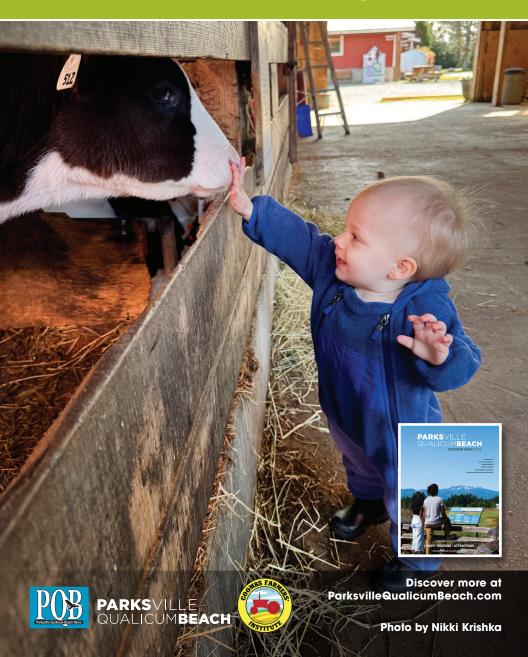
# Grower's Guide 57 2025

# A GUIDE TO FOOD PRODUCERS AND FARM MARKETS IN:

- » Coomb:
- » Errington
- » Nanoose Bay
- » Parksville
- » Qualicum Beach
- » Lighthouse Country



Are you taking advantage of the RDN Curbside Expanded Organics Program?



A cost-effective and convenient way to compost your light yard material!



If you have curbside carts with the RDN logo, you can now put leaves, grass and light yard trimmings in your green-lidded organics cart!

Scan the QR
code to set up
reminders for
your curbside
collection day



Accepted materials that now go into your organics cart include:

- light trimmings no larger than 1.5cm (0.5 in) in diameter and no longer than 60cm (2 feet) in length
- · flowers, weeds
- organic materials
- lawn clippings
- See the full list at rdn.bc.ca/curbside







1-250-248-4341 **pqbnews.com** 

203-174 Corfield Street South Parksville, BC, V9P 2G5

Published in partnership with The Coombs Farmers Institute and Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association.

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### By Richard de Candole

Following the construction of the E & N rail line to Parksville in 1910 two groups of settlers began arriving in the district, one to occupy homesteads established by the Salvation Army, the other to live on lots they had bought from Vancouver Island Fruit Lands Ltd.

Their arrival marked the beginning of the area's long-standing association with food production on Vancouver Island.

Among those early settlers were the founders of both the Coombs Farmers' Institute and the Arrowsmith Agricultural Association (Coombs Fair).

In Coombs, families who had been recruited by the Salvation Army in England began arriving to homestead 20-acre lots along the E & N rail line. Over a two-year period 12 families moved onto lots that today run along the highway from DemXX to Station Rd. Waiting for them was a two-bedroom house and two acres of cleared land.

By 1913 Coombs had grown to include a general store, a school, a sawmill and a Salvation Army church. Turning the forest into productive farmland proved to be an uphill battle. While some of the settlers thrived, helped by off-farm wages earned logging or on road construction, the rest moved away to earn a living in the nearby villages and towns.

A similar experience was unfolding in Errington where in 1913 the real estate division of E & N Rail (then owned by the CPR) established the Vancouver Island Fruit Lands.

Nearly 3,000 acres between Morison Creek and Station Road were subdivided into 20-acre lots. A 48-page glossy brochure was distributed across Canada and in England. The asking price for 20 acres was \$800. Clearing half the lot would cost \$2,000 and building a two-bedroom home another \$300. The brochure said Vancouver Island was suitable for mixed farming, poultry raising, dairying or orchards but the most attractive feature was the climate where the mean temperature in January was 2 degrees celcius and in August 20 degrees celcius with average annual rainfall of 31 inches.

Today many of the roads in Errington bear the names of the families arriving during that period-Fisher, Swayne, Morison, Matterson, McKibbin, Grafton, Price, Braddock, Ruffel's and Leffler.

An experimental farm was established by the BC Government on a lot at the

cross-roads of Errington and Grafton. Corn, grain and hay was grown to provide for the farm's dairy cows, horses and pigs. In 1917 the farm yielded seven tons of fodder corn, two tons of clover hay and half a ton of barley on seven acres under cultivation. It also reported growing small yields of vetch, oats, mangels, kale and wheat.

