

Speaking Notes Island Trust – Farm Plan - June 26 – I cannot speak for all farmers on Denman nor for all members of the original team that put together the Farm Plan.

Starting about 2006 there was major concerns about the economic health of Denman Island. Talks of school closures occurred. Numerous meetings were held. Basically it was identified that young people were needed and the one sector that had the greatest potential for growth was agriculture.

Island Trust supported and recognized this as an issue and provided/sought funding that eventually led to the creation of a farm plan. Included in the farm plan was a number of recommendations, part of which was the recognition of the Growers and Producers Alliance.

Page 1 of the report refers to the creation of a Farm Plan as a top priority and recognizes the objective “to support socio-economic diversity of island communities”.

The 2011 survey information reported a total of 99 producing properties producing an agricultural product for sale, barter or trade. Most properties produced multiple products.

For example: - 61 properties produced fruit berry or nuts

- 50 properties produced vegetable
- 45 properties were tame hay
- 35 properties were poultry and egg production
- And if you are wondering, cattle are way down the list.

Notwithstanding

The Denman Growers and Producers Alliance believes in Denman Feeding Denman.

Numerous producers are on R1 and R2 zoned lands.

Therefore we find the following confusing or restrictive and suggest a second look to include

- Agricultural lands should apply to all bonafide farms per the assessment act and ALR lands.
- Policy 3 - Why ??? subdivision should respect natural land forms and watercourses to maximize the best use of fertile soils.
- Policy 4 – again sounds like a double standard.
- Policy 5 – again confusing. Should the suggestion be open to bonafide farmers only?
- Agritourism use – needs to permit some option for permanent facilities. Eg. Washrooms, instructional rooms, tasting rooms
- Temporary use permit – what is yearly cost? And what term are they?
- Policy 7 – again what cost?
- Intensive agricultural and feedlot definitions don’t seem to work for Denman Island.
- Commercial Cannabis production warrants further discussion with Community

- Lub regulations. Larger parcels should be allowed more than 3 units per site to make it economical.

Last, The Growers and Producers Alliance does not support the removal of " horticulture and agriculture as permitted uses in the R1, R2 zones.