexible labour pools**.

Farming in BC

In BC, communities face many challenges to protecting farmland and developing a local, sustainable food supply.

- Ongoing development pressures threaten farmland
- Average age of BC farmers is 57 years
- Knowledge about farming is disappearing
- Low incomes, long hours, and high risks discourage new farmers
- Demand for local, organically-grown food is up, and exceeds supply
- High cost of farmland

What's a Cooperative Community Farm?

It's a multi-functional farm where the land is held by a cooperative for the community rather than owned privately. A cooperative governs the land use agreements, and agricultural uses of the land are shared by a community of farmers.

The primary focus of a cooperative community farm is local food production using sustainable agricultural practices. Land holders, land managers, and farmers work together by mutual agreement. Farmers are housed on or near the land.

People who want to farm sustainably on a small scale are investing in community farming. There are currently more than 20 farms in BC that have experience and knowledge in sustainable organic farming practices and cooperative production and living.

With the Community Farms Program, we're helping create more farms like these in BC.

What is the Cooperative Community Farms Project?

A project of FarmFolk CityFolk, the Cooperative Community Farms Project brings together landowners, farmers, local communities, and resources to develop and support community farm models in BC.

Community Farms Program Goal

The goal of the Community Farms Program is to actively secure farmland for present and future food production. We do this by:

- Facilitating farmland securement for local food production
- Helping new farmers access affordable land
- Providing an information hub of farm-related governance models, best practices, management tools, and training
- Assisting a network of farmers, landowners, local communities, and resources to support community farm development in BC

Community Farms Program Activities

- Facilitate formation of community groups (societies and cooperatives) that support farms and farmers
- Help groups develop capacity in their communities to support cooperative community farms and farmers
- Identify potential new farmers
- Link farmers with mentors, training and land
- Provide informational resources
- Support a Council of partners, stakeholders and farmers to guide and develop the Community Farms Program

Who Are We?

FarmFolk CityFolk is a non-profit organization that connects farms and cities across British Columbia to create and support local, sustainable food systems. Our projects protect agricultural land, help farmers access farmland, support local and small-scale growers and producers, and connect local food communities through education, communication and celebration.

Contact Us!

For more information about the Community Farms Program for BC and to get involved, contact us!

FarmFolk CityFolk

1661 Duranleau Street, 2nd Floor
Vancouver, BC V6H 3S3

Telephone: 604-730-0450

Toll free in BC: 1-888-730-0452

Fax 604-730-0451

Email: sustain@farmfolkcityfolk.ca