According to the Wrigley's BC Directories in 1918 and in 1935 the population of Errington increased from 145 to 200. In 1918 virtually everyone indicated their occupation was farming. By 1935 it was still the main source of income for over half the population.

During that time two jam factories and a poultry hatchery opened. Residents formed a district poultry association and established a local chapter of the BC Egg Pool. In 1935 four Errington residents indicated they were dairymen. There were also half a dozen others operating in Coombs, Hilliers, Qualicum Beach and French Creek.

In 1944 the Island Farms milk producers co-operative was formed. By 1960 there were over a dozen farms in the area milking up to 20 cows daily and shipping milk to Victoria. In Qualicum Beach it was the Mant and Van Herwaarden farms. In Hilliers, Arrowsmith No. 2 (now Happy Cow Dairy), Brittain and Van Duin. In Coombs-Errington it was Looy (now Silver Meadows), Fritzsche, Fox, Grobes and Moliette.

There were also cattle breeding and feed farms including Arrowsmith No. 1 (now Hilliers Blueberry), Walsh and Finholm. When Arrowsmith No. 1 was owned by lumber baron H.R. MacMillan in the 1950s his barns covered more than an acre and housed Angus cattle, feeder steers, sheep, chickens and seasonally 8,000 turkeys.

In 1973, with the arrival of a new generation of back-to-the-landers,

the Errington Farmer's Market was established. The summer market quickly became a popular destination for town residents and tourists wanting to buy local produce. Vancouver Island's temperate climate is particularly suited to growing salad greens, herbs, garlic, onions, tomatoes, root vegetables, beans, broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower. Fruits including apples, pears and plums, strawberries, raspberries & blueberries also do well.

In the mid-1990s a second farmer's market opened in Qualicum Beach and it now operates year-round.

The Arrowsmith Agricultural Association was established in 1913 and every year in August the AAA organizes the Coombs Fair at the fairgrounds on Ford Rd. Residents are encouraged to "share what you know and show what you grow."

Cash prizes are awarded to the winners of dozens of judged competitions including livestock, vegetables, fruits, flowers, baking, home canning, needlework, arts and crafts. In more recent times the participation of 4-H Clubs has become one of the fair's biggest attractions. Youth from all over the Island showcase their skills in animal husbandry and horticulture.

The 111-year-old Coombs Farmer's Institute is also a major participant in the fair. It operates a demonstration garden and provides educational information on farming in the district. In the spring the CFI hosts the very popular farm auction and Seedy Sunday events.

The CFI is part of a province-wide network working on behalf of farmers. Today its major concern is the safety and sustainability of our food supply and the environmental impact of industrial scale agriculture. Efforts continue to persuade the Provincial Government to take action on these issues to ensure residents have access to good quality local food.

## **Farms and Food Producers**



Stephanie Demedeiros Coombs 250-927-3843

### f Arrowsmith Acres

Arrowsmith Acres is excited to be offering a variety of farm fresh products!

We are proudly offering beef, pork and limited amounts of chicken. Our family farm also has farm fresh eggs available!

Text or call 250-927-3843 for more information and to be on the books for the next round.

### **2** BOMÉ CHEESE

Horst Boehm, Bibi Menge 1876 Alberni Hwy., Coombs 250-586-2663 bomecheese@shaw.ca

bomecheese.ca

Visit us at the Qualicum Beach and Errington Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings. Tuesday to Saturday we welcome you in our cheese shop restaurant or on our patio. Enjoy homemade German cuisine, heavenly desserts or a cheese platter and watch the cheese making process. We produce 12 different cheeses, our specialty European cakes, home-made frozen meals and soups to bring home. Online shopping is also available!

Hours of operation: Tue-Sat 11am-4pm



Courtesy Catie's Hot Dilled Beans

### CATIE'S HOT DILLED BEANS

Qualicum Beach catieshotdilledbeans@gmail.com catieshotdilledbeans.com

Catie's Hot Dilled Beans is a Qualicum Beach based food producer, using local produce including our home grown berries and herbs!

