



Agricultural Development Committee

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Via Zoom

9:30 am

Regular Agenda

Watch the meeting live at: <https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/18-6-2024/>

Register to participate via Zoom Webinar at:

https://acrd-bc-ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EfcnQ6p6SVWR9P2fBsaeuQ#/registration

	PAGE #
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
Recognition of Territories.	
Notice to attendees and delegates that this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District Website.	
Introductions - Committee Members and Staff present in the Boardroom and via Zoom.	
2. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</u>	
<i>(motion to approve, including late items requires 2/3 majority vote)</i>	
3. <u>DECLARATIONS</u>	
<i>(conflict of interest)</i>	
4. <u>MINUTES</u>	
a. Agricultural Development Committee Meeting held May 14, 2024	3-8
<i>THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on May 14, 2024 be adopted.</i>	
5. <u>CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION</u>	
a. AGRISERVICE BC	9-22
June 2024 Bulletin	
b. LOWER MAINLAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION	

2024 Resolutions Disposition, Pitt Meadows proposed tax changes on pages:	
R46-Unfarmed Land Tax	24
R47-School Tax Exemption	25
R54-Minimum Income Requirements for Farm Classification	26

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive items a-b for information.

6. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- b. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin
- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
- d. Island Health – K. Ruel
- e. Ministry of Agriculture & Food – T. O’Dell
- f. Alberni Farmers’ Institute – L. Aylard
- g. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
- h. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
- i. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt
- j. Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council – J. Cody
- k. Spirit Square Farmers Market – C. Boudreau
- l. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy
- m. 4-H – P. Radcliffe
- n. Marine Stakeholders
- o. Primary Agricultural Producers

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receive these reports a-o for information.

7. LATE BUSINESS

8. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public:

- Participating in the Zoom meeting
- Emailed to the ACRD at responses@acrd.bc.ca

9. ADJOURN

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 20, 2024, time and location TBD



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024, 9:30 AM

Via Zoom

MEMBERS

Heather Shobe, Chairperson, Eden Tree Farm

PRESENT:

Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association

Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)

Kaley Ruel, Island Health

Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee

Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society

Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm

REGRETS:

Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni

Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority

Jen Cody, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council

Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food

Erika Goldt, Coastal Food Roundtable, Eat West Coast

Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm

Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms

Victoria Lake, Effingham Oyster

Alex Taylor, Shelter Farm

Claire Boudreau, Spirit Square Farmers Market

Patty Radcliffe, 4H

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner

Kristin Kerr-Donohue, Administrative Assistant

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:

<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/14-5-2024/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:31 am.

The Chairperson recognized this meeting is being held throughout the Nuu-chah-nulth territories.

The Chairperson reported this meeting is being recorded and livestreamed to YouTube on the Regional District website.

Introductions - Committee Members and Staff via Zoom.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: A Lewis
SECONDED: A. Siddall

THAT the agenda be approved with the addition of one late item in section 9.a regarding Zoning Bylaw changes specific to agricultural producers.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATIONS

4. MINUTES

a. Agricultural Development Committee Minutes – April 16, 2024

MOVED: A. Lewis
SECONDED: H. Zanette

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on April 16, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

5. PETITIONS, DELEGATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

a. Carys Pinches, Water Policy Team Lead, Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship regarding the Watershed Security Strategy

Carys reviewed the Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship creation, reasons for implementation of the Watershed Security Strategy, and the strategy timeline with implementation planned for late 2024. Through multiple rounds of public engagement, the Ministry received feedback on how to move forward with the strategy. A Water Table was convened in June 2022, in collaboration with Treaty Nations and delegates from around the province. The strategy will focus on long-term goals with a 20–30-year timeline.

Updates on the strategy are available here:
<https://engage.gov.bc.ca/watershedsecurity/>

The funds associated with the program (100 million investment from the Provincial Government) have been transferred to the Real Estate Foundation of BC who are working with the First Nations Water Caucus to co-develop a watershed security fund to help protect watersheds for the future. The website has been launched
<https://watershedsecurityfund.ca/>

Watershed Security Fund Webinar on June 17 to learn about priorities and available funding. [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **KPU INSITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS**
Building Drought Resilience – Summary Report – March 2024

MOVED: H. Zanette

SECONDED: A. Siddal

THAT this correspondence be received.

