

Agriculture Centre of Excellence





Growing the Agricultural Economy

Invest now in the University of the Fraser Valley Agriculture Centre of Excellence to build and keep education and applied research that will define agricultural education for the next generation of food producers.



UFV: Our vision

The University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) plays an indispensable role in the agricultural economy here in our region and beyond. UFV defines the agricultural economy not just as direct agricultural industry and agribusiness, but also the supporting professional functions and trades. This approach aligns programs from across faculties through collaborative planning.

UFV recognizes its responsibility as a leader of the economic development of the Fraser Valley, and is committed to giving priority to educational programs, research, and service that build on the unique strengths and opportunities of our region. As the major educational resource in the Fraser Valley, UFV has the expertise on hand to forecast, anticipate, and influence the themes, trends, and forces that are determining the development of our agricultural economy.

The agricultural economy of the Fraser Valley is:

- developing new business models
- innovating using technology
- facing competing demands for land, water and other natural resources
- adapting to a changing natural environment
- responding to new and emerging consumer expectations.

UFV will play a significant role in supporting our agricultural economy as a committed education and research partner. Farming is a sophisticated business. UFV will develop the best undergraduate agriculture program in the country. The seeds have been sown through almost four decades of local agricultural education. Will you help us grow?

The first step is the new Agriculture Centre of Excellence.

Project objectives

The next generation of agriculture

UFV recognizes the urgency of supporting the agricultural economy through research, teaching, and service focused on development of our region, both for the sake of our local communities and for meeting the needs of a hungry world. Our unique blend of theoretical and applied education and research is well placed to tackle this challenge.

The University of the Fraser Valley Agriculture Centre of Excellence (ACE) combines the development of human capacity and technical skills with applied research. The centre, located in Chilliwack, is housed in a new greenhouse and demonstration barn complex that complements current classroom and lab facilities. ACE enhances and builds upon UFV's current degree, diploma and certificate programs that provide specialized training including berry production, integrated pest management and livestock. In collaborations across Western Canada, ACE will establish and continually enhance a network of research leading to the best practices in technology and experiential skill building, and integrate the critical voice of industry to support the agricultural economy in British Columbia.

The University of the Fraser Valley Agriculture Centre of Excellence is the initial phase of UFV's refined and renewed focus on the agricultural economy and our interdisciplinary vision for addressing the changing needs of the industry. The physical home of the Agriculture program will provide the infrastructure that our students and communities require to identify trends, react to challenges and opportunities, and innovate in agribusiness including production, processing, and marketing of food, ornamental plants, and nutraceuticals.



The Agriculture Centre of Excellence will enhance our current degree, diploma, and certificate programs. UFV will offer **two bachelor's degree programs**: a Bachelor of Business Administration in Agriculture Management (currently offered) and proposed Bachelor of Agriculture degree. This is in addition to the **nine diploma and certificate programs** that currently provide specialized training including berry production, integrated pest management, and livestock production.

The **\$2.5 billion agricultural economy** is served by a complex array of professional occupations including those that require specialized **business, trades, or health sciences skills**. UFV addresses this spectrum of skills and knowledge, supporting programs and research in food safety and security, climate change adaptation and health and nutrition. Our Canada Research Chair in Food Security and the Environment, Dr. Lenore Newman, is researching issues surrounding the emerging concept of "**agriburbia**", including conflict and innovation at the rural/urban fringe.

The agricultural economy has provided a stable base of support for the Fraser Valley and is a core industry in British Columbia. The BC Jobs Plan, as well as local Fraser Valley governments including the City of Abbotsford, City of Chilliwack, and the Fraser Valley Regional District, have articulated their vision for supporting and growing the agricultural community.

UFV is at the centre of these plans to support agricultural innovation and education of workers for the agricultural sector of our economy

UFV Agriculture Centre of Excellence

Anchoring UFV's support for the agricultural economy is the creation of the Agriculture Centre of Excellence at UFV's new Chilliwack campus at the Canada Education Park.

A greenhouse, barn, and associated infrastructure will be constructed to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. In addition to the greenhouse and barn, the project includes civil works to provide site services for the buildings and the purchase of new agriculture automation and farmwright equipment including mechatronics.

Phase 1 includes a \$2.5 million investment in agriculture teaching and innovation:

- build a 783 m² **demonstration barn** with individual compartments for livestock (poultry, swine, dairy, equine) and a sustainable design that includes central plant design to heat the barn and greenhouse with expandability. The demonstration barn will provide a centre for hands-on practical experience, demonstrations, and research opportunities for seven types of animal husbandry.
- build a 600 m² multi-wall polycarbonate **greenhouse** with proprietary technology that will allow for 95% light diffusion. This greenhouse will be the tallest in North America and the first greenhouse in the world that can be programmed to be either pressurized or de-pressurized. The greenhouse will incorporate features such as growth chambers, laboratories, research partnerships with our biology and geography departments, and practical research in crop 'beneficials' (for example friendly bugs)
- provide a controlled and focused environment to conduct field and lab exercises
- support research and project activities required for undergraduate courses
- meet the requirement of a managed bio-safe zone.



Priorities

Agriculture Centre of Excellence

Phase 1 — \$2.5 million

Demonstration Barn and Greenhouse Facility

Barn, Glass Greenhouse, Poly Greenhouse, Laboratories Test Fields, Crop Research, Community Garden, Animal Area

Phase 2 — \$2 million

Applied Research and Technology Training

Enhanced programming and applied research programs with a focus on automation equipment, business productivity and growth, and sustainable production practices

Project revenue

Chilliwack Economic Partners Corporation	\$250,000
University of the Fraser Valley	\$750,000
Ministry of Advanced Education	\$1 million
Envision Financial Demonstration Barn	\$150,000
Local industry and partners investment	\$2.35 million

Project schedule

Phase 1: Completed Spring 2014

Site civil work, greenhouse, and barn

Phase 2: Completed Winter 2015

Applied research infrastructure and enhanced training programs

Opportunity

One in five jobs in the Fraser Valley is related to our agricultural economy.

UFV is the source of innovation and training to ensure industry stability and growth for the next generation of food and ornamental plant producers. We have the mandate, expertise, and partnerships to collaboratively support a transformational vision for agricultural industry.

We need your support now to build the Agriculture Centre of Excellence.

Contact Us

Please contact us today to discuss your role in this exciting development in Agriculture at UFV. Significant naming and recognition opportunities exist, so please contact us for additional information.

University Advancement

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