

### **SSI Agriculture Infrastructure Project - 2011**

The SSI Agriculture Infrastructure Project is a community initiative intended to develop the three facilities necessary to increase the capacity to produce, process, and market food grown or raised on Salt Spring Island (as identified in the SSI Area Farm Plan).

#### **Abattoir**

For the local abattoir facility a custom designed mobile livestock processing unit for red meat and poultry will be purchased, a docking site developed with the necessary infrastructure and livestock holding pens, and a cut and wrap facility built. The availability of a local abattoir is expected to stop the decline and increase the numbers of livestock and poultry to meet the demand for locally produced meat and to allow for expansion of the market, improving economic viability of small scale farm operations. Proposed timeline:

Jan–Mar: Designs finalized; Permit application submitted

April –Oct: Construction

Oct- Nov: Recruit workforce, test operations.

#### **Community Composting Pilot Project**

Once regulatory approval is secured, informational materials regarding the practical operational aspects of the composting pilot project and its benefits will be provided to the public. Operations are expected to commence in the spring. The project will decrease the amount of materials that are currently burnt or shipped off island to landfills and will provide organic farmers with a valuable soil amendment which will reduce input costs and increase production capacity.

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Processing, Storage and Distribution Centre**

For the fruit and vegetable processing, distribution and storage facility a conceptual design and business plan will be developed. Once built, the facility will provide infrastructure for expansion of the SSI Farm Food Link which coordinates and delivers organically grown produce from SS farmers to local food businesses and institutions as well as providing space for other anticipated needs which will be identified during this project. The increased ability to market to larger buyers on a regular basis and to develop value added products will improve farm economic viability and increase local food security. Pat Reichert has been contracted to carry out the needs assessment and develop the business plan. Proposed timeline:

Jan-Mar: Survey needs of farmers & other potential users

Mar- April: Develop concept plan; public information meetings

May: Elaborate business plan