CARRIED

7. REQUEST FOR DECISIONS

- a. **REQUEST FOR DECISION**
Agricultural Water Planning Funding Opportunity

MOVED: A. Siddall

SECONDED: A. Lewis

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee recommend that the ACRD Board of Directors direct staff to apply for the Watershed Security Fund Grant for the balance of funds for the Agricultural Water Supply Feasibility Study

AND if unsuccessful to use \$35,000 of the Local Government Climate Action Program funds as matching funds for the Agricultural Water Supply Feasibility Study.

CARRIED

8. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham
- Greenhouse Grower course – spoke with North Island College (NIC) after the April Agricultural Development Committee meeting and are planning to meet in June to discuss a fall grant application and course intake. NIC is responsible for developing the curriculum and confirming the teacher. Also discussing options for evening/weekend course offerings open to the public.
 - Request For Proposal (RFP) for the Food Security Emergency Planning project is out right now; closes on May 17, 2024.
 - Participated in the district-wide Pro-Day for SD70 on April 19th - 22 teachers attended, toured Ecole Grand-Cedres, Eighth Ave Learning Centre and ADSS, forged connections amongst teacher champions to rejuvenate school gardens across SD70.

- Feedback from teachers was positive and requested to do the same workshop next year to both give the gardens a boost and to strengthen the teacher champion network.
 - Committee cancelled the July 16th ADC.
 - Real Estate Federation of BC (REFBC) declined the ACRD Agricultural Water Infrastructure Grant application so will be taking a request to the May 22 Board meeting to leverage climate action grant funds for the balance of this project. If this is approved by the Board, an RFP can be developed.
 - A new Drought Information Portal at <https://droughtportal.gov.bc.ca/> is available. Great resource from the Province of BC including mapping.
- b. System Change Project – H. Shobe
Draft Online Agri-Food Database resource document aimed to have a central place for the public to access information on agriculture.
[ResourcesforWebsiteCHART-draft.pdf - Google Drive](#)
Final version will be more intuitive and available online. Final meeting for the System Change Project will be on June 12 @ 10am, open to all members of the public.
- c. City of Port Alberni – P. Deakin (Provided by A. Needham)
At the BC Economic Development Association Summit in Penticton, Pat visited Avery Farms <https://averyfarms.ca/> in Okanagan Falls which is a vertical lettuce grow operation in a purpose built facility. The disease and pest protocols were exceptional. Pat also moderated a session on agriculture that featured presentations by the Executive Director of The Growcer <https://www.thegrowcer.ca/> and two of their clients, as well as a short introduction by one of the staff at the BC Centre for Agritech Innovation at Simon Fraser University <https://www.sfu.ca/agritech-innovation.html>.
There would be value in setting up a virtual presentation by the BC Centre for Agritech Innovation, plus The Growcer, for our group and organizations providing food to homeless and vulnerable populations.
- d. School District # 70 – H. Zanette
Public Board meeting April 23 at EJ Dunn. Long range facility plan was adopted, ten-year plan in place. Schools are near or over capacity and will follow procedures required by the Province to deal with capacity issues. Capital Plan Bylaw passed. Healthy School Manager application is open, new position to coordinate all the food programs and services in the district.
[media.sd70.bc.ca/media/Default/frf/5/Healthy Schools Manager-2.pdf](https://media.sd70.bc.ca/media/Default/frf/5/Healthy_Schools_Manager-2.pdf)
Next SD 70 Board meeting May 21 at Ucluelet Secondary School
- e. Island Health – K. Ruel
In the process of hiring a Community Developer will have a presence at the Regional District level connecting services in the region. New data, from 2023, released in April showing that 23% of Canadians live in a food insecure household, a 24.5% increase from 2022. One in four children under 18 live in a food insecure household. Report specifies that food insecurity is racialized, showing Black and Indigenous households report 40.4% and 36.8% respectively.

[New data on household food insecurity in 2023 - PROOF \(utoronto.ca\)](#)

Helpful toolkit established by the First Nations Health Authority for understanding and reflecting on the words Traditional Foods, Food Security, Nutrition, and Medicine.

