



APPLIED & INNOVATION RESEARCH CENTRE

SUPPORTING LEARNERS, COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY THROUGH INNOVATION

Advancing the Regional Food System in Rural BC

Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation Conference

Fall 2016



Dr. Terri MacDonald
BC Regional Innovation Chair in
Rural Economic Development

The Columbia Basin Rural Development Institute

Promote evidence-based
decisions that lead to enhanced
regional well-being through
research and information
provision



The Regional Food Systems Project

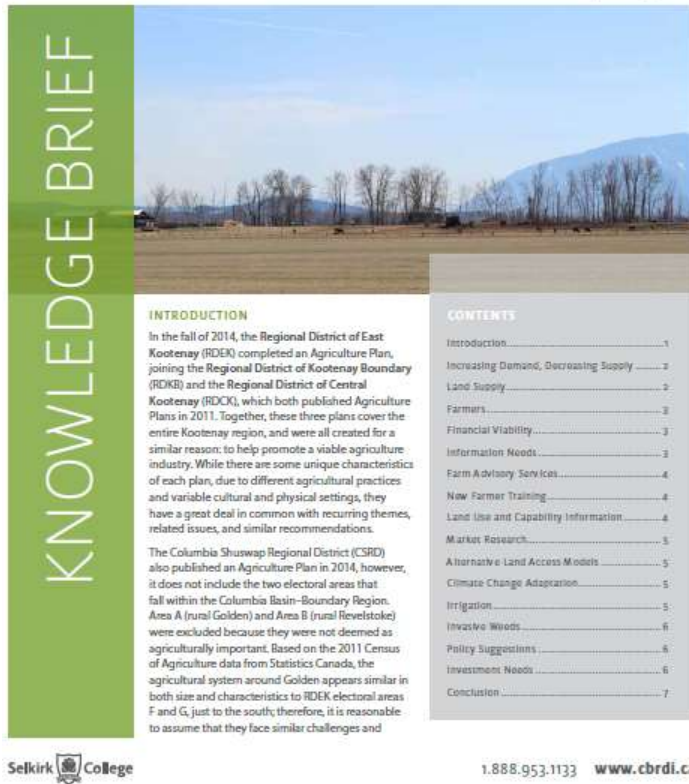


Identify opportunities to increase regional food production in ways that promote economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being.



cbrdi.ca/food

Common Themes in the Three Agriculture Plans of the Columbia Basin-Boundary Region



Basin-Boundary Agricultural Planning: The Regional Perspective

Increasing Demand vs. Decreasing Supply

Regional Agricultural Planning Themes

Land Supply Challenges

Changing Demographics of Farmers and Labour

Financial Viability

Information Needs:

- Advisory Services
- New Farmer Training
- **Land Use**
- **Markets**
- **Land Access**
- **Climate Change**
- Irrigation
- Invasive Weeds

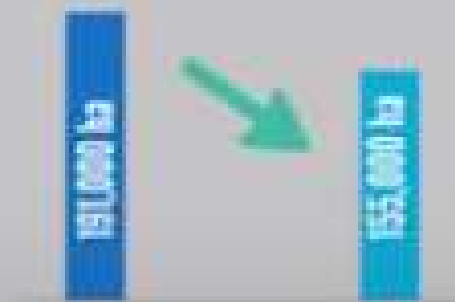
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wn_dzI22qIY&feature=youtu.be

Increasing Demand vs. Decreasing Supply

Residents prefer to buy local food



Farmed area decreased almost 20% between 2001 and 2011



Land Supply Challenges

- Approximately half of available farmland is not actively farmed in some areas
- Alternative land uses increase pressure on agricultural land values



vs.



Farmers and Labour

Current farm operators are aging

57

Average age of farmers in
the region

New generation needs support to succeed in a
changing industry

facebook



★★★★★

6,540 likes

Financial Viability

Primary reason why increased demand and
adequate land/labour \neq increased supply

\$5300

average annual per-farm
profit in region

Recommendations to address this issue relate to
Information Needs, Policy Needs and Investment Needs



Information Needs

- Restore farm advisory services
- Train new farmers
- Research and education related to:
 - • Land use and capability
 - • Markets
 - Alternative land access models
 - • Climate change adaptation
 - Irrigation
 - Invasive weeds

Policy Needs

- Adjust taxes and permitting fees for agricultural properties/businesses
- Tighten bylaws/zoning to avoid loss of agricultural land
- Loosen bylaws/zoning to remove restrictions currently preventing agricultural expansion



