



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

Agricultural Development Committee

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

ACRD Board Room/Zoom - 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

12:45 PM

Regular Agenda

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Recognition of First Nation Traditional 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 on Zoom.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee adopt the agenda as circulated.

3. **DECLARATIONS**

(conflict of interest)

4. **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

5. **DELEGATIONS (10 minute maximum)**

6. **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Page 5

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on April 21, 2026 be adopted.

7. **PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD (15 minute maximum)**

(Public will be permitted to speak for up to 3 minutes on an agenda item. No video, use of

presentations, handouts, or props are permitted. Virtual attendees, raise your hand in Zoom to request to speak. In-person attendees, raise your hand to request to speak).

8. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

a. CITY OF PORT ALBERNI Page 11

Response to ACRD request for Agricultural Land Commission Referrals to the Agricultural Advisory Committee

b. ACRD Page 12

AVICC Resolutions

c. AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD CANADA Page 13

The National Food Security Strategy

d. AGRISERVICE BC Page 40

Islands Edition - Regional Newsletter July

e. BC AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL

1. Launch of Enhanced Digital Temporary Pass Templates Page 62

2. Plans to Establish Provincial Farmland Trust Page 64

f. BC GOVERNMENT NEWS Page 68

Sharing Local Farm Harvests Through Coupon Program

g. KWANTLEN POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY (KPU) Page 71

Resilient and Thriving Vancouver Island Food Future Project

h. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE Page 74

True Armyworm Factsheet

9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

10. REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

11. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District - A. Needham** Page 78
- b. Primary Agricultural Producers**
 - 1. Shannon Farms and The Cabin - T. Shannon Page 81
 - 2. Arrowvale Farm - B. Collins
 - 3. Eden Tree Farm - H. Shobe
 - 4. Stonehaven Farm - L. Aylard
- c. Spirit Square Farmers' Market - S. Rymer** Page 82
- d. City of Port Alberni - P. Deakin**
- e. School District #70 - H. Zanette** Page 83
- f. Island Health - K. Ruel**
- g. Ministry of Agriculture & Food - T. O'Dell**
- h. Alberni Farmers' Institute - W. Smith**
- i. Alberni District Fall Fair - A. Siddall** Page 84
- j. Alberni Valley Food Security Society - A. Lewis** Page 85
- k. Hupacasath Community Farm - J. Priestland**
- l. Eat West Coast - E. Goldt**
- m. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing hub - C. Addy** Page 87

n. **Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative -
Katie Miles**

Page 88

o. **4-H - P. Radcliffe**

Page 89

p. **Marine Stakeholders**

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receives the Reports.

12. OTHER BUSINESS (including Late Items)

(Late Items are defined as matters arising after the preparation of the agenda which, if not acted upon in a timely manner, would prejudice or compromise either the Regional District's position or the position of a constituent or group of constituents).

13. QUESTION PERIOD (15 minute maximum)

(Public will be permitted to ask questions for up to 3 minutes on an agenda item. No video, use of presentations, handouts, or props are permitted. Virtual attendee, raise your hand in Zoom to request to speak. In-person attendees, raise your hand to request to speak).

14. ADJOURN



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026, 12:45PM

Hybrid - Zoom/Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Heather Shobe, Eden Tree Farm
Ann Siddall, Alberni District Fall Fair Association
Fred Boyko, Director, Electoral Area "B" (Beaufort)
Helen Zanette, SD70 Trustee
Cecilia Addy, Port Alberni Port Authority
Stephanie Stevens, Alternate Rep/Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Joanne Priestland, Hupacasath Community Farm
Tanya Shannon, Shannon Farms
Lisa Aylard, Alberni Farmers' Institute, Stonehaven Farm
Sarah Rymer, Spirit Square Farmers' Market
Wayne Smith, Alberni Farmers' Institute
Patty Palmer, 4H
Erika Goldt, Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, Coastal Ag Roundtable, Eat West Coast
Ex-Officio Members
Russell Dyson, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Penny Cote, Director, ACRD, Agricultural Advisory Committee

REGRETS:

Anna Lewis, Alberni Valley Food Security Society
Erika Goldt, Eat West Coast
Bob Collins, Arrowvale Farm
Kirsten Nesbitt, SD Healthy Schools Manager
Pat Deakin, City of Port Alberni
Katie Miles, Coastal Roundtable Facilitator, Tofino Community Food Initiative
Thom O'Dell, Ministry of Agriculture & Food – Regional Agrologist
Kaley Ruel, Island Health Dietician
Larry McMahon, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Robert Haynes, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Star Miklashek, Agricultural Advisory Committee
Ray Dol, Agricultural Advisory Committee

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner
Alex Dyer, General Manager of Planning & Development
Heather Zenner, Manager of Administrative Services
Brooke Eschuk, Planner 1

The meeting can be viewed on the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District website at:
<https://www.acrd.bc.ca/events/21-4-2026/>

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Manager of Administrative Services (MAS) called the meeting to order at 12:46 pm.

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

The MAS reported 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. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON & VICE CHAIRPERSON

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR 2026

The MAS conducted the election for Chairperson of the Agricultural Development Committee for 2026.

The MAS declared Joanne Priestland the position of Chairperson of the Agricultural Development Committee for 2026.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2026

The MAS conducted the election for Vice-Chairperson of the Agricultural Development Committee for 2026.

The MAS declared Helen Zanette to the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Agricultural Development Committee for 2026.

Chair Priestland took over as chairperson for the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda be approved as amended to add the Alberni Valley Food Security Society update in agenda item 12.(i).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. DECLARATIONS

5. INVITED PRESENTATIONS

6. DELEGATIONS (10 minute maximum)

- a. **Brooke Eschuck, Planner 1, ACRD presenting the Sproat Lake and Area OCP Update**

7. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- a. **Agricultural Development Committee Meeting – February 17, 2026**

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Agricultural Development Committee meeting held on February 17, 2026 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. PUBLIC INPUT PERIOD

9. CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

- a. **CLEAN FARMS**
Collection Events Information
- b. **BC AGRICULTURE COUNCIL**
News Release: 2026 Provincial Budget Released
- c. **CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT**
CRD Invasive Plant Species List
- d. **BC MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD**
Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program Guide 2026-2027
- e. **CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY**
Response to Livestock Traceability Regulations Questions
- f. **BC AGRICULTURAL CLIMATE ACTION RESEARCH NETWORK**
2026 Spring Newsletter
- g. **YOUNG AGRARIANS**
March 2026 Newsletter
- h. **AGRISERVICE BC**
April Islands Edition Regional Newsletter
- i. **AGSAFE BC**
Dirt on Ag Newsletter March 2026

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. CORRESPONDENCE FOR ACTION

11. REQUEST FOR DECISION REPORTS

- a. **Request for Decision regarding Food Security Emergency Plan and Agricultural Water Plan Implementation**

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to implement the Alberni Valley Food Security Emergency Plan, West Coast Food Security Emergency Plan, Alberni Valley Agricultural Water Plan and Alberni Valley Livestock Emergency Plan as collaborative partnerships and grant opportunities arise.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

12. REPORTS

- a. Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District – A. Needham (included in agenda)

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee request that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors direct staff to bring forward agriculture budget at the November meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Primary Agricultural Producers

- Eden Tree Farm, Heather Schobe – Farmstand open on Fridays from 10am – 1pm or by appointment (during spring time) @ 6220 Karen Place.
- VI Grain, Wayne Smith – Concerned about the haying situation. There are surplus amounts of hay due to less cattle. Concerned that this may mean that hay fields may not get cut, and end up with invasive species.
- Shannon Farms, Tanya Shannon – Will be hosting a Spring Market on Sunday May 3rd 10 – 1pm. Other farms join and host a market. Two culinary events coming up. Heifers & Hors D'Oeuvres - July 25th (tickets are online and available now) and Gather & Graze – August 8th. Working with Alberni Valley Tourism and VI Tourism. Cows are now out until October.
- Stonehaven Farm, Lisa Aylard – Beef numbers are substantially down (in US as well). Lots of farmers are getting out of the business and young people are struggling to get in the market. Traceability rules are causing a problem. Great support from the community for locally grown product.

- c. School District # 70 – H. Zanette (included in agenda)

- d. Alberni Farmers' Institute – W. Smith – Hold coffee meetings which provides an opportunity to meet with Farmers Institute. Next meeting is May 3rd 1 – 3pm at Collins Farm. Working on a major project and will provide more details at next meeting.

- e. Alberni District Fall Fair – A. Siddall (attached). Summer Market will be held on July 17th and applications are open on the Fall Fair Website. Open to Crafters and Producers.
- f. Alberni Valley Food Security Society – S. Stevens (late item posted to website).
- g. Hupacasath Community Farm – J. Priestland – Joanne will be attending the ADC meetings and runs the Hupacasath Community Farm. Started two years ago and it has been a regenerative project. In good shape this year and hoping to expand, and will be getting chickens soon. Welcomed folks to come by the farm for a visit.
- h. Eat West Coast – E. Goldt – Closure of North Island College west coast office has negative impacts on the community. Camosun College has expressed interest in running program on the west coast. Remote communities on west coast are struggling to get funding for generators to refrigerate food. Indicated that the cost of purchase of compost at the West Coast Landfill is too high and is currently higher than purchasing compost at the local Co-op store. Drought is an issue for food production and would like to explore rainwater collection programs for residential properties. Working with the District of Ucluelet and Ucluelet First Nation on policies regarding greenhouse infrastructure. ACRD staff advised that they are working on building bylaw updates, which will capture greenhouses and temporary structures.

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agriculture Development Committee recommend to the ACRD Board of Directors to introduce greenhouse building permit exemptions for residential use in the ACRD building bylaw update and request that the Board encourage surrounding local governments and First Nations to introduce greenhouse building permit exemptions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- i. Spirit Square Farmers' Market – S. Rymer (included in agenda). Young Agrarians were at the Market to educate the public. May 2nd plant/seedling sale with the young entrepreneurs from the Heartwood Learning Community. Star from Morning Star Wollen has gone through all of the hoops to be able to sell meat at the Farmers Markets. Required to have plug in freezers and will be looking for funding for more freezers.
- j. Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock + Food Processing Hub – C. Addy (included in agenda). Very busy at the Dock +, Nova Harvest getting ready to start high pressure processor. In May will be hosting an Open House, Minister Popham has been invited. Ice machine is going to be operating soon. Less interruptions and quality product.
- k. Coastal Foods Roundtable, Tofino Community Food Initiative – Erika on behalf of Katie Miles. Seedy Sunday on May 3rd – lots of vendors with free compost and free lunch. Also held Coastal Foods Roundtable recently and had Kwantlen Polytechnic University in attendance. Great turnout, including Amy Needham.
- l. 4-H – P. Radcliffe (included in agenda). Regional public speaking event was held on April 11th. Participants from Comox to Victoria. Excellent turnout and thanked Fall Fair and Five Acre Shaker for the space. Will advertise 4-H at the

Fall Fair and through schools. Registration will be open in the fall with program starting in January. Lisa hosted a 4H participant to share knowledge on her farm.

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Agricultural Development Committee receives the reports a-l.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. OTHER BUSINESS (including Late Items)

Kwantlen Polytechnic University is hosting workshops for their Bi-Regional Food System Project, four workshops in the Alberni Valley and four workshops on the west coast. Working their way across the island, and now in the ACRD. Amy Needham is working closely with Kwantlen as per the direction of the Board. May 7th and May 30th are the next set of workshops.

Sproat Lake Official Community Plan Open House is on May 4th.
Sproat Lake Community Association is holding a Water Fair soon (date not confirmed).

14. QUESTION PERIOD

15. ADJOURN

The Motion was MOVED and SECONDED

THAT this meeting be adjourned at 2:47 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Certified Correct:

Joanne Priestland,
Chairperson

Heather Zenner,
Manager of Administrative Services



Our File No. 0400-60-ACRD

May 21, 2026

Board of Directors
Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
3008 5th Avenue
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2E3
By email: jjack@acrd.bc.ca

Attn: Board of Directors

Re: Agricultural Land Commission Referrals to the Agricultural Advisory Committee

Dear Chair and Members of the Board,

Thank you for your April 24, 2026 letter requesting Council direct administration to refer all Agricultural Land Commission applications within city limits through the Agricultural Advisory Committee for input.