[FNHA-Understanding-Common-Language.pdf](#)

F. Boyko requested that the report on Food Insecurity be presented to the ACRD Board of Directors.

- f. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell (Provided by A. Needham)
Emergency Preparedness is of importance to the Ministry of Agriculture. It is important to keep premise ID and types and numbers of livestock up to date to allow for more efficient emergency planning. There is a new website to create your own Emergency Preparedness Plan
[Make Your Emergency Ready Plan \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)
- g. Alberni Farmers' Institute – L. Aylard
A recent brunch event was well attended. Emergency Preparedness was discussed, interest in creating a committee to work on a local plan. Beaver Creek Community Hall is hosting an emergency preparedness workshop on May 24.
- h. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall
Interested in exploring new ideas for the Agricultural Education building at the Fall Fair. Layout of the fairgrounds will be changing to allow better access to the Agricultural Education building this year. The Agricultural Education building will also be available earlier this year and will be receiving a new coat of paint and new lighting. Also working on updating the Fall Fair Emergency Plan.
- i. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – A. Lewis
Working on the gleaning program plan. Summer student positions will be posted on May 15th and is open to applicants aged 15-30yrs. Received funding to put toward the expansion at Dry Creek Community Garden with one bed left to be rented out. Meeting with Kuu-us to discuss potential for collaboration and food security initiatives. Meeting with Alberni Valley News to discuss the Growers Guide and agricultural editorials in the newspaper.
- j. 4-H – P. Radcliffe (Provided by A. Needham)
Registration is now complete with 22 new members. First judging rally held April 20th. Bake and manure sale held at the Spirit Square Farmers Market. Project meetings underway, where members learn about their projects and work with their animals.
- k. Primary Agricultural Producers
L. Aylard – Discussed City of Pitt Meadows news article regarding proposed tax changes for BC farmland. [Link to article](#). The Committee discussed their opposition to these changes and requested more information and discussion at the June ADC Agenda.

The Agricultural Development Committee sends their condolences to the family of Desi Thompson on their recent loss and acknowledged the impact she had on the agricultural community in the Alberni Valley.

MOVED: F. Boyko

SECONDED: A. Siddal

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee accept these reports a-k for information.

CARRIED

9. LATE BUSINESS

a. Late Business

MOVED: F. Boyko

SECONDED: H. Zanette

The Agricultural Development Committee recommends that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to prepare a report to go to the ACRD Electoral Area Directors meeting to consider expediting updates to the ACRD Zoning Bylaw 15 to align with all provincial agricultural policies, regulations and proposed zoning allowances included in the most recent draft of Zoning Bylaw P1333 in order to ensure agricultural producers in the ACRD can explore economic diversification and food security opportunities allowed by the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture in all Electoral Areas.

CARRIED

10. QUESTION PERIOD

Questions/Comments from the public. The Administrative Assistant advised there were no questions or comments respecting an agenda topic from public:

- Participating in the Zoom webinar
- Submissions received by email at responses@acrd.bc.ca.

11. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am

Certified Correct:

Heather Shobe,
Chairperson

Kristin Kerr-Donohue,
Administrative Assistant

No images? [Click here](#)



AgriServiceBC e-Bulletin

JUNE 2024 EDITION



FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Regional Newsletters

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance your experience and tailor our content to better suit your needs, we're excited to announce that the Provincial e-Bulletin will be phasing into Regional Bulletins. Information may include preparedness for drought and other natural disasters as well as local events and other information for agricultural producers.

What does this mean for you? This means that you will receive information specific to your region, ensuring that you're always up-to-date with the latest news and updates from your local ministry representative.

To continue receiving ministry information, we kindly ask you to manage your preferences by navigating to the bottom of this newsletter and [select a newsletter in your region](#) (you may select more than one region).

Your continued engagement and support are important to us, and we're committed to providing you with the most relevant and valuable content.

Please update your preferences by September 1 as this provincial bulletin will no longer be in circulation after the August issue.

Sign Up

PROGRAMS

Business Risk Management Programs



B.C.'s agricultural producers face many business risks that are beyond their control (production losses, severe market volatility, extreme weather events or disasters); the Province's suite of **agricultural insurance and income stability programs** can help you manage those risks.