Investment Needs

Infrastructure for processing and packaging

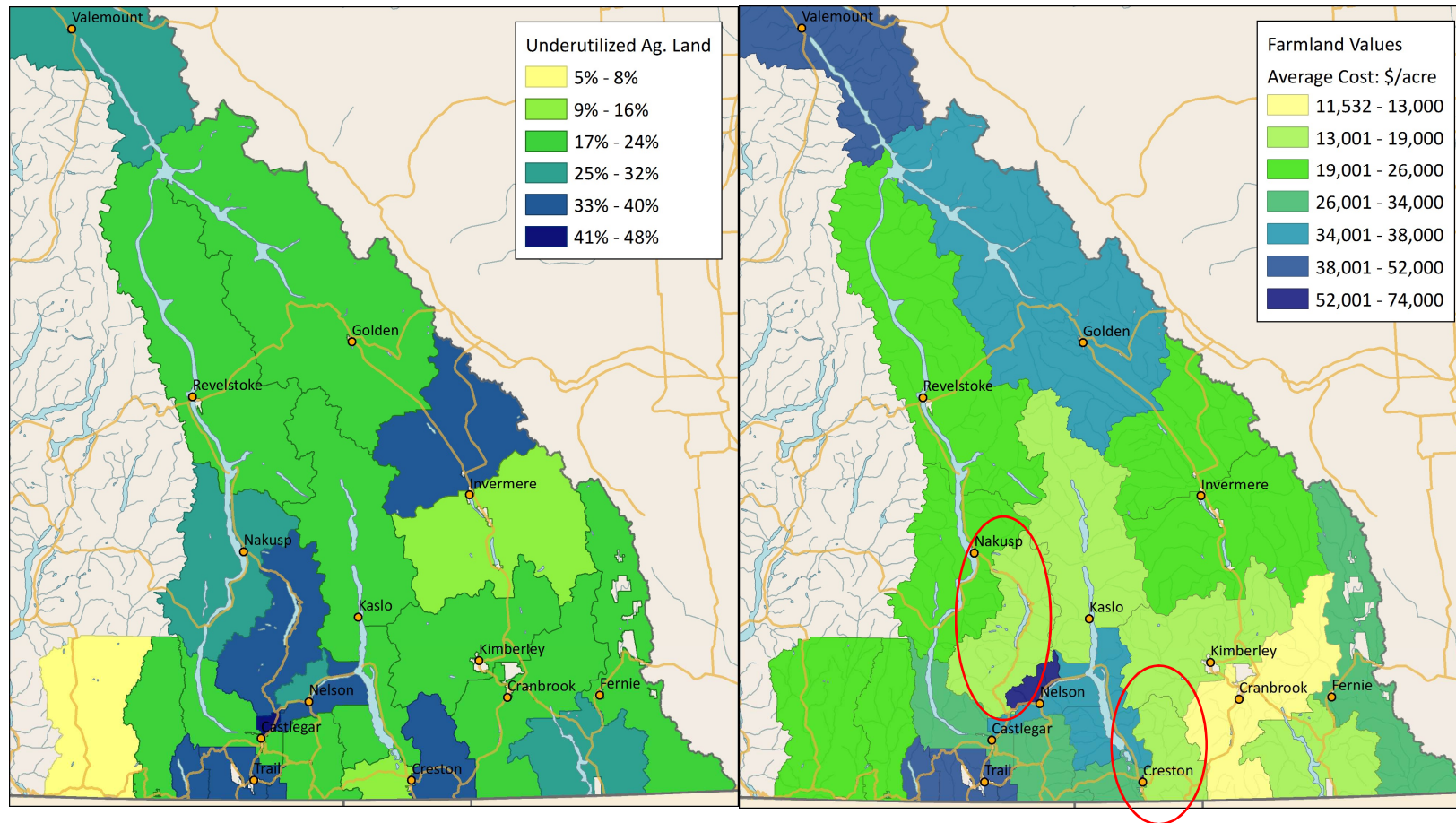


Regional marketing strategy

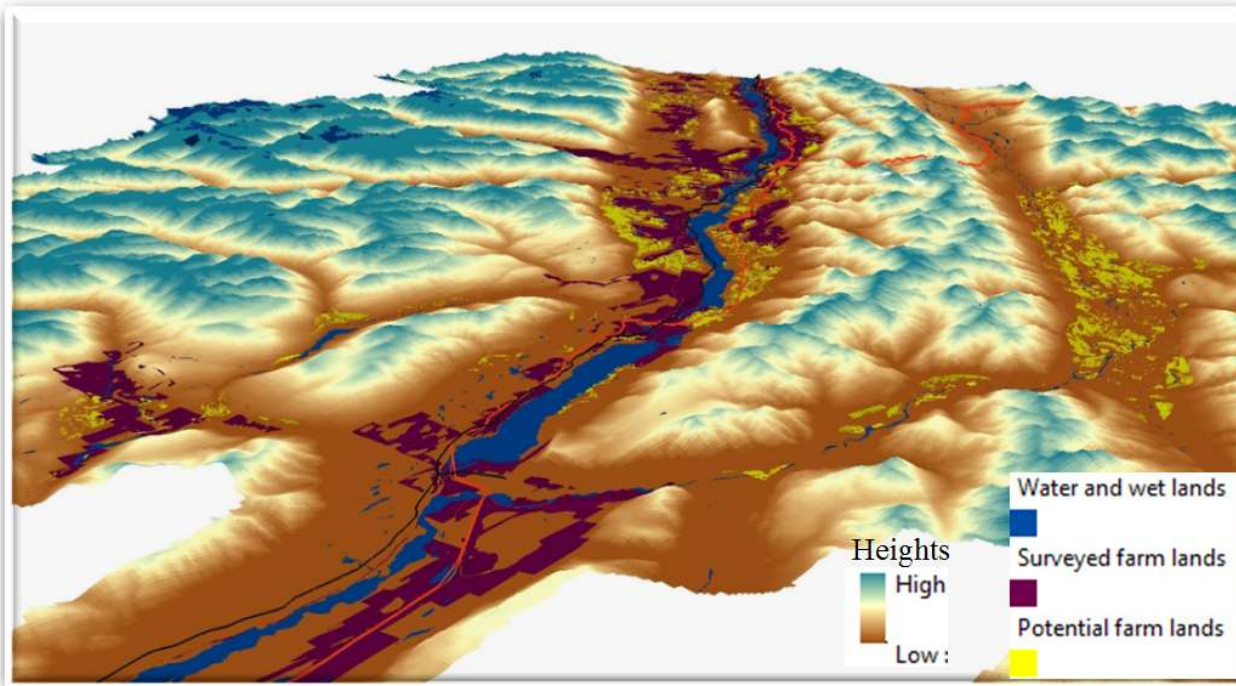


Property Data Analysis

Extent and
Value of
