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Comox Valley Local Farmer Survey

This survey is a follow up from a conversation held on April 22nd with Comox Valley farmers and food growers called “Thriving Comox Valley Food Supply” hosted by LUSH Valley and the CVFood Policy Council. The survey asks specific questions about what support you could use on your farm this season in order to grow more food or maintain your normal production. We used the feedback from the meeting and our own insights on support resources to ask questions that would lead to a plan. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete.

Name:

E-mail:

Phone number:

SECTION ONE: Farm Overview

1. How much land are you currently cultivating?
 - less than half an acre
 - less than an acre
 - more than an acre
 - more than 5 acres
 - more than 10 acres

2. What does your farm produce? (Check all that apply)
 - Mixed vegetables
 - Fruit
 - Sprouts or microgreens
 - Eggs
 - Dairy
 - Grain
 - Meat
 - Other:

3. How many years have you been working this particular farm?



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- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6+

4. With the current situation and your existing capacity, do you plan to:
- Increase production
 - Maintain usual production level
 - Decrease production
5. If you knew you had a secure market would you have the capacity to grow more food?
- Yes
 - No
6. If additional support were available, would it increase your ability to produce food?
- Yes, with additional support we could increase production
 - Yes, with additional support we could maintain our usual production level
 - I am not interested in additional support at this time.

Specific support to increase your production capacity this season.

SECTION TWO: Labour Needs

7. Could you benefit from additional labour support?
- Yes
 - No. *If no, please skip to SECTION THREE.*
8. If yes, please check all that apply.
- Require additional skilled labour, and we can pay for hired labour
 - Require additional skilled labour, but we cannot pay for hired labour
 - Require additional unpaid labour (i.e college students, community volunteers)



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9. Tell us more about how much labour you require and when. What range of dates will you need help with labour support?

SECTION THREE: Delivery Needs

10. Would you like support delivering your product?

- Yes
- No

11. If you could have free once-a-week deliveries to customers would you be interested?

- Yes
- No
- Other:

12. Tell us more about how much delivery support you require and when. What range of dates do you need help with delivery? Do you have a specific schedule with a number of hours and specific days of the week that you need delivery support? Volume of product?

SECTION FOUR: Market Needs

13. Are you interested in selling your product to LUSH Valley's Good Food Box (GFB) program or other programs at wholesale pricing?

- Yes
- No
- Need more info

14. Would you like to enter into a flexible contract with the GFB program to ensure a market for your product?

- Yes
- No
- Need more info

15. Are you looking for other secure markets for your product at this time?

- Yes



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No

16. Please provide estimates about specific products, amounts, and time of year each product would be available.

17. What additional support would you benefit from in terms of marketing your products?

- Online sales platform
- Promotional support
- Other:

SECTION FIVE: Aggregation

18. If there was a central location (with a cooler) to drop off your orders and have them delivered to customers would you be interested?

- Yes
- No
- Need more info

19. Would you be interested in adding your farm to a Comox Valley farm-stand map?

SECTION SIX: Additional Questions

20. Do you have other needs that are difficult to meet due to the COVID-19 crisis, that, if addressed, might free you up to grow more food this year? (ie. provision of elder care for family members, child care, loss of market, etc.)

21. Do you have extra resources that you would be willing to share (ie. land, cooler space, labour, etc.)? Please be specific.

22. Are you willing to share your skills by providing a short food growing video tutorial (tech support provided)? If yes, what two skills could you share (ie. weed identification, seed saving, growing tomatoes, etc.)?



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23. Are you interested in being interviewed for the Lush Valley podcast, Community Food Security in a Pandemic: <https://lushvalley.org/podcast/>? If yes, what two topics would you like to speak to?



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DELIVERY

Would support with product delivery help you to grow more food?

- If you could have **free** once-a-week pickup and delivery/redistribution to customers would you be interested? Yes/No
 - If yes, how many days a week and hours a day do you estimate needing support?
 - If yes, what days of the week work best for you?
 - If yes, what hours of the day work best for you?

Do you currently handle your own off-site deliveries?

- If yes, do you only handle your own product only?
- If yes, do you have capacity to take additional product?
- If yes, would you be willing to schedule pick up/delivery of product from your neighboring farms?
- If yes, would you want compensation or subsidy?
- Is your truck refrigerated?
- Would you prefer outside support for pick up/delivery service?

MARKETING

Do you currently sell at the Comox Valley Farmers Market

Do you sell direct to customers?

- On site pick up of orders
- On site market stand
- Provide product to local retailers (grocery stores, supermarkets, specialty shops)

MARKET NEEDS

Would you be interested in having a farm market stand if you had subsidized labor to staff it?

Would you like to sell your product to LUSH Valley's Good Food Box program (wholesale pricing)

Can you estimate what specific products, amounts and time of year. (needs to be broken down)

If you had additional labour support for harvest could you grow more of something to support the GFB (for beans for example)

Would you like to enter into a flexible contract with the GFB program to ensure a market for your product?

Are you looking for other secure markets for your product at this time?

If you knew you had a secure market would you have the capacity to grow more food?

Questions from Judy:



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Do we want to limit this to GFB or other means food access streams that LUSH/FPC is currently supporting such as Hot Meals program?

In the past, have you relied on outside labor to meet your needs? (check all that apply)

If yes, what type:

- WWOOFers, Help X (room and board in exchange for expected # of work hours)
- Internships – Fee based learning experience in exchange for labour
 - With room and board
 - Without room and board
- Seasonal Workers – paid labour
 - With room and board
 - Without room and board

24. How has the COVID 19 crisis impacted your labour needs? (check all that apply)

- Inability to bring in WWOOFers/Help X from outside Canada
- Inability to safely provide room and board
- Inability to attract interns from outside Canada
- Quarantine limitations due to immune compromised onsite family members
- Inability to attract skilled labour
- Inability to provide safe work environment
 - Could you use help with making your work environment compliant with current health/safety requirements?