- **Late Participation for 2023 AgriStability, until June 30, 2024**
- **Production Insurance Application Deadlines for the 2025 Crop Year:**
 - Berries, Grapes, Flower Bulbs and Strawberry Plants – **October 31, 2024**
 - Tree Fruits and Forage – **November 30, 2024**



Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program

The Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program (AWP) aims to increase adoption of efficient irrigation infrastructure and improve agricultural water supply and management in British Columbia.

Through this program, the Government of B.C. seeks to see improvements to stream flows, fish populations and an increased and more sustainable food production.

The program goal is to help improve water security in agricultural areas and food security in B.C. The AWP is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) of B.C.

Please refer to the program website for details: <https://iafbc.ca/awp>.
Stream 1 Producer Projects - full details available on May 30

Stream 2 Community Projects - full details available on May 30
Stream 3 Assessments, Engineering Studies or Plans - full details available on May 23

Learn More

Traceability Adoption Program



**TRACEABILITY
ADOPTION PROGRAM**

Up To 70% Cost-Share To A
Maximum Of \$20,000

Eligible Activities Include:

- ◆ Related Software And Hardware
- ◆ Staff Training To Implement Traceability Systems
- ◆ Approved Livestock Tag Readers

The Traceability Adoption Program (TAP) funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership is open for applications.

This program is delivered by Investment Agriculture Foundation.

TAP offers up to **\$20,000** in cost-shared funding to individual food, seafood, and agriculture businesses to implement facility-based traceability practices, systems, infrastructure, and technologies.

Funding is also available to ranchers and abattoirs for up to **\$3,500** for the purchase of approved livestock tag readers (handheld or panel readers), reader installation, related software, and related training.

[Visit Investment Agriculture Foundation for more information or to apply!](#)

Learn More



Buy BC Partnership Program Funding

Cost-shared funding is available for B.C. producers and processors, to support local marketing activities that increase consumer awareness and sales of B.C. agriculture, food, and beverage products.

The next application intake for Buy BC Partnership Program funding is open **until July 2, 2024**. This intake is for projects to be delivered from September 2024 to March 2025.

For more information and application details, visit <https://buybcpartnershipprogram.ca>

Enhanced Replant Program Update

In March 2024, a new 5-year Enhanced Replant Program was announced, offering up to \$70 million in assistance to wine grape, berry, and tree fruit producers to replace current acreage with resilient varieties that meet evolving market demands. The program is expected to launch by September 2024.

This additional funding complements the \$15 million provided by the Perennial Crop Renewal Program introduced last spring. The Enhanced Replant Program will be

distinct from the Perennial Crop Renewal Program, with unique criteria that reflect the feedback received from the B.C. wine grape, tree fruit, and berry industries.

Leading up to September, Ministry staff and industry associations are working together to shape the program criteria. Market Opportunity Assessments for B.C.'s blueberry, cranberry, cherry, pome fruit, soft fruit, and wine grape industries will inform the program, and a survey will be distributed through the summer to introduce the criteria and gather input directly from producers. We recognize that this coincides directly with the growing season and appreciate your support and contributions as we work towards launching the program in September.

Additional work is underway to address critical information gaps needed to develop planting guidelines for B.C.'s wine grape and raspberry industries. Final reports will be published to the Enhanced Replant Program webpage as they become available.

Please visit the program webpage for more information:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/enhanced-replant-program>

→ RESOURCES ←

Water Management Resources



Learn more about financial assistance for agricultural producers impacted by drought on the Ministry's [Drought in Agriculture](#) webpage. This page also contains key

drought resources and information on livestock, crop, and irrigation management during drought. Links to information on flood forecasting, preparedness, and mitigation are found on our [Flooding webpage](#).

Please visit the Ministry's **Drought in agriculture web page** to access our library of water management resources for producers.

Drought in agriculture webpage



As we move into spring freshet and summer wildfire season, we would like to encourage producers and farming operations to review or create their Emergency Preparedness Plans. Creating a plan can help ensure that your operation is prepared in the event of an emergency.

