

100 MILE CHALLENGE ON FOOD NETWORK



No coffee. No beer. No bread. No chocolate. No idea what they're getting into. Why would you do this to yourself? Six families take on the huge challenge of a strictly local diet. New series premieres April 5th on Food Network. <http://www.foodtv.ca/>

MEET YOUR MAKER – WHERE FOOD PRODUCERS AND FOOD BUYERS FIND EACH OTHER

This year, producers, processors, distributors, retailers, and restaurants once again came together, February 10th, for our 2nd annual Meet Your Maker event. With 3 workshops and 2 speed-dating sessions – not to mention an incredible delicious local lunch – participants reported at the end of the day that connections made from this one event will increase their business by an average of \$33,562.00. For more information about this event or to be put on the invite list for next year, visit www.getlocalbc.org



THE GREAT FARM TREK 2009 – APRIL 7th



How you can help save UBC Farm. Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. The Trek will gather at the Student Union Building at 3:30 p.m. and trekkers will walk to the UBC Farm for a celebration with food and music, and a ceremonial planting. Free parking is available at UBC Farm anytime, and a free bus shuttle will take you from there to the Trek in progress between 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. http://www.amsubc.ca/index.php/student_government/sub%20page/category/great_farm_trek_09/

THE CITY THAT ENDED HUNGER

A city in Brazil recruited local farmers to help do something U.S. cities have yet to do: end hunger. Frances Moore Lappé says, In writing Diet for a Small Planet, I learned one simple truth: Hunger is not caused by a scarcity of food but a scarcity of democracy. But that realization was only the beginning, for then I had to ask: What does a democracy look like that enables citizens to have a real voice in securing life's essentials? Does it exist anywhere? Is it possible or a pipe dream? With hunger on the rise here in the United States-one in 10 of us is now turning to food stamps-these questions take on new urgency.

Read this inspiring article here: <http://www.yesmagazine.org/article.asp?ID=3330>



GENETICALLY MODIFIED SUGAR?

Canadian sugar company Lantic Inc. (Rogers Sugar and Lantic brands) is deciding right now to accept or reject Monsanto's genetically modified (GM) sugar beet. Lantic Inc. is the only sugar company in Canada that processes sugar beet (grown in Alberta) but the GM sugar beet will only be planted if Lantic allows it. Lantic sugar is currently GM-Free. Stop GM sugar beets from being planted this April!

This sugar beet is genetically modified to be resistant to Monsanto's herbicide Roundup and is currently applied to sugar beet used for processing into sugar (as opposed to red table beets).

ACTION OPTIONS: *Take action before April 8!*

- 1) Send your instant email from <http://www.cban.ca/sugaraction>
- 2) Print and distribute postcards to send to Lantic Inc. <http://www.cban.ca/sugarbeet>
- 3) Print the Action Alert with the cut-off postcard <http://www.cban.ca/sugarbeet>
- 4) Write your own letter and fax or mail it to Lantic:
Edward Makin, President and CEO, Lantic Inc.
4026 Notre-Dame St. E. Montreal QC H1W 2K3
Fax: 514 527 1318



NEW REGULATIONS FOR MEAT & EGGS SOLD AT FARMERS MARKETS

The BC Association of Farmers Markets have been meeting with the Director of Health Protection and representatives from all five health authorities to create guidelines that are better for farmers and still look after the requirements of Health Protection. See page 7 for information on meat and eggs.



<http://www.bcfarmersmarket.org/ind/pdf/foodsaleguidelines07.pdf>

PROJECTING CHANGE FILM FESTIVAL

April 2-5, 2009 at FIFTH AVENUE CINEAMAS in VANCOUVER

Some highlights include:

Opening Night: David Suzuki speaks about the film, THE END OF THE LINE. The world's first major documentary about the effects of overfishing.

April 3, 7pm FOOD FIGHT with a panel of sustainable food experts including farmers, chefs and agricultural leaders will lead a discussion on the benefits and ways to increasing local food production. Get ready to build up an appetite for healthy, local food.

For more information and festival schedules, visit <http://projectingchange.ca>



BIOTECH COMPANIES THWARTING RESEARCH

Biotechnology companies are keeping university scientists from fully researching the effectiveness and environmental impact of the industry's genetically modified crops, according to an unusual complaint issued by a group of those scientists.... Read the full article here:

http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/20/business/20crop.html?_r=1

Happy Spring,
Bonita Magee
Project Manager



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March 2009 Newsletter
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