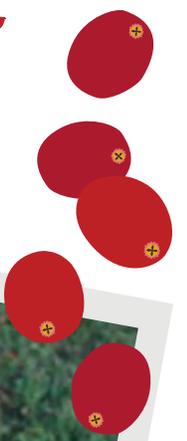


CRANBERRY BOUNCE

TALES FROM A BC CRANBERRY FARM

FALL



Welcome to Yellow Point Cranberries

OUR FARM IS ON YELLOW POINT ROAD on a long point of land on Vancouver Island called Yellow Point. Can you guess the name of our farm? Yellow Point Cranberries! The climate in BC makes it a great place to grow cranberries. There are more than 80 cranberry farms in BC and, like ours, most of them are owned and run by families.

LIVING ON A WORKING FARM THERE'S ALWAYS FUN THINGS TO DO. In the summer I like to ride in the tractor with my Dad, and help him fix the harvesting equipment like the sprinklers and beaters.

Early in September I watch the berries turn from green to bright red. Fall is time for me to go to school, and time for the cranberry harvest.



THE PLANTS THAT WE ARE HARVESTING THIS YEAR ARE FIVE YEARS OLD - JUST LIKE ME! This is their first year for harvesting. Most of the other vines on our farm are older and some are even as old as my Grandpa. Cranberry vines produce new fruit every season for many years. When I'm grown up we'll still be harvesting berries from these same vines.



Hi, my name is Jack. I am 5 years old and I live on a cranberry farm with my mom and dad and my big sister, Clara.



I'm almost big enough to help my dad push the beater to harvest our cranberries.

I think cranberries are awesome. They're round like little marbles, red like cherries and best of all, they bounce.



[TEN COOL THINGS ABOUT CRANBERRIES]

Cranberry plants are perennial vines. We don't need to plant new vines each season and one vine produces fruit for many years.

Ripe cranberries are ruby red on the outside and white, crispy and crunchy on the inside.

There are more than 200 types of cranberries. Most BC farmers grow 'Stevens', 'Bergman' and 'Ben Lear'. That's what we grow too.

Long before our farm was here, the early Chemainus First Nations people harvested wild bog cranberries for their food and medicine.

Cranberries are one of BC's native plants and have been growing wild here for a long time. My sister and I search along riverbanks and swamp areas for wild bog berries.

Cranberries don't grow in water. The vines are planted in wet sunken beds called 'bogs'. Cranberry farmers use water to harvest the berries.

Cranberries aren't sweet. They're tart and sour. They can be eaten fresh, dried, canned or frozen. My favourite is cranberry sauce for my turkey sandwich.

A cranberry has 4 air pockets on the inside - that's why they can float and bounce! The freshest cranberries bounce the highest.

Cranberries start out as tiny green berries when they first appear on the vine, then turn bright red in the fall. Some ripe cranberries can grow to be as big as a cherries.

A pink cranberry blossom looks like the head and bill of a Sandhill Crane - that's how cranberries got their name!

