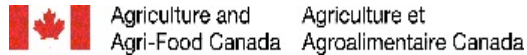




PEI ADAPT Council Agri-Newsletter



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PEI Agriculture Sector Council Social Media Launch

The PEI Agriculture Sector Council (PEIASC) invites you to attend our Social Media launch, Monday evening June 28, 7:00 pm. at the Farm Centre (420 University Avenue Charlottetown, PEI). The event will feature the debut performance of four short films and the associated website launch of FARMPEI.CA.

This PEIASC initiative is being funded by the PEI ADAPT Council through the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (CAAP). The project's mandate is to assess social media and film making as a tool to attract new people to consider PEI agriculture as a career option.

Each film is 4-5 minutes long. They portray evocative imagery of vibrant small farms and a way of life that is attractive to 'Sustainable and Lifestyle' farmers, who are emerging as the fastest growing demographic of new farmers in North America. The films will be posted on Youtube and viewers will be encouraged to provide feedback as well as check the link to the new web site, FarmPEI.ca for more information on agricultural career opportunities on Prince Edward Island

The PEIASC continues to seek feedback from both the media and communities involved. The PEIASC looks forward to your attendance. For more information please contact, Tom MacLellan, Executive Director, PEIASC; info@peiagsc.ca;
Phone: (902) 892-1091

The Business of Sustainable Agriculture

UPEI Executive-style MBA program is offering in July. It is Bus 785A The Business of Sustainable Agriculture and it will run during the week of July 19 to July 23. The instructor is Nels Hansen from Ohio State University.

The topics covered in this course include:

- A holistic view of agriculture that improves decision-making at all levels and improves farmer–consumer connections.
- An understanding of the value chain between food and agriculture, from seed or egg to the dinner plate.
- A conceptual and applied understanding of sustainable farm planning and management.
- Awareness of principles of managing soils, plants, animals, markets and community relationships as an integrated system of farming.
- Tools to evaluate case studies of existing farms.
- The opportunity to develop a sustainable farm business plan for a specific farm.

Details on this course can be found at: [UPEI Business of Sustainable Agriculture](#)

Planning Regional Food Systems - Workshops

In partnership with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, the Ontario Farmland Trust is presenting five workshops across the Greater Golden Horseshoe, inviting planners to learn about farmland protection and regional food system development. The Farmland Trust has developed a guide for municipal planning and development that explores: updating Official Plans and zoning bylaws, coordinating Agricultural Advisory Committees, investing in rural capacity and connecting urban markets with local farms. The workshops will review the guide and food planning issues in Ontario and provide the opportunity to apply specific material to individual contexts in small group settings with expert facilitators. The workshops will allow participants to share experiences that will drive further education and research.

For more information see: [Ontariofarmlandtrust](#)

Hot Trends in 2010

According to the Canadian Restaurant and Food services Association (CRFA), the hottest trends in food are: Ancient Grain, Gluten-free beer and Vegan entrees. The buzz certainly seems to be focusing on trends that touch upon local, sustainable, organic, artisanal and healthy.

For a look at the complete survey results see: [CFRA Survey](#)

Biochar: A Valuable Soil Amendment and Powerfully Simple Tool to Combat Climate Change

Biochar is a 2,000 year-old practice that converts agricultural waste into a soil enhancer that can hold carbon, boost food security and discourage deforestation. The process creates a fine-grained, highly porous charcoal that helps soils retain nutrients and water.

Biochar is found in soils around the world as a result of vegetation fires and historic soil management practices. Intensive study of biochar-rich dark earths in the Amazon (terra preta), has led to a wider appreciation of biochar's unique properties as a soil enhancer.

Biochar can be an important tool to increase food security and cropland diversity in areas with severely depleted soils, scarce organic resources, and inadequate water and chemical fertilizer supplies.

Biochar also improves water quality and quantity by increasing soil retention of nutrients and agrochemicals for plant and crop utilization. More nutrients stay in the soil instead of leaching into groundwater and causing pollution.

Biochar offers numerous potential benefits. It is important to note that although the following benefits are being illustrated, a significant amount of research is needed to quantify and verify specific benefits. This is due to the varying types of biochar along with the varying soil types, climate regions and other factors.

For any one location, specific benefits may or may not be realized, and for the specific benefits potentially realized a sophisticated technical approach is vital to ensure full adherence to air emissions and soil amendments compliance for the production and application of biochar in Canada.

Potential Benefits:

- * Help to Minimize Climate Change, * Sequester Carbon
- * Carbon Negative or Carbon Subtractive,
- * Fertilizer reductions and nutrient loss reductions
- * Enhance marginal soil productivity, * Increase Sustainable Food Production
- * Improve Water Quality by reducing contaminated runoff and nutrient loss
- * Soil Remediation, * Generate other Products
- * Generate Carbon Offsets, * Increase Net Primary Production (NPP)
- * Displace Carbon Positive Fossil Fuels

For more information see: <http://www.biochar-international.org/biochar>

AAFC Pest Management Centre

The Pest Management Centre at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada has new information available on its website. Visit the [PMC Website](#) for the latest pest management information.

The following pages under Pesticide Risk Reduction Program > Implementation projects have information on projects currently underway:

BPI09-010 Management of lowbush blueberry insect pest (blueberry maggot) with biopesticides

BPI09-020 Management of onion thrips with biopesticides

BPI09-030 Management of downy mildew on cucumber with biopesticides

BPI09-040 Efficacy evaluation of the formulated biocontrol strain *Clonostachys rosea* strain

ACM941 for the management of Fusarium Head Blight in wheat

BPI09-050 Formulation of *C. rosea* biocontrol agent for efficacy against fusarium disease in wheat and soybean

BPI09-060 Evaluation of biopesticides for apple scab management in Canada

BPI09-080 Evaluation of biofungicides for management of powdery and downy mildew in grape production

BPI09-100 Protocol development for mutagenicity testing of fungal culture extracts

PRR09-060 Pesticide risk reduction strategy development for floriculture in Canada