



**North Cariboo Agricultural Marketing Association**  
Farming Agriculture Rural Marketing Eco-Diversification  
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**FARMED Board of Directors  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 18, 2025 10:00-11:30 am  
Via Zoom**

**Directors:** Heloise Dixon-Warren, Chair (Newsletter); Lynda Atkinson, Vice Chair (Newsletter); Lori Fogarty, Secretary / Treasurer (Website Liaison); Christine Piltz, Director (Website Liaison); Barb Scharf, Director (Membership); Wylie Bystedt, Director (Newsletter)

**In attendance:** Heloise Dixon-Warren, Moose Meadows Farm; Lynda Atkinson, Sisters Creek Ranch; Lori Fogarty; Wylie Bystedt, Coyote Acres; Christine Piltz, Kirby Hill Farm

**Regrets:** Barb Scharf, Arcadia Borealis Gardens

**Guest:** Beth Holden, Regional Economic & Community Development Officer

1. **Welcome / Round Table** Lynda shares she was in Victoria for BC Ag Days and found the Ministers were very interested in the information shared by the Agricultural representatives and many came the social that evening. Lana Popham and Lynda talked about the Sprout Kitchen. Lots of good discussion at the provincial level.
2. **Adoption of Agenda** -any additions Lori / Lynda **Carried**
3. **Adoption of last meeting minutes:** Lori / Wylie **Carried**  
(circulated by Lori - October 20, 2025)

It was suggested the BoD and member meeting minutes be posted on the FARMED website. This will be added to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

4. **Financial Report:** Lori Fogarty  
(Circulated by Lori - November 12)  
Moved by Lori Fogarty / seconded by Lynda **Carried**
5. **Correspondence: September 26, 2025 & October 22, 2025**

**Beth Holden, Regional Economic & Community Development Officer email to share**

information on Agritourism in the region and share information on Roots to Grow: Building Agricultural Strength in the Cariboo.

**Project Outline:**

The Cariboo Regional District seeks to strengthen its agricultural sector by supporting small to medium sized businesses and attracting and retaining workers and investors through, showcasing resources and training, and targeted marketing. This project aims to increase visibility of agricultural careers, support local food sovereignty, and promote the growth of small and medium-sized farms.

**Discussion:**

BETH: The Investment Ag Foundation provided grant funding to support researching agriculture employment in the region and as part of the process Beth reached out to producers to understand their needs in regard to agriculture employment.

They are now moving forward in a way that is meaningful. It sounds like many producers find employees through Facebook groups and networking. It is different for everyone, but Beth hopes to ensure they also know there are opportunities through farm stay programs, Young Agrarians, and Regenerative Agriculture programs, and to do this by highlighting opportunities within agriculture i.e., Moose Meadows Farm wreath production.

Heloise: Many people have moved into the area so there are changes and many are wanting to grow food for their families (homesteading) and many find they want to sell the extra food produced. Heloise suggests that this could be an opportunity to provide support to these groups through networking and mentorship to form connections at the local level. Examples, fencing, watering in the winter for animals,

Lynda: Wants to ensure Beth is aware of the FARMED / AgriConnect website and that she knows that Beth can include information in the monthly FARMED newsletter.

Heloise: Suggests we support the project by providing information in the newsletter and drive people to both the FARMED website and to the CRD website.

Lynda: In regard to labour are you thinking of temporary workers?

Beth: The focus is on scaling up ag operations and for people coming into the region and it includes training.

Wylie: Applications for the summer student program; application is challenging, but some of finding there are opportunities for someone to do the application for the producers. Many local producers are hitting a ceiling as to how much they can produce via the family and support to identify programs that will help producers through the next growth stage would be of help. Williams Lake is going to try to have a winter market; Quesnel might consider; but lead time is necessary to scale up production and that often includes manpower issues. It is a matter of managing those opportunities. The Quesnel Farmer Market did a program with Community Futures many years ago and provided a mentorship program for new vendors to the market and they worked with older vendors and also were provided with written support

information. COVID disrupted the program, however Sprout Kitchen picked up the slack with their support programs. In addition, there are options such as Ghost Kitchens, CSA, sales at Homesteader Health, and the Bakery sells eggs.

Heloise: Much of the work is seasonal and there needs to be a way to link seasonal workers to various work through the system; i.e., vegetable picking, wreath making, processing vegetables; birch sap production; green house production. Many older people are coming up to retire and looking for part-time work to connect with community and be productive.

Wylie: We had these discussions a few years ago; how to share part-time employees. How do we as producers manage these part-time workers; the information sharing on when, who, what and how.

Beth: When hiring people is there a big learning curve? Are there skills people are missing that need to be improved?

Heloise: Much is on the job training, but background knowledge is important; i.e., soil improvement, etc. But retention is hard to attain. Many are staying in the annual gigs, because they enjoy the work. Question: how many producers do not have outside jobs?

Wylie: About 4 of our vegetable producers are now working totally on the business, but that is rare in ranching. People coming in are surprised at the physical labour aspect of the work; even if you are working retail, you are on your feet for 6-8 hours and carrying many items.

Lynda: The other aspect of training, is if you are ranching and put someone on a tractor, this equipment is high cost and expensive to replace. Training is needed and safety training is required as well. In Victoria, they talked about using C-Cans to grow things, such as non-root vegetables.

Beth: I have heard you really need to know what you are doing and continuity in the operation of the system is needed.

