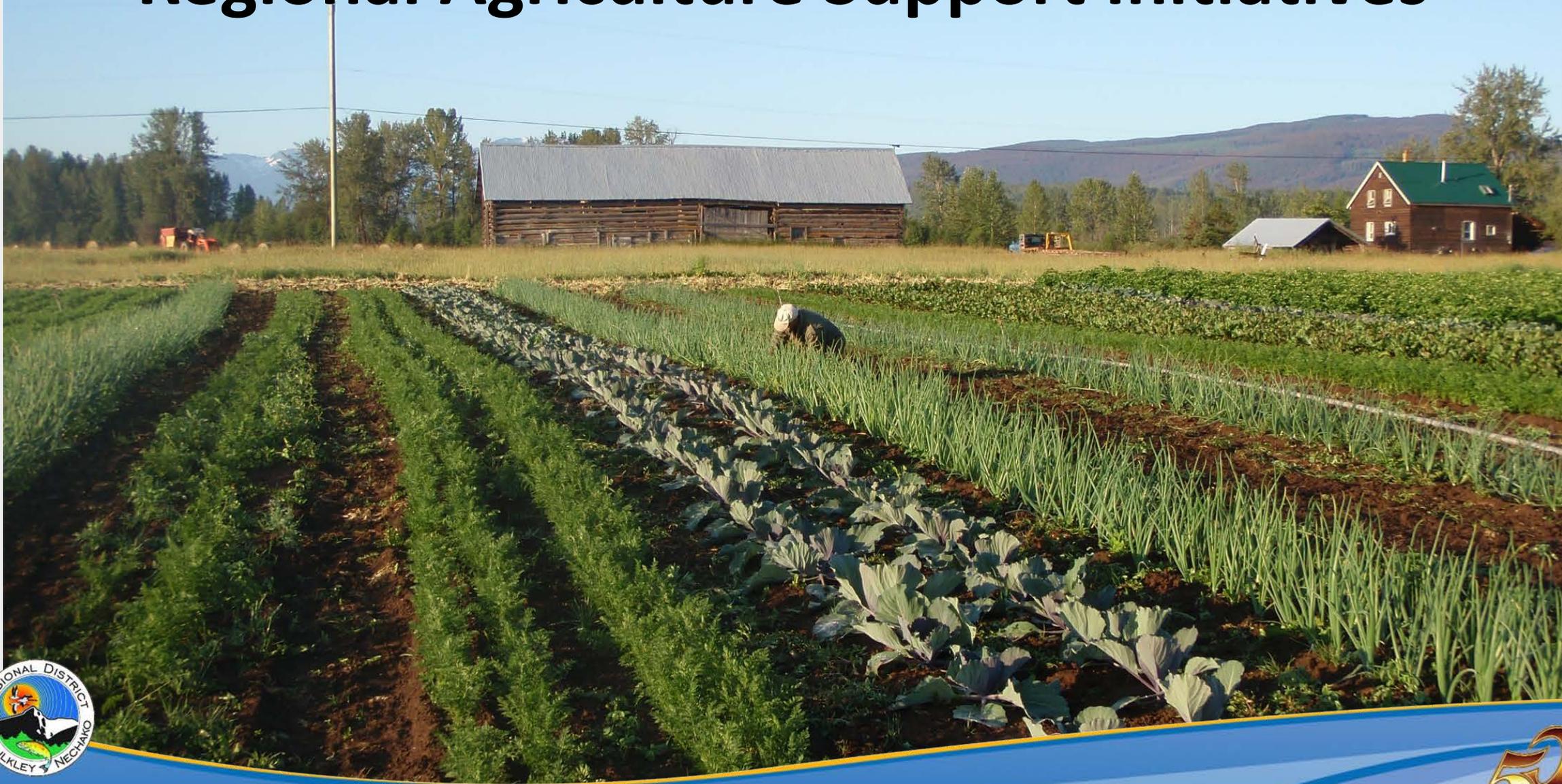
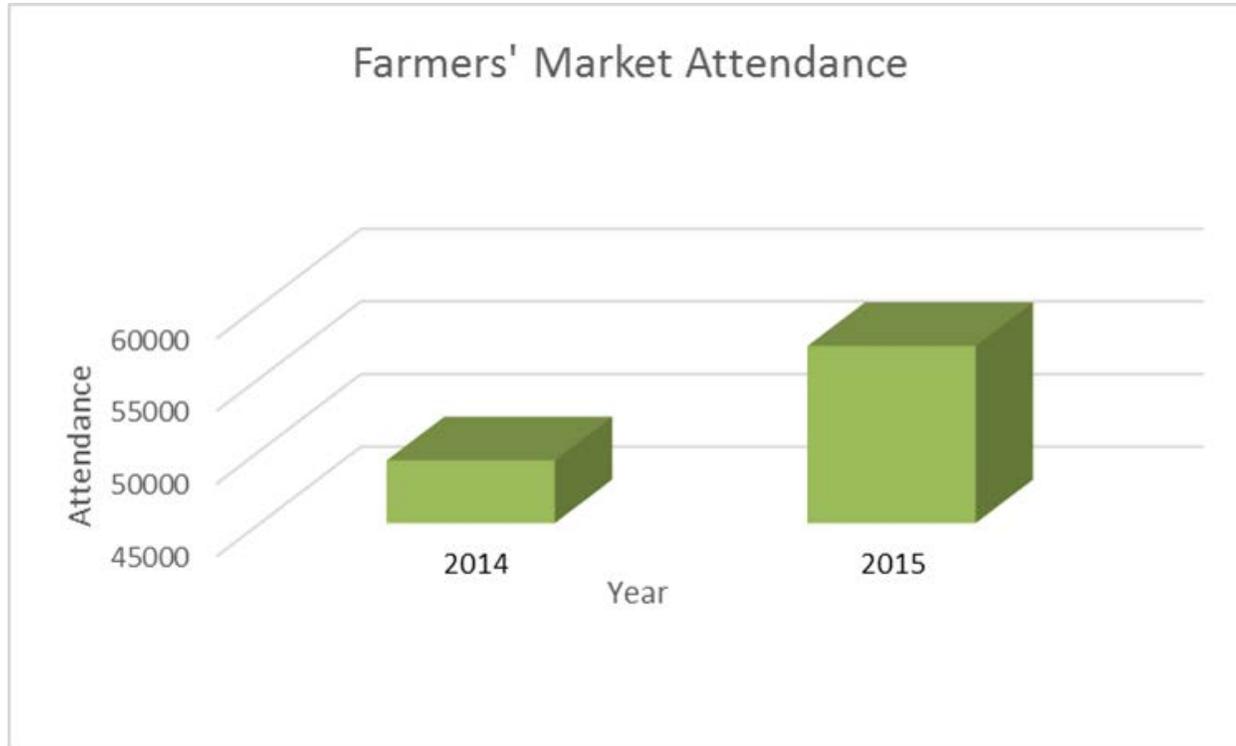


