



Athabasca Grown
Northern Alberta Fresh Food

Building Our Local Food System

This workshop series is designed to empower community members with the skills, knowledge, and partnerships to build a stronger local food economy. Together, we'll explore ways to enhance community "growership" through collaborative food initiatives and sustainable business strategies, developing practical skills while fostering vital connections.

RSVP



JANUARY 18, 2025, 11:30am - 2:30 pm (lunch provided)

Connect for Food

Co-host: Community Futures - Tawatinaw Region

Location: Athabasca Seniors Centre



Participants from around the food wheel—from producers to consumers, retailers to educators and beyond—will learn from each others' perspectives and express ideas about actions on developing a more localized food system that is also regenerative. The program includes a presentation from GoA. Discussion will be focused on two topics: 1) Describing our current food system, and 2) What needs to change in our thinking and behaviours about food.

FEBRUARY 18, 2025, 6 - 8 pm (light dinner available from 5:30 pm)

Farm Futures: Young Agrarians & Agri-Tourism

Co-host: Athabasca District Agricultural Society

Location: Athabasca Agri-plex



Join us for an insightful workshop featuring Young Agrarians who will discuss their mission to support the next generation of farmers through peer-to-peer learning. Also featured is ClearThink Group, experts in agri-tourism, who will share global insights on how this growing sector helps create direct-to-consumer relationships, fosters regional food connections, and offers new sales opportunities for farm businesses.



MARCH 5, 2025, 6 - 8 pm (light dinner available from 5:30 pm)

A (Mostly) Passive Solar Greenhouse Design Workshop

Co-host: AU RAIC Centre for Architecture & Science Outreach - Athabasca

Location: AU Governing Council Chambers



Passive solar design offers significant energy efficiency improvements over conventional greenhouse design, making it more suitable to the colder Albertan climate. This approach can be supplemented with some active elements to bridge the growing season over the deepest winter months.

Join AU regenerative design experts for a discussion about applying passive solar design and other design considerations to a potential greenhouse to serve Athabasca.

APRIL 8, 2025, 6 - 8 pm (light dinner available from 5:30 pm)

Greenhouse Business Innovation

Co-host: Athabasca County Economic Development

Location: Athabasca Regional Multiplex



This workshop features a commercial passive solar greenhouse operator as well as local Athabasca greenhouse operators, who will share what it takes to run a successful greenhouse business and challenging trends.

From integrating into the local market and differentiating products to tackling the unique challenges of greenhouse operations, we'll hear firsthand insights on building a thriving enterprise.

MAY 8, 2025, 6 - 8 pm (light dinner available from 5:30 pm)

Community and Local Food Economy

Co-host: The Town of Athabasca

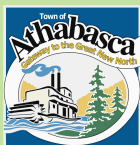
Location: Athabasca Seniors Centre



Small communities like ours have incredible potential to build resilience and self-reliance through sustainable food systems and community-driven economic development. This event is an invitation to explore how local producers and residents can work together, build partnerships, and create a more connected, thriving local economy.

We'll discuss the benefits of cooperative business models, how community economic development can amplify our efforts, and what it looks like to create a more interconnected food system.

Alberta



Athabasca Grown workshops are sponsored by the Government of Alberta's Small Community Opportunity Program and the Town of Athabasca as part of the "Rural Food Production with Passive Solar Greenhouses" project that is simultaneously conducting a feasibility assessment for a local facility of this kind.

Workshops include expert-led presentations and interactive discussions to build knowledge and gather insights on developing a resilient, sustainable food system in Athabasca. RSVPs are appreciated.

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