### 4 CHECKER GRASS FARM / GRINSHEEP FIBRE ARTS

1265 Leffler Rd., Errington

Garden and Lamb: Sam 250-927-2105 Wool and Yarn: Sharon 250-248-6306 We are the districts' first Certified Organic farm (1990) and are located across from the Wildlife Recovery Center in Errington. We offer seasonal fruit and vegetables, live and dressed lamb and a full range of wool, spinning, weaving and felting supplies.





SAT & SUN AUGUST 9 & 10
COOMBS FAIRGROUNDS & EVENT CENTRE

### 5 COAST GAL CREATIONS 3894 Melrose Rd., Whiskey Creek 250-204-4192

### coastgalcreations@gmail.com coastgalcreations.org

Check out my website to view artwork and classes. As a certified Paverpol instructor, allow me to bring out the artist in you!

My garden sculptures are created from upcycled materials and a fabric hardener made in Holland. This product is called Paverpol; environmentally friendly and withstands the elements of our weather. Art offerings vary from figurines, birds and outdoor framed art placed into old wood windows.



Courtesy Coast Gal Creations



Courtesy Cormie Farm

### CORMIE FARM 250-248-3995 cormiefarm.ca

## f Cormie Farm

Our farm stand will open for the season in late June, located at Riverside Rd. Parksville BC. Open daily for the duration of the season from 10am to 6pm Cormie Farm has been supplying the Parksville/Oualicum area with fresh local produce since 1975. We have a wide array of seasonal produce from kitchen staples to short-season treats. Seasonal produce available this year: salad mix, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, peas, strawberries, grapes, apples, plums, carrots, herbs, asparagus, rhubarb and many others... Check out our website to order from our online store during the shoulder

seasons, and visit our Facebook page for updates in-season.

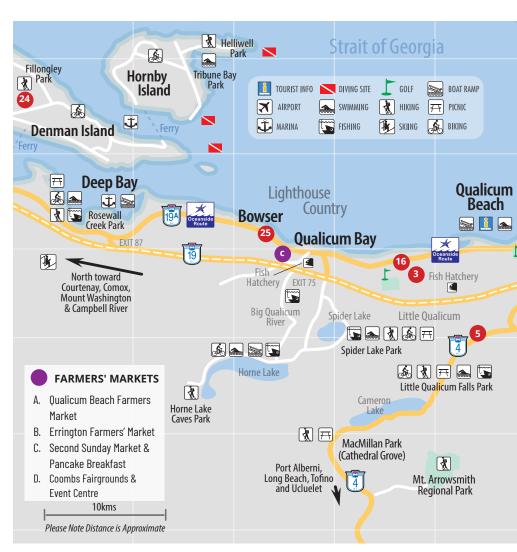


Farms & Markets

Local Artisan Crafts & Gifts

Plants, Feeds, Soil & Gardening Supplies

Visit the Fall Fair on August 30, 2025







### Map locations are approximate.



### **Farms and Food Producers**



### fiercelovefarm.ca

We are a small family farm in Qualicum Beach. We grow a diversity of fresh vegetables, berries, and flowers using ecological practices. We are passionate about growing the highest quality food for our community, and care for our land and soil with love and future farmers in mind. You can find us at the Qualicum Beach Farmers Market every Saturday. Follow along on Instagram @fiercelovefarm to stay up to date on where else to get our produce!

### 3 GOLDSTREAM GRANGE GARDENS & SUNSHINE'S HERB PHARM

2459 Grafton Ave., Coombs sunshinegoldsberry@telus.net goldstreamgrangegardens.wordpress.com Essential herbs and blends for cooking and wellness. Plants, seeds, seasonal fresh herbs, veggies and eggs in season. Order packaged herbs online or visit us at the Errington Farmers' Market every Saturday from May-September, 10am-1pm!



Courtesy Little Qualicum Cheese Works

# UITTLE QUALICUM CHEESE WORKS

### 403 Lowrys Rd., Parksville

Come by anytime during open hours to enjoy a fun & educational experience. Visit the gals in the dairy barn, learn about our milking robot, say hello to calves, sheep, goats, and a variety of

other friendly animals. And don't forget to take a peek into the cheese plant, where the magic happens if you're lucky enough you might see some of the action. The Farmgate Store is always a highlight to the farm visit. Browse the wide variety of local foods, farm toys, gifts, and of course, our own lineup of over a dozen cheeses; as well as made on site ice cream and our fresh milk vending machine. We're proud to offer a selection of excellent local meats, eggs, as well as our own grassfed beef. Suitable for families, children, teens, adults; There's something here for everyone.

