

CHAMPION PROFILE



Bill Zylmans W&A Farms



"I'm a farmer and marketer - and I love working with kids, so being part of the Spuds in Tubs program is a natural fit for me! Spuds in Tubs connects all the dots - from students, to teachers, to farms, to the agriculture industry - it helps bring it all together. W&A Farms is proud to be a partner supporting this amazing program!"

**- Bill Zylmans,
Owner, W&A Farms**

What year did you get involved with Spuds in Tubs? In 2006, BCAITC's Executive Director, Lindsay Babineau, came to me with a dream of growing potatoes in schools. So, we worked together with the potato industry and started [Spuds in Tubs](#). The dream became a reality! The program started in 8 schools. It's amazing to see how Spuds in Tubs has taken off all throughout BC and how much everyone rants and raves about it.

What motivated you to get involved with Spuds in Tubs? I hosted pumpkin patch rides at my farm ([W&A Farms](#)) starting in the 70's (over 1,300 kids would visit the farm each day). I loved showcasing agriculture and the personal connection that I had with the children through this venture. I wanted to continue this agriculture connection to students in some capacity, so the idea of working with BCAITC to form a school growing program was a perfect fit!

Have you volunteered with any other BCAITC programs? Yes, I have provided agriculture presentations at the Summer Institute course over the years. I've also had fun going into classrooms with BCAITC to talk to students about farming - students get so excited to see a "real" farmer in-person - big belt buckle, boots, hat, and all!

What positive impacts have Spuds in Tubs had on students? Spuds in Tubs helps connect students to agriculture! Through Spuds in Tubs, kids learn about potatoes, soil, climate, and the environment. Plus BCAITC's lesson plans connect growing food to math, science, and other school subjects.

What positive impacts have Spuds in Tubs had on the agriculture industry? As Chair of the [Canadian Potato Council](#), I can say that farmers love Spuds in Tubs! The program spreads the positive word about potatoes. Students in the classroom learn about potatoes as a great locally-grown food. They take this knowledge home and share it with their family and friends so more people can appreciate this wonderful food!

What benefits have you experienced from your farm's partnership with Spuds in Tubs?

- ✓ Helps support the agriculture industry
- ✓ Provides a connection to others
- ✓ Provides learning opportunities for me
- ✓ Brings a sense of fulfillment to my life
- ✓ I love to see children learning about agriculture
- ✓ I enjoy giving back to the community
- ✓ It's fun!