Agricultural
Lands



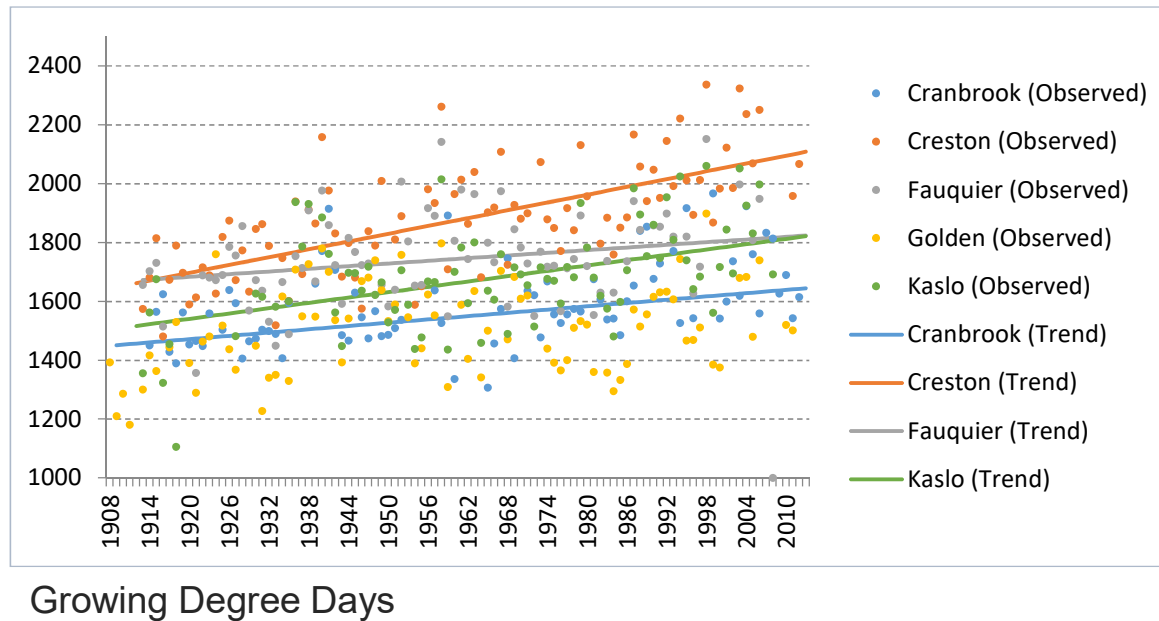
Remote Sensing Analysis



Extent and
Value of
Agricultural
Lands

Pilot indicates remote sensing is a promising methodology to identify potential farm lands