Industry-specific guides and templates are available to help you plan.

To assist Indigenous and First Nations communities with planning for the agriculture aspect of emergencies, the Ministry has developed the **Emergency Guide to Support Indigenous Farms & Ranches**.

Is your farm insurance up to date? A **checklist is available** to help you prepare to meet with your insurance provider.

Ensure that your B.C. Premise Identification information is current, and if you are not registered, please do so, as all farms, including hobby farms are now required to register as of July 1, 2022. Visit the **Premise ID Program** for more information.

Flooding and wildfire resources from AgSafe can also help producers build an emergency response plan for agriculture operations in B.C. You can also find information on mental health programs and support.

Emergency Preparedness is a key step! Keep aware of potential hazards through websites like **BC River Forecast Centre** and the **BC Wildfire Service**.



Spring is a great time to increase wildfire resiliency. Take action to reduce the impacts of wildfire on your agriculture business!

The updated Farm & Ranch FireSmart website includes:

- Farm & Ranch Wildfire Plan: Guide & Workbook
- Open Burning Practices for Farmers and Ranchers: Factsheet
- Farm & Ranch FireSmart Assessment: Information & Example Assessment

What's your Wildfire Plan? Check out the updated website and get prepared.

[Learn More](#)

Emergency Supports Needed

The Emergency Management Branch of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food creates an annual emergency resources list which is used during emergencies that impact the agriculture sector. The list includes hay & feed suppliers, livestock haulers, and water haulers whose assistance may be needed during emergency events.

If you fit in one or more of these categories, we are encouraging you to contact the Emergency Management Branch at AF.Emergency.Management@gov.bc.ca so that we can have a discussion with you, and add you to our resource list.

We are looking for hay suppliers, livestock haulers, and water haulers throughout the province.

[Learn More](#)

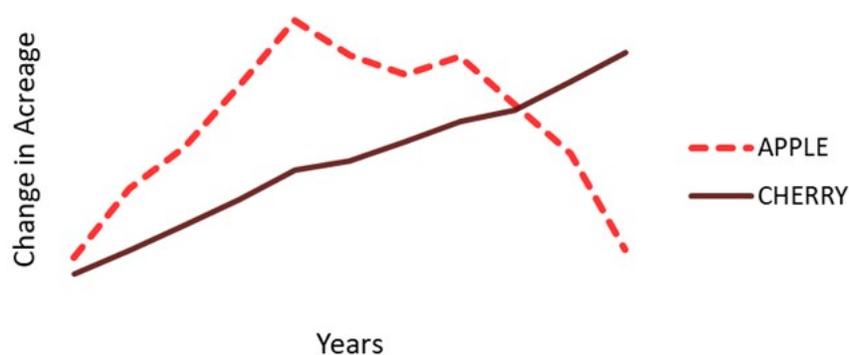
[Buy BC Partnership Program](#)

B.C. Tree Fruit Acreage and Maturity Report

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food has released a new report: [2021 B.C. Tree Fruit Acreage and Maturity Report](#), as part of its ongoing commitment to B.C.'s tree fruit industry. The report provides data and analysis on the acreage and age of apple and cherry orchards in B.C.'s primary tree fruit growing regions, and how these changed between 2011 and 2021.

Apple acreage declined from a high point in 2015. In 2021, there were over 6,300 acres of land dedicated to apple production across the province. Apple acreage decreased in most regions over the period, and increased only in North Okanagan, one of B.C.'s largest apple-producing regions.

Cherry acreage rose continually over the decade, growing from 2,500 acres in 2011 to over 5,100 acres in 2021. The North and Central Okanagan regions have the youngest cherry orchards in the province, suggesting that their yield per acre will increase over the next 1 to 8 years.



Cover Cropping Information

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food recently launched a publication on cover cropping in B.C. - [click here!](#)

Field day last summer [Field Day Recap](#) [Field Day Video Highlights](#)

[Learn More](#)

Organic BC: Innovative Cover Cropping Series



Don't miss Organic BC's newly released Innovative Cover Cropping Series! Dig into new and diverse cover cropping practices in the Peace Region, South Okanagan and Fraser Valley/Lower Mainland, spanning five different sectors.

