

← YOUNG AGRARIANS →

GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FARMERS!

By Darcy Smith

Young Agrarians is a farmer2farmer resource network focused on growing the next generation of new and young farmers in BC. Young Agrarians offers a rich online and offline community of resources and supports for farmers in start-up, such as our online UMAP, educational and social events, land access support, and business mentorship.

The newest offering from Young Agrarians, in partnership with the City of Surrey, is a pilot Land Matching Program that offers personalized, hands-on support connecting farmland owners across the Lower Mainland with experienced young farmers who are seeking land in a real estate market that has all but priced out agriculture.

In this innovative model, a Land Matcher screens farmers and land opportunities, then matches farmers and landowners with similar visions and needs. If there's a spark, the Land Matcher facilitates a "dating" process, where the farmer and landowner get to know each other and map out their land agreement with the Land Matcher's support.

The program has already helped a number of landowners achieve their vision and empower farmers. Through the Land Matching Program, landowner David Feldhaus met a young

farmer, Roger, and in May they broke ground on David's land in Surrey. Roger's new farm, The Farmhouse Bard, will soon be supplying restaurants in the Lower Mainland with tomatoes, greens, and much more. David says "For years we have been wanting to make a positive change. Seeing our fields blooming with row after row of organic vegetables is a very happy outcome."

For more information, or to connect with farmers seeking land in your area, visit youngagrarians.org or contact the Land Matcher at land@youngagrarians.org. Yeah farmers!

