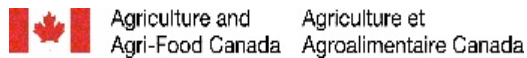




PEI ADAPT Council Agri-Newsletter



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Meet Your Farmer Bike Tour September 4

ACORN will be hosting the “MEET YOUR FARMER” bike tour on Sunday, September 4th! It’ll be a stunning ride through rural farmland as we visit two organic farms (Barnyard Organics and Red Isle Farm), as well as the Historic Maplethorpe Café, tasting delicious organic food along the way. The day will finish with at Springwillow Farm for a local and organic BBQ. Join us for this memorable summertime experience! Register now as space is very limited (cost is \$20/person). Visit www.farmbiketours.com for more details or call 1.866.322.2676

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=199532046762606>

Fair Trade for the PEI Farm Industry

Fair trade is a concept more and more consumers are embracing. Now, farmers on Prince Edward Island want to get involved as well.

Although the “fair trade” concept most often refers to products originating in the developing world, members of the National Farmer’s Union, District 1, Region 1, want to develop a domestic version of fair trade that could help producers reach the promise land of profitability.

The “fair trade” seal assures the end consumer that the product is produced in a sustainable manner and the producer has received a fair price for his or her efforts. It also ensures Canadians

a supply of food grown in an economically and socially sustainable manner.

With funding help from the P.E.I. ADAPT Council, the NFU has hired education and community development centre, Cooper Institute, to co-ordinate the fair trade effort. The institute's Ann Wheatley has worked extensively on the project for the last year. She said the first step was to hold a series of province-wide consultations involving both farmers and non-farmers.

These consultations looked at successful case studies from around the world, focusing on domestic markets rather than the international marketplace. There were also workshops dealing with standards and certification, labeling, price-setting and marketing.

Renwick Rose, chief negotiator for the Windward Islands Farmers Association, was a guest at one of the sessions and talked about how banana farmers in the Caribbean established a fair trade system there. Stewart Wells, a former national president of the National Farmers Union, also took part in the marketing discussions.

As a result, a draft plan was developed that has received the seal of approval from NFU members in P.E.I. That plan promotes co-operation rather than competition among producers and the right of all consumers to safe, good quality food.

The draft plan stresses participation by both producers and consumers at all levels, and a pricing system that is fair to both groups. It also stresses food sovereignty, meaning the needs of the Canadian market would be taken care of before food was destined for export.

Although the development of the plan brings the ADAPT funded project to a conclusion, Wheatley said the work of promoting a domestic fair trade system is just beginning.

“Right now, we are trying to increase public understanding of what we mean by domestic fair trade, and we will be holding a number of events over the next several months. We are concentrating on P.E.I. in the beginning but this will need nation-wide support in order to become a reality,” she said.

When Farm Meets Forest

Time-worn agroforestry practices may be the future of sustainable development

Utne Reader, May-June 2011

We typically think of forestland and farmland as being mutually exclusive. But many indigenous people around the world traditionally have cultivated crops right alongside trees and shrubs, and some sustainable-development advocates believe it's time to bring back and update these “agroforestry” practices, reports Upstream Journal (Fall-Winter 2010).

Deliberately mixing crops and trees, instead of completely clearing and tilling land to plant a single monoculture crop, offers numerous benefits. Some types of trees can replenish soil, while others produce fruit or livestock fodder. Additionally, agroforestry allows farmers to plant

diverse crops, reducing their dependence on international markets and offering them a measure of food and economic security. Finally, agroforestry technologies are cheap.

International aid organizations and national governments are starting to realize the promise and potential of agroforestry, according to Upstream Journal. The World Bank is investing more resources in it, and advocates hope to convince more governments and public-sector institutions to do the same.

Douglas Jack, project coordinator of the Sustainable Development Corporation, tells Upstream Journal, “The abundance of nature, when humans know how to work with it, is free and very low labor-input, compared with the kind of slavery that we create for ourselves through agriculture.”

This article first appeared in the May-June 2011 issue of [Utne Reader](#).

Future Farmers: Preparing the land for a post–peak oil society

by Adam Regn Arvidson, from Landscape Architecture Magazine

Condensed from Utne Reader Magazine: July-August 2011

Ben Falk’s Vermont farm is reminiscent of a wilderness homestead. And that’s exactly the point he hopes to convey to others. Falk is founder of Whole Systems Design (WSD), a landscape consulting firm that is planning and implementing projects for a post–peak oil society.

Falk and his clients believe there is a fundamental change coming: that oil is dwindling and will begin to skyrocket in price. That would have a profound effect on our ability to heat our homes, to fertilize our vast industrial monocultures of corn and beans, and to transport out-of-season produce to local grocery stores. Many people find this kind of thinking radically leftist, apocalyptic even, but there are certainly glimmers of this coming reality. Rises in oil prices have far outpaced inflation over the past decade. In Yemen, Qatar, and other countries, reserves are drying up. And tapping the remaining, less accessible reserves is, in light of the recent Gulf of Mexico catastrophe, uncomfortably risky.