We write to advise that at its Regular meeting of May 11, 2026, Council resolved as follows:

MOVED AND SECONDED, THAT Council direct administration to refer Agricultural Land Commission applications within the City of Port Alberni to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Agricultural Advisory Committee for comment, where applicable, prior to final Council consideration.

CARRIED | Res. No. 26-138

We appreciate the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District's continued collaboration on matters related to agricultural land protection and look forward to ongoing dialogue.

Yours truly
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sharie Minions".

Sharie Minions
Mayor

c: D.Sailland, CAO, ACRD
A. McGifford, CAO
S. Darling, Director of Corporate Services
R. Macauley, Director of Finance

Subject: AVICC Resolutions

Good morning,

Just providing an update that the two resolutions submitted to AVICC were endorsed and will automatically be brought to UBCM for consideration at their AGM and Convention in September.

LAND USE R36 - Short Term Rentals on ALR Land (Alberni-Clayoquot RD)- ENDORSED
COMMUNITY SAFETY R39 - CC-130H Hercules Fleet (Alberni-Clayoquot RD)- ENDORSED

The full Resolutions Disposition can be found at [LEGISLATION](#).

Best regards,



Cynthia Dick (She/her) ([Learn why pronouns matter](#))
General Manager of Administrative Services – Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District
A 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC V9Y 2E3
O 250.720.2706 **C** 250.206.3572 **W** acrd.bc.ca

I am honoured to work, live, and play in the territory of the Nuu-chah-nulth People.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

This email is confidential and may be privileged. Any use of this email by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this email in error please notify me immediately and delete it.





More Choice. More Control. **More Canada:** The National Food Security Strategy

June 11, 2026



Agriculture and
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et
Agroalimentaire Canada

Canada¹³

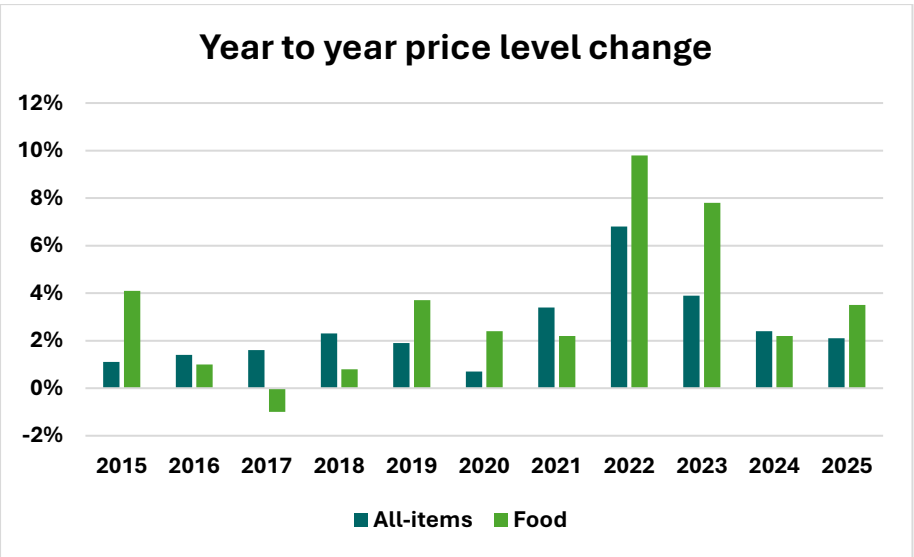


Context

In the face of rising food prices that are making it harder for many Canadians and their families to access sufficient nutritious food at an affordable price, the Government has already taken significant actions to make groceries more affordable immediately. This National Food Security Strategy goes further, with a series of new initiatives to address the structural causes of food insecurity that are affecting Canadians across the country, particularly the most vulnerable.

At the same time, global geopolitical developments are adding further pressure to food systems and prices, compounding the challenges faced domestically. The conflict in the Middle East is increasing the price of the fertilizer and fuel required to grow and transport food. A quarter of the globally traded nitrogen used in fertilizer travels through the Strait of Hormuz, while fuel and fertilizer represent more than half of the cost of producing an acre of a crop like corn. In addition, diesel price increases are making it more expensive to transport food by truck.

Figure 1: Grocery prices rose sharply and at a higher rate compared to other items following the pandemic.



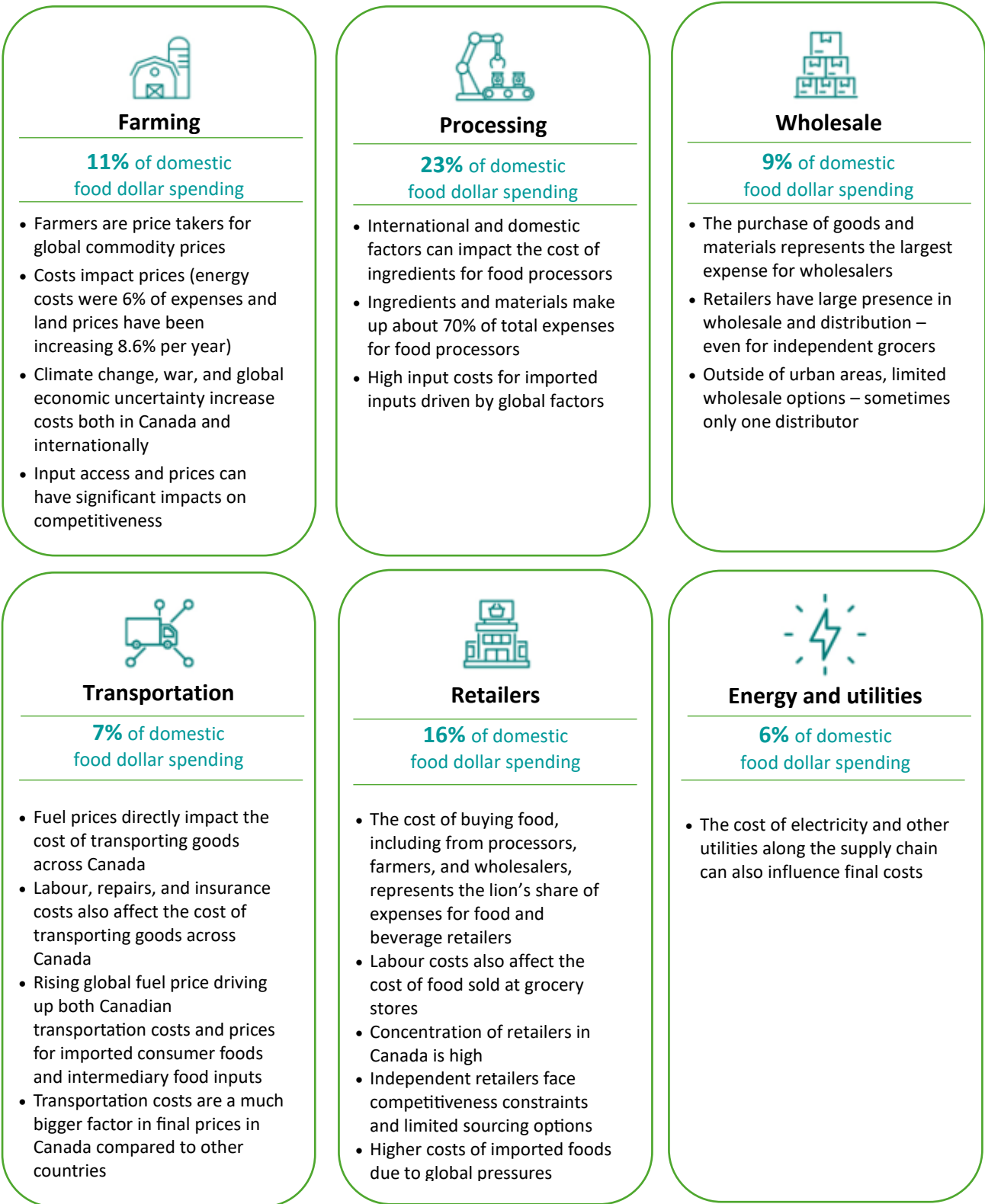
Source: Statistics Canada, 18-10-0005-01.

Canada is the world’s ninth largest exporter of agri-food products, exporting approximately \$100 billion worth annually, with wheat and processed grain products alone accounting for almost \$22 billion.

Canada is, however, also the world’s eleventh largest importer of agricultural products and agri-food. The United States is Canada’s largest agri-food trading partner, accounting for over 61% of our exports and more than half of our imports.



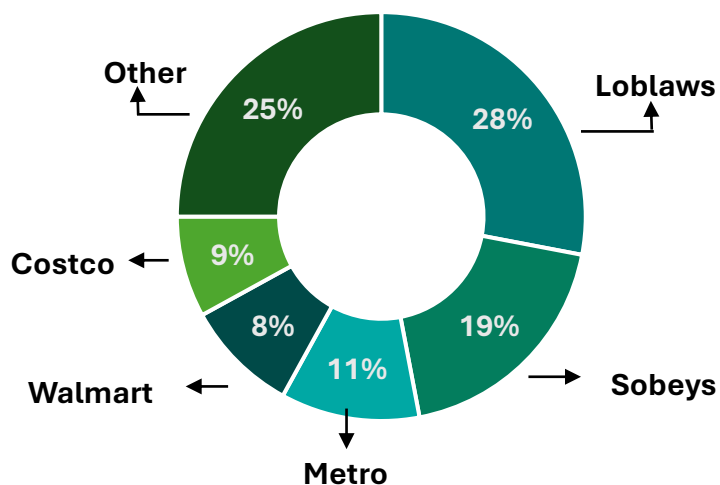
Figure 2: Food Supply Chain Elements and Pressures



*Not shown in the graphic are restaurants (28% of consumer spending). Preliminary AAFC estimates, based on Statistics Canada Supply Use Tables.



Figure 3: Concentrated grocery retail in Canada



- The top 5 grocery retailers, Loblaw, Metro, Empire (Sobeys), Walmart, and Costco account for ~75% of sales.
- Remaining sales go to regional chains, including over 6,900 independent grocers and 27,000 convenience stores
- Pattison Food Group is Canada's largest Western-based provider of food and health products
- The North West Company is the leading retailer to rural communities in northern Canada
- There is currently no prominent regional grocer in Eastern Canada

Source: Market share in 2023, based on USDA *Retail Foods Annual* (2024)" [Canada: Retail Foods Annual | USDA Foreign Agricultural Service](#)

Because of this consolidation, it is hard for smaller grocers to compete in the marketplace effectively. Restrictive real estate clauses (also called property controls) limit the types of businesses that may open on a given property. In the case of grocery stores, the large retailers may negotiate clauses that restrict other smaller grocery stores from operating on the same property, or limit specific product categories (i.e. meats, bakery, full-service groceries). In June 2023, the Competition Bureau's Grocery Market Study Report flagged property controls as a barrier that can reduce competition and make it harder for new grocery stores to open.

The Bureau formally launched an investigation on March 1, 2024. The Commissioner stated that certain lease-related restrictions may be designed to limit potential tenants and could be hampering competition in the grocery market.

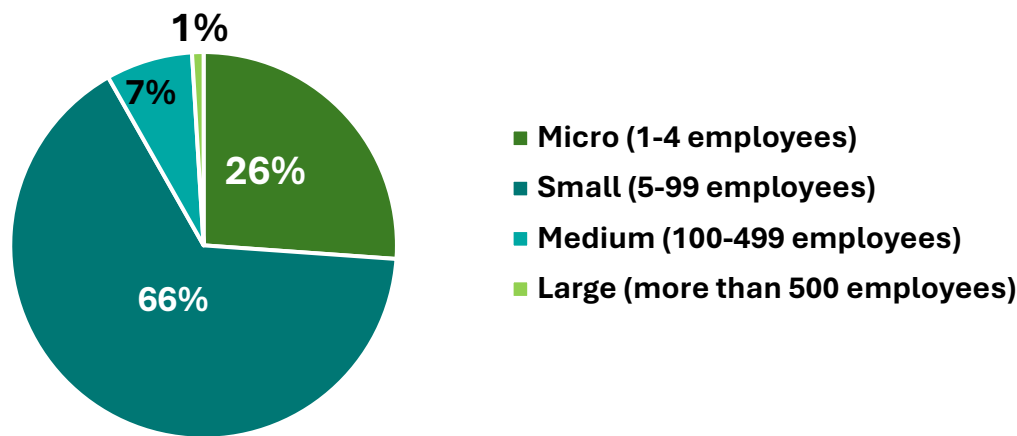
Independent grocers compete with major chains, but many also rely on the distribution networks of the major chains. This means that many independent grocers have limited options and must pay the mark-ups from larger competitors for the products they then sell to Canadians.

