

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