# Regional Agriculture Support Initiatives



# Farmers' Markets



# RDBN Agriculture Plan



# Regional Skills Gap Analysis



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO AGRICULTURE SECTOR PROFILE



## Assets and Supports

- Agricultural support services include the BC Livestock Co-op Auction in Vanderhoof, five provincially licensed slaughter facilities, farm equipment, machinery suppliers, and the Ministry of Agriculture
- The sector is supported by established non-profit organizations such as Local Cattleman's Associations, Nechako Valley Food Network, Farmers Institutes, and the Groundbreakers Collective
- Local educational opportunities are available through Northwest Community College, College of New Caledonia, and Project Agriculture secondary school programs
- Beyond the Market is a highly regarded economic development program supporting local food and agriculture across the BC Highway 16 region [www.beyondthemarket.ca](http://www.beyondthemarket.ca)
- RDBN projects include the 2012 Agriculture Plan, Agriculture Marketing Campaign, Bulkley-Nechako Directory, and supports for local farmers markets

## Quick Facts

- More than 900 people work in agriculture in the RDBN, of which 34% are employed year-round
- Typically the growing season is from June through to September. Longer hour of daylight (16 hrs/ day starting in May) vastly enhance the growing season in region.
- Forage producing crown land is used for livestock grazing in the region; 2013 rates equaled \$2.43/ animal unit/month
- Total farm area in the region is 251,422 hectares (621,278 acres), or 10% of BC's total farmland area
- In 2011 there were 840 farms with a median size of 261 acres in the RDBN
- From 2006 to 2011, total growing area for berries more than doubled to 18 acres, field vegetables increased 91% to 53 acres, nursery area increased from 5 to 8 acres, and hay and field crops increased 3% to 145,210 acres

## Sample of Farming Operations

- Ambrosia's Sheep (Telkwa) Products: Lamb, Poultry, Eggs
- Newsal Farms (Vanderhoof) Products: Rabbit, Poultry
- Healthy Hugs Organics (Smithers) Products: Certified Organic Vegetables
- Tatalrose Ranch (Burns Lake) Products: Beef
- Silver Springs Country Recreation and Wellness (Fort St James) Products: Beef, Agritourism

Sample Farms provided from Beyond the Market (Find a Farm) and Nechako Valley Food Network (Producer Directory)



SMITHERS | TELKWA | HOUSTON | GRANISLE | BURNS LAKE  
FRASER LAKE | FORT ST. JAMES | VANDERHOOF





Home Regional Information ▾ Transportation ▾ Workforce & Training ▾ Bulkley-Nechako Directory Events Regional Job Board



AGRICULTURE PROFILE



FARMERS MARKETS



CONNECTING CONSUMERS & PRODUCERS

Agriculture



Agriculture is significant to the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako's history, economy, and culture. The availability of locally produced foods contributes to our health, quality of life, and independence from distant suppliers. Within the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako there are several initiatives that are designed to

