

Date: Friday December 6th, 2024

Time: 9:30AM – 3:30PM

Location: MD of Spirit River – Brownlee Bld. ([Map](#))

Need Help? 780-527-6232(PREDA Cell)

Video: <https://meet.goto.com/629467829>

Phone: (647) 497-9391 **Access Code:** 629-467-829

9:30AM Networking – Good Morning Chats

10:00AM Call to Order – PREDA Chair; Carolyn Kolebaba; Northern Sunrise County

PREDA Project Updates

MPF Town of Falher – 2024 Municipal Census	Regional Airports Report
MPF Birch Hills County – Website Refreshed	Northern Transportation / Community Rail Advocacy
MPF County of GP – Canola Research & Marketing	Nuclear Action Committee
Digital Nomads – PREDA & Mighty Peace Tourism	GOA Consultations

Part 1: Accessing Local Food

Knowledge of and access to local foods is increasingly demanded by consumers (Statistics Canada Feb 2024). This section presents what local products are available and where PREDA residents can purchase these locally produced foods.



Click Video (3m) Located in the Village of Waskatenau, AB, the Gathering Place is a local investment cooperative created by local food farmers to sell, showcase, and taste the local food products available in their communities. Thank-you Michelle & Mandy!

10:30AM Direct Farm Sales: *“Supporting and growing a profitable and sustainable local farm direct marketing industry.... by connecting local farms and local people.”* This is the mission of the [Alberta Farm Fresh Producers Association](#). Kristy Leischner (Administrator) will present an overview of the AFFPA; level of activity from the PREDA region; and discuss scenarios growers have faced with their municipalities throughout the province highlighting challenges and possible solutions to improve local access to local foods. **Confirmed**

11:00AM Farmers’ Markets: Quintessential with buying local food. Eileen Kotowich (GOA - FM Specialist) provides a brief overview of [Farmers’ Market Guidelines](#) and current activity level in the PREDA region ([Find a farmers market](#)) . Darice Rach (GM of GPFM) will also join the conversation to discuss realities of maintaining a facility, working with local producers, meeting GOA regulations, and governance. **Confirmed**

11:30AM Supermarkets: Potential partners with parking lots, chillers, shelf space and traffic volumes. SMs are also customer friendly as time constraints frequently favor one-stop shopping. Bradley Linterman; Director of Operations – GP CO-OP will provide an overview of their [corporate buying guidelines](#) for local producers to access these advantages and listing of current local foods on their shelves in the PREDA region. **Confirmed**

12:00PM Farm-Share, On-Line Ordering, Door Delivery Alberta small farm meat producers provide various direct to consumer services in their business models to meet the increased demand for local meats. Mark Entz of [Britestone Farming](#); a Hutterite Co. in the Bow Valley area; has built an e-commerce ordering & delivery system that showcases business acumen tailored to the customer’s needs. **Confirmed**

12:30 LUNCH George’s Catering 780-876-8077 As a municipal leader do you know your local food producers?

Note: Related resources can be downloaded by members on the PREDA website Virtual Office

1:00PM Local Foods Coordination Recognizing a need for a central point of connection between local food producers and local consumers, Leduc County created the position [Local Food Coordinator](#) under their Agricultural Services Dept. Sharon Faye, Local Food Coordinator provides an overview of her job description and how she connects local food producers with local consumers. **Confirmed**

1:30PM Connect for Food This initiative is designed to stimulate initiatives that advance and revitalize rural communities through recognition of the economic and social benefits of regional food communities. Co-Founders Perry Phillips and Keleigh Cormier present their concepts and larger vision for [Connect for Food](#). **Confirmed**

Part 2: Towns, Villages, and & Hamlets – Promoting Urban Agriculture

Within the PREDA membership there are 12 small urbans, 47 hamlets across 13 MDs/Counties, and more than 200 unincorporated localities. Food security, high costs of living, and a desire for local food control are feeding into consumer interest in home growing (10M search hits), food preservation (12M search hits) and “raising backyard chickens” (7M search hits). Sales related to residential gardening is projected to top \$4B in 2024 (Stats Can and Statista Insights).

Just for Fun!
[Victory Garden](#)
[Vintage Posters](#)

[Video: Victory Gardens \(9m\)](#)
[How to Plant a Victory Garden – Farmers’ Almanac June 2024](#)

Does your municipality have by-laws related to urban agriculture, including chickens?

SAMPLE: [City of Beaumont - Urban Agriculture Plan](#)

Urban Agriculture	
NEEDS	EXAMPLES
Land / Water / Healthy Soil / Compost	backyards, front lawns, allotments, communals, agrihoods
Seeds / Starter Plants / Chicks	Distribution fairs, seed swaps, starter plant contracting,
Tools	Street sheds, contract tilling,
Preservation	Kitchens, wares, freezers, cold storage rooms
Knowledge	Learning circles, FCSS, agricultural societies, seniors, schools
Municipal By-Laws	By-laws, public works heavy equipment services, street vendors



Note: UFAs in Fairview, Falher, Grande Prairie, and Grimshaw provide chick ordering & delivery services. Residents can also direct-order through Miller or Rochester Hatcheries. Special thanks to Angela at Fairview UFA.



Thank-you!



Next PREDA Membership Meeting – Friday - March 7th, 2025