



FARMED

“Experience Quesnel’s Countryside”

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- Jerry & Laura Entzminger launch Sweet Tree Ventures
- FARMED beats out competition to win Tourism Excellence Award

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Profile: Diamond E Ranch/Sweet Tree Ventures

Jerry and Laura Entzminger started Diamond E Ranch in 1979 and up until three years ago the couple each held full time off farm jobs. Jerry now works the ranch full time, and Laura works at Dunrovin Lodge when she’s not working on the ranch.

Since its beginnings, Diamond E Ranch has evolved from a 17 acre hobby farm into a beautiful 2000 acre spread. The land was acquired piece by piece, and most of it was logged requiring Jerry and Laura to remove many stumps. Once cleared, the land was cultivated and seeded over a thirty year span. A herd of top quality Simmental/Angus cows now grazes the pasture land and 600 acres of alfalfa grass hay is produced annually.

Although in past years the couple have run up to 300 cows calving, and anywhere from 100 to 200



Making Hay

feeder calves, this year they decided to downsize.

In the last year, the need for diversification prompted Jerry and Laura to purchase a Kara sawmill. Before long, Jerry began cutting and selling Douglas Fir rough-cut timbers and lumber.

Part of the diversification included the tapping of 500 Birch trees for the production and marketing of Birch Syrup. With so much to do, family can be counted on to lend a hand. This is a good thing, because the syrup operation, known as “Sweet Tree Ventures”, has expanded to include both Birch Candy and Barbecue Sauce!

Jerry and Laura love what they do, and work very hard to keep what they love. They believe that in this day and age, to survive, diversification is a necessity. They welcome enquiries regarding all their products and can be reached at (250) 249-5466.

FARMED Wins Tourism Excellence Award



L to R: Mary Rossmann, Monika Roberts, Lori Fogarty, Christine Piltz, Lynda Atkinson, Heloise Dixon-Warren

In January, FARMED (North Cariboo Agriculture Marketing Association) had the distinction of being the first agriculture-based group to ever win the Tourism Excellence Award. The prize, sponsored by Cariboo North MLA Bob Simpson, was presented at the Quesnel Business Awards on January 31, 2009. This prestigious honour was bestowed to FARMED in recognition of the organization’s tireless efforts to promote Quesnel as a tourism destination.

Since its inception in 2006, FARMED and its members have undertaken numerous successful projects, beginning with the 2007 Cariboo Farm Tour brochure, and followed by the Canadian Farm Business Management Council Marketing Caravan Workshop and the 2-day BC Farm Women’s Network Annual Conference. So what’s next for FARMED? Well just for starters, watch for the Farm Fresh Product Guide for the North Cariboo coming in 2009!



“Wwoofing can be a mutually beneficial experience...”

“Spring may be on the way, but there are still lots of opportunities for snowshoeing at Raptor Ridge”

“4-H promotes a new generation of youth entrepreneurs”

What in the World is Wwoofing?

Wwoof is an acronym for World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. Wwoofing began as a way to provide a handful of British city dwellers with the opportunity to become involved in the organic movement in the 1970's. Since that time, Wwoof has grown to comprise a network of hosts and members representing more than 37 countries worldwide.

Wwoofers do not receive wages for their work, but instead are provided with food and lodging, and opportunities to experience rural living while developing new skills.

At its very best, Wwoofing can be a mutually beneficial experience for the host farm and volunteers. Volunteers learn skills as diverse as organic farming or gardening, animal husbandry, pasture management and blacksmithing to name just a few. Host farms

benefit from the extra time available to experiment with new farming methods, repair machinery, attend to the paperwork that piles up faster than one would like, and last but not least, to make new friends!

Presently, there is no single body that presides over all Wwoof organizations in the world. Canadian farmers interested in becoming hosts can register with Wwoof Canada at www.wwoof.ca.

Events

Raptor Ridge Welcomes Snow Shoe Enthusiasts

If you are looking for a fun way to get some exercise while enjoying the fresh air and natural beauty of Quesnel's countryside, than look no further than Raptor Ridge. Snow shoe rental is available at a very reasonable cost of only \$5.00 a pair with a \$1.00 drop-in fee. Please book rentals early due to the high level of interest, and do call ahead

even if you have your own equipment. Leah Seabrook welcomes snow shoe enthusiasts to Raptor Ridge Campsite during daylight hours, and can be reached at 250.249.5577.

CCIPPA and Value Chain Management Centre Host Workshop

Local meat and poultry producers, processors and other interested parties are invited to attend the workshop *Adding Value to Canadian*

Lamb, Pork and Veal.

The upcoming workshop, sponsored by the Cariboo Central Interior Poultry Producers Association and the Value Chain Management Centre, will be held on March 17, 2009 from 10AM—2PM at the Shiraoi House, LeBourdais Park, in Quesnel. Admission to the workshop is free, and Season'd Restaurant will provide refreshments at Noon.

Space is limited, so please RSVP Christine Piltz by March 15 @ 250.992.5205 or email: rocked@telus.net.

Community Futures 4-H Loan Program for Youth



To help promote a new generation of youth entrepreneurs, Community Futures now offers loans up to \$1,500 to help youth 4-H members purchase and raise an animal for market. For more information, contact your local 4-H club leader or give Keith or Sonya a call at Community Futures 250.747.1212. The loan application can be downloaded from the Community Futures website at www.cfquesnel.com. Once there, just click the “Loans” tab and scroll down the page until you locate 4-H Youth Loans.

Raptor Ridge Campsite

Raptor Ridge Campsite, Quesnel B.C. is owned by Reg and Leah, long time residents of the area. The site is ninety-seven acres with a beautiful view of Bouchie Lake.

Raptor Ridge Campsite is a small, unique family campsite where the grounds are left natural to retain a wilderness setting respecting the flora and fauna.