Hours: Farm & Store: 10 am-4pm Tues –Sun (Closed on Mondays) Self-Serve Milk Dispenser: 7am -6pm daily

### **10** LOST SHOE RANCH

Vancouver Islands Best Value
WOOL PELLETS
12393 Cappac Pl. Ladysmith

13292 Capnac Pl., Ladysmith 778-269-2532

Lostshoeranch@shaw.ca

**f** lostshoeranch

Wool pellets retain moisture in your soil, fertilizer all your plants indoor, outdoor, flowers and veggies. Small and large quantities available and if you have wool we do custom work for you at our mill facility. Locally produced.

# MAMA SUE'S GRANOLA BARS Nanaimo

mamasues2019@gmail.com

Mama Sue's Granola Bars are a nut-free and egg-free oat and coconut-based snack, perfect for a quick bite on-the-go or curled up with a cuppa! Seven varieties including Regular, Gluten-free and vegan in over 18 flavours! Find MSGB at the Qualicum Beach (Sat. 8:30-12), Island Roots (Nanaimo; Wed. 3-6pm) and Cedar (Sun. 10-2) Farmers' Markets.



Courtesy Misguided Spirits Craft Distillery

# 12 MISGUIDED SPIRITS CRAFT DISTILLERY

Darrell & Deirdre Bellaart 18 - 1343 Alberni Hwy., Parksville 250-586-2200

### Darrell@MisguidedSpirits.ca MisguidedSpirits.ca

Locally grown fruit is used whenever possible when Darrell and Deirdre Bellaart infuse their gins and vodkas at Misguided Spirits Craft Distillery in Errington. Their offerings include infused spirits made with strawberries, rhubarb, cranberries and blackberries picked as close to home as possible. To reduce waste, they donate their spent grain left over from mashing to feed farmers' animals in Coombs Country. Several of their products have been awarded gold and silver medals in national and international spirits competitions. Visitors are invited to tour the distillery (no tour fee, but tips are welcome!) to see how their products are made, then taste their unique and delicious flavours in the on-site tasting room. Misguided Spirits is open Monday to Saturday, but the Open sign is often lit up on Sundays when they're in working on something. So call ahead if you're unsure. The distillery is just 6 km east of Goats on the Roof on Hwy 4A. Visit them online at www.misguidedspirits. ca, on FB: MisguidedSpiritsCraftDistillery, or Instagram: misguidedspirits

# B POLLEN ACRES FARM & LIFESOURCE HONEY SALES

Coombs 250-248-7894

PollenAcres@shaw.ca

(f) Pollen Acres Farm Coombs

Family owned and operated. Pollen Acres was created 4 years ago with the intention of supporting nature, the environment, and our pollinators. The farm supports large areas of Pollinator plants and flowers to support our many and much needed pollinators. We offer raw honey sales created from our small apiary of "busy bees" creating our LifeSource Honey.

### We offer:

- Bee propolis throat sprays & tinctures
- · Reusable wasp traps
- Raw honey
- Experiential bee tours, come check out hives and share the bee experience. (waiver required)
- Hanging baskets
- Veggie and plant starters
- Seasonal vegetable sales
- Spring hanging basket workshops
- Fall/Winter wreath making workshops
   For more information please Text, DM or

For more information please Text, DM or email. **Bee happy!** 

### REGATTA GARDENS

### Barry and Sylvia Neden 1992 Alberni Hwy., Coombs 250-248-9240

Anchored to the Earth, Regatta Gardens was established in 1987. For over 35 years, we have contributed to the Central Vancouver Island agriculture community and the production of farm fresh vegetables, berries, tree fruit and lamb. We are currently accepting u-pick raspberry booking times. Lambs born in March are available by pre-booking, cut to your specification, sold as 1/2 or whole, and ready for pick-up in the fall. Call us to arrange a time to explore this season's locally grown farm fresh products!

