

Ode to a Farmer Poetry Contest Winners have Unique Connections to BC Agriculture Sector



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VANCOUVER, BC – The BC Association of Farmers' Markets (BCAFM) announced today the winners of the first Ode to a Farmer Poetry Contest. Five winning poems were selected by a [panel of professional writers and poets](#), to wrap up the 4th annual Farmers Appreciation Week in BC from September 8th -15th, 2013.

"We heard so many touching stories and poems about how farmers and agriculture have effected peoples lives and the important roles they play in BC," says Elizabeth Quinn, Executive Director of the BCAFM. "From the diversity of submissions, you can see the different ways that agriculture contributes to the social fabric of our communities. It was a heart warming experience and we plan to continue the tradition."

Contest participants were challenged to submit their best poems, inspired by British Columbia's farmers and agriculture. One winner was chosen in each of BC's regions, excluding the Kootenay Rockies, where unfortunately no submissions were received. All of the [winning authors and poems](#) are on the BCAFM website.

The best overall award was given to Jillian Merrick for her poem *365 Farmers*. Jillian Merrick lives in Prince George where she coordinates the Beyond the Market program at Community Futures Fraser Fort George, a collaborative project designed to build, strengthen, and diversify the agricultural industry in BC's north.

The winning selection also includes *Farmer Dave* by Andreas Dolberg, a tribute to David Pendray (1949 – 2007), a third generation dairy farmer and mainstay of the Vancouver Island farming community.

"Each of the winners has a unique connection to farming in BC," explains Quinn. Winners include, Duncan Holmes, acclaimed food writer and recipient of the 2009 BC Restaurant Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award; Carson Holtz, a poet and musician at the Vernon Farmers' Market; Andreas Dolberg, former Executive Director of the BC Agriculture Council; Jillian Merrick, Director of Beyond the Market, a farm direct marketing program in Northern BC and Linda Purjue, a fibre artist and award-winning poet from Williams Lake.

Winners will receive a fifty-dollar gift certificate to the BCAFM farmers' market of their choice, as well as their own copy of "The Complete Book of Home Preserving," donated by [Bernardin Home Canning](#), social media promotion, and publication in print media including [BC Organic Grower](#) magazine.

For more information on the [winning poems](#) and [Farmers Appreciation Week](#) visit the [BCAFM website](#).

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.

Learn more:

- ["Ode to a Farmer" winning authors and poems](#)
- [Contest Judges](#)
- [Farmers Appreciation Week September 8 -15, 2013 information](#)
- [View a list of participating farmers' markets](#)
- [Find a farmers' market near you](#)
- Follow us on Twitter [@BCFarmersMarket](#) & Facebook www.facebook.com/BCAFM

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CONTACT

Elizabeth Quinn, Executive Director, BC Association of Farmers' Markets
778-235-0850
elizabeth.quinn@bcfarmersmarket.org