

Kamloops Okanagan Dairymen's Association
c/o Henry Bremer, 45 Salts Rd, Enderby, BC V0E 1V3
Phone: 250-838-6728 Email: hbremmer@nowcom.ca

Thursday, March 15, 2012

ATTN: RDNO Directors, local town councillors and key staff:

RE: Invitation to a personalized tour of 2 Dairy facilities in the Okanagan April 13

Hello all,

This letter is to follow up on our plans for a tour of the dairy industry in the Thompson Okanagan region. This tour will consist of visiting two dairy farms, following with a lunch at the Howard Johnson in Enderby. Come out to experience what dairy farming is all about and learn of the local economic impact the dairy industry has on the Okanagan.

We are pleased to announce the date set for the tour is **April 13**. We have arranged to have transportation available for pickup locations:

-Coldstream at the RDNO office at 8:45 AM.

-Enderby at the Howard Johnson Hotel at 8:45 AM. (Please park at north end of parking lot)

Please review our attached agenda for an accurate timeline...

We would appreciate feedback on the number of guests from each area, and which bus they will be riding on. We will ensure there is enough lunch for everybody as well!
Please respond to hbremmer@nowcom.ca

For those who are reading this for the first time, please read the following page for our more formal invitation.

We hope to see you all there,
Best regards,

Henry Bremer,
KODA President

Kamloops Okanagan Dairymen's Association

KODA represents the 95 dairy farmers in the Thompson Okanagan region. We represent the farmers to all levels of government and their agencies. Our membership is mainly in the valleys around Armstrong, Enderby, and Salmon Arm.

This past October our association in conjunction with Ms. Lana Fitt of the Salmon Arm Economic Development Council hosted a farm tour for the elected officials and staff of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, the City of Salmon Arm, Okanagan College, and the Chamber of Commerce and both economic development councils. The purpose of the tour was to have a discussion on the positive economic impact agriculture and dairy farmers in particular have on the local businesses and services of our region. The tour also allowed the staff and elected officials to visit first hand two working farms and ask questions about the day to day operations of a dairy farm and to address any concerns they may have. The day was a complete success with Salmon Arm city resurrecting their Agriculture Advisory committee and the CSRD is looking to develop an agriculture plan. Contacts were made, allowing staff to seek direct information on agriculture related issues from the farmers.

KODA would like to do a similar day for the directors of RDNO, the councils of Enderby, Armstrong, Spallumcheen and any interested staff from these communities. It is our firm belief that agriculture is a very important economic engine for our region and has the ability to continue to strengthen this region's economic health.

We would like to invite councillors, directors and staff to a day on the farm, with lunch and a presentation on how we see our association being a benefit to local decision makers through the development of an agricultural plan and the creation of an agriculture advisory committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Henry Bremer
KODA President

Cc to invited councils

Armstrong Council
Enderby Council
Spallumcheen Council
Enderby Chamber of Commerce
Vernon Council

Lumby council
Coldstream council