While concentration in the grocery sector has received recent attention, consolidation exists at all levels of Canada's food system, sometimes at the expense of producers and consumers. During public consultations, stakeholders have noted that the lack of competition was particularly concerning in markets such as fertilizers, meat processing, grain shipping, and wholesale grocery distribution.



- Micro and small firms play important roles in communities across Canada, but they also often lack access to capital to scale and expand to a national level.

Figure 4: Food and Beverage Processing Establishments by Size, 2025.



Source: Statistics Canada, Business Register.

While the food processing sector as a whole is quite large, there are areas where Canada has limited capacity. In some areas, Canadian consumption relies heavily on imported processed foods, such as for tinned and frozen fruits and vegetables, pre-packaged goods, or packaging.



Meat

- Although Canada is a leader in animal production, there is not enough domestic processing capacity to match it. As a result, Canada relies on external processing, which can raise food costs and weaken food self-sufficiency.
- For example, in 2025, 24% of live hogs and 20% of live cattle were exported to the United States. At the same time, Canada relies on imported beef (26% of consumption) and imported pork (30% of consumption) to meet demand.



Vegetable Processing

- Canada is a significant producer of vegetables, especially potatoes; however, gaps in domestic processing capacity limit the ability to fully process these products, making us more dependent on others.

- For example, Canada is a major grower of tomatoes and exporter of fresh tomatoes with over \$724 million in fresh tomato exports in 2025. At the same time, Canada imports significant quantities of processed tomato products to meet Canadian consumer demand, with over \$511 million in imported processed tomato products in 2025.
- Overall, 45% of the preserved fruit and vegetables that Canadians consume come from imports, with 58% of those imports coming from the United States.



Fish and Seafood

- Canada has a strong fish and seafood sector. In spite of this, imports of prepared and packaged seafood products exceed \$2.5 billion annually. Imports represent the majority of processed seafood consumed in Canada, despite us being a major producer of high quality seafood.
- What domestic fish and seafood processing capacity Canada does have, is highly concentrated in just a few locations. Many coastal, northern, remote, and Indigenous communities lack sufficient local processing, cold storage, and logistics infrastructure, thereby limiting domestic availability, increasing costs, and reducing self-sufficiency.

Import Dependencies



Fruit and Vegetables

- Canada is similar to countries such as Germany, Japan, or France in that climate, seasonal growing limits and agricultural specialization means that not enough fruits and vegetables are produced year-round to meet the full dietary needs and recommended consumption levels of Canadians.
 - Canadians rely on imports for 88% of the fresh fruit and nuts that they consume and 72% of vegetables, with 40% coming from the United States.
 - By comparison, the United States depends on imports only about half as much as Canada does to meet its own vegetable supply needs.
 - Together, fresh fruit and vegetables account for about 15% of average grocery spending by Canadians.

- In 2024, there were a total of 974 commercial greenhouse vegetable operations in Canada producing 866,484 metric tons of vegetables and generating \$2.7 billion in sales. This represented a 5% increase in production compared to 2023. Ontario led the greenhouse vegetable sector in 2024, representing 72% of the total production in Canada, followed by British Columbia and Quebec, with 13% and 9% respectively. Other provinces accounted for the remaining 6%.
 - Greenhouse production is, however, heavily concentrated in terms of what is grown (cucumbers, tomatoes, and peppers account for 96% of greenhouse production), where it is grown (over 85% of production takes place in Ontario and British Columbia), and where it is sold (about 71% of sales by value goes to the United States).
 - In addition, the development of new varieties suitable for growing indoors and high costs of labour and energy are key barriers limiting what is grown and where.

Regulatory approaches that increase cost and limit growth

Canada is recognized around the world as having a strong, science-based regulatory system for food. While the regulatory system does contribute to our safe food supply and access to foreign markets, delays and inefficiencies within the system can drive up costs for producers, limiting their ability to expand and reducing competition. This has implications for food security and consumer prices within Canada.

- Navigating the regulatory requirements at the federal, provincial, and municipal levels can be challenging for agriculture businesses. This results in increased costs, reduced investment incentive and production.
- Regulations are intended to correct market failures and protect the public interest in terms of safety, health, and the environment; however, if unchecked, the accumulation of regulations over time can impose costs to many businesses and drive up prices. A 2025 Statistics Canada study suggested that accumulation of federal regulatory requirements from 2006-2021 is associated with a reduction in Canadian GDP growth by 1.7% and business investment by 9%.
 - Regulatory requirements at the municipal and provincial level exacerbate the complexity of the system, further increasing costs.



- According to agri-food stakeholders:
 - This inefficiency imposes unnecessary costs when making new food products. These costs are then passed on through higher prices for consumers.
 - The regulatory processes can undermine growth without always resulting in increased health or safety benefits.

How Other Countries are Strengthening Food Self-Sufficiency

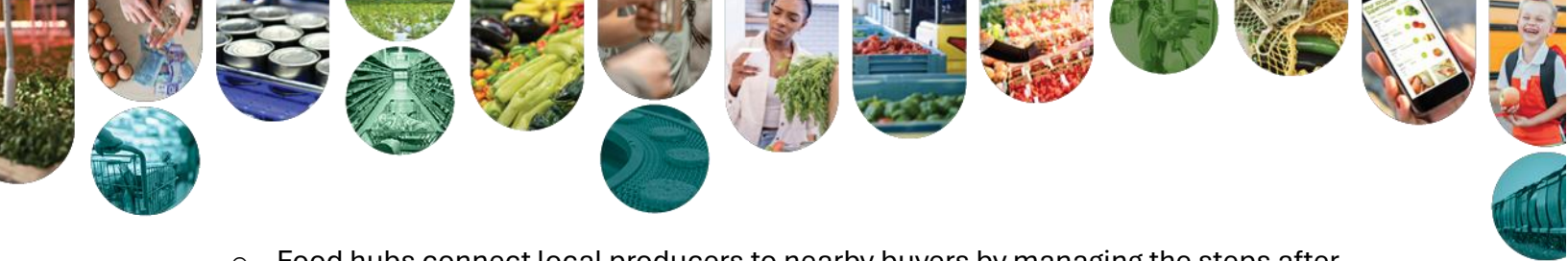
Other countries are moving aggressively to advance their own food security strategies. These countries are investing at multiple points in their supply chain. This includes investments in food processing modernization and innovation, controlled environment and precision agriculture, and distribution and transportation. Some have established clear targets for food self-sufficiency. For example:

- The Netherlands maintains one of the strongest agricultural knowledge and innovation system structures in the OECD. The €20-billion (\$32 billion CAD) National Growth Fund focuses on precision agriculture, controlled-environment production, processing, and logistics. Many of these investments are channeled through the Dutch Greenport model, which groups controlled-environment agriculture (CEA) together to leverage shared infrastructure, energy, logistics, and innovation spillovers.
- France's 2023 Fruit and Vegetable Sovereignty Plan aims to increase domestic supply by 5 percentage points by 2030 and 10 percentage points by 2035. Supported by €400 million (\$640 million CAD) in public investment over two years, these investments are complemented by policies to strengthen processing through competitiveness clusters, linking companies, researchers, and producers to major public funding streams, and improvements to food distribution via Territorial Food Projects, which align production, processing, logistics, and public procurement within regional food systems.
- Japan plans to increase its calorie-based food self-sufficiency rate from 38% to 45% by 2030 through a coordinated package of legislative reforms, smart agriculture and productivity-enhancing technologies, and scale-up of CEA. Japan is investing ¥46.72 billion (\$400 million CAD) through an agri-tech accelerator fund and complementary grants, rapidly expanding vertical and indoor farms, with the number of facilities growing by approximately 15% annually since 2020.

These strategies include clear governance and accountability, such as legislated food security strategies and reporting as a means of sustaining long-term policy focus.

- Worked with provinces and territories to finalize **the Grocery Code of Conduct** in January 2026, strengthening transparency and fair dealings across the value chain, and working to improve supplier-retailer relationships.
- Temporarily suspended the **Fuel Excise Tax** on gasoline and diesel across Canada, from April 20, 2026, until September 7, 2026, which will reduce costs of fuel by 10 cents per litre on regular gasoline and 4 cents on diesel.
- Amended the *Competition Act* to better enable the Competition Bureau to take action on **property controls** that limit opportunities as to where many independent food retailers can operate, thus reducing choice for consumers, and will continue to engage provinces and territories to encourage the adoption of further measures within their jurisdiction to eliminate harmful applications of this practice.
- Initiated recurring **Red Tape Review Progress Reports** to accelerate the removal of outdated or unnecessary regulations across the Government of Canada which will lead to greater transparency, less regulatory burden and barriers to trade, and a faster, more efficient regulatory system for everyone.
- Taken steps to strengthen domestic supply chains, speed up critical infrastructure projects, improve competitiveness, and reduce barriers to internal trade and labour mobility through “One Canadian Economy” and the Major Projects Office.





- Food hubs connect local producers to nearby buyers by managing the steps after food leaves the farm, including collecting products from multiple producers, storage, and delivery to stores, restaurants, institutions, and consumers.
- Food hubs are particularly important in rural and remote areas, including northern and Arctic communities, because they help overcome long distances and high transportation costs by consolidating local supply, reducing spoilage, and improving reliable access to fresh, locally produced food.
- Food hubs can increase local food procurement by helping institutions overcome the complexity of coordinating many small suppliers and simplifying purchasing processes.
- In addition to capital, the program will support shared digital infrastructure and operational capacity to improve logistics and coordination so food can move more cheaply and efficiently, with less waste, to the people and places that need it most.
- Investments would also support commercially-viable independent and cooperative grocery and buying networks to develop, expand, or modernize shared distribution capacity such as aggregating cold storage, trucking, and delivering food to the consumer's doorstep.
- Funding will support the establishment of up to 20 to 40 hubs, offering a viable alternative to major retail.

Lufa Farms (QC) operates six urban farms across Montreal and partners with 200+ local farmers and food makers to fill their online Marketplace with a selection of fresh, local, responsible groceries. Their fully customizable baskets feed more than 30,000 households between Quebec City and Ottawa each week, with over 97% of their 2,000+ products sourced from Canadian suppliers. By optimizing their operations and innovating in the urban agriculture space, they've been able to make 50 items (and counting) more affordable than major retailers.

The **Station Food Hub Company (NS)** supplies value-added food products made from locally sourced and surplus farm ingredients to institutional buyers, distributing through national food-service networks including Sysco and Gordon Food Services.

To drive competition, the Government will:

- Strengthen the enforcement capacity of the Competition Bureau and Competition Tribunal (\$12.9 million per year ongoing) to increase the ability to carry out enforcement, tackling a larger share of issues that come to the attention of the Bureau and helping bring down consumer costs. These funds will build upon previous enhancements to the *Competition Act* to strengthen competition across the agriculture and agri-food supply chain.
 - In 2025, enforcement activity by the Competition Bureau has resulted in \$2.6 billion in annual savings.

