

Dear Urban Farmers;

Let's Grow!

As the Executive Director of Vancouver's Urban Farming Society, we are looking forward to growing more here in Vancouver. That's why we've developed an 'Urban Farming Census' to understand what you need to succeed as an urban farm and to help us better get you the things you need.

We are conducting this survey to better understand the urban farming sector in Vancouver. Awareness and understanding of our urban farming sector will give current and potential farmers, their customers, and our city officials a clearer picture of the current state of the urban farming sector and how it has changed. Through our research, we can help farmers learn more about the various farms in Vancouver, how they operate and why they succeed; customers to understand the impacts of these organizations in their communities; city officials make better policy decisions by providing them with better information on which to base them. This can help inspire more support for urban farming organizations.

I am hoping you will agree to take part in the attached survey. It will take about 30 minutes to complete and includes questions about your organization's structure, food sales, and community impacts. All data will be aggregated, thus ensuring your anonymity. As a further incentive, you will be provided a \$50 honorarium once you have completed the survey.

Thank you very much for considering this invitation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marcela Crowe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Marcela" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Crowe".

Marcela Crowe
Executive Director
Vancouver Urban Farming Society
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604.368.4042

Consent Form: An Urban Farming Census

Principal Investigator:
Marcela Crowe
Email: marcela@urbanfarmers.ca

You are invited to participate in the Urban Farming Census!

Purpose:

The purpose of the research is to better understand urban farming in Vancouver. The contributions of organizations like yours are not well understood. Better qualifying and quantifying the economic and social outcomes of urban farming will give current and potential farmers, customers, researchers and city officials a better lens as to the impact of urban farming on our city. The information collected will provide a city-wide baseline of information which can help illuminate the positive economic and social contributions urban farming provides to our residents, our neighbourhoods, and our economy. This research builds on previous research conducted in 2011 and 2013.

The Survey Process:

You are invited to take part in a short survey: it should take roughly 45 minutes to complete. The questions focus on information about your organization's structure, food sales, and community impacts. Individuals who complete the survey will be compensated for their time.

Voluntary

Your participation is absolutely voluntary. You are free to withdraw from this study at any time and without giving any reasons for your decision.

Confidentiality:

All documents related to your participation will be kept in a locked filing cabinet in the Investigator's office, and computer files will be password protected. Your names will not be made public or associated with any input you provide. The only person who will have access to the survey data is the Investigator.

Your data will be aggregated with other urban farmers, ensuring your anonymity. Once your data is collected, the name of your organization will be separated from the survey data. Results of the research will be used to inform local residents, city officials, other farmers, etc. about urban farming. In addition, the methods used here can form a basis for other studies across North America. It may be disseminated through various means, including: reports, talks, and academic papers.

Contact for information about the study:

If you have any questions or desire further information with respect to this study, you may contact the Principal Investigator via the contact information outlined above.

Your participation in the survey indicates you have received a copy of the consent form for your own records and that you consent to participate in this study.

Edible Vancouver: An Urban Farming Census

This questionnaire aims to better understand the impacts of urban farming in Vancouver. The impacts of providing local food, connecting with residents and providing green jobs are not well understood – which is why we are conducting this census. This census, used in conjunction with other reports and studies, aims to gather that data and make it available for current urban farmers to learn from their peers, for city officials to have a better idea about the kinds of activities currently in practice by urban farmers, and for customers to learn more about how the local food system operates.

This survey focuses on the past three years – those years not covered by Marc Schutzbank’s past work with the urban farming census. Please answer these questions in relation to your entire urban farming organization using any records or data you have available. If you have any questions please, do not hesitate to contact me: marcela@urbanfarmer.ca 604.368.4042

Introduction

1. What is the name of your farm: _____

2. What is your name: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Mailing Address: _____

3. What is your title within your organization? _____

4. How do you secure your land? Check.

Written agreement with Landowner
Development Permit
Oral Agreement
Other: _____

5. Type of land: Check

Private Residential
Private Commercial
Institution
Other: _____

6. How long is your lease? _____

7. Does the landowner receive compensation landowner for your use of the land?

YES NO

8. If yes, how much for one year? *Please select the method and indicate annual value.*

Rent (annual value) _____

Food (estimated annual value) _____

Water or other utilities _____

Property Tax Savings (type or estimated annual) _____

Other: _____

9. What effect does your land tenure status have on your organization/business?

10. What effect does your land tenure status have on your farming practices?

11. Does the landowner limit any farming practices?

12. Please briefly describe your growing practices: (e.g. using organic principles, soil amendments; fertilizers, etc.)

13. How is your organization structured?

Sole proprietorship

Partnership

Non-profit Society

Charity

Corporation

Co-op

Other: _____

Engaging the Community

14. How many volunteers do you estimate were involved in your urban farm:

In 2014? _____

In 2015? _____

In 2016? _____

15. How many volunteer hours do you estimate were logged on your urban farm?

In 2014? _____

In 2015? _____

In 2016? _____

16. Does your urban farm host events (e.g. tours, classes, weddings, markets, events, volunteer days)? Check.

YES

NO

17. Please describe your events:

Type of Event	Number of events annually	Average number of attendees	Private (Y/N)	Estimated fee

18. What are the positive benefits of your urban farm on the surrounding neighbourhood?

19. Are there negative impacts of your urban farm on the surrounding neighbourhood?

20. What have you learned about successfully farming in urban neighbourhoods?

21. What methods, tools, activities (or other) do you engage with Vancouver's diverse age groups and ethno-cultural communities (e.g. signs in other languages, types of food, etc.)?

