



# BC ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS' MARKETS

**September 4, 2014  
For Immediate Release**

## **BC Farmers' Markets Celebrate Local Farmers during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Farmers Appreciation Week September 8 - 15**

**VANCOUVER, BC** – Join the BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) September 8th – 15th as they proudly celebrate BC farmers during the 5th annual Farmers Appreciation Week. From corn roasts to fall fairs, children's activities, entertainment, giveaways, and special guests, the public is invited to celebrate at over 35 special events at farmers' markets across BC during Farmers Appreciation Week.

This year also marks the return of the [Ode to A Farmer contest](#). British Columbians are invited to show their appreciation for local farmers in the form of a poem for a chance to win \$150 to spend at their favourite BC farmers' market. Six winners will be selected, a grand prize winner (\$150) plus a winning poem in each region of BC (\$50). Submissions will be accepted [online](#) or by mail until Sunday, September 7th at 11:59pm.

"BC farmers are our best source for fresh, healthy, local food," says Jon Bell, BCAFm President. "Farmers Appreciation Week gives the BCAFm and consumers an opportunity to express our gratitude and recognize the thousands of BC farmers contributing to our health, our communities and our economy."

"British Columbians are becoming increasingly passionate about buying local, fresh, in season goods," explains Elizabeth Quinn, BCAFm Executive Director. "Farmers Appreciation Week is an annual time to appreciate our farmers for growing fresh food close to home."

British Columbians can demonstrate support for BC farmers and ranchers by choosing local produce during the week- wine, cheese, fruits, vegetables and meat at the [farmers' market](#), farm stand, or retail outlets.

The BCAFm is a not-for-profit association that represents over 125 farmers' markets across the province and works to support, develop and promote farmers' markets in all regions of BC. For more information on the BCAFm or to find a farmers' market near you, visit [www.bcfarmersmarket.org](http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org).

### **Follow Farmers Appreciation Week online:**

- Twitter: [@BCFarmersMarket](#)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/BCAFM](https://www.facebook.com/BCAFM)
- Event hashtag #BCfarmersweek
- [Bcfarmersmarket.org](http://Bcfarmersmarket.org)
- [BC Farmers Markets events calendar](#)

### **Quick Facts:**

- Nearly 20,000 farms operate in BC, 98% of those are family farms (Statistics Canada, 2011)
- BC's agrifood industry is the most diverse in Canada with over 200 agricultural products (BC Ministry of Agriculture, 2011)
- BC is home to over 125 farmers' markets. Find one nearby at [www.bcfarmersmarket.org](http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org)
- Primary agriculture in B.C generated \$2.8 billion in farm cash receipts (BC Ministry of Agriculture, 2013)
- Farmers' markets in BC have continued to grow in number, producing 147% more sales in 2012 than 2006, delivering \$170+million total economic benefits (Connell, 2012)
- B.C. continues to have the oldest farm operators among the provinces with an average age of 55.7 years. Only 5.4% of BC farm operators are under 35 years (Statistics Canada, 2011)
- In total, 22.9% of the farm population in British Columbia live in population centres, the largest proportion among the provinces (Statistics Canada, 2011)

- British Columbia has the highest share of female farm operators in the country at 37 per cent
- B.C. producers led the nation in sales of blueberries, sweet cherries, raspberries, pears, apricots, Brussels sprouts and rhubarb in 2012 (BC Ministry of Agriculture, 2013)

### **Farmers Appreciation Week Events**

There are 35 Farmers' Markets hosting events.

Participating farmers' markets include, but are not limited to:

[All Organics Farmers Market](#)  
[Ambleside Farmers Market](#)  
[Armstrong Farmers' Market](#)  
[Barriere Farmers Market](#)  
[Burnaby Farmers Market](#)  
[Campbell River: Pier Street Market](#)  
[Comox Valley Farmers Market](#)  
[Coquitlam Farmers Market](#)  
[The Farm Gate, Roberts Creek](#)  
[Fort St. John Farmers' Market](#)  
[Fort Langley Farmers Market](#)  
[Golden- Spirit Square Saturday Farmers' Market](#)  
[Goldstream Station Market](#)  
[Granville Island Farmers' Market](#)  
[Haney Farmers Market, Maple Ridge](#)  
[Kerrisdale Farmers Market](#)  
[Kitsilano Farmers Market](#)  
[Ladner Village Farmers Market](#)  
[Lonsdale Quay Farmers Market](#)  
[Lake Country Farmers' Market](#)  
[Main St Station Farmers Market](#)  
[Mission City Farmers' Market](#)  
[Mount Pleasant Farmers Market](#)  
[Pemberton Farmers' Market](#)  
[Pleasant Valley Community Market](#)  
[Powell River Open Air Market](#)  
[Prince George Farmers' Market](#)  
[Qualicum Beach Farmers' Market](#)  
[New Westminster: Royal City Farmers' Market](#)  
[Sorrento Village Farmers Market](#)  
[Spirit Square Farmers' Market](#)  
[Surrey Urban Farmers' Market](#)  
[Tlell Farmers Market](#)  
[Trout Lake Farmers Market](#)  
[Oak Street Farmers' Market](#)  
[Squamish Farmers' Market](#)  
[Vernon Farmers' Market](#)  
[West End Farmers Market](#)  
[Yaletown Farmers Market](#)

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