

## Kootenay Local Agricultural Society

### Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Member \$ 40 per calendar year

Corporate member \$ 60 per calendar year

Please indicate your main interests:

Please send the application to the address below with a cheque made payable to the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society.

If you would like to join the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society, membership cost \$40.00 a year. Memberships run 1st January until 31st December.



#### The Kootenay Local Agricultural Society

1911 Irving Road, Tarrys,  
Castlegar, V1N 4N6,  
British Columbia

Tel: (250) 399 4809  
Email: [klasociety@shaw.ca](mailto:klasociety@shaw.ca)

#### Web sites

The Main Society web site: [www.klasociety.org](http://www.klasociety.org)  
Kootenay Mountain Grown site: [www.kootenaymountaingrown.org](http://www.kootenaymountaingrown.org)  
Growing advice: [www.growinginthekootenays.ca](http://www.growinginthekootenays.ca)

#### The Kootenay Mountain Grown Pledge

We, the members of the Kootenay Mountain Grown have pledged to manage our farms as follows:

1. We use no synthetic herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, or fertilizers on our crops, fields, or livestock. The only products we use on our farms are those allowed for organic agriculture.
2. We care for our soil, water, and air quality with sustainable management practices, including cover crops, composts, crop rotations, mulching, crop diversity, perennial pastures, and buffer strips.
3. We use no chemically treated or genetically engineered seed; we use organically, sustainably, locally, or regionally produced seed when-ever possible.
4. We treat livestock humanely. We use no hormones or antibiotic-laced feeds or feeds of genetically engineered origin. We provide consistent access to pasture and feed from organic or sustainable, and local or regional, sources.
5. We follow sanitary post-harvest practices, including proper transport, storage, and use of only potable water for washing.
6. We seek to enhance the biodiversity of native species on our land and to continually improve our conservation practices, land and water stewardship
7. We work to enhance the local economy by selling and buying locally as much as possible. We encourage local and seasonal eating to minimize the transport of food.
8. We support the greater organic and local agricultural community and advocate for the ideals expressed in this pledge.
9. We are active within our community encouraging and assisting farmers with sustainable practices, helping one another to become better farmers, and creating fertile ground for all local farmers and local markets.
10. We are locally owned and operated. We provide safe, healthy working conditions and fair compensation for employees, farm staff, and ourselves.

#### The mandate of the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society

- To establish a regional marketing label with the name of Kootenay Mountain Grown for the promotion and sale of local agricultural produce.
- To establish a local program to enable persons to be certified for Kootenay Mountain Grown if they meet standards for the farming, gathering, procession, packaging, selling, or handling of food products so that the public can be made aware of which food products meet those standards.
- To preserve the environment by encouraging practices which promote and maintain long-term soil fertility, reduce fossil fuel use, reduce pollution, recycle waste and conserve non-renewable resources.
- To promote ecologically sound sustainable agriculture systems.
- To conduct research into alternatives to traditional chemical and energy intensive food growing practices, and to give support, by providing a resource base and a forum, open to all farmers and food growers interested in such alternatives.
- To foster the goals of a decentralized, bioregional based food system which reduces transportation costs, bolsters local marketing systems and economics, and promotes greater regional food reliance.
- To promote local agriculture and to provide public education to assist the farmer, gardener, food processor and consumer to better understand the value and integrity of local and organic foods.
- To advance education by undertaking research in the field of agricultural sustainability, the results of which to be made available to the public.
- To establish a seed saving program for regionally adapted food plants to protect the biodiversity of our food crops.
- To raise money, acquire funds and other assistance, and to own, acquire, and take by purchase, donations, devise or otherwise, land or personal property and expend, sell, exchange, lease, let, improve, or develop same for the purposes of the society.
- To undertake everything necessary to promote and attain the foregoing purposes and periodically to reassess those purposes.



# INTRODUCTION TO THE SOCIETY

Kootenay Local Agricultural Society

1911 Irving Road  
Tarrys, Castlegar, V1N 4N6,  
Tel: (250) 399 4809

Email: [klasociety@shaw.ca](mailto:klasociety@shaw.ca)  
[www.klasociety.org](http://www.klasociety.org)

[www.kootenaymountaingrown.org](http://www.kootenaymountaingrown.org)

## About the Society

Kootenay Local Agricultural Society was formed to support farmers and growers in the Kootenay region of British Columbia. This support takes the form of initiatives that will foster the economic viability of all farms in the region, which in turn, will encourage new farms in the area.

Our vision is for a thriving food shed, with an abundant supply of locally and sustainably produced organic foods, readily available to all area residents.

### Who we are

Kootenay Local Agricultural Society (KLAS) is a farmer-driven, non-profit organization that seeks to collaboratively address some of the challenges that face farmers. Membership is open to anyone who lives, farms or produces food within the geographical area as shown on the map below.



The Directors of KLAS are elected from amongst the membership, with an effort made to ensure that there is representation from across the region. The organization benefits from the participation of farmers from the diverse types of operations to be found in our region.

We are home to a wide range of small-scale and sustainable farms: from tree fruit to livestock, honey production to dairies, from market gardens to greenhouses. Our membership also includes representatives of many of the major retail and commercial food-related businesses in our region. These businesses provide useful information to the organization in terms of market needs and of expectations with regards to sustainable production practices.

### What We Do

Among the many programs that Kootenay Local Agricultural Society is developing, our initial focus has been on a set of standards for sustainable vegetable, fruit, livestock and processing methods. We believe that farmers are the experts on farming practices. As a result, our certification program is based on farmer-to-farmer verification of sustainable organic practices.