22. Can you describe one or two stories of impact that your farm has had for you, your customers, your neighbourhood or community?

Improving Access to Local Food

23. How much food did you sell through the following market channels. *If you have lbs., please include that information.*

	2014		2015		2016	
	\$.	Lbs.	\$	Lbs.	\$	Lbs.
CSA						
Farmer's Markets						
At your farm site (Farm Stand)						
Restaurants						
Institutional Partners (e.g. cafeterias)						
Estimated value of food grown, but not sold?						
Donated						
Other: _____						
Other: _____						

24. If you had a CSA, how many shares did you have in:

In 2014? # of shares: _____ # of weeks ____ box value/wk ____

In 2015? # of shares: _____ # of weeks ____ box value/wk ____

In 2016? # of shares: _____ # of weeks ____ box value/wk ____

25. If you sold at farmer's markets, which ones did you attend:

2014: _____

2015: _____

2016: _____

26. If your organization donated food, where did you donate it?

In 2014? _____

In 2015? _____

In 2016? _____

27. What was your total labour cost:

In 2014? _____

In 2015? _____

In 2016? _____

28. What jobs (job titles) did you have available in 2014 - 2016? And what were their wages (hourly) (e.g. Farm Manager, farmer, 10.25/hr).

2014		2015		2016	
Job Title	Wage	Job Title	Wage	Job Title	Wage

29. How many contractors/employees did you have in:

	# of Full Time year round	# of Full Time seasonal	# of Part time year round	# of Part time seasonal
2014				
2015				
2016				

30. Do you have revenue other than food sales?

In 2014? YES / NO
 In 2015? YES / NO
 In 2016? YES / NO

31. What is the total revenue of your organization?

In 2014? _____
 In 2015? _____
 In 2016? _____

32. Please describe your other revenue? (eg. grants, donations, other food sales, fee-for-service?)

Urban Farming Food Assets

In the table below, please list the cross streets or neighbourhood (also below), as well as the size (in sq. ft.) of your farm sites in 2014-2016. You can use this website to calculate the area of your gardens using Google maps: <http://www.daftlogic.com/projects-google-maps-area-calculator-tool.htm>



Urban Farming Food Assets

Please list the cross streets or neighbourhood (above), as well as the size (in sq. ft.) of your farm sites in 2014-2016. *You can use this website to calculate the area of your gardens using Google maps:*

<http://www.daftlogic.com/projects-google-maps-area-calculator-tool.htm>

	2014		2015		2016	
	Cross Streets/ Neighbourhood	Size (Sq. Ft)	Cross Streets/ Neighbourhood	Size (Sq. Ft)	Cross Streets/ Neighbourhood	Size (Sq. Ft)
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						

	2014		2015		2016	
	Cross Streets/ Neighbourhood	Size (Sq. Ft)	Cross Streets/ Neighbourhood	Size (Sq. Ft)	Cross Streets/ Neighbourhood	Size (Sq. Ft)
16						
17						
18						
19						
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
29						
30						

Advocate for a just and sustainable food system with partners and at all levels of government.

33. Are you aware that as part of a 2-year pilot project, the city of Vancouver now requires urban farms, **growing food for sale**, whether in a social enterprise, non-profit or profit model, to apply for an annual business license? Check one:
YES NO

34. If Yes, how did you hear about this 2-year pilot project?

35. Have you applied for your annual business license this year 2016?
YES NO

36. Why or Why Not?

37. If you answered YES to question 32, which of the following best applies to you?

- I have been approved for a business license
- I have submitted my application, but have not been approved
- I have submitted my application and is being processed

38. Check the class of business licence you applied for:

- Class A Urban Farm
- Class B Urban Farm
- Other

39. Were there any additional costs associated with applying for your annual business license, in addition to the application fee? Ie. Consultant fees, development permit etc. If YES, please detail below (type and amount)?
YES NO

40. The city is looking for feedback regarding the development permit and business licence process for urban farms. Please provide your feedback regarding the business licence:

41. What changes, if any, do you anticipate to your farming operation in the next two years. (Ex. expansion to new location, changing growing techniques, new business model, etc.)

42. What is driving that change?

43. How do you see your organization contributing to a just and sustainable food system in the city? The region? And/Or the province? *The City of Vancouver defines a just and sustainable food system as one in which food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management are integrated to enhance the environmental, economic, social and nutritional well-being of our city and its residents.*

Please use this space for any additional comments, questions, or thoughts.