

**Anna Russo**

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**From:** Gordon, Sue M AL:EX [Sue.Gordon@gov.bc.ca]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2008 12:00 PM  
**Cc:** Kline, Rob AL:EX; Gordon, Sue M AL:EX  
**Subject:** Islands Agricultural News - Upcoming Events

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The Canadian Farm Business Management Council is hosting its annual British Columbia **Agri-Tourism Marketing Caravan** workshop in Courtenay this October 6. The workshop is designed to connect British Columbia farmers, producers and operators with North America's leading experts in agri-tourism strategies, farm direct marketing trends and innovative marketing techniques.

**Monday October 6****7:30 am to 4:30 pm****Best Western Westerly Hotel****Courtenay (Comox Valley), Vancouver Island****\$50/pp, includes lunch**To register visit [www.farmcentre.com/EventsAnnouncements/Events/MarketingCaravan/](http://www.farmcentre.com/EventsAnnouncements/Events/MarketingCaravan/) or call 1-866-492-1172.**Cowichan Valley Feather Fanciers Poultry, Waterfowl & Pigeon Club**

Cowichan Valley Feather Fanciers Poultry, Waterfowl & Pigeon Club is hosting Canada's first ever double show and the Western Canadian District meet on October 10, 11<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving weekend) in Nanaimo, BC. They are also hosting the western Canadian district and provincial International Waterfowl Breeders Association meets at the same time. Both shows should be the largest western Canada has seen in several years. The club on the Island has grown to become the largest in western Canada and it's fall/winter show has become the largest in BC.

**Date:** October 10, 11, & 12th 2008**Location:** Centennial Building at Beban Park, 2300 Bowen Rd., Nanaimo**Open to the public on Friday Oct 10 and Saturday Oct 11 from 10am to 5pm**Check out our website for more information <http://members.shaw.ca/cowichanfeatherfanciers/>**"Forest Farming with Berry Crops"**

October 16 and 17, 2008

The Westerly Hotel Best Western  
1590 Cliffe Ave  
Courtenay, BC

The Federation of BC Woodlot Associations, on behalf of the Agroforestry Management Committee, is pleased to host a workshop and tour focused on Forest Farming Berry Crops, Thursday October 16 and Friday, October 17, 2008 in Courtenay. Come and learn about the exciting opportunities for diversification of your agricultural or woodlot enterprise, as well as the conservation benefits of adopting agroforestry practices. This workshop will highlight leading-edge practical information on forest farming, native berry crop production options, their ecology and propagation techniques, land access and management issues, as well as harvesting and processing technology, value-added opportunities, good agricultural and collection practices and food safety. Lunch and refreshments at the workshop are

included in the registration fee.

The tour will visit a working woodlot in the Comox valley using agroforestry practices and a managed forest on Mount Washington for discussions on production, conservation and accessing land. Lunch and networking at the Alpine Lodge on Mount Washington are included in the registration.

There are two easy ways to register:

1. Online at: <http://bcagroforestryi.workshop.sgizmo.com>
2. By mail, with the registration form available at your local Ministry of Agriculture office.

Space is limited. Early registration discounts in effect for those paying by Monday, October 6.

Full workshop and tour (\$75 until October 6; \$95 after October 6)

Workshop only (\$50 until October 6; \$70 after October 6)

Tour only (\$50 until October 6; \$70 after October 6)

For those requiring accommodation in Courtenay, The Westerly Hotel Best Western has made available a block of rooms at preferred rates for workshop attendees on a 'first-come, first-serve' basis:

\$100 for a standard room with either a queen or king size bed.

\$110 for a standard room with two queen beds.

\$110 for a premium room with one queen bed.

\$120 for a premium room with two queen size beds.

These rates are subject to availability and only guaranteed for those booking before September 15th.

Visit them on the internet at [www.thewesterlyhotel.com](http://www.thewesterlyhotel.com) or book by phone: 1-800-668-7797. Quote "Agroforestry Industry" to get these group rates. Consult:

[www.hellobc.com](http://www.hellobc.com) for other accommodation choices in the Comox valley.