Watch now on [Organic BC's YouTube channel](#).

This project was funded in part by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the BC Climate Agri-Solutions Fund delivered by Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

[Watch Now](#)

Organic BC Podcast - New Episodes Added!



Have you caught the latest episodes of the Organic BC Podcast? Created for the organic food and farming community in British Columbia and beyond, the podcast features conversations with farmers, eaters, academics, scientists and authors about the philosophy, practice, and politics of organic food.

[Listen Now](#)

BCHPA Introduction to Honey Bee Biology and Apiculture

Enrolment for the BC Honey Producer's Association's new course, Introduction to Honey Bee Biology and Apiculture will remain open year-round!

This self-paced course delves into the complete life cycle of honey bees, exploring their anatomy, physiology, behavior, and ecological significance. It emphasizes the economic importance of bees in agroecosystems and the environment, while also introducing principles of beekeeping such as management techniques and necessary equipment.

This course costs a one-time fee of \$250, granting you access to all course materials, interactive class discussion forums, and support from our project lead, Nuria Morfin, along with technical assistance from our IT department.

All proceeds generated from our courses are reinvested back into the BC Honey Producers' Association, supporting further research initiatives aimed at supporting beekeepers across B.C.

For more information visit our website: <https://www.ttp-bchpa.ca/our-courses>

ONLINE COURSE

INTRODUCTION TO HONEY BEE BIOLOGY AND APICULTURE

This course delves into the complete life cycle of honey bees, exploring their anatomy, physiology, behavior, and ecological significance. It emphasizes the economic importance of bees in agroecosystems and the environment, while also introducing principles of beekeeping such as management techniques and necessary equipment.



ONE-TIME \$250
REGISTRATION FEE:

Enrolment opens on
Friday, April 26

Not sure if this course
is for you? Try out our
FREE SAMPLE COURSE
on our website to see how
content will be delivered.



For more information, click the [link in our bio](#) or visit ttp-bchpa.ca/our-courses.

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission oversees the regulation of vegetable production in British Columbia. Previously limited to southern regions, the Commission expanded its jurisdiction province-wide starting January 1, 2024. However, due to inquiries, they're deferring full implementation until January 1, 2026, to consult stakeholders and develop a plan. For more info, visit www.bcveg.com or contact the Commission's General Manager.

Contact BCVMC:
#207 - 15252 32nd Ave
Surrey BC
Canada, V3Z 0R7
Tel: (604) 542-9734

Toll Free in BC: 1-800-663-1461

E-mail: info@bcveg.com



BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission is responsible for...

promotion/control/regulation
of the **production/transportation/**
packing/ storage/marketing of
vegetables produced in British
Columbia

[Learn More](#)



EVENTS



BC Cattlemen's Association 2024 Virtual AGM



June 7, 2024

***Information Packages will be
sent to our Membership**

[Learn More](#)

Agricultural Excellence Conference

Save the date!

Farm Management Canada's Agricultural Excellence Conference to empower farmers, ranchers, and agricultural professionals with the knowledge and tools necessary to thrive in an ever-changing and increasingly complex business environment.

Co-hosts: BC Agriculture Council and [Canadian Agricultural Safety Association](#)

Date: November 19-21, 2024

Location: Abbotsford-Chilliwack

The 2024 Conference theme, Together Towards Tomorrow, will cover a diverse range of farm management topics, including but not limited to:

- Fostering Economic Resilience and Prosperity
- Technological Advancements and Digital Transformation
- Taking Control of On-Farm Risk
- Utilizing Data Analytics for Farm Decision-Making
- Navigating Farm Transition Planning
- Attracting and Retaining Farm Labour
- Supporting On-Farm Health, Safety and Wellness
- Climate Adaptation Strategies and Opportunities
- Policy, Politics and Public Perception
- Sustainable Farming: Balancing People, Profit, Planet

[Learn More](#)

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Phone: [1-888-221-7141](tel:1-888-221-7141)

Email: AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca



Ministry of
Agriculture
and Food

AgriService BC connects farmers, food processors and new entrants to agricultural services, programs and information that can help them succeed.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)

TAXATION

R46-Unfarmed Land Tax

City of Pitt Meadows

Whereas the purpose of the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) is to preserve much-needed land for farming to ensure local food security, and not real estate speculation;

And whereas speculation in the ALR can lead to increased land values and the underutilization of ALR land for farming:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to establish a targeted unfarmed land tax, to discourage speculation and encourage farming in the ALR.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to establish a targeted unfarmed land tax, to discourage speculation and encourage farming in the ALR.

