

---

# News Release

---

For immediate release

## GOVERNMENTS PROVIDE CERTAINTY TO B.C. PRODUCERS

**OTTAWA, Ontario, April 7, 2008** – The Government of Canada is working with British Columbia to deliver programs for Canadian farm families through the *Growing Forward* initiative. While that progress continues, some existing programs under the Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) will be extended for up to one year, starting April 1, 2008.

The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, and the Honourable Pat Bell, B.C. Minister of Agriculture and Lands, today announced the continuation of programs under the APF.

“*Growing Forward* is delivering real results for Canadian agriculture and this Government is working with the provinces and territories to give farm families stability while we develop important new initiatives,” said Minister Ritz. “Providing this stability while delivering progress on *Growing Forward* is another example of this Government’s commitment to put farmers first.”

Producers and processors in B.C. will continue to receive services from all APF federal and provincial programs in the areas of environment, food safety, innovation and renewal.

“As we continue to negotiate the *Growing Forward* agreement it is important that B.C. farm families, producers and processors receive seamless, continuous service from the provincial and federal governments,” Minister Bell said.

Consultations will continue so that *Growing Forward* programs are developed with the needs of sector in mind. “This gives us the time we need to ensure farmers have the voice they deserve in program design,” said Minister Ritz.

For a list of continuing APF programs in B.C. visit [www.agr.gc.ca/growingforward](http://www.agr.gc.ca/growingforward)

- 30 -

For more information, media may contact:

**Media Relations**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
1-866-345-7972  
613-759-7972

**Margaux Stastny**

Press Secretary  
Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz  
613-759-1059

**Liz Bicknell**

Communications Director  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands  
250-356-2862  
250-213-3072 (cell)