Visitors stay in miners' canvas cabins, a step back in time, conveniently equipped with furniture and cooking supplies.

Campers can expect to experience a quiet, relaxing visit, walk the old roads and trails, and find many wonderful photographic opportunities. Trout are stocked yearly in Bouchie Lake and have weighed up to nine pounds! Canoes or boats are available for rental, and public access is available to launch them.

Raptor Ridge Campsite is a twenty minute drive to Quesnel, and a short distance to the local convenience store, and to the neighbourhood pub. Make this your headquarters for a visit to Barkerville or Bowron Lakes, and enjoy the activities available in the Quesnel area.

Photo Opportunities Aboard at Raptor Ridge Campsite

On a typical day at Raptor Ridge Campsite, you will enjoy watching eagles and osprey cruising by at eye level, while sipping your morning coffee. High above you, the pelicans ride the thermals in their descent to the lake where they spend the day.

Be sure to take your camera and explore the trails, or arrange with Leah to take you on a guided nature walk. Along the way you may find a fox den, admire wild flowers and pick some wild blueberries in the trembling aspen. Above the hillside, where the woodchucks have made their home, is a patch of wild raspberries. It's a great spot to watch for the deer that often join the horses feeding. Kids love to spot frogs at the ponds or splash in the creek that borders the back of the property.

When you've finished exploring, consider renting a canoe or boat to do some fishing? It's a perfect time to try the new fly's that Reg teaches campers to make.

In the evening, relax around the campfire and enjoy a stunning

sunset. It's the perfect end to a perfect day at Raptor Ridge Campsite!

Winter Activities

Snowshoeing is becoming a very popular sport. Raptor Ridge offers free snowshoeing in January and February to support the idea of participACTION. Snowshoe rentals are available. The trails are packed by a regular group who meet at 10AM every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or you may choose to explore fresh snow on your own. Sign in at Possum Lodge. For a small fee, the Lodge can be heated for you and your group to warm up and enjoy a break.

Getting to Raptor Ridge Campsite is Easy

Once in Quesnel, take the Bouchie Lake Exit off the Moffatt Street Bridge onto North Fraser Road, and continue up the hill. Pass Bouchie Lake School and turn right onto Blackwater Road, and then make an immediate left onto Bonny Road and then a right onto Norwood Road. For more detailed instructions, or to book a visit, please call Reg or Leah at 250.249.5577.

"...Find a fox den, admire wild flowers and pick wild blueberries in the trembling aspen."

Bone Meadow Ranch & Gardens Offers Weekly "Bounty" Boxes

Ken and Judith Waring, operators of Bone Meadow Ranch & Gardens, are in the business of providing local food for local people. They practice organic growing methods, producing a diverse array of herbs and vegetables throughout their growing season.

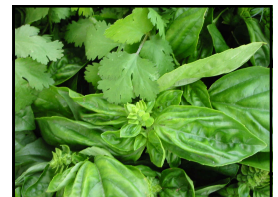
Members of their CSA Program appreciate the convenience of weekly deliveries of farm fresh

produce from June to October. A customer who takes his box to camp, remarks, "The lettuce is so fresh and crisp, I'll never buy another shrink-wrapped head from the supermarket!" "It's comments like this that make all the hard work worthwhile," says Judith.

Two box sizes, either a half-share or a full-share, are available. There are also special rates for seniors

aged 65 and over. Members can opt for a Saturday pickup at the Quesnel Farmers' Market, or a mid-week delivery in town.

For more information, call Judith at 250.255.7711, email info@bonemeadowranch.com or visit the farm's informative website located at www.bonemeadowranch.com.



Fresh vegetables and herbs are sure to enhance any meal



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The Benefits of FARMED Membership

FARMED, (North Cariboo Agriculture Marketing Association) was originally formed for the purpose of developing the North Cariboo Farm Tour brochure. However it has evolved into much more. FARMED has become one of the driving forces in our region for the promotion of agriculture and agriculture-related business and marketing opportunities. What other benefits and opportunities does your FARMED membership provide? Here are just a few. The list is by no means exhaustive!

- Shared costs of developing promotional programs and materials such as the Farm Fresh Product Guide planned for 2009;
- Working in unison to influence changes to legislation relevant to agriculture and agriculture-related operations;
- Access to members’ shared knowledge-base and opportunities for the development of educational programs of interest to members;
- The opportunity to benefit, (as a group) by taking advantage of grant opportunities that may be available to agriculture-based associations.



The Classifieds: Buy, Sell or Barter

Is there something that you'd like to sell, buy or perhaps barter? If so, please send an email to Judith describing the item, (bonemeadowranch@xplornet.com), and we will do our best to place your ad in the next issue of the FARMED Newsletter.

Two small air tight heaters for sale. Like new. Asking \$45 each. Please call Leah at 250.249.5577 for details.

Lynda's Lean Meat. Now taking orders for farm fresh beef and pork halves, quarters, or freezer boxes. Will deliver. Please contact Lynda Atkinson @ Sisters Creek in Kersley. 250.747.3700.

For Sale: Douglas Fir rough cut dimensional Lumber and Timbers. Please call 250.249.5466 for details.

Hay for Sale: Good quality Alfalfa/ Grass mix round bales. Please call: 250.249.5466

Do you need a website, brochure, business card or other marketing materials developed for your

business? Reasonable rates and friendly service guaranteed. Bartering may be considered. Call Judith @ 250.255.7711 for details.

Birch Syrup, Birch Candy and Birch Barbecue Sauce available for sale. Please call: 250.249.5466

Links

The Canadian Farm Business Management Council is an award-winning management resource providing resources empowering Canadian farmers to make sound management decisions. Workshops are available at www.farmcentre.com/workshops