However, the Committee notes that the membership has endorsed resolutions that seek reforms that will encourage farm use of ALR land, including:

- *2023-NR71 which asked the Province to extend the tax exemptions and assessed value methodology provided to rural area farms to farms located within municipal boundaries to help promote fairness among farmers and reduce barriers to agricultural activity within urbanized areas;*
- *2018-B105 which asked for taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary 'farm uses';*
- *2014-A3 which asked the provincial government to work with the agricultural community, UBCM and local governments to identify and implement additional measures that will increase the viability of farming and food production in British Columbia; and*
- *2013-B111 which asked for strengthened powers for the Agricultural Land Commission and taking measures to protect the agricultural land base from price speculation.*

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas the *School Act* exempts 50% of the assessed value of a parcel of land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) from school taxation if the land is vacant and unused, or used only for a residential purpose;

And whereas to encourage farming in the ALR to ensure local food security, school tax exemptions should only apply to ALR land that is being used for a farm purpose:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the *School Act* to remove the 50% school tax exemption for vacant and unused land, and residential purpose land in the ALR.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution calling on the Province to amend the School Act to remove the 50% school tax exemption for vacant and unused land, and residential purpose land in the ALR.

However, the Committee notes the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B105 which asked the provincial government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary farm uses.

The Committee also advises that the UBCM Executive considered, but did not endorse, referred resolution 2008-B101 which urged the provincial government to increase the tax benefit for those who are using their land for agriculture.

The Committee further notes members endorsed resolutions:

- *2003-B20 on Farm Classification that questioned the extent of exemptions provided and the eligibility of some properties for tax exemptions citing the strain this can put on other property classes.*
- *2002-B48 which asked that section 130(2)(b) of the School Act be amended by deleting the reference to “residential purposes”, thus ensuring that every parcel of land used for a residential purpose pay equitably for school, hospital and local service purposes.*

The Committee acknowledges that these are dated references.

The Committee further advises that the membership considered, but did not endorse, two resolutions seeking the 50% school tax exemption for Class 6 properties (2012-B129, 2009-B80).

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

Whereas the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation establishes minimum gross income requirements for farm operations to be classified as Farm under the *Assessment Act*, that were last increased in 1993;

And whereas farm property tax reform that confers tax benefits to farm operations would help to encourage farming and support local food security:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to amend the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation to increase the income thresholds to achieve Farm classification, to a single minimum gross farm income of \$7,000;

And be it further resolved that UBCM call upon the Province of BC to review the income thresholds at least every five years.

Comments:

The Resolutions Committee advises that the UBCM membership has not previously considered a resolution asking the Province to amend the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation to increase the income thresholds to achieve Farm classification, to a single minimum gross farm income of \$7,000; and to review the income thresholds at least every five years.

However, the Committee notes that the membership endorsed resolution 2018-B105 that encourages the provincial government to direct BC Assessment, and any other appropriate bodies, to promptly investigate and propose possible taxation reform measures to prioritize and promote the use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands for primary farm uses, as laid out in the Homes for BC companion document to the 2018 Provincial Budget. The response from the provincial government to this resolution noted that the Minister of Agriculture had set up an Advisory Committee for Revitalizing the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC). The Committee submitted its Final Report in December 2018 which included Recommendation 23 calling for a review and increase to the income threshold for farm properties qualifying for the BC Assessment Farm Class.

The Province's response to the 2018 resolution further advised that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs administers the BC Assessment Act and has authority for seeking amendments to income thresholds for farm property tax status. Ministry of Agriculture staff were working with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to explore potential options to better ensure farm property tax benefits support the intended recipients. However, the thresholds in the Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation has not been revised since the Committee's report.

Recommendation: No Recommendation

Conference Decision: ON MOTION, was ENDORSED