

December 2, 2019

Alberta Agricultural Service Boards and
Alberta Association of Agricultural Fieldman

Dear Agricultural Service Board Members and Agricultural Fieldman:

Over the past several months, my partner Ralaina Virostek and I have written and produced a children's book entitled "DIRT TO DINNER". We are both from an agricultural background and strongly believe we need more agriculture in schools and homes. As books are always great teaching aids, we have self-published a non-fiction children's book about agriculture. Our book will be printed by a Canadian company, making this a truly Canadian product.

As mentioned, both Ralaina and I have agricultural roots. We both grew up on farms in southern Alberta. I have a B.Sc. in Agriculture from the University of Alberta. My career over the past 25 years has involved different jobs in the agricultural field, including agricultural fieldman with Brazeau County. I am currently a market gardener, selling fresh fruit and vegetables at local farmers' markets and through on-farm sales. I volunteer with the Classroom Agriculture Program (CAP) and have done presentations in Alberta schools for over 20 years. Ralaina had a passion for the arts and schooled for two years in a Visual Communications program. She has on a Fine Arts degree from the University of Calgary and launched Ray Photography and Design officially in 2017.

Our book has several messages about agriculture and all that it takes to bring our food from seed to harvest. The main text has a flow to it with repetition to help kids increase their reading capabilities with words relating to agriculture. The sidebars or "DID YOU KNOW" sections are written at a more science level for kids who are fact seekers. We are targeting grades 2-6 and have incorporated two levels of reading. The book is soft cover with 40 pages. We are expecting to have the book printed before the 2020 ASB provincial conference.

We know counties and municipalities also have an interest in getting more agriculture in schools. A few years ago, Cypress County, submitted a resolution on getting more agriculture education into classrooms, which was passed by the delegation with an overwhelming majority. This year another resolution was brought forth at the AAMDC conference asking there be mandatory agriculture education implemented in the school curriculum in Alberta.

Our plan to get province wide distribution of our non-fiction children's book is to get involvement from our counties and municipalities.

What if every county and municipality purchased 10 books about agriculture written by a farmer and donated them to 10 schools?

If 63 counties bought 10 books to give to 10 schools in their county or municipality, or even better their neighbouring city schools, we would cover 630 schools. 630 schools would have a book about agriculture written by a farmer, donated by an agricultural service board.

What if 10 kids in each school signed out a book about agriculture written by a farmer, donated by an agricultural service board and took it home to read with their parents?

10 kids in 630 schools read the book at home with the parents. Now 6300 homes read a non-fiction book about agriculture written by a farmer, donated by an agricultural service board.

What if some of those kids are future leaders, politicians, or even future protestors? Would they know what it takes to grow food and its importance, if they had read a non-fiction book about agriculture written by a farmer? Not many kids grow up on farms and some may not have the opportunity to visit a farm.

Is a book what we need to bring some agriculture in the class and urban homes? It's not all that we need, but it's a start and we can start now.

I have attached a pre-order form for our book "Dirt to Dinner – It starts with a seed, but is that all that we need?" The book is soft cover with 40 pages. We hope that counties and municipalities are interested in purchasing numerous copies to donate to their local schools to further agricultural education. Books that have been pre-ordered will be available for pickup at the 2020 Provincial Agricultural Service Board Conference in Banff.

A sneak peek of our book will be posted to our Facebook page [ilovedirt@ilovedirt2002](https://www.facebook.com/ilovedirt2002). We are also working on our website page www.ilovedirt.ca, which we hope to launch early 2020. In addition to our book, we hope to create an agricultural online learning site for children, teachers and parents.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Conny Kappler P.Ag.
Author "Dirt to Dinner"



Ralaina Virostek
Photographer/Layout Design

"DIRT TO DINNER"

CHILDREN'S BOOK
PRE-ORDER FORM

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| County/Municipality: | |
| Contact Name: | |
| Address: | |
| | |
| Phone: | |
| Email address: | |
| Number of books: \$18.00 each | |

To avoid shipping costs, we can provide pickup at the 2020 Provincial ASB Conference in Banff, Alberta in January.
Payment by cheque or etransfer

Mail cheques to:
Conny Kappler
Box 601
Medicine Hat, Alberta T1A 7G5
Payable to Conny Kappler

Etransfer: connykappler.62@gmail.com