Heloise: Funding is put into infrastructure, and then they are not used. Do we need to have an ag focused conference in the region? FARMED did 3 Ag & Hort Leap Conferences (2011, 2012 & 2014). It was challenging to do as a volunteer group, and required funding, but it developed connectivity, networking opportunities and knowledge sharing. It needs to be grass roots. Covid was a deterrent, and we need to kick start the networking and training again.

Beth: I will write up something for the newsletter to further connections with FARMED members.

Lynda: Re the C Can vegetable production concept - A study could identify which were successful ventures and identify the process that worked the best for sustainability. The other thing that goes with that is a green house that works with the pulp mills with streams of water that helps to heat the greenhouse. The heat in the water is being wasted.

Beth: Much funding is directed to larger projects and targeted projects rather than smaller, diverse projects.

The group decided to loop back in January and see how things are progressing.

Beth: Notes that she included agritourism as a goal in the business plan proposal to the CRD board.

Heloise requested that we are kept in the loop in how that business plan approval goes with the CRD.

It was also noted that Beth requested FARMED include a North Cariboo Tourism & Event Asset Survey in the Newsletter. Lori will include it in the November issue.

6. **Membership Update:** 36 members / 5 have paid 2026 fees. Automated system for membership renewal has been set up so the notification is sent out and a link takes members to the renewal on the FARMED website. Upon payment, a message is sent to the member along with a FARMED Member Card.

7. **Old Business:**

i) **Strategic Planning:** [ACTION PLANNING SESSION \(May 15\)](#)

**AgriConnect Marketing Meeting in January - Community Futures North Cariboo.**

Lori will request a meeting with the Community Futures team. The directors at this meeting indicated they could be available for a meeting on these dates:

- Monday, January 19, 2026;
- Monday, January 26, 2026; or
- Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Commented [LF1]:

ii) **Directors Insurance**

There has been a delay in sending all the information required but that was remedied on November 18. Lori will follow up on communications in regard to obtaining a quote.

iii) **AgriConnect / FARMED Membership Update -**

New and Renewing Members (see notes in Membership section)

iv) **[AgriTourism in the Cariboo-Chilcotin? Current and Future!](#)**

- CCCTA - Next Steps - meeting was a good start; identified inventory, vision and next steps, etc. A good time to initiate meetings with Patti (CCCTA), Beth (CRD) and the city of Quesnel. Hope to develop a resource that is grouped together to provide a consolidated tourism attraction. Lynda suggested there is a need to explore identifying ways to lower the costs of insurance for agritourism events.

FYI; Wylie noted that vegetable producers are finding it hard to get insurance for any new experimental crop production as it has not been proven. i.e.

saffron production in the Fraser Valley, & Thompson-Okanagan, as well as rice production in Northern regions.

- Meeting with Amy Reid, City of Quesnel Economic Development

**v) 20th Anniversary Plans: Wylie Bystedt**

Committee Chair: Wylie

Next meeting Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> via Zoom starting at noon. The following activities were identified as part of the 2026 FARMED 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

1. FARMED participation in the Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce Trade Show. This will entail encouraging FARMED member participation as well as original branding and stories to promote and showcase our members. In 2025 the Trade Show was in May, we look forward to seeing when it will be held in 2026.
2. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party at the Fall Fair. We would like the whole thing - balloons, cake, members showcase, games - let's plan a great party for our members and community. The Fall Fair will be held September 5 and 6, 2026.
3. FARMED to CHEF. A foodie extravaganza combining some of our best chefs and restaurants with our member products. There will be prizes, proclamations and passport programs. This will be held September 5 - 19, 2026 to enjoy the Fall Fair kick off and the amazing fall harvest.

Some Facebook notifications will go out in regard to these activities.

Wylie will make contact with the chef in the Kamloops to garner information on the FARMED to Chef program.

Heloise researched the proclamation for the City of Quesnel and the CRD to proclaim September to be Agriculture month.

Wylie will check with Kathy Somers at the Chamber and keep her informed of the activities.

- vi) ADAC meeting to provide a FARMED update:** January - Lori will connect and keep you informed of the date. Next ADAC meeting is Nov 19. Lori will contact Lauren

**8. New Business:**

- i) AgriConnect / Incorporation of FARM Stands for FARMED members onto Agriconnect**

Cariboo Valley Farm  
Moose Meadows Farm  
Edgewood Farm  
Dutchies Farm Stand  
Sundown Valley Farm Stand  
Firefly Meadows Farm Stand

Chicka D's Flowers and Fancy Farm  
Gendreau Homestead  
CaloWarren Crossing Farm  
The Blackberry Basket (Violet Kritz), 286 Grosz Road South  
53-degrees North

**ii) Newsletter - November issue**

- Member Showcase - Moose Meadows Farm
- FARMED 20th Anniversary update
- FARMED Member Updates - Membership Renewal
- Beth's info and survey
- Other? Wylie is meeting with the BC Vegetable Commission (a federally mandated commission) and might have an update. The commission determined not a lot of production in the north qualifies in the amount and this information will hopefully be shared.
- Events - FARMED BoD Meeting, Farmer's Christmas Markets (pictures/summary), FARMED 20th Anniversary Committee meeting date, Agritourism Updates - February 19, 2026 NC Tourism Forum, Strategic Planning (?), Integris (?)

**9. Next meetings:**

FARMED Board Meeting: January 6<sup>th</sup> in-person meeting 11 am - 1 pm at the Community Futures Boardroom

FARMED 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting: Monday January 12 from 12 noon - 1 pm Location TBD

FARMED Marketing Plan: January 19, 26 or 27 - Meeting date TBD Community Futures Boardroom

**10. Meeting adjourned: 11:28 am**