For more information on the workshop and tour, please contact:

George Powell  
BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative c/o PO Box 4261, Quesnel, BC V2J 3J3  
Phone: 250.983.5114  
[agroforestry@uniserve.com](mailto:agroforestry@uniserve.com)

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## Small Flock Poultry Health - Bird Health Information

## Session

Owners of small or backyard poultry flocks are invited to attend a **free** information session on how to keep birds healthy and safe from diseases, such as avian influenza.

**Learn about:** Preventing the introduction and spread of disease

How to spot the signs of illness

What to expect if diseases are detected

**Date:** Friday October 17, 2008

**Time:** 6:00 - 9:00 PM (Doors Open at 5:00 PM)

**Location:** Best Western Cowichan Valley Inn [www.bwcvi@island.net](mailto:www.bwcvi@island.net)

6474 Trans Canada Highway

Duncan, BC

For more information: B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands 1-800-661-9903

Canadian Food Inspection Agency 1-800-442-2342

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## Farmstead Cheese Making - From Grass to Customer

### Time Day 1 Day 2 Day 3

**9:00 – 10:30** Introduction to Cheese Making Hands on Cheese Making Bonus Ways of Making Money

**10:30 – 12:00** Hands on Cheese Making Cheese Making Technical Lecture Cheese Making Technical Lecture

**12:00 - 1:00** Lunch Lunch Lunch

**1:00 – 2:30** Making Money Farming Making Money Marketing Hands on Cheese Making

**2:30 – 4:00** Grass Farming Basics & Pasture Walk Plant & Parlour Design Partners in the Value Chain

**4:00 – 5:00** Milking 101 (choose one of three afternoons)  
Celebration Cheese Dinner

**Course Dates for 2008: October 22 – 24**

Cost is \$650 – includes take home material, lunches, and Celebration Cheese Dinner

There are a maximum of 6 participants per course, so to reserve your spot send payment to Little Qualicum Cheeseworks, 403 Lowry's Rd, Parksville, BC V9P 2B5.

For questions or telephone payment call the farm @ 250-954-3931. <http://www.cheeseworks.ca/>

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## Sooke Farm Forum and Harvest Feast

On **Saturday, October 25**, Sooke Food CHI (supported by the District of Sooke) and the Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission are hosting a **Farm Forum**, in conjunction with a "**Food, Farms and Fun**" **Community Festival** at Edward Milne Community School in Sooke. The day-long event will conclude with a

**Harvest Feast** celebrating local foods and the region's culinary excellence at 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of the **Farm Forum**, which runs throughout the day, is to lay the foundation for development of an agricultural plan for the Sooke region as a first-step in securing a sustainable, food-secure future. We are inviting farmers, community gardeners, farmers' markets, planners, local politicians, First Nations, and other people and organizations supporting local food production, to take part in this important discussion. The forum starts at 10:00 a.m. (registration opens at 9:00 a.m.) and runs until 4:30 p.m. with lunch provided for forum participants. While there is **no charge** for taking part in the forum, we do ask people to register in advance (as simple as sending an e-mail with your contact information to [info@ramblingfeats.ca](mailto:info@ramblingfeats.ca)).

More information will be made available as the program develops. Check out our website at [www.sookeharvest.ca](http://www.sookeharvest.ca) for more details.

As well as the farm forum, we are also presenting a **"Food, Farms and Fun" Community Festival** – consumer- and family-oriented activities and presentations designed to involve the whole community in awareness of food security issues and the importance of "buy local". Tickets for the **Harvest Feast** will be sold in advance: Adults, \$20; seniors and students, \$15; family of four (2 adults, 2 kids aged 12 or below), \$40.

Robert (Bob) Thompson, **Rambling Feats Communications**, Tel 250.652.4691 | Fax 250.652.4639, Email: [info@ramblingfeats.ca](mailto:info@ramblingfeats.ca)

For David Mallett (President, Sooke Food CHI) and Ken Douch (Chair, Juan de Fuca Economic Development Commission),

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### **Small Animal and Poultry Swaps**

**Courtenay**, South Country Feeds - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday each month 10 am - Noon

**Duncan**, (Cowichan Feather Fanciers) at Buckerfields - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month 11 am til 1 pm, new this year, first one on March 23/08

**Coombs**, Farm Animal & Poultry Swap, Coombs Fairgrounds - 2nd Sunday of the month 11 am - 1 pm until November - Contact 250-752-1703 [dogma@bcsupernet.com](mailto:dogma@bcsupernet.com)

### **Following are courses being offered through Vancouver Island University Continuing Ed.**

<http://www.mala.ca/ccs/programareas.asp>

250-740-6160

Agri-tourism is a growing market that can supplement your farm income, and Vancouver Island is uniquely located to take full advantage of these opportunities. The following sessions are co-hosted by the Island Farmers Alliance. Various instructors.