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

From: Ministry of Agriculture and Food <agriservicebc@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 8, 2026 4:30 PM
To: Amy Needham
Subject: Islands Regional Newsletter

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD



Islands Edition

Regional Newsletter

July



Feature of the Month:

- Table grape opportunity assessment identifies Vancouver Island potential

Flood, Drought, and Wildfire Preparedness:

- [Peak irrigation season with limited water](#)
- [BC wildfire watch](#)

Upcoming Events:

- [July 9: Livestock Producer Roundtable Webinar](#)
- [July 15: Maximizing Yield and Nutrition for the Ecologically Minded Grower](#)
- [July 28: Webinar: Indigenous Agricultural Development Network](#)

-

Programs and Services:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture and Food programs and services**
 - For a full list of programs and services offered by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food including those currently accepting applications please see our Programs and services - Province of British Columbia web page.
- **Intakes now open**
 - [PacifiCan: Regional Innovation Ecosystems Program](#)
 - [Beneficial Management Practices Program – Extreme Weather: Plans & Assessments](#)
- **Intakes closing soon**
 - [Foodtech Frontier](#)

Business Risk Management Programs:

- [AgriStability](#)
- [Production Insurance](#)

Resources and Services:

- [Agricultural Land Inventory](#)
- [New soil health assessment tools](#)
- [B.C. agriculture and seafood statistics publications](#)
- [Cariboo silvopasture planning demonstrations](#)
- [Dairy Barn Cooling Factsheets](#)
- [Health and wellness in the agriculture industry](#)
- [Organic BC Podcast: Grazing-Based Approaches to Invasive Weed Control](#)
- [Pesticide application by drone not yet permitted in B.C.](#)

• Feature of the Month •

Table grape opportunity assessment identifies Vancouver Island potential



Bite into a large, crisp grape from your local grocer and you're likely tasting fruit from the U.S., Chile or elsewhere abroad. Most table grapes sold in Canada are imported but the BC Table Grape Growers' Association (BCTGGA) sees opportunities to increase their share of the market.

Vancouver Island's mild coastal climate is identified as a potential growing region for traditional green seedless grape varieties such as Thompson seedless. While we can't compete with imports in volume, there is an opportunity to produce high quality, fresh seasonal grapes that appeal to the loyal 'island-grown' clientele. In addition to traditional green varieties there are several newer pink varieties with high consumer appeal.

Key steps for moving the crop forward include variety trials and grower education. Table grape yields have benefitted from new trellising and canopy management approaches as well as precision irrigation techniques. As with any new crop, there's a learning curve, but the BCTGGA is interested in finding growers to expand production.

Contact Jane Johnston, President BCTGGA (avocavineyards@shaw.ca) for more information.

Opportunity Assessment for BC Table Grapes

Flood, Drought, and Wildfire Preparedness

Peak irrigation season with limited water

In July, water demand can be at its highest, and the day-to-day choices you make now have a big impact on how your operation carries through the dry weeks ahead. Regardless of a watershed's formal drought level, producers are experiencing dry conditions across the province. Fine-tuning irrigation, working together as a community, and keeping an eye on local conditions helps stretch available supplies when they matter most.

- Check current conditions in your area on the [B.C. Drought Information Portal](#) or by [signing up](#) to the [B.C. Drought and Water Scarcity Bulletin](#).
- Dial in your irrigation timing with the [Agriculture Irrigation Scheduling Calculator](#). It uses local weather data from the [B.C. AgriWeather network](#), 5-day forecasts, and your farm's crop, soil, and irrigation system details to suggest when to irrigate next or how much water to irrigate with. Available for the web and as a mobile app for [Android](#) and [iOS](#).
- Plan for limited water by prioritizing where reduced supplies go across your operation. Our [Drought in Agriculture](#) and [Irrigation](#) webpages have resources on making [Irrigation Decisions with Limited Water](#) and guidance for forage and livestock producers.
- Coordinate with nearby producers to stagger irrigation timing and ease collective demand on shared water sources.

Managing without irrigation? For dryland farmers, sound grazing and management practices can help protect long-term health and productivity of forage stands, even in a dry year.

For practical guidance, see the [Livestock Drought Management Guide](#), [Pasture and Hay Rejuvenation Options](#), the [B.C. Grazing Management Guide](#), [Adapting Dryland Cropping Systems to Drought Conditions](#) and other livestock and forage resources on the [Drought in Agriculture](#) webpage.

During intensifying drought and water scarcity conditions, the province may request voluntary water use reductions to help conserve and protect critical stream flows and fish habitat and eventually may issue temporary protection orders under the Water Sustainability Act that restrict water use for certain users. Staying aware of conditions on your water source means you're better positioned to respond if an order comes. Watch for notifications from the province and check the [B.C. Drought Information Portal](#) for current conditions in your watershed.

BC Wildfire Watch

Wildfires are affecting many parts of B.C.

As of July 2, 2026, the [BC Wildfire Dashboard](#) is reporting:

- Warmer weather brings a heightened risk of new fire starts and increased fire behaviour in some areas of the province, including the Chilcotin and Southern Interior.
- Current response includes 84 personnel, 52 aviation, 3 heavy equipment, and 1 structure protection resources.

Stay Informed

- **Sign up for local emergency notifications:** Check the website of your local government to sign up for local emergency notifications. Your local authority is a key source of information during an emergency, including evacuation alerts and orders, and is responsible for the local Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).
- **Use the BC Wildfire Service Map:** [Online](#) or download the app on [Apple](#) or [Android](#)
- **Bookmark [EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [EmergencyMapBC](#):** Find current and verified updates, safety instructions, and links to official sources during emergencies. Follow EmergencyInfoBC on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

Get Prepared

Create a custom Wildfire Plan:

- Download and follow the prompts in the [Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Guide & Workbook](#).
- Watch a short video about [creating an operations map](#).

Protect livestock:

- Register livestock, poultry, and bees with the [BC Premises Identification Program \(BCPID\)](#). Registering helps local responders provide effective support during an emergency.
- Plan for livestock protection or evacuation with the [Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Guide & Workbook](#).

Prepare for wildfire smoke:

- Use the [AgSafe Wildfire Smoke Response Plan](#) to protect your employees from exposure to wildfire smoke.

Reduce wildfire risk to farm buildings:

- Wildfires can leave little time to react. Small actions ahead of time can substantially reduce the risk of structures being damaged from wildfires.
- **Consider using field-proven FireSmart on your structures and the area within 30 metres of each structure**, such as:
 - Removing dry leaves, needles, and debris from around and on roofs of buildings
 - Moving wood piles, equipment, and other flammable materials away from or into buildings

Learn more about [protecting farm and ranch buildings with FireSmart principles](#).



“ The McDougall Creek Fire was a real eye opener. I was watching large branches fly all the way across the lake and ignite fires in Glenmore.

If you have the option to have an assessor looking at your place, take advantage of it. They'll point out some things that perhaps you might miss, or you just haven't thought about.

I think that this is extremely valuable, especially in areas like Kelowna, that have a lot of apple, cherry, ranching operations in the interface area that are at high risk.”

Kevin Day,
Day's Century Growers

FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

Get a FireSmart Farm & Ranch Assessment Now

Events

Livestock Producer Roundtable Webinar

The poster for the Livestock Producer Roundtable Webinar features a green background with three small images: a cow in a field, a tractor in a field, and a cow in a field. The text on the poster includes the title, date, time, and a QR code to register.

Livestock Producer Roundtable Webinar

Thursday, July 9, 2026
6:30 - 8:30 pm PST

Webinar will be held via Zoom

Professional agronomists, industry consultants, and farmers and ranchers will gather virtually to discuss successes, challenges, questions, and innovative ideas relating to crop management, grazing and pasture health, livestock nutrition, and farm business decisions. Come prepared to ask questions, share your insights, and join a collaborative discussion!

BRITISH COLUMBIA Ministry of Agriculture and Food BCBA

SCAN TO REGISTER

When: July 9, 2026, from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (PT)

Where: Online

[Register here](#)

Maximizing Yield and Nutrition for the Ecologically Minded Grower

The poster for Maximizing Yield & Nutrition features a man in a blue shirt and a black bandana, holding two red tomatoes. The text on the poster includes the title, subtitle, and the name of the speaker.

MAXIMIZING YIELD & NUTRITION

WITH CLAY HOUGHLAND

When: Jul 15, 2026 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (PT)

Where: WAWWE Farm, Baker Road, Salt Spring Island

[Register](#)

Understand the full farm/garden ecosystem from soil to production to harvest to market to waste. Integrating logistics, labour, regenerative techniques, and infrastructure, this course covers planning across seasons and continuous adaptation based on observation and experience. Design your farm/garden for resilience and scalability.

Instructor: Clay Houghland

With 20 years of experience in regenerative and organic farming, Clay brings a wealth of knowledge to the We Are What We Eat

(WAWWE) Farm. After working with West Coast Seeds and honing his skills across Canada and the US, he returned to Salt Spring in 2018 to cultivate both the land and a vibrant community food system.

WAWWE Farm is a thriving 12-acre regenerative farm focused on nourishing our community and planet. At WAWWE, the goal goes beyond food security—it's all about creating a sustainable food system that enriches our bodies, our community, and the environment.

Clay and WAWWE are dedicated to providing Salt Spring families with fresh, nutrient-rich, harvest-to-table food grown sustainably on their 12-acre farm.

Webinar: Indigenous Agricultural Development Network

When: July 28, 2026 at 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM (PT)

Where: Online (Zoom)

Join the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF), and New Relationship Trust (NRT) as they share program streams that align with Indigenous Food Systems and Agriculture Enterprises.

Funding for the Indigenous Agriculture Development Network (IADN) is provided by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

[Register](#)

• **Programs & Services** •

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food programs and services

For a full list of programs and services offered by the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food including those currently accepting applications please see our [Programs and services - Province of British Columbia](#) web page.

Intakes now open

PacifiCan: Regional Innovation Ecosystems Program



As a part of PacifiCan's commitment to enhancing client service, we are moving to a timed intake under the RIE program and a single-stage application process.

The current intake opened **June 24, 2026**, and will close at 12:00 PM (PT) on **September 11, 2026**. PacifiCan anticipates a second opening later this year.

Eligible activities include those that help businesses, for example:

- **Productivity improvement:** enabling technology transfer, training and adoption of new technologies, business models and industrial applications to scale firms and boost competitiveness
- **Market development and diversification:** supporting businesses to expand and diversify markets through export readiness, promoting domestic trade and

attracting investment, including through market analysis and trade mission

- **Ecosystem development and business support:** seizing strategic opportunities in B.C.'s areas of strength, including building resilient domestic supply chains, developing workforces, providing access to shared-use infrastructure and increasing the economic participation of Indigenous peoples and other under-represented groups
- **Business acceleration:** supporting entrepreneurs and start-ups to grow their businesses

[Learn more](#)

Beneficial Management Practices Program – Extreme Weather: Plans & Assessments



Applications are open for **Extreme Weather: Plans & Assessments**

- **FireSmart™ BC Farm & Ranch Assessment (Practice Code 3601).** This assessment is required to apply for Wildfire Preparedness BMPS (BMP 3602 – 3604) in future program intakes.
- **Planning & Design of Fill Pad for Farm Buildings (Practice Code 3704.1).** This plan is required to apply for the 'Fill Pad for Farm Buildings' (BMP 3704.2) in future program intakes; get ahead and apply now!

Learn more about FireSmart Assessments: <https://firesmartbc.ca/farm-and-ranch/>

Book a Call:

If helpful, book a 10-minute phone consultation about your application. Prior to booking an appointment, please start your draft application and provide the ID number (similar to: BMP-202425-0####).

Submissions are open until August 31, 2026

[Learn more](#)

The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF). Funding is provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. Additional funding has been provided by Clean B.C.

Intakes closing soon

Foodtech Frontier



Foodtech Frontier is back for its second year, [and applications are now open](#).

This program recognizes Canada's leading and emerging food technology companies across two designations: Established Foodtech Leader and Rising Star.

This year, Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC) and MLT Aikins join Foodtech Frontier as program sponsors, helping spotlight the companies shaping Canada's food tech future.

Foodtech Frontier winners can expect to receive:

- National media visibility and credibility as one of Canada's leading food tech companies
- Investor and partner exposure
- Featured content across Canadian Food Innovation Network (CFIN) channels
- A place in five regional showcases across the country

Applications are open until July 22, 2026. The winning companies will be announced this fall. More information can be found in [the Program Guide](#).

[Learn more](#)

Business Risk Management Programs

[Insurance and Income Protection Programs](#) are an important part of a farmer's overall risk management strategy. AgriStability and Production Insurance work together to provide the best coverage for producers.

AgriStability



Farming has enough uncertainties – while you can't predict extreme weather, rising costs, or market shifts, you can stabilize your bottom line against severe income drops with [AgriStability](#).

Please note: The final deadline to submit your 2025 Statement A (with penalty) has changed to **September 30, 2026** (was December 31). Learn [How to file your Statement A](#).

We're here to help make the process as simple as possible. Our [AgriStability forms and prices](#) page includes new online forms that make it easier to submit your information, and staff are always available to help. If you need assistance, please contact us at 1-877-343-2767 or AgriStability@gov.bc.ca.

