

# LangleyAdvance

## Farming 'rock star' offers innovative workshop in Langley

People can learn about small scale farming.

Ronda Payne / Langley Advance

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Well-know farmer Curtis Stone from Kelowna will talk about making small plots of land profitable.

Ever wanted to turn a smaller plot of land into a living through urban-style farming? Find out how Feb. 21 when Curtis Stone, owner/operator of Green City Acres in Kelowna shares how he has profitably farmed his 1/4 acre lot in Kelowna for five years.

It's part of the Rockstar Farming Tour put on by the Young Agrarians organization.

Young Agrarians BC coordinator Sara Dent noted small-scale farmers like Stone are innovating.

"I think we're going to find that it's actually more financially viable at those scales," she said.

Stone turned to the land about five years ago in recognition of the boom in small scale farming and the demand at local farm markets. His business now involves successfully farming multiple small lots within Kelowna's downtown.

"They're [new, young farmers are] turning to the land because they really care about the earth," noted Dent.

Stone wants to show new and aspiring farmers it's possible to make up to \$50,000 on just a quarter acre of land, plus he wants to help new farmers stave off the early years of possible mistakes by passing on his

“hard-earned” education.

Stone teaches how to choose the most lucrative crops with short growing cycles, identifying the best markets, building a strong customer base, using technology to save time and money, and streamlining the work flow.

Stone wants to show new and potential farmers how to make a great living doing something they love.

“New farmers are faced with all sorts of challenges, but getting into medium and large scale agriculture if you’re fresh and young is very prohibitive,” Dent said.

The workshop is on Feb. 21 at the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Auditorium at 20901 Langley Bypass from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$75 per attendee at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1168232](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1168232). Participants are asked to bring a potluck dish and cutlery as well as a mug for the coffee, tea, and water that will be provided.

Find out more about Young Agrarians at [www.youngagrarians.org](http://www.youngagrarians.org).

### Connections

For those already convinced farming is the way to go, but needing a helping hand, the Young Agrarians will be hosting a Land Linking Workshop and Potluck on Feb. 22 to help connect Lower Mainland farmers and landowners.

Held in partnership with the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation and with support from the Real Estate Foundation of BC, this workshop will include networking, discussion about farm business and organizational models, leases and licences, and succession planning.

Dent noted this workshop has been in development for a couple of years.

It’s an opportunity for those interested in ensuring land is used for farming to meet, connect, and chat.

“You need to have very good communication,” Dent said.

Land linking, a progressive and respectful form of the United States post-civil war sharecropping, may be the solution to the increasing average age of farmers and difficulty in affording arable land, she said.

“These workshops work to address the high land values in B.C., which presents a significant barrier to new and younger people pursuing farming as a profession through alternative land access arrangements,” Dent said. “There is also a growing concern that more of our food will need to be produced and consumed locally. This will be a fantastic opportunity for the Langley and surrounding area communities to come together to find land for new farmers to access.”

The workshop on Land Linking is by donation and runs from 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, followed by a potluck social from 6 to 8 p.m. Friends and loved ones are invited to join in, just bring a food dish to share.

It all comes together at St. Andrew’s Anglican Church at 20955 Old Yale Rd. Register for the workshop at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1168476](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1168476) or visit [www.youngagrarians.org](http://www.youngagrarians.org) for more information. The potluck does not require registration.

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