Value of farmland ranges from approx. \$11K to \$73K per acre, averaging over \$22,000



Agricultural Climate Trends

- Longer Frost Free Period (long term only)
- More Growing Degree Days (long and medium)
- Lower climatic moisture deficit (long term only)
- Considerable moisture limitations remain

Inventory of Regional Resources

- Plans and Strategies
- Feasibility Studies
- Primary Research
- Best Practices
- Background Reports
- Event and Initiative Summaries
- Food Guides



Innovative Solutions to Basin-Boundary Food System Challenges



Innovative Solutions to Regional Challenges

- Shortened and value-based supply chains
- Processing solutions
- Ownership and land access solutions

Supply Solutions

- Shortened supply chains
 - CSAs
 - Farmers Markets
- Value-based supply chains
 - Food Hub

Innovative
Solutions to
Regional
Challenges



RURAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE RESEARCH BRIEF SPRING 2016

Innovation in the Basin-Boundary Beef Supply Chain



INTRODUCTION

In 2014, the RDI began a research project focused on *Identifying Opportunities to Increase Food Production and Improve Food Security in the Columbia Basin-Boundary region*. Elements of this line of research have included: common themes in the region's agricultural plans, availability and costs of farmlands, soils and climate information, and innovative practices within the food system. This report aims to explore the nature and extent of innovation within the beef production and distribution supply chain.

The nature of innovation has been studied extensively in many different contexts^{1,2,3}. Innovation has been identified as the chief source of productivity improvements and hence higher profitability and competitiveness^{4,5}. Researchers have codified elements of innovation and created a framework for studying, quantifying and analyzing innovation⁶.

This report is the product of a series of interviews with farmers, processors, and distributors of beef raised in the region. These stakeholders were asked questions about their innovations and the impacts on their businesses. This information has been analyzed to inform other stakeholders in the sector about best practices and the advantages of innovating.

RESEARCH METHODS

This paper is largely the result of interviews⁷ that were held with three types of stakeholders in the beef supply chain: cattle ranchers, abattoir managers/proponents, and retail distribution business-people. Members of the Kootenay Livestock Association, the Windermere District Farmer's Institute, the Creston Valley Beef Grower's Association, the Grand Forks Stock Breeders, and the Kettle River Stockmen's Association were approached for recruitment recommendations in their respective regions.

With the assistance of two locally based researchers (locals to Grand Forks and Invermere), a selection of eight stakeholders was reached. These stakeholders represented each of the three target respondent groups, and major farming centres in both the East Kootenays and the Kootenay Boundary.

Interviews were held at a location of the stakeholders' choosing. Information was recorded both by audio recording and the transcription of detailed notes. Questions probed the nature of innovation in the respondent's operation, and their relationships within their local food network and the larger regional/national landscape.



1.888.953.1133 www.cbrdi.ca

Processing Solutions

Innovative
Solutions to
Regional
Challenges

- Community abattoirs
- Accessible commercial kitchens



Ownership & Land Access Solutions

Kootenay & Boundary
Food Producers'
Co-op

Innovative
Solutions to
Regional
Challenges

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MEMBER INFORMATION

CLICK TO DOWNLOAD MEMBER INFORMATION DOCUMENTS... [KBFPC MEMBER ELIGIBILITY FINAL KBFPC MEMBER R & R FINAL KBFPC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FINAL MAY 2015 MEMO OF ASSOCIATION](#)

KBFPC

Our Purpose.... The purpose of the Kootenay and Boundary Food Producers' Co-operative is to increase agricultural production and consumer access to healthy local food in Southeastern British Columbia. This will be accomplished by: a. Developing services and infrastructure to streamline transactions between food producers and customers b. Building agricultural capacity and infrastructure c. Developing educational and marketing opportunities to increase farm viability in the region, and d. Such other activities as are necessary and desirable for these purposes. A volunteer group has been working for over 2 years through the background pieces of doing the research, a feasibility study, talking to potential members, running a pilot, and now business planning for the first full year...

WHAT'S NEW

- [Interest in Locally Grown Food is Growing!](#)
- [We're Hiring – 2016 Coordinator](#)
- [Kootenay & Boundary Food Producers Co-op Thank you!](#)
- [Our Indiegogo Campaign is rolling](#)
- [We Need Your Help – Help us reach our target!](#)

CONTRIBUTE HERE

We need your help to make our vision a reality. Please consider making a

Ownership & Land Access Solutions

Innovative
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Regional
Challenges

- Cooperative and community farms
- Incubator farms
- Farmland access agreements
- Public farmland
- Farmland trusts





FOSTERING A JUST & VIBRANT FOOD SYSTEM IN CENTRAL KOOTENAY



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