“Now is the time to do restoration,” says Falk, We have a window. His answer is to make land productive again, so that food doesn’t have to come from so far away. Falk’s complex of rice paddies and berry patches and orchards in the Mad River Valley is a testing ground. He learns here, where he lives, so he can apply specific principles to other projects, like Teal Farm.

Read more:

<http://www.utne.com/Environment/Future-Farmers-Post-Peak-Oil-Society.aspx>

Food Power to the People

by JESSICA LEEDER — Global Food Reporter • April 18, 2011 •

The food movement has spoken.

Thirty years after a cross-country team of Canadian food advocates first convened in an effort to develop a national food strategy, a revamped and expanded version of that group will today issue a 27-page roadmap to food system change.

The People's Food Policy Project¹, an umbrella group representing grassroots organizations and individuals from coast-to-coast, canvassed more than 3,500 Canadians over two years to come up with its findings. They are based on the concept of food sovereignty, the idea that people have a rightful say in determining how their food is produced and where it comes from. Not only does food sovereignty need to be restored in Canada, the project argues, policies at all levels of government need to be overhauled to enable it.

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One of four civil-society efforts currently under way to develop long-term food strategies, the PFPP is the most comprehensive attempt to develop a truly national strategy. Some experts say, however, it is also the least likely to have a direct policy effect. Instead, the value of the project is in its galvanization of thousands of Canadians who have become attuned to how the food system works and which parts could work better if tweaked and aligned with policies on health and the environment.

By creating a sense of democracy around food – the term for that is food citizenship – the project is giving people the sense that they deserve to have more say in the way the food system is set up. “Policy is almost always an experts-only conversation,” said Kenton Lobe, a PFPP volunteer and a founding member of the Manitoba Food Charter, a position paper that has been used to build support for grassroots food systems change in that province. “Public participation is one of the key parts of how you transform people’s understanding of issues like sustainable development. It becomes a tool of awareness that can only strengthen our democratic process,” he said.

Adding credibility to the PFPP, which would at one time have been considered a fringe effort, is the warm reception it has received from competitors-turned-collaborators. That includes the Canadian Federation of Agriculture. Representing agri-business interests, the CFA is developing its own national food strategy aimed at ensuring the sustainability of Canada’s food supply for domestic sales and international trade. The organization, however, keeps an open dialogue with the PFPP.

Both the federal Liberals and the NDP were involved in the PFPP process. Both parties have included food policies in their respective electoral platforms.

The commonalities between civil-society and partisan efforts lie in the desire to bolster Canadian agriculture and food systems by making changes that will enable farmers to sell a more diverse array of food not just outside of Canada but within it.

“As the price of oil goes up, we’re seeing the price of food go through the roof,” said Robin Tunnicliffe, an organic fruit and vegetable grower from Vancouver Island who worked on the PFPP and serves on the board of USC Canada, one of the key organizations to support the project. “If we had vibrant regional food systems, which are entirely possible with a few changes in policy, our food system would be more resilient ... to external shocks that have caused chaos,” she said.

Titled *Resetting the Table: A People’s Food Policy for Canada*, the report seeks to recalibrate the domestic distribution of homegrown food by creating local and regional purchasing policies for

institutions and large food retailers. The aim is to ensure food is eaten as close as possible to where it is produced. It also suggests a shift in Canadian agriculture and aquaculture toward more environmentally friendly practices and the creation of policies that help new farmers enter the profession. A national poverty elimination plan and a Children and Food strategy (including a national school-meal program) are pillars of the document.

Rod MacRae, one of Canada's foremost food policy experts at York University, said the true test of the disparate food policy efforts, regardless of the harmony they've realized thus far, will be in whether the government can muster a worthy response.

"Will a government have the capacity to try and extract the most useful and robust elements from all these different pieces and try to create some national consensus around it? Or will they actually be paralyzed ... and do nothing?"

Food Chains and the Reasons Behind Rising Food Prices

by Marcos Fava Neves

This article addresses the food crisis and its impacts on food chains. There are nine general causes of higher prices: use of grains and agricultural land for biofuels; population growth effects; strong income increase and distribution in emerging economies; urbanization of populations (mega-cities); local government income support programmes; high oil prices; production shortages; dollar devaluation; and investment funds speculation. To face this problem, 10 food chain solutions are proposed: sustainable horizontal expansion in food production using new available areas; vertical expansion increasing productivity; reduction in food taxes; investment in global logistics to reduce waste; use of the best sources for biofuels production; reduction in transaction costs; new generation of cheaper and innovative sources of fertilizers; sustainable supply contracts to farmers for more balanced margins allocation; spreading innovations (GMOs, nanotechnology); and, finally, consumer behaviour changes. The article ends by proposing a 14-point agenda for food chains in the future.

Read the article at: <https://files.me.com/alonsoramos/xlasb6>