The certification program was structured to ensure that conflict of interest is addressed in certification decisions and that the public trust will be maintained. Our Standards and certification procedures can be found on our web site: [www.klasociety.org](http://www.klasociety.org) In order to assist area residents in identifying and purchasing our members' products, all certified products can carry the logo "Kootenay Mountain Grown", which is the consumer's assurance that the product has met all the sustainable management practices required in our Standards. The Kootenay Mountain Grown label can be found on sustainable and regionally produced products as of the autumn of 2008.

### The mandate of KLAS also includes:

- Promotion of and support for ecologically sound sustainable agriculture systems.
- Fostering a thriving, local food shed that reduces our reliance on fossil-fuel dependent, long-distance and vulnerable food systems.
- The creation and maintenance of a regional seed bank

- Research and educational programs for both food producers and the general public to better understand the value and integrity of local and sustainable foods.

We are exploring options for collaboratively addressing some of the regional food infrastructure needs, such as an egg-grading station, distribution, packaging, and long-term storage and as of spring 2010 our tool lending library is up and running.

### How to get involved

Anyone who is a resident in the area defined by the map, can join KLAS. By doing so you will be able to:

- Support local farmers and agriculture.
- Join with farmers for farm tour field days.
- Have full access to our web site full of information on growing on the Kootenays.
- Access tools from our tool library.
- Join in on farm-based potlucks.
- Get our newsletters "Voice of the Mountains"
- Borrow books from our agricultural library and access our virtual library.
- Learn more about local sustainable, organic agriculture.
- Participate in our education programs.
- Support the future of local farming.

### The Kootenay Mountain Grown Label

Kootenay Mountain Grown is a marketing label for local agricultural produce and for products derived there from.

The label is available for use by producing members of the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society (such as produce farmers, livestock farmers and processors) and by companies that buy or use local agricultural produce (such as supermarkets and restaurants).

The Kootenay Mountain Grown label has been created to enhance the sales of and to create an identity for locally produced organic agricultural produce and to build and reinforce consumer preference for local products.

Kootenay Mountain Grown (KMG) has been designed to foster a thriving, sustainable local food supply.

It was formed by farmers, food activists, and local food buyers, and responds to an increasing focus on locally grown food. In addition, we wanted to have a recognized certification process that is more affordable for small farmers. Because our fees are much less than for B.C. certified organic, it will be accessible for more farmers, making it ideal for the numerous small scale farmers in our region.

### Is Kootenay Mountain Grown organic?

The KMG certification process requires that the food can only be grown with products and methods that are approved for certified organic standards. In addition, we require that food must be grown and sold within our local region, which is what sets us apart from B.C. organic certification.

Several Kootenay food buyers have agreed to recognize this certification as similar to certified organic. Many of our farmers have been certified organic in the past, but wanted to move towards a different sort of food system - one with a specific mandate to foster local, sustainable agriculture.

It should be noted that the Kootenay Mountain Grown system is listed on the IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agricultural Movements) web site, as the only organic participatory guarantee system in Canada.

### Why do we need two organic societies in our area?

One important difference between Kootenay Mountain Grown and certified organic is that Kootenay Mountain Grown is a certification process for the local Kootenay region only. Farmers that sell to other areas will still need to be certified through an organic certification body, such as Kootenay Organic Growers Society (KOGS). Some farmers may prefer to maintain their certified organic status for this or other reasons; having two societies gives farmers more choice about how they

market their products.

### Why do farmers and consumers choose Kootenay Mountain Grown?

As organic food has become more popular, there has been a noticeable degradation of organic standards and quality, as well as steady decline in small farms. This is due in part to big business involvement which brings a propensity for cheap organic food, along with an increase in imported organic food. Less attention is paid to the founding philosophies of organic certification, which follows farming and gardening practices based on a deeply held belief system, including a love for the earth and a healthy environment as well as wholesome delicious food.

It is on these principles that Kootenay Mountain Grown is based.

For more information as to the benefits of being a member such as - the support of local farmers and local agriculture - Join with farmers for farm tour field days - Have full access to our web site full of information on growing on the Kootenays - Access tools from our tool library - Join in on farm-based potlucks -

Get our newsletters "Voice of the Mountains" ten times a year - Borrow books from our agricultural library and access our virtual library - Learn more about local sustainable agriculture - Participate in our education programs, and many more, check out our web site at [www.klasociety.org](http://www.klasociety.org)



An interior view of the Greenhouse at Mad Dog Farm, Tarrys.



### Other parts of the Society

#### The Tool Library

The key objectives of the tool library project are to: Support the sustainability of local agriculture, Support the stability of local farms and Increase the availability and production of locally grown agricultural produce.

We do this by having available to rent equipment such as Root washers, 2 wheel tractors and attachments such as tillers, ploughs and flail mowers, commercial quality dehydrators and many other pieces of equipment. The Tool Library was formed with a grant from the Columbia Basin Trust, and the equipment in it is available for any member of the society to borrow.

Full details of all the equipment available is shown on our web site at:

[www.klasociety.org/toolibrary.html](http://www.klasociety.org/toolibrary.html)



Rotary plough

#### Growing in the Kootenays

This project is designed to give residents in our region access to statistical data and information cleaned from farmers and growers on how to grow food in the Kootenays, either for sale or for their own consumption.

The Growing in the Kootenays web site is a huge resource of growing and planting information - not only for the spring but also the fall planting season. This can be accessed at [www.growinginthekootenays.ca](http://www.growinginthekootenays.ca)

In addition there is a Pdf book that can be downloaded, that contains most of the information - please see the web site for details.

This complements well with the vast range of growing information in the Guides and Virtual library sections of the Kootenay Local Agricultural Society web site.

