



c/o PO Box 661, Ganges
Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2W3
<https://www.ssiagalliance.org>

6 January 2025

To Salt Spring Island LCC

Members of the SSI Agriculture Alliance are farming, food and community organisations that work individually and collectively to enhance agriculture and food production on Salt Spring Island.

This letter is in support of the applications for funding from the CRD's Sustainable Economic Development 2025/26 budget that have been submitted by our member organizations (see attached). These projects fall within the scope of Salt Springs Area Farm Plan & Climate Action Plan, and we believe they will help continue growth and development of local food production, bringing more land into production and supporting the marketing of local food products.

Our members have discussed priorities for this funding year and feel that, if supported, the following projects will have the most immediate impact:

1. Linking Land program & identifying host sites for Neighbourhood farmer training program \$7000 (FLT & ING project)
2. Abattoir Skills Training \$5000 (Abattoir Society)
3. Expanding the Reach of the Tuesday Market \$4500 (Community Market Society)
4. Removal and chipping of invasive plants/feasibility of linking with composter project \$3500 (Transition Salt Spring)

Members of the Alliance are committed to working collaboratively and synergistically to ensure agriculture and food production remains an important economic driver for Salt Spring Island.

Sincerely

Anne Macey
President, SSI Agricultural Alliance

SSIAA Member organizations participating in this initiative:

Island Natural Growers
Salt Spring Island Community Market Society
Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust
Salt Spring Abattoir Society
Transition Salt Spring



SSI Farmland Trust - 189 Beddis Road Salt Spring Island

To the LCC - of Salt Spring Island.

Jan. 5th 2025

Regarding: the SSI Farmland Trust portion of the collaborative funding request as outlined in the cover letter from the SS Agricultural Alliance.

The SSI FLT is pleased to be part of this effort to build agriculture capacity on SSI.

SSI Agricultural Alliance members have discussed priorities for this funding year and within that process we have identified a series of priorities that are needing support from the LCC. The cover letter lists these.

SSI FLT identified priority:

1. Linking Land program & identifying host sites for Neighbourhood farmer training program \$7000 (FLT & ING project)

To provide a context to this portion of the request; the following is a summary from a pending funding proposal for the Neighbourhood Farmer training and land linking program.

Funds from the LCC will become a contribution to this program.

Increasing agriculture capacity and its economic benefits to the island overall, require new relationships for success. This program will develop an agricultural training program with the cooperation of the Institute for Sustainable Food Systems at Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU). In this program, the training of new farmers will feed a neighbourhood where community members commit to supporting new farming enterprises either on existing farms or on new sites with agricultural potential.

This program is working in partnership with the Neighbours Feeding Neighbours project - linking neighbourhood emergency pods to food security projects and opportunities.

The partnerships are in place and agreements have been developed in principle for all parties. The recruitment phase is ready, and is a multi-pronged community based approach that requires relationship building not only with the trainees, but with the neighborhoods where the neighbourhood farms will be. By embedding the educational program within our neighborhoods, this not only improves the skills of the trainees but promotes increased agricultural awareness, resilience, and support in the broader community. Completing this phase will allow the launch of the program in the succeeding season.

The funds requested from the CRD will be put towards the development work of this project over 2025/2026 and will; Identify and recruit 3 new farm sites for placement of trainees, develop the neighbourhood farmer training model including partner coordination, training centre, and participant relationships, and marketing of the project and recruitment.

Thank you for your attention and look forward to discussing this and our overall requests with the LCC at a future meeting.

Sheila Dobie

Director of the SSI Farmland Trust chair@ssifarmlandtrust.org.

Salt Spring Abattoir

1447 B Fulford Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island V8K 2B2



Since 2012 the Salt Spring abattoir has been an essential local business that supports local farmers and ensuring high quality local food. The abattoir is a key driver in the Area Farm plan. It continues to ensure long term viability of farming and increases local food production on Salt Spring. By having a local facility, it keeps the carbon footprint to process Salt Spring animals low. Unlike most livestock being processed in large-scale factory farms, we're running a small-scale facility tailored to the needs of our farmers and consumers.

However, to be a benefit to our community we need skilled workers. We not only face the difficulty all businesses face with regards to housing on salt spring we also have significant training costs. The only option for staffing the abattoir is to provide hands on training and development. While current staff take the care and time to train new staff, our overall productivity drops significantly, leading to increased costs that are passed back to the farmer and then they either can pass the costs back to their customers, or in post cases since margins in farming are so tight, they either stop producing animals for sale, or take their animals off island to other processors.

