

## Annual Activity Report 2023 Vancouver Island University Cowichan campus

### Agriculture Team Members:

Nancy Hamilton, Manager  
Professional Development and Training Division  
Cowichan Campus

Dr. Jenny Horn  
Agriculture Project Developer

Julia Fisher  
Agriculture Program Coordinator



**VANCOUVER ISLAND  
UNIVERSITY**

VIU

Professional Development and Training  
Cowichan Agriculture Team



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Dr. Jenny Horn, Agriculture Project Developer

Julia Fisher MSc. Agriculture Program Coordinator

Funding provided by the Cowichan Valley Regional District is combined with other sources to support the VIU  
Agriculture team to work on the Professional Development and Training initiatives described in the

Annual Activity Report (June 2023- Jan 2024)

The Agriculture team works together to deliver the existing portfolio of activities as well as  
develop new program initiatives.

## Project Progress:

1) Micro Credential curriculum project update:

VIU Cowichan continues to be the lead institution on the Agriculture Special Interest Group of the Continuing  
Education and Training Association of BC



Funded by Continuing Education and Training Association of BC  
Agro-Ecological Systems Management Pilot Winter 2024/25

Funded by Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills  
Organic Vegetable Seed Production Pilot Spring 2025

Funded by Continuing Education and Training Association of BC

## 2) Other program delivery:

Introduction to Regenerative Farming July – Oct. 2023

Partnership with North Island College and Young Agrarians

Funded by Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills,  
Community Workforce Response Grant

Seventeen students in the Cowichan and South Island region

Open enrollment courses Spring 2024

Partnership with Providence Farm

Agriculture and Gardening workshops:

Climate Adaptation series; Pollinators series; Backyard Chickens

## Network and Partnership Development:



## **Community Outreach:**

- Direct contact with producers and sector representatives
- Canvassing ideas at sessions where our audience is gathering already (Islands Agriculture Show, Seedy Saturdays)
- Course development with VI Providence Farm Community Association
- Course explorations with OUR EcoVillage
- Micro-credential explorations with Small Scale Meat Processors
  - Local and regional livestock producers: sheep, goats, pigs, cattle, specialty livestock
- Collaboration for program development with Milner Gardens and VIU Horticulture division.
- Discussions with Municipality of North Cowichan, City of Nanaimo, and other Regional Districts
- Initial discussions with First Nations Education Coordinators and Native Plant Nursery

## **Funding Applications 2023:**

### **PENDING:**

Cowichan Food and Farm Hub Processing Kitchen

Results pending Spring 2024



Funder: Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development, and Innovation, Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program – Forests Impact Transition  
For completion of the Cowichan Green Community's Food Hub kitchen; will provide training facilities to proceed with Culinary and Food Processing-related MC and course development

Fundamental of Small-Scale Livestock Husbandry MC

Results pending April 2024

Funder: Ministry of Post-Secondary and Future Skills Micro-Credential fund

**UNSUCCESSFUL:**

Regenerative Agriculture Extension and Education

Results Early Spring 2024

Funder: AgCo Foundation