## **Farms and Food Producers**



Nanoose Bay 250-821-1934

f Rusted Rake Brewing
@ @rustedrakebrewing

Where the barley grows. The goodness flows. Rusted Rake Brewing is a familyrun, farm-based brewery in beautiful Nanoose Bay. Our family (and dog) friendly brewery and gastro brewpub are located on an 18-acre farm just 15

minutes from Nanaimo. Visit us any day of the week at our Little Farm by the Sea for lunch and dinner.

Open 11:30am-9:00pm.

Like us on FB or follow us on Instagram.

### **10** SEABREEZE ACRES

Marga Barclay 460 Baylis Rd., Qualicum Beach duett65@hotmail.com seabreezeacres.com

f Seabreeze Acres

We have pasture raised chickens, who produce beautiful and nutritious eggs. Fresh available every Saturday morning at the Qualicum Beach Farmers' Market. We also offer potted culinary herbs, and when in season, duck eggs, fresh fruit, rhubarb and veggie starters. Like Seabreeze Acres on Facebook for updates & pictures of the farm!

# SILVER MEADOWS FARM MARKET LTD.

Jason Fox & Elaine Robson 1019 Errington Rd., Errington 250-248-4450

f Silver Meadows Farm Market Ltd Silver Meadows Farm Market Ltd. is a 116 acre family owned and operated mixed crop farm. We grow sweet corn, strawberries, raspberries, vegetables, and pumpkins. The farm raises beef and pork, all without the use of antibiotic or hormones. In our rustic farm store, you

will find farm fresh eggs, local cheese, honey, jams, jellies, mustards, chocolate, candles, soaps, bath salts, and in the summer Island Farms Ice Cream! We are open year-round. Come check it out, you will be pleasantly surprised!

### **13** SIRIUS MICRO FARM

Siriusmicrofarm@gmail.com Siriusmicrofarm.ca

f Siriusmicrofarm

irius micro farm

We are a family owned farm in Errington, specializing in garlic and microgreens. We also grow salad greens, kale, squashes, and tomatoes. We follow organic and sustainable growing practices, to grow high quality produce and build our soil at the same time. We sell through the local natural grocers and farm stores. You can also order from our website at www.Siriusmicrofarm.ca/shop

# (1) SKYE'S GARDEN AT ONCE UPON OUR FARM

Errington 250-248-9929

**skyesgarden@onceuponourfarm.com** Eggs, CSA subscriptions and produce in season.

### **20 SPRINGFORD FARM**

Ross & Erin Springford 1934 Northwest Bay Rd., Nanoose Bay info@springfordfarm.com springfordfarm.com

As sixth-generation farmers, providing local food to our community is at the heart of everything we do. Come visit to experience our traditional farm market on the edge of our farm and browse the Island's best selection of farm-fresh and locally made artisanal food. Our premium grass-fed beef and our signature free-range eggs are always available in our market store.

### 21 SWAYNE CREEK CIDERHOUSE

2132 Swayne Rd, Errington 250-240-3371

Swaynecreek.ca

f Swayne Creek Ciderhouse

© Swayne\_Creek\_Ciderhouse
Opening June 2025! You can find us
at our destination Ciderhouse tucked
between farmland and forest in beautiful
Errington, BC, and at local farmer and
night markets throughout the summer.
Our cider is dry and complex, low sugar,
and gluten-free. With our flagship ciders
as anchors, we let the seasons and local
harvests guide the rest. Check out our
website or social media to keep up to
date on our hours and the markets we're



visiting that week!



Courtesy The Country Butcher

Courtesy Unicorn Farm

# 22 THE COUNTRY BUTCHER / UNICORN FARM

Mark & Donna 1430 Errington Rd., Errington 250-937-2664

We are a Traditional old-world butcher shop serving the Local community and visitors giving our customers quality local butcher cut meats, a selection of local vegetables, cheese and a large selection of our In-House Smoked Meats such as pepperoni, smoked Dry Cured Hickory & Applewood bacon, Smoke hams to our 38+ Day Aged Beef and our Farm raised pork and Lamb.

We are open 6 Days a week from 10 am -6 pm and closed Wednesday and Sunday from 10 am-4 pm Always Quality Always Fresh

### **3** THORCREST FARM

Zoë Thorbergson MSc. Nanoose Bay info@thorcrest.ca thorcrestfarm.ca f ThorcrestFarm

We are a small local farm that raises purebred registered Nubian goats, eggs, seasonal vegetables, and flowers. By pre-order only, we also offer premium ethically raised pastured pork and chevon. We are passionate about the welfare of our animals and the sustainability of producing ethically raised local food. We use regenerative agriculture methods to promote animal, wildlife, plant, and soil health.

