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# Incubator Farm Program

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Shelter Farm offers access to 90 acres of farm land through our incubator farm program.

- Water license for 140 acres
- Thick topsoil - 18" of organic top soil
- Texture - Excellent tilth. 56% organic matter
- General fertility - Excellent
- Good drainage - Fields flood in the winter season
- Land is in the ALR
- Deer fencing around market gardens

Availability of farm machinery and tools:

- BCS tractor,
- Rotary plow
- Power harrow
- Flail mower
- Flame weeder
- JANG seeder
- Irrigation equipment
- Silage tarps
- Hand tools



START YOUR OWN FARM

The farm is located on Franklin River Road just outside Port Alberni on 140 acres of land. It will host incubator plots on site providing young farm interns the opportunity to establish their farm business under the supervision of experienced farmers. Our farm interns will have the benefit of utilizing our tools, irrigation equipment and wash stations. Our goal is to attract young farmers throughout Canada and the world to the Alberni Valley to start up their own farms.

The tentative start date for the Market Gardener training program is February 2019. Please contact us if you're interested in the training and we will add you to our interest list.

For more information please call the Farm Manager, Guy Langlois at (250) 720-5177, or email [guy\\_pashelter@shaw.ca](mailto:guy_pashelter@shaw.ca)

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# Shelter Farm

MARKET GARDENER TRAINING

8 MONTH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Port Alberni Shelter Society  
&  
North Island College



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## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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The new Shelter Farm Training Institute will provide formal Market Gardening training to all farm interns. This training will be delivered through a combination of in-class learning at North Island College and hands on experiential training at the Shelter Farm utilizing the latest production methods and tools available to Market Gardeners.

As a student you will start off in the classroom learning plant and soil biology applying agroecological farming practices. You will then be engaged in learning greenhouse management methods at the college and the farm, involving greenhouse plant propagation and how to prepare seedlings for planting in the Market Garden. As the season progresses most of your training will be held at the farm direct seeding crops and transplanting seedlings in the market garden. You will also learn intensive greenhouse production methods of growing crops such as tomatoes and peppers. Participants will learn about crop management, developing skills in irrigation, weeding, Integrated Pest Management and disease control. Participants will also develop business management skills in crop planning, budgeting, marketing and developing a formal business plan for a farm business. You will apply these business skills by preparing crops for sale at local farmers markets and engaging with customers.

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## ABOUT OUR INSTRUCTORS

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**Guy Langlois** – Shelter Farm Manager - Lead Instructor, Market Gardener Training Program. Guy Langlois has managed several farms over the past 10 years. He received his Provincial Instructor Diploma in 2010 and has taught and developed curriculum in Horticulture, Green Building, Renewable Energy and Carpentry at several universities and colleges throughout BC. Guy will be providing instruction and hands-on experiential learning in Market Gardening production methods and agroecological practices throughout the training program at the Shelter Farm.

**Connie Kuramoto** – Soil Science, Plant Science, Greenhouse Propagation Instructor. Connie Kuramoto studied botany at University of Massachusetts and earned a Diploma in Greenhouse Horticulture at Malaspina University College. Connie was an instructor at Malaspina University College's Horticulture Department for over 20 years. She is currently an instructor in Gaia College's Organic Master Gardener Program. Connie will be providing instructional services for the Market Gardener Program in Plant Science, Soil Science and other aspects of Greenhouse Propagation and Production.

**Bob Haugen** – Business Planning and Entrepreneurship. Bob was a workshop facilitator for Community Futures in northern BC. In Dawson Creek he served for 15 years on the board of the Enterprise Centre, entrepreneur training centre and new business incubator. He has a Masters Degree in Leadership and is very interested in helping entrepreneurs develop successful business enterprises.

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## ABOUT SHELTER FARM

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Shelter Farm's mission is to showcase the capacity of small-scale agriculture, while training youth in the use of small scale farming tools and equipment, business management and marketing strategies.

The Shelter Farm is located 10 minutes from Port Alberni on Ship Creek Road. The farm is comprised of 140 acres of land with approximately 90 acres cleared for cultivation. The fields have remained fallow for the last 15 years and are eligible for organic certification. Deer fencing was installed around two acres of land. 8 - 60' x 100' garden plots were developed. Permanent raised beds were built in 4 garden plots. Irrigation systems were put in place. We conducted field trials of several crops to see what grows best in the soil. Potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets and squash did very well. As we are wanting to pursue organic certification only organic fertilizers and seeds have been used in our trials. We started a composting program at the farm.

**LEARN MORE:** For more information please call the Farm Manager, Guy Langlois at (250) 720-5177, or email [guy\\_pashelter@shaw.ca](mailto:guy_pashelter@shaw.ca)

**Like us on Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/Shelter-Farm-183379088984450/>



