

Home Lake Cooperative

Our Vision is Organic Food and Goods served in nearby towns and villages

Co-op Values

- organic agriculture
- local food supply
- community-based economics
- healthy community initiatives
- fair wages for workers
- local trade
- cow protection and care



Priority areas addressed

- Food and Water Security
- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Living, Housing for Farm Workers, Employment
- Rural Economic Development

Our mission is to empower our farmers to grow quality crops, then value-add and distribute in BC.



Cooperative Activities

Serve Home Lake farmers:

- Building seed bank
- Building root cellar
- Providing farming equipment
- Building a mobile commercial kitchen
- Building an Orchard and Tree nursery
- Implementing irrigation systems
- Promoting permaculture and organic practices
- Publishing growing plan for crops to be grown in the valley
- Implementing renewable energy systems: solar, hydro, wind, biofuel and wood



Serve Home Lake producers:

- bringing goods to markets
- access to commercial kitchen
- packaging and labelling
- cooperative website for marketing and ecommerce sales

Ongoing Activities:

- organizing labor, equipment, land, seeds and materials
- building a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) food box program

Assisting Farmers:

- acquire a cooperative tractor with front-end loader for farming, fencing, plowing...
- preparing certified organic land for cultivation
- co-op purchase of cover crops and organic amendments

Business To do list

- online database of resources: labor, skills, equipment, technology, land, seeds
- create an online accounting system for trade and member work transaction
- open business office, cooperative education center and R&D headquarters
- design logo, cooperative slogan and marketing material, brochure and business cards
- design and print co-op shares certificates for membership and investment)
- train cooperative board members, workshops for farmers and processors

Assets

Our people:

- shareholders and bhaktas
- experienced farmers
- 3 existing acres of organic farms
- 4 new acres next year

Farm Lots included in Cooperative:

- **383:** Grains and high value crops, roots
- **384:** Grains and high value crops, fruits, nuts, roots, greens, herbs

Partner Farm Lots:

- **19 Northend:** Hay fields
- **18:** Market crops and value added herbs
- **17:** Market crops, Hay and herbs

Equipment:

- Wood chipper
- Green tractor

Farm Assets:

- Bala Seed bank
- Ramanath seed bank
- Francis seed bank

Cash Crops

- flowers
- asparagus
- medicinal herbs
- fruit tree and ornamentals

Food Crops

- grains and beans
- legumes, squash
- roots, potatoes, carrots
- fruits
- nuts
- greens and market crops



Farm plan 2018 with acreage

Mixed vegetables Ramanath 0.5

- 100 trees planted
- strawberries and raspberries planted

Farm plan 2017

Community home plots Francis 2.0 Mixed vegetables

Mixed vegetables Ramanath 0.25

- 100 trees planted
- strawberries and raspberries planted

Farm plan 2016

Community home plots 6.2

- Francis 2.0 Mixed vegetables
- Yoginath 0.1 Carrots
- Jai Saci 0.1 Garlic

Mixed vegetables Ramanath (Ron) 1.0

- 30 cherry trees planted
- strawberries
- 400 apple trees planted
- 60 Plums transplanted

Jim McComb/WES:

- Home Lake 4.5 9 rows of Sunchokes lower field Mixed vegetables
- Community home plots 4.0 Mixed vegetables & (Bhumi Farm) beets

Farm Plan

Community Garden	Beets
	Carrots
	Potato
Jai Saci	Strawberries
Yoginath	Strawberries
Ramanath	Carrots
	Beets
	Strawberries
	Potato
	Kale and Lettuce Greens
VVES	Jerusalem Artichokes
Kripanidhi	Worms
	Worm castings

Cooperative Q&A

Why a Cooperative?

- resource sharing and pooling
- organizing effort to work cooperative
- encouraging productivity, growth and sustainability

What Type of Cooperative?

We are a multi-stakeholder co-op. Our focus is farming and food. Local food co-ops are part of a larger movement and trend in agriculture that focuses on reducing the distance between producers and consumers, supporting small-scale farming, and improving the health of people and the planet. These co-ops take a number of forms and undertake a range of activities, from production and marketing to value-added processing and retail operations. Membership in the co-op includes farmers, producers and marketers.

Multi-stakeholder co-ops are formed when different stakeholder groups share a common interest in the success of an enterprise. Multi-stakeholder co-ops are most often used as a tool for community and social development - based on the input of diverse groups

Who can join the Cooperative?

Membership is open to Individuals or organizations. Everyone in the Home Lake and surrounding community is invited to participate in the Cooperative. We are seeking new members who would like to work on the farm and/or invest into the economic development of our region.

What is the share structure of the Cooperative?

A yearly membership in the cooperative is \$108. Proceeds will be used to fulfill the Cooperative mission. There are unlimited equity shares for \$1. Equity shares can be purchased or earned. Equity shares can be traded for cooperative goods and services.

Cooperative Links

Info about BC Cooperatives

<http://www.coopscanada.coop/en/orphan/Incorporating-a-Co-operative-in-British-Columbia>

Multi-stakeholder co-ops <http://www.coopscanada.coop/en/orphan/Multi-Stakeholder-Co-ops-Continued>

How to organize a local food coop: <http://www.oklahomafood.coop/organizing.php>

[Agricultural Co-operatives - A Start-up Guide](#): Developed by the BC government, this 32-page guide lays out all the key steps in creating an agricultural marketing or value-added processing co-op.

BC Government - Registry Services

This department provides access to all necessary forms and guidelines at the above link. Government staff will typically review draft incorporation papers to ensure compliance with the regulations and the BC Co-operatives Act.

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BC Co-operative Association

Provides online information related to the BC Co-operatives Act, and offers some support and referrals for incorporation process. Carol Murray Tel. 604-662-3906 murray@bccca.coop

Cooperative Documents and Spreadsheets

[Cooperative Financials \(Google Drive\)](#)

[Cooperative Rules \(Google Drive\)](#)