

**AGRICULTURAL AREA PLAN OPEN HOUSES SET FOR CEDAR & ERRINGTON**

The Regional District of Nanaimo is currently developing an Agricultural Area Plan in partnership with the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia. As part of the process, the RDN is hosting open houses in Cedar and Errington on Nov. 2 and 3 to get input from residents on how they see the future of agriculture and food production in the region.

“At these open houses we will present the results of our recently completed agricultural land use inventory, and ask participants to help us identify challenges, constraints, opportunities, and benefits of enhancing the agricultural system,” said RDN Agricultural Advisory Committee Chair Joe Burnett. “John Watson, Executive Director of Invest Comox Valley, will also be speaking about the success of that area’s agricultural plan and how it has benefitted the local economy.”

An agricultural area plan identifies opportunities to strengthen farming, and to contribute to food production and regional sustainability. The RDN’s goal is to complete the Agricultural Area Plan by the summer of 2012.

In addition to a series of community open houses, the Agricultural Area Plan public process will include an online survey and a video created through interviews with key stakeholders. Collectively, this public input will be used in the creation of a background report and a statistical profile of the region for the RDN Board’s consideration.

The Agricultural Area Plan open houses are on Wednesday Nov. 2 at Cedar Secondary School and Thursday Nov. 3 at Errington Hall. Both open houses are from 6 pm to 9 pm. RSVPs are encouraged and all are welcome.

For more information, email [agriculture@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:agriculture@rdn.bc.ca) or call Lainya Rowett at (250) 390-6510 or (250) 954-3798.

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