

Boere takes on new position helping new farmers through Young Agrarians programs

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By Carlie Sanderson (<https://farmpressmedia.com/author/carliesanderson/>)



Nicole Boere of Young Agrarians takes on a new position. (Photo provided by Nicole Boere)

Nicole Boere recently took on the position of Alberta and E-Learning Program Manager at Young Agrarians, helping others get into farming through various programs.

Originally from Ontario, Boere currently resides in Calgary and has a background in food systems and sustainability.

When it comes to her entry into the agricultural world, food has always been a really important part of family gatherings. She has also worked previously on farms, with her grandparents also being farmers, so it's been an important part of her life for a long time.

Deciding to stay in Alberta, Boere stumbled across the Young Agrarians website and decided to apply. She ended up working in Calgary for a summer at Three Urban Farmers. She has since worked in a few different professional spaces, including working for a food distributor and, most recently, in a newcomer settlement agency doing community garden and community farm-based settlement and education.

Her newest role with Young Agrarians started just last month.

"It's really exciting to be in this space. The role is overseeing programs that happen in Alberta and the e-learning team."

The next major program coming into Alberta is the land matching program.

"A similar version exists of it in B.C., but there's a trial run of this program in Alberta in 2021 or 2022 with limited funding, and with a little bit more funding, we're doing it again for at least a couple of years," said Boere.

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soon.

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“Young Agrarians acts as a matchmaking kind of service, so really supporting people through some of the sticky and difficult parts of leasing land, navigating land access, ultimately with the hope of more people being able to access land so that they can really start on their farming journeys.”

More information on the land matching can be found on the Young Agrarians website.

Currently, the e-learning is running a few programs right now. They are in the middle of their Business Bootcamp for New Farmers, an online course that has synchronous and asynchronous components. It's available to everyone to support farmers or farm curious folks, or just people interested in farm business, to develop a business plan so they have an idea of what they're trying to do and how they're trying to do it.

Another one coming up is the How to Start Farming: An Introductory Course for the Farm Curious. Both that and the Business Bootcamp run twice a year, with the How to Start Farming coming up in the spring. Sign-up is open.

“How to Start Farming I believe, is a four-week course and is the fundamentals of soil health, a little bit about how to transplant, seed starting and that kind of thing.

“Hopefully it sets people in a good direction to either apply to a farm or even just to take home their own knowledge and their own experiences,” she said.

Boere herself did the Business Bootcamp course and now has a cooperative farm with two others just south of Calgary with about 90 CSAS. They also do farmers' markets.

“We're all worker owners at it.”

Looking ahead to the spring, Young Agrarians will be holding a mixer in the Peace Country for farmers, growers and anyone interested in getting together.

ABOUT CARLIE SANDERSON



With over 10 years as a journalist, Carlie prides herself as a storyteller in various beats. She started her career with Black Press on Vancouver Island in 2015 before heading out to Central Alberta two years later where she worked as a reporter and editor, along with founding a country focussed magazine, where she wrote and took photos.

Having grown up riding horses all her life, Carlie's passion lies in the equestrian world. Although she hasn't ridden in a long time, she now loves to be a spectator at various rodeos across Central Alberta with her family.

She currently resides in Sylvan Lake with her husband and three young boys.

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