



BC ASSOCIATION OF FARMERS' MARKETS

August 20, 2014
For Immediate Release

BC Farmers' Markets launch the Ode to a Farmer Contest for Farmers Appreciation Week September 8 – 15, 2014

Vancouver, BC: August 20, 2014 - The [BC Association of Farmers' Markets](#) (BCAFM) invites British Columbians to show their appreciation for local farmers in the form of a poem - a haiku, a ballad, an ode or a limerick, the style is up to you. Novice and experienced writers alike are invited to submit their best agriculture-inspired poems to the second annual Ode To A Farmer Poetry Contest, in honour of Farmers Appreciation Week September 8-15, 2014.

The grand prize winner will receive a \$150 gift certificate to the BC farmers' market of their choice. To celebrate the diversity of BC's agriculture, contest judges will select a grand prize winner, plus one winning poem in each region of BC: Cariboo Chilcotin Coast, Kootenay Rockies, Northern British Columbia, Thompson Okanagan, Vancouver, Coast & Mountains and Vancouver Island. Winning regional authors will receive a \$50 gift certificate to the BC farmers' market of their choice. The contest is open to all British Columbia residents. Submissions will be accepted [online](#) or by mail until Sunday, September 7th at 11:59pm. For details see [Farmers Appreciation Week - Poetry Contest](#).

"BC farmers are our best source for fresh, healthy, local food," says Jon Bell, BCAFm President, "and the Poetry Contest is a means to express our gratitude for BC farmers and all the ways they contribute to our health, communities and economy."

This is the 5th annual Farmers Appreciation Week, an annual event highlighting the important contribution that local food and farmers make to our lives. Farmers Appreciation Week will be celebrated at farmers' markets across BC from September 8 – 15, 2014. For more information on how to participate, see the [Farmers Appreciation Week website](#).

Three accomplished BC writers will judge the contest. Tamara Leigh is a freelance agriculture journalist, President of the BC Farm Writers Association, and *FarmHugger* blogger based in the Cowichan Valley of Vancouver Island. Renée Sarojini Saklikar is author of the *thecanadaproject*. Her work appears in various literary journals, newspapers and anthologies, including *Geist* and *Contemporary Verse 2: The Canadian Journal of Poetry and Critical Writing (CV2)*.

Ronda Payne is an accomplished agricultural writer and reporter. She is a regular contributor to *Country Life in BC* and various other publications.

The BCAFM is a not-for-profit association that represents 125 farmers' markets across the province and works to support, develop and promote farmers' markets in all regions of BC. For more information on the BCAFM or to [find a farmers' market](#) near you, visit www.bcfarmersmarket.org.

Event information:

- [Ode to a Farmer - Poetry Contest details](#)
- [Poetry submissions accepted until September 7th at 11:59pm](#)
- [Celebrate Farmers Appreciation Week](#)

Follow Farmers Appreciation Week online:

- Twitter: [@BCFarmersMarket](#)
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/BCAFM
- Event hashtag #BCfarmersweek
- Website: <http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/>

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