

December 2, 2002

SMALL SCALE
FOOD PROCESSOR
Association (SSFPA)

Sound Bites

The newsletter with a vision of regional food sustainability

Volume 1, Issue 2

The Living Inventory (LI) Overview

The Living Inventory (LI) is a secure database developed to address processors' issues that were identified at the Small Scale Food Processing Consultation Event in Richmond April 2001 & during the Market Scoping Project, August 2002.

The LI is designed as a benefit to all members of the SSFPA, Processor members and Supporter members.

Processors asked for a searchable one-stop-shopping database to find regional resources for their enterprises when available. Whether it is for transportation; business assistance; creative financing; education; food safety; access to wholesale prices for jars, la-

bellings, marketing and bar codes; production contracts with large processors and growers; co-packing; skilled labour and peer mentoring. If resources are not available regionally, they want to know where they are available.

The LI may also lend itself to organizing a 'Branding BC' and 'Regional Branding' within each regional marketing plan developed with the facilitation of the SSFPA's Field to Table Partnership Project.

The LI is valuable for the Supporter members too. For a reasonable cost of membership in the SSFPA, the Supporter member can advertise their goods and ser-

vices that are specific to the needs of the small-scale grower and processor. The Supporter members can also perform searches for specific development ideas and regional community economic development strategies.

The LI is sustainable because each member has a user name and password and enters their own data; there is no need to hire an administrator. A SSFPA Membership Committee will have the administrative task of enabling a member user name once annual fees are received.

The LI will be released on the SSFPA web site mid December 2002.



Sound Bites:

- Our common ground—the communities where our food comes from.
- The Living Inventory is the first phase of a planned communications, and market intelligence collection tool, hosted on the Internet.

Why is the website address <https://www.ssfpa.net/>?

The "s" stands for "secured" and is there to protect your information as it travels over the internet while you are utilizing the site. With an unsecured web page an individual could use software called a "packet sniffer" to intercept information (transported in a form called "packets") as it travels be-

tween your computer and the web server. Some of this information can be somewhat sensitive, like your username, password, e-mail address, etc. By securing the site using a certificate (see the section on certificates next page) all traffic is encrypted, both as it leaves your computer to travel to

the web server, and as it leaves the web server to travel to you. The end result of the encryption is that someone can still intercept the packets of information traveling back and forth, but the information has been encrypted and therefore cannot be read by a third party.

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1702 Ash Rd.
Victoria, BC
V8N 2T6

Phone: 250-370-5167

Email: ssfpa@pacificcoast.net



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By mid Dec/02



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What is a certificate, and why am I prompted about it when I come to the web page?

A certificate is a small file that is used in the securing of a web page. Contained within the certificate is something called a "key". This key tells the web server how to encrypt traffic before it leaves the web server to travel to your computer, and decrypt traffic as it arrives at the web server from your machine. The same process of encryption and decryption also happens on your computer. When it comes to certificates there are two types: a certificate issued by a Certificate Authority (CA) like Verisign, or Thawte, and a Self-Signed certificate. We have chosen to use the self-signed certificate for cost reasons. What this all means, is that when the computer prompts you when you enter the site, it is only letting you know that this site uses a Self-Signed certificate, so when you see this prompt just click "Yes" and you will be ready to navigate the SSFPA website securely. The primary goal of using a certificate is to ensure that your information is secure.

Non-Member web pages

The first page of the website for the SSFPA has links to:

- ☉ Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
- ☉ A Download page of the publications provided by the SSFPA
- ☉ Registration

Member pages

In addition to what non-members have access to, the first page gives the members the Member Login and Password blanks, or a way to retrieve forgotten passwords.

Once in the site, the Member can then update or edit their business information, the contact for the business, and the inventory of their goods and services both bought and or sold. There is also an option to change passwords, with a security question ensuring continued privacy.

There is an automatic search function by business type and a second search function by member type. By leaving the field empty all businesses are found. By entering a town, postal code, name or address the search is narrowed.

The member types in the drop down menu are:

Small Processor; Supporter Large Processor; Supporter Food Safety; Supporter Grower; Supporter Technical Assistance; Supporter Education; Supporter Finance; Supporter Food Value Chain Association.

Once a member is registered, the membership committee representative will enable the account so that the member can then enter the site.