[Learn more](#)

Production Insurance



Production Insurance helps producers manage their risk of crop losses caused by hail, spring frost, excessive rain, drought, flooding and other extreme weather events.

In British Columbia, Production Insurance is available for [Berries](#), [Flower bulbs](#), [Grain](#), [Grapes](#), [Tree fruits](#), and [Vegetables](#).

How to Claim Damages: If you have production insurance and damage is suspected, file a Notice of Loss immediately. Each time there is suspected crop damage, a Notice of Loss must be filed. File a [Notice of Loss \(PDF, 390KB\)](#)

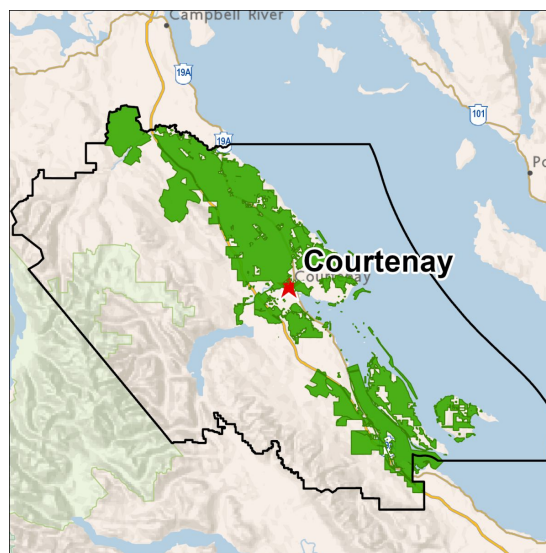
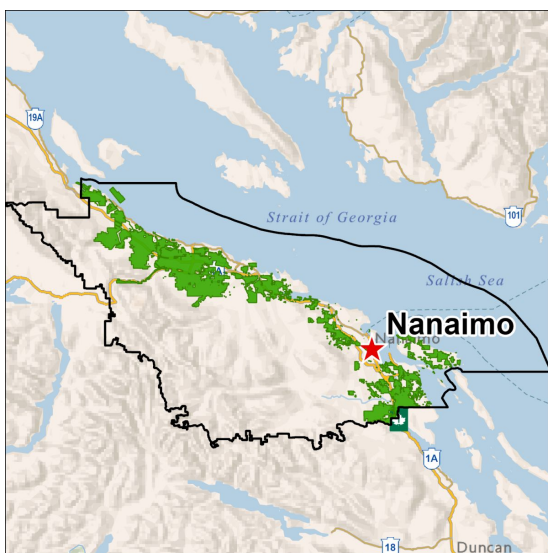
An insurance adjustor will then inspect the crop to determine the loss. It's important to not put the crop to another use (like grazing, tilling under, removing, etc.) until an adjustor has visited the farm operation.

Need Help? Production Insurance Representatives are available to help with claims, application and renewal process. If you need assistance, please contact us at 1-888-332-3352 or ProductionInsurance.Kelowna@gov.bc.ca

Learn more

Resources

Agricultural Land Inventory



The B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Partnership for Water Sustainability in B.C. are completing an Agricultural Land Inventory (ALI) across Regional District of Nanaimo (July 8 to 31) and Comox Valley Regional District (August 17 to August 25).

The ALI program started in Pitt Meadows in 1996 to support the Ministry's Strengthening Farming Program. Since then, ALIs have provided insight into the current state of the farming landscape across the province, including within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Agricultural Land Inventory data has been used to:

- Model potential impacts of climate change and different adaptation strategies;
- Model agricultural water demand for current and future climates;
- Inform the development of municipal Official Community Plans and Agriculture Area Plans;
- Understand the extent of actively farmed land and other major activities on the ALR land base; and
- Understand impacts to agriculture from new developments, bylaws, or regulations.

To complete an ALI, Professional Agrologists and ALI technicians perform visual observations to help confirm mapped crops, irrigation, natural vegetation, buildings, livestock facilities, and farm practices within the ALR and parcels where significant farming is observable. Visual observations are conducted only from public roads using vehicles marked with “Government of B.C.” or “B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food” signs. Watch for survey crews making frequent stops between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. across the region.

This project was funded in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

[Learn more](#)

New soil health assessment tools



[Soil health](#) is the foundation of productive agriculture, resilient ecosystems, and environmental and economic sustainability. To help producers monitor soil health and track the impact of soil management practices over time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has developed two [soil health assessment tools](#):

1. Soil Health Assessment Protocols (SHAP)
2. In-Field Indicators of Soil Health

The two assessment methods are separate tools that serve different purposes but can complement each other. In-field indicators help growers quickly learn more about a field and decide where more detailed testing may be useful. SHAP provides more precise results that can be tracked over time. Producers interested in laboratory assessments of soil health can find out more in the B.C. Soil Health Assessment protocols:

- [B.C. Soil Health Assessment Field Sampling Protocol](#)
- [B.C. Soil Health Assessment Laboratory Protocol](#)

Producers interested in in-field measurements of soil health that can be self-assessed can find out more with the B.C. In-Field Indicators of Soil Health Guide and self-assessment videos:

- [B.C. In-Field Indicators of Soil Health Guide](#)
- [Assessing water infiltration in the field \(video\)](#)
- [Assessing soil penetration resistance in the field \(video\)](#)
- [Assessing plant roots in the field \(video\)](#)

B.C. agriculture and seafood statistics publications

Data and reports by sector

Expand all

Collapse all

Sector-wide data



Crops



Sector stats and annual sector snapshot

- [Sector stats interactive dashboard](#)
- [Agriculture annual snapshot - 2024 \(PDF, 693 KB\)](#)

Sector tables - interactive dashboards

[View interactive dashboards](#) that include:

- Greenhouse vegetables: area, production, and value, 2014-2024
- Nursery & sod: production and sales, 2014-2024
- Floriculture (potted plants, cut flowers): production and sales, 2014-2024.
- Floriculture: value of production, 2014-2024
- Mushrooms: area, production and farm gate value, 2014-2024

Sector tables - Excel

- [Fruits: Area, production and value 2014-2024 \(XLSX, 37KB\)](#)
- [Grain and oilseeds: Select prices 2014-2024 \(XLSX, 20KB\)](#)
- [Grains, oilseeds and other field crops: Production 2014-2024 \(XLSX, 30KB\)](#)

Livestock



Sector stats and annual sector snapshot

- [Sector stats interactive dashboard](#)
- [Agriculture annual snapshot - 2024 \(PDF, 693 KB\)](#)

Sector tables - interactive dashboards

[View interactive dashboards](#) that include:

The ministry recently updated our interactive dashboards with curated B.C. crops and livestock data from 2025. [B.C. agriculture and seafood statistics publications](#)

The [Crops Interactive Sector Tables](#) includes production and value of nursery, floriculture & sod while the [Livestock Interactive Sector Tables](#) includes the number of animals and value of production for cattle, poultry, hogs, sheep and lamb in B.C.

[Learn more](#)

Cariboo silvopasture planning demonstrations



A demonstration focused on planning and evaluating potential silvopasture adoption was initiated in 2015 with two ranches in the Cariboo. The objective was to identify, work through and illustrate some of the planning processes and considerations used within a private land context. The case studies serve as examples highlighting objectives, site conditions, experiences gained and management decisions made at the time.

[Learn more](#)

Dairy Barn Cooling Factsheets



Heat stress can have a significant impact on dairy cattle health, comfort, and productivity. Effective cooling strategies help cows maintain normal body temperature, support milk production, reproduction, and overall well-being. These factsheets are designed to help producers make informed decisions that reduce heat stress in their dairy cattle.

The following factsheets are available at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/animals-and-crops/animal-production/dairy>

- [Strategies to Reduce Heat Stress in Dairy Cows](#)
- [Ventilation Assessment](#)
- [Convective Cooling to Reduce Heat Stress](#)
- [Evaporative Cooling to Reduce Heat Stress](#)

[Learn more](#)

Health and wellness in the agriculture industry

Owning a farm business can be very stressful. Farmers, producers, processors, workers and their families face unique challenges that can lead to health and wellness issues. If you are struggling with the impact of these stresses, you are not alone.

For information about health, wellness and managing stress please click the button below:

[Learn more](#)

Organic BC Podcast: Grazing-Based Approaches to Invasive Weed Control



The image shows a podcast episode cover for the Organic BC Podcast. On the left, the text reads: "ORGANICBC PODCAST", "Episodes #77 & #78", and "Grazing-Based Approaches to Invasive Weed Control". Below this is a play button icon and a progress bar. On the right is a photograph of a herd of white sheep grazing in a field with tall green weeds. At the bottom, there is a row of logos: ORGANICBC, SMALL-SCALE MEAT PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION, Climate Agri-Solutions, IAF, and the Canadian government logo (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada).

New on the Organic BC Podcast: a two-part miniseries on grazing-based approaches to invasive weed control.

Join grazing expert and author Sarah Flack, retired B.C. agrologist Greg Tegart, and B.C. producers as they explore how intensive rotational grazing can help manage invasive weeds, improve pasture health, and support resilient farming systems. Through expert insights and on-farm case studies, this series highlights livestock as a practical tool for effective pasture management.

Listen to the [first episode here](#), and the [second episode here](#).

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Agricultural Climate Solutions (ACS) – On-Farm Climate Action Fund (OFCAF).

Pesticide application by drone not yet permitted in B.C.

Drone technology is advancing quickly, and this has many people curious about trying drones in B.C. While there have been recent changes at the federal level to allow more pest control products to be applied by drones, pesticide application by drone is currently not allowed in B.C.

Understanding the roles:

Pesticide application by drone is regulated both federally and provincially. Federally, the operation of drones is regulated by Transport Canada and the application of pesticides by drone is regulated by Health Canada's Pesticide Regulatory Directorate (PRD), formerly known as the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). Provincially, pesticide application by drones is also regulated by the B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks.

Transport Canada requires [specific certification](#) for the pilot and the supporting field crew depending on the type of drone and how it will be used.

Health Canada is responsible for evaluating and registering pesticides for use in Canada and has recently released [a policy](#) that allows drone use for pesticides that are already registered for aerial use.

B.C. Ministry of Environment and Parks (ENV) regulates the sale, use and transportation of pesticides in B.C. in addition to federal Health Canada requirements. ENV is responsible for the development of training materials for pesticide applicators.

What this means in B.C.:

Even if the federal pesticide label allows a product to be applied by drones, **pesticide application by drone is not permitted in B.C. at this time**. This is because drone application is not yet covered under existing provincial applicator certification categories and new training requirements and certification standards need to be developed. In addition, provincial regulations must be updated to support this new application method.

Other crop uses for drones including pest monitoring, seeding and fertilizer application are not regulated provincially by ENV and can be conducted if all other relevant requirements (for example, Transport Canada pilot certification) have first been obtained.

What's next:

The work to allow pesticide application by drones is underway. ENV is currently developing new training materials and assessing the best way to safely integrate drone use into the existing regulatory framework.

Stay Informed:

This is an evolving area, and there will be opportunities for input as work progresses.

How to report complaints:

If you observe any pesticide application by drone, or suspect any other violations of environmental laws under the provincial IPM Act and Regulation, they can be reported to Report All Poachers and Polluters by phone or online form:

<https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/>

Learn more

AgriServiceBC Website

AgriService Facebook

Missed the last e-bulletin? Catch up on previous issue [here](#).

Contact your local Regional Agrologist

Thom O'Dell - North Island
[Email: Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca)

Bejay Mills - Central Island
[Email: Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca)

Megan Halstead - South Island
[Email: Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Megan.Halstead@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.

Email sent to: aneedham@acrd.bc.ca

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
1767 Angus Campbell Rd
Abbotsford BC, British Columbia | V3G 2M3 | Canada
AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca

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NEWS RELEASE

BC Agriculture Council Launches Enhanced Digital Temporary Access Pass Templates to Strengthen Emergency Response for Agriculture

POSTED ON JUNE 25, 2026

Standardized tools support coordinated access management across local authorities and First Nations during emergency evacuation events

PENTICTON, B.C. – June 25, 2026: BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) has launched a standardized, digitally enabled Temporary Access Pass system designed to help local authorities and First Nations manage timely access to areas under evacuation order during emergencies.