The work isn't easy for our employees, it requires knife skills, food safety awareness, attention to detail, strength, not to mention the emotional toll. So we need to provide clear training and support as much as we can.

The support from the CRD of \$5088 would allow us to train one new staff person in late spring / early summer for our poultry rush and another staff member in the fall for our busy sheep season.

Budget:

Employee Costs = 6 days x 8 hrs x \$23/hr = \$1104

Trainer Costs = 6 days x 8 hrs x \$30/hr = \$1440

Total training \$2544 x 2 (spring & fall) = \$5088

This training can be accomplished without decreasing service currently offered. It will in fact lead to increased skill and greater proficiencies that will ultimately improve quality of product; allow for additional services, more value-added product; and more marketing options for local meats supporting farmers & others in the business community. It will also give staff greater satisfaction and hopefully more incentive to stay.

By having an efficient, cost-effective local abattoir, we keep local animal agriculture possible by reducing farmer's costs both in time and money spent on transporting animals. Our local abattoir makes it less stressful for the animals as they spend less time in transport. Animal agriculture helps us meet our climate goals by supplying local food. Ruminant animals help sequester carbon in the soil and improve soil health for future generations while omnivores like chickens and pigs reduce food waste. And we can provide well paying skilled employment for local salt springers and better our local economy.

Thank you for consideration of our request for funding.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fraser Baldwin'.

Fraser Baldwin

President Salt Spring Abattoir Society



January 2025

Subject: Proposal for \$4500 Funding for Advertising and Promotions for the Tuesday Farmers' Market

I am writing to request funding support for the Tuesday Farmers' Market, a vibrant community event managed by the Salt Spring Community Market Society (SSCMS). The market operates from the first Tuesday in June until the last Tuesday in October, from 2 pm to 6 pm, at Centennial Park. It serves as a crucial venue for local food producers to sell their goods, fostering a local food culture that stewards land, nourishes people, and honors farmers.

The Tuesday Farmers' Market is dedicated to supporting Salt Spring Island food producers by providing a market venue for locally grown and processed food. Our mission is to encourage an integrated food system that stimulates the local economy, provides the community with access to quality local food, and promotes ecologically harmonious methods of food production. We also aim to inspire the community to explore the economic, environmental, social, and health benefits of local food.

To further our mission and enhance the visibility and reach of the Tuesday Farmers' Market, we are seeking \$4500 in funding for advertising and promotions. Our approach will include:

1. Digital Marketing Campaigns:

- Social media advertising (Facebook, Instagram)
- Email marketing campaigns

2. Print Advertising:

- Rack cards and posters for local distribution (through Contour Grafix)
- Driftwood promotion

3. Event Promotions

- Signage for market days
- Promotional materials for special events and seasonal highlights

4. Community Outreach:

- Collaborations with community groups and businesses

We believe that with this funding, we can significantly increase the market's visibility during the fall months, attract more visitors, and support our local food producers more effectively. Your support will help us continue to build a thriving local food culture on Salt Spring Island.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this further and explore how we can work together to achieve our shared goals.

Sincerely,

Sue Earle

Treasurer, SS Community Market Society

Email: duckcreek@gmail.com



January 7, 2025

To the CRD Local Community Commission,

For fourteen years, a program to drop off invasive plants for chipping has been organized by the Transition Salt Spring Native Plant Stewardship Group.

The intent has been to:

- a) reduce the fire risks posed by these highly flammable species,
- b) provide chipped materials for agricultural purposes and
- c) educate the community about the risks of invasive plants.

This project now needs to transition into a more sustainable model for delivery. A 'user pay model' was tested in 2024, which covered half of the expenses. In 2025, \$3500 in additional funding is needed to deliver this program to the public.

We know that many islanders have come to depend on this program over the years, as we receive regular communications asking to confirm the dates for the service each year.

Most municipalities in BC offer some kind of similar service to residents, but as with many elements of our unique community, this task has fallen to the nonprofit sector to deliver.

Please consider our request for 2025 funding and consider how the CRD might support a program of this sort on an ongoing basis.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darlene Gage", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Darlene Gage
Executive Director