**Agriculture Tourism: Are you ready to harvest the benefits ?**

**Friday, October 17, 2008 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**McNabs Corn Maze and Yellow Point Cranberries, Yellow Point Road, Ladysmith**

Explore rural tourism patterns on Vancouver Island, learn which regulations apply to your farm, and consider what to expect when the cars pull up the driveway. A light local lunch will be provided. Meet at: McNab's Corn Maze. 4613 Yellow Point Road, Ladysmith, BC

Course Fees: \$40 per day plus GST Course Code: HGAT D002 F08

**Agriculture Tourism: Are you ready to plant the Seeds ?**

**Saturday, February 21, 2009 10:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Providence Farm, 1843 Tzouhalem Road, Duncan**

Develop your customer service, consumer education and marketing skills; in particular, display and signage design, which can encourage return visits and word-of-mouth advertising - the best kind there is ! A light local lunch will be provided.

Course Fees: \$40 per day plus GST Course Code: HGAT D003 S09

**To register, call Continuing Studies, Cowichan Campus**

**250-746-3519 or 1-888-747-3519**

**Following are courses being offered through North Island College Continuing Ed.**

[http://www.nic.bc.ca/programs/ce/PDF\\_Docs/CE\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.nic.bc.ca/programs/ce/PDF_Docs/CE_Calendar.pdf)

*Campbell River 250-923-9750*

*Comox Valley 250-334-5005*

*Port Alberni 250-724-8705*

**Following are courses being offered through Camosun College Continuing Ed.**

<http://camosun.ca/ce/programs.html>

*1-877-554-7555*

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**Agriculture Labour Pool (based in Abbotsford but does the Islands as well)**

<http://www.agri-labourpool.com/>

**Western Agriculture Labour Initiative**

<http://www.walicanada.com/docs/brochure.pdf>

**Federal - Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) 2008**

<http://www1.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/epb/yi/yep/programs/scpp.shtml>

## Federal - Youth Employment Strategy

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/en/sc/youth/summerwork.shtml>

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## Multispecies Grazing Articles

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/livestock/sheep/bsa01s30.html>

<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/multispecies.html>

[www.sheepusa.org/index.phtml?page=site/get\\_file&print=1&file\\_id=ef51fd3d75841c85203f246d86635511](http://www.sheepusa.org/index.phtml?page=site/get_file&print=1&file_id=ef51fd3d75841c85203f246d86635511)

<http://wsare.usu.edu/pro/pr2003/EW01-006.pdf>

**Farm Structures and Fencing Information** can be found at:

[http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Farm\\_Structures.htm#fencing](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/Farm_Structures.htm#fencing)

To apply for **Farm Status** you would contact **BC Assessment** in Nanaimo or Courtenay.

[http://www.bcassessment.bc.ca/process/agricultural\\_forestry/index.asp](http://www.bcassessment.bc.ca/process/agricultural_forestry/index.asp)

## Provincial Sales Tax Information for Farmers

[http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/industry\\_specific/farmers/farmers.htm](http://www.sbr.gov.bc.ca/industry_specific/farmers/farmers.htm)

## Provincially Licensed Meat Plant Establishments

There is a great current list, with contact info, of Provincially Licensed Meat Plants on the BC Centre for Disease Controls web site under **Item 9** on the link below. *(Note, some of these processors only do their own livestock.)*

<http://www.bccdc.org/content.php?item=144&PHPSESSID=c824e7d7f30446fd72606e4c788eab81>

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**If you would like to add or remove your name from our mailing list, please direct an email, fax, letter or phone call to:**

**Sue Gordon**, *Office Manager*  
Regional Operations - Coast  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
Access Centre  
5785 Duncan Street  
DUNCAN BC V9L 5G2

**Phone:** (250) 746-1210

**Fax:** (250) 746-1292

**Email:** Sue.Gordon@gov.bc.ca

**Website:** [www.agf.gov.bc.ca/sitemap\\_text.htm](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/sitemap_text.htm)