



Title: Training New Alternative Farmers in BC: identifying what new alternative farmers should learn and how they should be taught.

Abstract:

As Canadian farmers rapidly approach retirement age, new farmer training is a pressing issue in Canada's agricultural sector. To support the development effective new farmer training initiatives in alternative agriculture, this project engaged industry experts in the development of instructional materials to guide farmer training initiatives in BC. To do this, we engaged a small group of alternative farmer operators in the province in a facilitated workshop during which participants identified the key duties and tasks associated with their occupation. These results were then validated via a questionnaire that was distributed to a larger population of alternative farmers in BC. The results of this workshop and questionnaire will be used to create instructional materials to guide new farmer training initiatives in alternative agriculture across the province.

Bio:

Sarah is a MSc candidate in the Integrated Studies in Land and Food Systems program. She is also a Research and Extension Associate at the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at KPU where she manages the Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School new farmer training program. She received her BSc in Global Resource Systems in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems and has been farming in the Vancouver area since 2012.