# TREEEATER FARM AND NURSERY

Peter Janes Denman Island 250-897-8540

# $tree eater farm and nursery @gmail.com\\ tree eater nursery.com$

We offer fruit trees, nut trees, berry bushes and fruiting vines. We specialize in diversity! Shipping available!



Courtesy Tusk and Feather Farm

# 45 TUSK AND FEATHER FARM 6130 Island Hwy. West,

Qualicum Beach 250-951-3831

f Tuskandfeatherfarm

Tusk and Feather Farm located in beautiful Qualicum Bay invites the public to come experience life on the farm. While here you can enjoy time with the animals, check out our small farm store stocked with our own ethically raised meats, fresh cut flowers , local produce and treats.

### Farmers' Markets







Courtesy Qualicum Beach Farmers' Market

### A QUALICUM BEACH **FARMERS' MARKET**

644 Veterans Way, **Qualicum Beach** 8:30am until noon, **EVERY Saturday - YEAR ROUND.** 

f o gbfarmersmarket

Qualicum Beach Farmers Market has been growing our community since 1997! With over 100 local makers, bakers, and growers to shop from during our busy summer season you will always find an assortment of local farm fresh produce, local meat, local eggs, local flowers, local wine, local artisan items, and so much more!

### **B** ERRINGTON FARMERS' MARKET

1550 Veterans Rd., Errington Every Saturday, 10am to 1pm from May-September erringtonfarmersmarket.ca f ErringtonFarmersMarket

Connecting local farmers and producers with customers for over 50 years! Since 1973, the Errington Farmers' Market has served Errington, Coombs, Hilliers, Whiskey Creek and Parksville. At the Market you will find a variety of fresh local produce, baked goods, a spot to relax and enjoy the live music, wonderful artisanal works, great conversations, and more!

### SECOND SUNDAY MARKET & PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Lighthouse Community Centre, **Qualicum Bay** 

**Every second Sunday starting May 11.** 8am to 1pm

lighthousehall.ca/second-sundaymarket-pancake-breakfast

Our market - art, craft, new, vintage, collectible, and food, along with a pancake breakfast and live music. Breakfast served until noon A fun family atmosphere.

### COOMBS FAIRGROUNDS & EVENT CENTRE

Coombs, BC 250-248-4458

info@coombsfair.org

f @coombs.fairgrounds

We are proud to support our local growers and producers at the Coombs Fairgrounds & Event Centre. Join us for the Coombs Farmers' Institute's annual Seedy Sunday and Spring Agriculture Auction, as well as our long-standing tradition of the annual Coombs Fair. This event highlights the endeavors of 4-H members from across the island and beyond. Through our community partnerships, we offer numerous low cost learning opportunities and familyoriented events throughout the year for all ages. For more details, please email us.

### **Fall Fairs**

### COOMBS FAIR August 9 & 10

Coombs Fairgrounds www.coombsfair.com

A traditional community fair with delicious food, livestock shows, music, 4-H displays, and demonstrations that showcase all the elements that make our community special. The 2025 Coombs Fair is celebrating 112 years of agriculture and community in Coombs. We are proud to host the 2025 Provincial American Poultry Association

sanctioned poultry show featuring heritage birds from across British Columbia, We invite you to join us for this annual celebration of agriculture and community. Whether you're a seasoned exhibitor or a firsttime participant, we encourage everyone to take part in the the exhibits and showcase your talents and contributions to the community.

See you at the fair!



# LIGHTHOUSE COUNTRY FALL FAIR

Saturday August 31 at the Lighthouse Community Centre, Qualicum Beach Since 1969 the Lighthouse Fall Fair has been celebrating togetherness and continues to promote community spirit. The Fall Fair has changed very little over the years, offering a classic fair with modern touches. Agricultural and artisan displays, food, music and more.



# SOS Meals On Wheels

Delivering hot, nutritious meals to your door







SOS Community Services Centre | 250.248.2093 ext. 225 mow@sosd69.com | www.sosd69.com | 🌎 👩 🛐







Serving the Agricultural Community with Quality Products for over 25 Years.







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www.iritex.ca