Developed with input from 10 local authorities, First Nations, agricultural stakeholders, the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the project builds on existing temporary access pass resources and a digital template concept originally developed by the Township of Spallumcheen. The result is a suite of Word-based and ArcGIS-enabled templates that provide local authorities and First Nations with practical, standardized tools for managing agricultural and other access needs during emergencies.

While temporary access pass systems have existed in various forms across British Columbia for many years, approaches have often differed between jurisdictions and been confusing for users. The new templates provide a consistent framework that can be adapted locally, helping streamline access management and improve coordination during emergency events.

"During an emergency, clarity and consistency are critical," says Christine Fraser, Mayor of the Township of Spallumcheen. "In 2021 the Township of Spallumcheen recognized a need for a better way to manage temporary access during emergencies and developed an online tool for our community. We then shared that initial online tool with the BC Agricultural Council to further develop the tool along with other local authorities because we saw the value of having a standardized approach that helps streamline access for agricultural producers and others while supporting coordinated decision-making across jurisdictions. By reducing confusion and creating a common process for all partners, this tool will help strengthen collaboration, build confidence among stakeholders, and support a more effective response when it matters most."

Agricultural producers often require timely access to livestock, crops, equipment and critical farm infrastructure during emergency events. The new system helps support authorized access when safe to do so while providing emergency managers with a more consistent process for managing requests.

"Ranchers and farmers care deeply for their animals, and it becomes extremely stressful when they have to leave them behind during an emergency," says Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food. "The Temporary Access Pass system will help producers in arranging timely access back to their property when it's safe, so they can check on their livestock and property, and make sure their animals have the food, water and care they need."

Key benefits include:

- Streamlined access management for agricultural producers and others with critical access needs;
- Greater consistency and coordination among jurisdictions;
- A simplified process that reduces confusion and increases compliance with emergency orders during emergencies;
- A proactive framework that supports emergency preparedness and risk mitigation; and
- Stronger collaboration among producers, governments, First Nations, emergency officials and the public.

"This project is about delivering a useful and practical tool that can be put to use before an emergency happens, not while they're in the middle of one," says Danielle Synotte, Executive Director of BC Agriculture Council. "By bringing together the experience of local governments, emergency officials and the agriculture sector, we've made significant progress in the development of strategic systems that support preparedness, improve access decision making, and help ensure producers can be supported safely and efficiently when every minute counts."

BC Agriculture Council gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

-30-

For more information:

Ursula Klein
Communications Manager
T: (604) 854-4454 ext. 205
E: communications@bcac.ca

For access to the templates and support materials:

Local authorities and First Nations can request free access from BCAC at projects@bcac.ca

About BC Agriculture Council: BCAC's mission is to support and grow a competitive agriculture sector by fostering industry collaboration and shaping effective public policy. This is achieved by delivering a unified voice for the sector to government through member farm associations that in turn represent approximately 96% of provincial farm gate sales.



P: 604.854.4454
TF: 866.522.3447
F: 604.854-4485

UNIT 1 - 2650 PROGRESSIVE WAY
ABBOTSFORD, BC V2T 6H9

bcac.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BC Agriculture Council Announces Plans to Establish a Provincial Farmland Trust

Landmark initiative will protect agricultural land, support new farmers, and secure BC's food future for generations to come

PENTICTON, B.C. – June 26, 2026: BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is advancing its plans to establish a Farmland Trust model aimed at keeping British Columbia farmland in agricultural production for generations to come, while urging the federal government to modernize tax and charitable policy tools needed to help make the model viable at scale. The announcement was made at the inaugural BC Agriculture Forum in Penticton yesterday evening.

The proposed trust model would provide a long-term mechanism to preserve agricultural

land, support farm succession and help ensure productive farmland remains available for farming rather than being lost to non-agricultural uses. BCAC says the work comes at a time when farmland affordability pressures, rising land values and a significant wave of farm transitions are making it increasingly difficult for new and next-generation farmers to access land.

BCAC President Jennifer Woike states, “Today’s announcement is backed by over a year of research documenting the empirical case for the Trust, surveying Canadian and international models, and setting out the federal policy reforms required to make it durable. Over the past year, and especially this spring, the initiative has moved from a concept into a well-supported, federally visible file with a clear route into formation — the changes we need federally are critical to enabling a trust model that can help preserve agricultural capacity, strengthen food security and provide retiring landowners with an alternative pathway to keep their land in farming.”

That policy progress reflects a pressing reality on the ground for B.C. farmers, ranchers and landowners.

“Farmland in British Columbia is increasingly beyond the reach of the next generation of farmers,” says BCAC Executive Director, Danielle Synotte. “As the largest intergenerational transfer of wealth in Canadian history gets underway, many farms have no successor prepared to take over, and there is no straightforward mechanism — and no tax recognition — for an owner who would prefer to see their land kept in agriculture rather than sold at market value. A farmland trust would hold land in perpetuity, keep it in agricultural use, and lease it to active farmers at affordable rates, offering a succession pathway that does not depend on a family member taking over.”

Over the past year, BCAC engaged Chris Bodnar, Assistant Professor of Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), to undertake research examining the feasibility of farmland trust models and their applicability in British Columbia. This research provided a solid foundation of knowledge; examining several farmland-trust models, the legal and tax framework, the gaps in existing tools, and comparable efforts in other jurisdictions. The research has been led by UFV’s Chris Bodnar, Assistant Professor of Agriculture.

“The research highlights the scale of the farmland affordability and access challenges facing agriculture in British Columbia,” says Bodnar. “Our research found that farmland values in British Columbia have increasingly diverged from what the land can earn through

farming, creating growing barriers for new entrants and adding pressure to farm succession and transition. That makes it increasingly important to explore mechanisms that can help keep farmland accessible and in agricultural production over the long term.”

BCAC will immediately begin incorporating the society and applying for charitable status. This will enable the Farmland Trust to accept cash donations to support its operations and receive gifts of farmland and financial contributions to, over time, support land acquisition. Federal advocacy will continue in parallel — sustaining engagement with the Senate committee and pressing for CRA action. Legal scoping is expected to complete this summer, with formal incorporation targeted for fall 2026. Landowners interested in donation or conservation easement options, and farmers interested in future lease opportunities, are encouraged to contact BCAC.

-30-

For more information:

Ursula Klein

Communications Manager

T: (604) 854-4454 ext. 205

E: communications@bcac.ca

Supporting Resource:

[Farmland Access Challenges in Canada and the Case for a BC Farmland Trust](#)

About [BC Agriculture Council](#): BCAC’s mission is to grow a strong, sustainable and competitive agriculture sector through building industry consensus and advancing public policy. This is achieved by delivering a unified voice for the sector to government through member farm associations that in turn represent approximately 96% of provincial farm gate sales.

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British Columbia News

Sharing local farm harvests through coupon program

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/33880>

Monday, June 8, 2026 9:30 AM

BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program promotes access to fresh foods

Summary

- *Families, pregnant people and seniors living on lower incomes receive coupons from community partner organizations*
- *Coupons can be spent at participating farmers' markets to buy vegetables, fruits, nuts, eggs, dairy, herbs, vegetable and fruit plants, honey, meat and fish*
- *Delivered by the BC Association of Farmers' Markets, the BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program is an initiative strengthening local food systems throughout the province*

People in British Columbia will continue to have improved access to nutritious, locally grown foods through the B.C. Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program.

"Access to healthy food is one of the foundations of good health, and farmers' markets are wonderful places where people can connect with local growers, support local businesses and enjoy the harvest of the season," said Josie Osborne, Minister of Health. "The nutrition coupon program helps more people and families purchase fresh, local food at participating farmers' markets, while supporting B.C. farmers and strengthening food security in communities throughout the province."

Strengthening local food systems

Delivered by the B.C. Association of Farmers' Markets, the B.C. Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program is a healthy-eating initiative that strengthens local food systems throughout the province by providing an additional source of income for B.C. farmers during the market season.

"The program is helping more people access and enjoy fresh, nutritious food grown by B.C. farmers, while strengthening local food security and supporting producers and small businesses," said Lana Popham, Minister of Agriculture and Food. "B.C. farmers' markets

bring communities together to celebrate the delicious and unique flavours of each region, and the coupon program helps more B.C. families share and enjoy the experience.”

Farmers’ markets are a key focus each growing season in communities throughout the province, generating income for local economies, supporting farmers, small businesses and communities. Coupons can be used at any participating B.C. farmers’ market to purchase vegetables, fruits, eggs, dairy, herbs, plants, honey, meat and fish.

“We all want people to be able to access nutritious, healthy food in their communities,” said Sheila Malcolmson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. “This funding helps more people, including seniors and families, put fresh food on the table, while also investing in local agriculture.”

Investing in healthy eating and supporting local farmers

The Province has committed \$4.25 million in funding to the program. Households enrolled in the program may receive as much as \$27 per week in coupons for as long as 16 weeks. The duration can vary based on the length of the farmers’ market season in the community.

“The B.C. Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program has an incredible impact on the lives of so many people who participate, alongside B.C. farmers and our network of farmers’ markets and communities of all kinds across B.C.,” said Heather O’Hara, executive director, BC Association of Farmers’ Markets. “This is a program that for 15 years has continued to inspire and unite people and communities around healthy food, while sustaining our local food systems for future generations.”

The B.C. Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program operates in approximately 100 communities throughout the province, reaching families, seniors and pregnant people in approximately 8,200 households.

Quick Facts:

- The Ministry of Health has funded the B.C. Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program since 2012.
- In 2025, the coupon program supported approximately 8,200 households through approximately 240 community partners across almost 100 communities in B.C.
- The BC Association of Farmers’ Markets is a registered B.C. non-profit society that strengthens farmers’ markets, supports B.C. farmers and educates the public about choosing B.C.-grown products.
- There are nearly five million visits to B.C. farmers’ markets annually.
- The 2026 program is at capacity and no longer taking applications.

Learn More:

- To learn more about the BC Farmers’ Market Nutrition Coupon Program, visit: <https://bcfarmersmarket.org/coupon-program/how-it-works/>

- To learn more about Community Partners who provide coupons, visit:
<https://bcfarmersmarket.org/coupon-program/where-it-operates/>

Media Contacts

Ministry of Health

Media Relations

250-952-1887

The B.C. Public Service acknowledges the territories of First Nations around B.C. and is grateful to carry out our work on these lands. We acknowledge the rights, interests, priorities, and concerns of all Indigenous Peoples - First Nations, Métis, and Inuit - respecting and acknowledging their distinct cultures, histories, rights, laws, and governments.

Kristin Kerr-Donohue

From: Victor Martinez
Sent: June 9, 2026 4:22 PM
To: Food Future
Cc: Amy Needham
Subject: News from Resilient and Thriving Vancouver Island Food Future project

[CAUTION] This email originated from outside of the ACRD

Hello all,

Apologies if I have been away for too long, rest assured things have moved forward according to plan.

Now we have successfully finished all four workshops and have amazing input from community members from Capital R. D., Cowichan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni and the West Coast (Ucluelet and Tofino).

I have a few news for you before going to our summer pause, apologies for the lengthy email, but it's important stuff you need to know:

1. Brian and Sara, my research assistants have graduated and have left the team. However, we have a new super talented research assistant Regina.
2. The amount of information generated in the 12 workshops we had in the last few months is very big. We presented the idea of using AI to help us process the information, our friends from Nanaimo and ACRD kindly agreed, and they did because it is not any AI company; it's the one I found that has the highest ethical and sustainability standards: no information input is used to train their AI (all your creations are only yours), they use 100% renewable energy and they use closed loop water cooling by heating up houses in their neighborhood. We have been using it to speed up the process for Regina and I, but all information generated by this AI has and will be checked and corrected by community members, because yes, AI has some pretty clear limitations. If you want to know more or use it this is the one: <https://euria.infomaniak.com/> and as always, I am open for any comments or suggestions.
3. We started conversations with potential partners in Comox, Strathcona and Mount Waddington, as mentioned before, our plan is to run the workshops in those regions in Fall this year. All is looking great in that regard.
4. While we work on the north of the island you can still contribute to this project, as always by entering to your Miro board and adding content there, and/or by sharing the questionnaires that mimic the work done in person with the folks that could not make it to our sessions but should absolutely be part of this, all links at the end of this email.
5. I have been doing these types of systems thinking for social problems projects for [18 years](#), [mostly \(but not only\) teaching it to my design students](#). This fall is that time again, and I have decided to profit of the timing to get my students to contribute to this project. It's a great opportunity for them and for all. I will organize them in 5 teams, one for each region we had our

workshops, they will help moving forward all contents and specially the roadmap and implementation plan. I would need one or more of you willing to have some interactions with my students, as always, anything we do needs to be reviewed by someone in the community, if you are interested, please let me know. The term starts in September; I will send a reminder at that time as well.