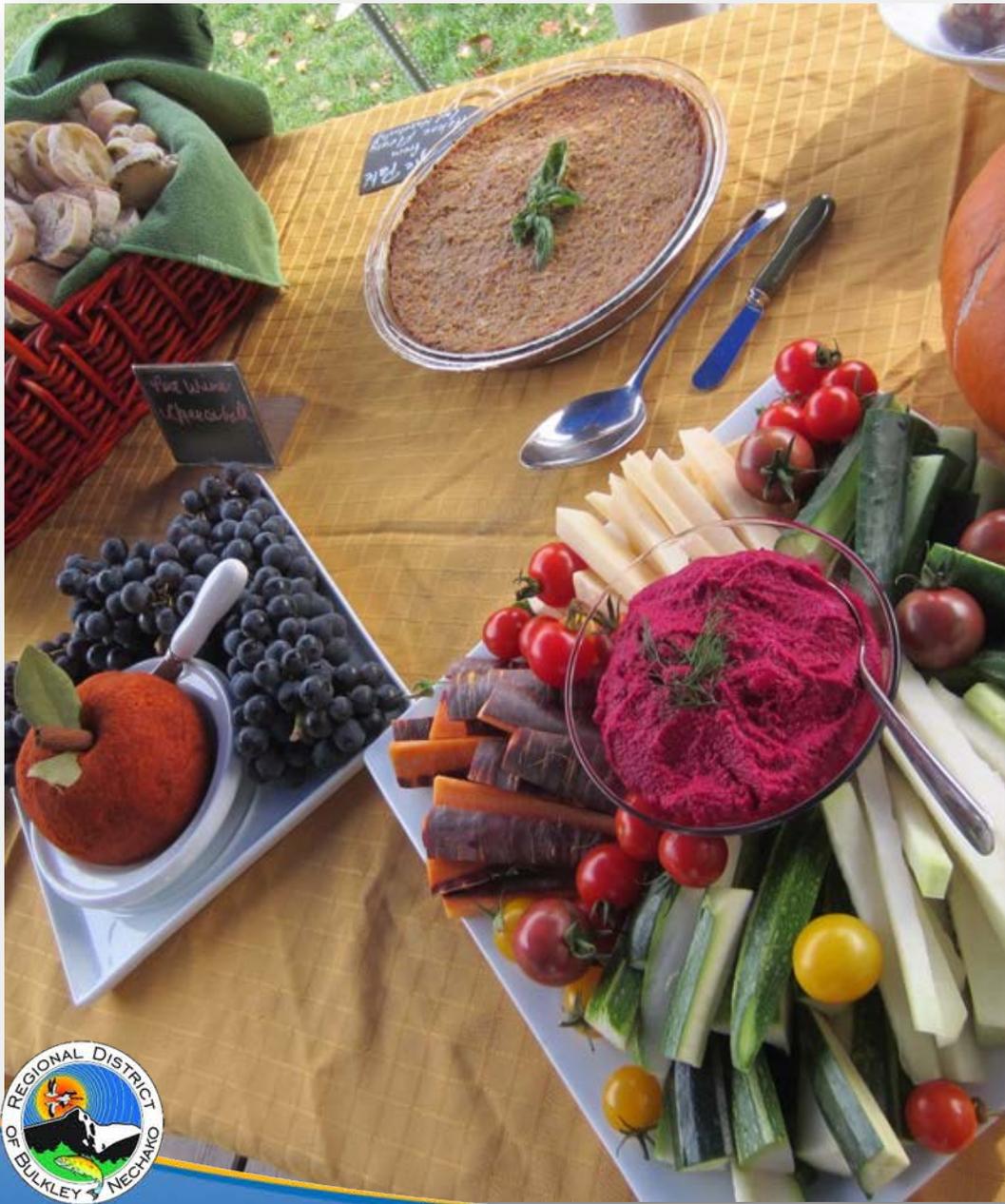
strengthen and support the agriculture sector, including:

- RDBN Agriculture Plan
- Agroforestry
- Farm to School Program
- Beyond the Market



# Connecting Consumers and Producers





# Community Events



*“We have supported the Bulkley Acres at the BVX with our produce for the past two years and feel it’s a great way to get the public aware of our product.”*

Brenda Forsyth, Suskwa Valley Farms





# Agriculture Brochure



<b>Connecting Consumers and Producers</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Number of Community Events	8	8	10
Number of people at events	1,694	20,182	24,821
Number of brochures distributed	920	950	920
Number of producers listed	70	82	79
Total amount funded	\$10,845	\$12,510	\$9,609
Amount purchased from producers	\$6,486	\$7,392	\$6,749
Percentage of funding to producers	60%	59%	70%



# Facebook

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the page 'Connecting Consumers and Producers'. At the top, the search bar contains the page name. The navigation bar includes 'Page', 'Messages', 'Notifications', 'Insights', 'Publishing Tools', 'Settings', and 'Help'. The main content area features a large banner image with the text 'Connecting Consumers and Producers' overlaid on a farm scene. To the left of the banner is a profile picture of a child in a red cap. Below the banner are three smaller images: a field of green plants, a field of rows of crops, and a display of jars of colorful preserves. A blue 'Shop Now' button is positioned at the bottom right of the main content area. The page name and handle '@connectingconsumersandproducers' are visible in the left sidebar.





**Beyond  
the Market**