6. We are applying to other grants because in order to create the systemic change we all want to see, we will need more funds, particularly this time to enable some of you to continue the work on site and connect the work done by each region. This month I am applying for the Vancouver Foundation's Transforming Systems; this project is perfect for it! It is a long shot but worth trying. If you know of any other grant we should try, please let me know.
7. I am also applying to a KPU internal grant to hire an expert app developer. In conversations with some of you the idea of a dedicated app to expand community's input and enable communication between regions came about, a great idea that can boost the project significantly. A key ingredient for systems change is creating connections and momentum across the entire island, there will be the need to create synergies among all of you, to complement, and support each other.

There are lots of things still happening, and many more to happen, so even if you don't hear from me often know that I am here, and if you want to reach out, even if is just to say hi, I am always available for you.

This is the link to your Miro board:

<https://miro.com/app/board/uXjvGnfdBDE=?moveToWidget=3458764666548465368&cot=10>

These are the links to the surveys for those of you who could not attend the workshops, please help us sharing it with all the food professionals you know in your region should be involved in this process:

Workshop 1 - understanding the problem

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLErnSuL5HUo6v-Jhhut0OcAiohUPyBqlyYNyw5-CqKaF-Xg/viewform>

Workshop 2 - creating interventions

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdenqFpCOYHpU7DyQpV8Id370wWYBuylj1dJoNIQjaPhpuHVg/viewform>

Workshop 3 - finding systemic change potential

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfvJ0hAmvF_QY2rpjmyJkrWFDIrbMNNynsXW4wvo7kCk04Jw/viewform

Workshop 4 - implementing and future work

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTi0DCW7vVZG1ZWFZuWPasb-9Zw0aFMdQ8XRktemuF0bhjVQ/viewform>

Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

See you back in September,

Victor

Víctor Martínez PhD
Faculty & Researcher
[Chancellor's Chair for Research](#)
he/him/his
Wilson School of Design
Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU)

t. 604.599.2594
e. victor.martinez@kpu.ca
www.kpu.ca/design

FutureXplorations Research Group
<https://wordpress.kpu.ca/futureexplorations/>

At Kwantlen Polytechnic University, we work, study, and live in a region south of the Fraser River on the unceded traditional, overlapping, and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish peoples.

Proudly sharing the name of the Kwantlen First Nation, the word 'Kwantlen' means Tireless Runner, and is reflected in the university's motto: "through tireless effort, knowledge, and understanding."

On behalf of all of us at the Wilson School of Design, thank you and welcome.

True Armyworm

(*Mythimna unipuncta*)

June 2018

True armyworm (*Mythimna unipuncta*, formerly *Pseudaletia unipuncta*) is a North American agricultural pest in the insect family Noctuidae. During April and May, true armyworm moths may migrate from southern USA and Mexico on wind currents to parts of Southern Canada including B.C., Manitoba, and Ontario. True armyworm is not known to overwinter in Canada.

Hosts

True armyworm prefers grass crops such as cereals, pasture, grass hay and corn. However, under high populations, true armyworm larvae may also feed on broad leaf plants. Adults feed on flower nectar or other sweet sources.

Damage

Young larvae will skeletonize grass foliage and eat small holes in leaves. From the third instar and older, larvae will devour entire leaves. Larvae will also sometimes feed on developing seed heads and corn tassels and ears. Once an area is sufficiently defoliated, larvae will move in a group to other grass stands to resume feeding. True armyworms can cause significant but often patchy crop damage in only a few days, and can cause rapid crop devastation when the larvae population is high. In southwest B.C., the first generation of larvae, feeding in June and July, can cause significant crop loss to grass hay and cereals. The second generation of larvae in August and September can be even more destructive, affecting both grass and corn crops. 2017 was the first year damage was recorded for this pest in B.C.



Figure 1. Significant feeding damage in grass by first generation larvae in July.



Figure 2. Extensive larval feeding on corn in August. Grass weeds are completely defoliated, as are some corn leaves.

Biology

True armyworm moths may migrate to B.C. in April-May in unpredictable numbers, influenced by weather, temperature, winds, and conditions in their originating locations, which are more southerly locations in North America. Moths can live for weeks, and seek lush green grass for egg laying. Eggs are laid deep within folded grass blades and are nearly impossible to find in fields. Both egg masses and larvae can be abundant in localized areas.

There are 6 larval instars, with the last two instars causing the majority of feeding damage (Figure 3). The larvae stage lasts approximately 1.5 months, depending on temperature, in which time the larvae grow from 4 mm up to 35 mm. Young larvae mostly feed during the day and are well hidden by grass blades. Older larvae are nocturnal feeders and move up the plants, and rest at the base of plants and under grass canopy during the heat of the day. Larvae are marked with stripes running the length of their body, with a yellow/brown head capsule with a netted appearance (Figure 5), while the body colour ranges from pale green while young, to nearly black when full sized. When larvae are ready to pupate, they burrow into the soil just below the surface where they remain for 1-2 weeks (Figure 6).

Adult moths emerge from the soil and a second generation occurs in late summer (August-September). Adult moths are about 2cm long with brown, delta-shaped bodies and have a distinguishing white dot on each wing (Figure 4). Adult moths are nocturnal and may be seen flying around outdoor lights at night, while hiding at the base of plants or other dark protected areas during the day.



Figure 3. True armyworm larvae feeding on corn tassel



Figure 4. True armyworm adult moth with characteristic white spots on wings



Figure 5. Close up of netted pattern and 'V' on head of larva



Figure 6. Armyworm pupa in soil

Monitoring

Adult moths can be seen around lights at night and can also be monitored using pheromone baited bucket traps or wing traps from April to August. Set traps in areas of concern, such as next to fields that had heavy larvae infestation earlier in the summer or in previous years. Monitoring adults help indicate whether the insect is moving into your area and if pest numbers may be high enough to be of concern. Trap catches are useful to show when the moths are present, and help with planning when and where to scout fields for larvae. In general catching a few moths per week may not cause alarm but if more than 30 are caught per night or over a few days, then larvae searches in that area beginning 2 weeks afterwards would be recommended.

In fields of concern, scouting for larvae should start in mid to late June by checking at least 5 areas of a field. During the day, larvae tend to be on low parts of the plant or in the crown area of the plants. To more easily see and count the larvae, scouting can be done in the evening when the larvae are more active. Shaking plants over a drop-sheet or panel will dislodge larvae and enabling counting. To estimate field density, take the average number of larvae per square foot (30x30 cm) over all the sampling sites in that field. The population may be higher in some areas than others within a field.

Management

Prevention

- Modifying harvest plans may be necessary to limit losses. Consider cutting, baling, or grazing earlier, as well as irrigation and fertilization to encourage regrowth, to help limit losses in hay fields.
- Remove grass weeds by mowing or other methods in spring to limit potential egg-laying host plants for adult moths and food sources for larvae.

Chemical Control

- There are insecticides available for control of true armyworm (see Table 1)
- The action threshold for insecticide treatment in forage grass/hay is 5 larvae per 30 x 30 cm (1 square foot).
- The action threshold for insecticide treatment in annual cereals is lower at 2-4 larvae per 30 x 30 cm (1 square foot).

- For a foliar application to be most effective, apply before most of the larvae reach 25 mm (1 inch) in length.

Biological Control

- There are naturally occurring biological control agents that feed on or kill true armyworm larvae, including parasitic wasps and flies, ground beetles and rove beetles, and fungal, bacterial, and viral diseases. Several bird species will feed on true armyworm larvae.
- These agents do not prevent an outbreak but may curtail damage to a limited extent.

Table 1. A summary of insecticides registered for control of armyworm in forage, grass, and corn. Please refer to Health Canada's [Pest Management Regulatory Agency](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/pest/management/regulatory/index-eng.php) website for insecticide label information.

PCP #	Product Name	Active Ingredient	Crops	Pre-harvest or pre-grazing interval	# applications/ year
28982	Coragen	chlorantraniliprole Group 28	Corn (field, sweet), grass forage, fodder, and hay group, non-grass animal feed group, oilseeds and cereals.	Forage grass: 0 days Forage corn: 14 days	Up to 4 apps, 7 days apart; use high rate
5821	Malathion	malathion Group 1	Cereals, grasses, legumes, alfalfa, clover for hay	7 days	1 app
27876	Sevin	carbaryl Group 1A	Forage, pasture, cereals	1 day	Up to 2 apps, 8 days apart
24984 26837	Matador Warrior	lambda-cyhalothrin Group 3	Cereals, corn	Corn for silage: 14 days Cereals: 28 days Sweet corn: 1 day	Up to 3 apps, 4-7 days apart
28778	Delegate	spinetoram Group 5	Cereals, field/ forage corn	Cereals: 21 days Forage corn: 7 days	Up to 3 apps, 5 days apart

For Further Information

- Manitoba Ministry of Agriculture:
<http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/insects/print,true-armyworm.html>
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Field Crop News:
<http://fieldcropnews.com/tag/true-armyworm/>
- University of Florida:
http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/creatures/field/true_armyworm.htm

Prepared by:

Tracy Hueppelsheuser, Entomologist,
Abbotsford Agriculture Centre,
British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture,
Abbotsford, B.C.



To: Agricultural Development Committee

From: Amy Needham, Sustainability Planner

Meeting Date: July 14, 2026

Subject: Staff Update Report

Summary:

- Rising numbers of true armyworm (*Mythimna unipuncta*) moths and larvae have been observed in multiple locations across the Alberni Valley and Vancouver Island. These insects cannot overwinter in BC but must be blown in from the United States each year. The last outbreak occurred in 2017, in which significant late-season crop damage occurred. A factsheet is included in the information items of this agenda to assist with identification of larvae, and multiple pheromone traps are now running in the Valley to monitor for moths. Please contact me if you require assistance in identification or wish to host a pheromone trap.
- Upon request of this committee, I approached the Ministry of Agriculture and Food last year to request an updated Agricultural Land Inventory (ALI) to replace the previous Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI) conducted in 2016. The field survey happened July 6-7, and the Ministry will be in touch once they are ready to share data. The ALI is an important tool to understand long term trends in agricultural land use in the area and helps support grant applications to promote farming and run the Agricultural Water Demand Model to determine current and future agricultural water needs.
- Upon request of this Committee, I contacted CleanFarms back in 2023 to ask about having a pesticide roundup in our area and they said they would consider it the next time the Pesticide Roundup is in the Vancouver Island Zone, which is Fall 2026. I am happy to announce that the Alberni Valley has been approved for a CleanFarms pesticide/livestock medication dropoff event if a suitable location can be found. I am working with the ACRD's Solid Waste Manager and with the City of Port Alberni to finalize a location and details.
- At their January 28, 2026, meeting, the Board carried a motion to forward a resolution to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) convention to exempt ALR properties conducting agri-tourism accommodation under the *ALC Act and Regulations* from the province's Short-Term Rental Registry, to decrease red tape and registration fees for producers. The AVICC Convention took place April 24-26, 2026, and this resolution was endorsed and will automatically be brought to UBCM for consideration at their AGM and Convention in September.

- Kwantlen Polytechnic University held Food Future workshops in the Alberni Valley to engage on their Vancouver Island Bioregional Food System study. If you missed the workshops, you can still be a part of this food system study. A [Miro Board](#) has been created with all workshop activities and results on it for your review and additions. Each step has instructions, so you know how to complete it. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.
- At their May 11, 2026 meeting, City of Port Alberni Council carried a motion supporting the request put forward by the ACRD Board that the City of Port Alberni send all Agricultural Land Commission applications within city limits to the ACRD's Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) for review and comment. An AAC meeting was held on June 15, 2026, for the committee to review their updated terms of reference and they will be forwarded on to the Board to consider adoption.
- Wildsafe BC, in partnership with the ACRD, has an electric fence subsidy program. You can get up to \$500 reimbursed for the cost of fencing materials, and an electric fencing expert will come meet with you on your farm to help design the system. Email Bob Hansen at pacrim2@wildsafebc.com for more information or to set up a site visit.
- The ACRD, in partnership with the Clayoquot Biosphere Trust, will be facilitating regional climate adaptation planning for a cohort of five on the West Coast – two municipalities (District of Ucluelet and the District of Tofino) and three First Nations (Tla-o-qui-aht, Toquaht Nation and Yuułu?it̓'ath̓) – with a fully funded grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The project will focus on developing climate adaptation plans that address both individual governmental climate adaptation priorities as well as boost alignment for regional climate resiliency projects.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	RFI - Staff Update Report.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	July 09, 2026

This document and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Alex Dyer, MCIP, RPP, General Manager of Planning & Development

Heather Zenner, MA, Manager of Administrative Services

Cynthia Dick, General Manager of Administrative Services

Report for the farm below.

Farm: We have purchased hay in the spring in anticipation of another dry summer; a few fields are growing for second cut. Cows are out for the summer, rotationally grazing around the farm.

Cabin: We are gearing up for a busy summer season, with five weddings, our Summer Market (Tuesday, August 25th, 5-8pm), accommodation bookings/farm tours, and our culinary events highlighting local (as best we can to the Valley) ingredients. We have tickets available for both events; Heifers & hors d'oeuvres on July 25th, and Gather & Graze (long table dinner), on August 8th. Details on both events, as well as ticketing links, can be found on our website, www.shannonfarms.ca

Thanks,
Tanya

Spirit Square Farmers Market

- Market is getting busy
- BC Farmers Market Nutritional coupon program has started and the community partners distributing coupons are Island Health, Friendship Centre, CMHA, and Sage Haven
- received a Grant in Aid from the ACRD for table top freezers
- Music at the Market, fully sponsored by the Dock+, starts July 4
- we are hoping to start a mid week evening market on 3rd avenue shortly, subject to Business licence approval from the City (peak season only July 15-Sept 9)
- parking continues to be an issue, more accessible parking is needed
- launch of Spirited Kids advertising and soliciting of kid vendors to start this week, market is on August 15, supported by the Community Futures Alberni - Clayoquot
- decent traffic at Port Day and The World cruise ship visit
- thankful for vendor parking provided by Lady Rose Marine Services

Thank you,
Sarah

Here is my Pacific Rim School District Report:

- Superintendent Peter Klaver is retiring, and we have hire Jaslene Atwal (current HR Director) as the new Superintendent to start in Sept.
- May 11 the District hosted the 3rd Annual Indigenous Focused Non-Instructional Day, very positive feedback
- 2026/2027 Annual Budget passed
- Budget cuts necessary and unfortunately staffing reductions made
- 2025/2026 Operations plan update
 - <https://sd70.community-ca.diligentoneplatform.com/document/14f856cc-9b9b-4606-b10a-eb242ad8fe3f>
- Pacific Rim Spring Newsletter to families
 - <https://sd70.community-ca.diligentoneplatform.com/document/15931023-0129-4ee1-adc2-ec3f43d4b133>
- Municipal Election this fall - Board of Education (School Trustees) election at same time
 - <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/2026-school-trustee-elections.11456>
 - <https://www.sd70.bc.ca/run-for-school-trustee.12196>
- The Board and Staff advocacy to the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General for continued funding for our FIT program was extended for another year. 5 grads from the Eight Ave Learning Center were supported by this program. Very good news, the district staff did great work here supporting our students and community.

Thanks,
Helen

Helen Zanette

Pronouns: She/her

Board of Education Trustee

Pacific Rim School District

I acknowledge that I live, work and learn on the hahuuli of the Cišaaʔatʰ and Hupačasath First Nations and we also have schools located on the hahuuli of the Huu-ay-aht and Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and the Yuuʔuʔitʰatʰ Government. Additionally acknowledge the presence of all Nuu- chah-nulth nations as well as the Métis Nation of British Columbia in the Alberni-Clayoquot region. I strive to increase awareness,



The Alberni District Fall Fair Agriculture Development Committee Report for July 14th, 2026

The Fall Fair had a very successful Mingles Night where we served burgers and shared a social evening with our members and several new volunteers that came forward to volunteer and assist us with the 2026 Fair.

All of our attractions and entertainers are in place. Most of our user groups who assist us with everything from parking to admission gates and janitorial duties are in place.

Raffle tickets are on sale both at several store front, community events and online. Sales from our raffle tickets help offset our costs for run the event so we can keep making it affordable for the community to participate. Thursday night gate admissions is \$5. For everyone over 12, with West Coast Amusements providing discounted rides for that night only. Of course we recognize there are extenuating circumstances when a family can't afford to attend and upon request we deal with these requests on an individual basis to ensure everyone can enjoy the fair.

Our Agriculture Education area will once again be shared with fruits, veggies, and home cooking. We invite all local agriculture commodities to participate with either a in person or static display. Our pro wrestling attraction will be moved to the far end of the fence line closest to Glenwood Center v/s last year it was closer to the entrance of the building. Kids zone returns adjacent to the building.

We thank the ACRD for the Grant in Aid with financial support the re print of our Farm Stand Guide.

Here is the quarterly update from AVFSS. Thanks for the reminders and the extension!!

The PruneAlong Program concluded for the season, completing six sessions—up from two sessions in 2025. AVFSS continued an orchard-ladder rental program to help residents safely care for and harvest fruit trees. This had very little uptake.

Gleaning registration opened May 1, with updated online forms, automated welcome messages and membership integration. The gleaning season is now underway, beginning with various berry and Saskatoon berry harvests. The cherry crop is dismal this year in comparison to last year. Program equipment is being cleaned, maintained, trailer insurance renewed and 30 reusable fruit crates purchased.

AVFSS hired and began onboarding two summer staff members to support gleaning, food literacy, communications and other seasonal programming. Funding of \$11,625 was secured through Canada Summer Jobs for a combined 560 hours of employment.

The 2026 Growers Guide was completed and distributed through the Alberni Valley News and at local farms, markets, community organizations and regional offices. AVFSS also participated in promotional interviews and continued distributing additional copies throughout the community.

AVFSS continued promoting the Farm–Fish–Forage Online Directory. An April community contest attracted 68 participants, encouraged residents to explore local producer listings and resulted in 33 new subscribers to the AVFSS quarterly newsletter.

Food literacy programming expanded, including the launch of food-preservation workshops with Monica from EcoChef Academy. Initial sessions focused on preserving the harvest and making juice from frozen and gleaned fruit. AVFSS also secured access to the EJ Dunn Family Hub kitchen for future programming and has six preservation sessions planned for September and October.

Work began on five short educational videos with The Scoop, covering local seeds, shopping locally, growing food in small spaces, affordable meal planning and food preservation. The videos will be released over the coming months.

AVFSS participated in Healthy Caravans school events, providing hands-on seed activities and food-growing resources for students and teachers. Educational and garden-based activities also continued with local schools and community partners.

Activity continued at the Dry Creek Community Garden, including spring work parties, weeding, mulching, perimeter maintenance and infrastructure planning. All garden beds were rented, and planning progressed for fence improvements and an additional access gate.

AVFSS participated in regional food-system planning through the Kwantlen Polytechnic University Food Futures sessions, Island Health Food Hub meetings and discussions with the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District regarding agriculture, food security and Official Community Plans.

Advocacy continued at both the provincial and federal levels. AVFSS contributed to the joint Vancouver Island Food Hub presentation to the BC Provincial Budget Consultation, calling for sustained investment in community food security, Indigenous-led food sovereignty initiatives and Community Food Hubs. AVFSS also responded positively to the new National Food Security Strategy and highlighted its alignment with local priorities.

Funding efforts included securing \$7,800 through the ACRD Grant-in-Aid program for gleaning coordination and applying for \$8,200 from the Alberni Valley Community Forest for commercial refrigeration and food-safe storage bins for gleaned fruit.

AVFSS continued implementing its new strategic plan, strengthening community partnerships and identifying opportunities for collaboration with Indigenous organizations, schools, local governments, farmers, food-access organizations and community service providers.



3140 Harbour Rd, Port Alberni, BC, V9Y 4B9
778-421-8612
info@thedockplus.ca
www.thedockplus.ca

July 2026

Prepared for the Alberni Clayoquot Agriculture Development Committee

General Updates

The Dock+ Food Hub has been very busy with standard operations!

- We are in the middle of commercial Sockeye season and it is turning out to be one of the best runs with the biggest nicest fish seen in recent years.
- Kuuna Foods has officially started operations in the newly opened processing space and is running the High-Pressure Processor
- We had our opening house to celebrate the expansion project. The open house included touring members of the community through the kitchen to try various products produced out of the facility. Overall, a big success
- We continue to grow our kitchen membership and welcome aboard Salmon Boyz who prepare salmon patties
- I am presenting at the Nanaimo Rotary meeting this month as they reached out as they were interested in learning more about the facility
- Attended the Regional BC Food Hub annual networking event as well as the Thrive BC food and Beverage Conference
- We replaced the sidewalk on Harbour Rd out front of the building which is much nicer and safer!
- We are looking to partner with Community Futures to bring some workshops for youth
- We are working on partnering with the ACRD and North Island College to offer another seafood processing course in the near future
- Alberni Ice is open and offering flaked salt ice until mid-October.
- We have a commercial waterfront space for lease at the harbour, behind Dock+. We have put out a RFP seeking interest in someone opening a bistro and market or other compatible waterfront business. Please share with anyone who may be interested

Sponsorships and Community Awareness

- The Dock+ has committed to another year of sponsoring the music at the Spirit Square Market
- We will be advertising in this year's growers Guide
- We continue to seek instructors to host community workshops
- We continue to promote The Dock+ and our tenants on the Peak Radio, the Scoop and through social media

Cecilia Addy, Manager Marina and Dock+ Operations
Port Alberni Port Authority, Dock+ Food Hub

Home growers reporting higher pest pressure then recent years (cabbage moth, slugs, cut worms)

TCFI expanding summer garden programming for children in partnership with the district of Tofino

Edible Garden Tours on July 18 and 26th in Tofino and Ucluelet

Opitsaht garden program successfully grew food this year! The program will continue in the fall and into 2027, supported by CBT and farm to school BC.

New sign at Wickaninnish community school garden highlights Tla-o-qui-aht agricultural practices on the coast

Thank you! I'll be attending on Zoom.

Katie Miles (she/her)
Administrator/Program Coordinator
Tofino Community Food Initiative

I respectfully acknowledge that I live, work & grow food in the traditional, ancestral & unceded territory of the Tla-o-qui-aht & Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. We strive for cultural inclusion & reconciliation through our work and are continuously learning to do this better.

ACRD ADC 4-H REPORT for July 14, 2026 meeting

Projects are Cloverbud, Beef, Small Engines, Horses, Poultry, Rabbit, Cavy, Sheep, and Dog. There is one club again this year, Alberni Cloverpatch

The Regional Public Speaking competition was held on April 11 here in Port Alberni. We are part of the Vancouver Island 4-H Region and there were participants from Comox, Cowichan, Parksville-Qualicum and South Malahat Districts attending. Special thanks to the ADFF for allowing us to use the building on the Fall Fair grounds for this competition. The event went very well, and the judges were very impressed with the quality of all the speeches. The top 3 competitors in the Senior category will go on to represent Vancouver Island at the 4-H Provincial Communications Final in July in Langley.

Project meetings are well under way for all Projects and members are working with their project animals, or their machines in the case of the Small Engines project!

A very successful Tag Day was held the weekend of June 5/6 and approximately \$2000 raised for the 4-H District – as usual the people of Port Alberni were very generous and very encouraging to all the members who took part. It's always wonderful to see the support that 4-H has here in the Alberni Valley

Monthly business meetings continue.

The District Judging Rally was held at Arrowvale Farm on June 20th – special thanks to Bob and Ann Collins for generously offering their farm for this event.

Plans are underway to attend the Coombs Fair, Alberni District Fall Fair and possibly the Comox Valley Exhibition.

Respectfully submitted

Patty Palmer

Resource Leader, Port Alberni 4-H District