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Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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www.gov.bc.ca/al

Ministry of Environment

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Ministry of Forests and Range

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USEFUL LINKS

Provincial Agricultural Land Commission

www.alc.gov.bc.ca

LiveSmart BC

www.livesmartbc.ca

Farm Fresh B.C. Products

www.al.gov.bc.ca/farmdirect

Circle Farm Tours

www.circlefarmtour.com

B.C. Agriculture Council

www.bcac.bc.ca

Ranching Task Force

www.ranchingtaskforce.gov.bc.ca

B.C. Cattlemen's Association

www.cattlemen.bc.ca

B.C. Association of Farmers' Markets

www.bcfarmersmarket.org

New Opportunities in Bioenergy

www.tted.gov.bc.ca/ICEFund/Pages/default.aspx

Working with BC Ranchers

LEEF Regional Innovation Chair in Cattle

Industry Sustainability

www.leefbc.ca/email/0903e/At_home_on_the_range.html

MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



British Columbia has strong agricultural heritage. From ranchers in the Interior to farmers in the Fraser Valley to people working in aquaculture in coastal communities, agriculture continues to be an important part of our communities and our economy. Our plan for ensuring

the long-term success of the agriculture and food sectors focuses on our shared priorities: The health of British Columbians; climate change mitigation; environmental sustainability; and a growing B.C. economy. As part of our commitment we brought together agriculture stakeholders from across the province to create a B.C. Agriculture Plan that maps out the future for agriculture in B.C.

We've also launched an important new initiative to support B.C.'s ranchers. The new Ranching Task Force brings together the people who work in the ranching sector to identify new ways of ensuring a strong future for this important industry.

Together, we can implement new strategies to strengthen this sector and to seize new opportunities. By working co-operatively we can ensure all British Columbians have secure access to locally-produced food, and we have an agriculture industry that supports jobs, families and communities for generations to come.

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia



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BUILDING THE FUTURE >>

IN AGRICULTURE



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LEADING THE WAY IN BIOSECURITY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

B.C. has a proven track record of identifying and neutralizing biological threats to our animals and food systems. We are ensuring our continued ability to:

- » Quickly identify and deal with potential diseases with our own \$14.3 million Containment Level 3 laboratory in Abbotsford.
- » Educate and work alongside producers to help keep their flocks and herds healthy and productive.
- » Protect animal and human health with state-of-the-art technology and strict regulations.

B.C. IS BUILDING INNOVATIVE AND PROFITABLE FAMILY FARM BUSINESSES

- » Working with industry to develop sector-specific strategic plans.
- » Helping ranchers protect their investment with a Crown range fencing program and an expanded highway fencing program.
- » Bringing the delivery of the federal income stabilization program AgriStability home to B.C., allowing producers to work more efficiently with government staff who understand their local and regional needs.
- » Assisting the industry with human resources, succession planning and recruitment and training of new agricultural workers and farm owners.
- » Funding the regional Innovation Chair in Cattle Industry sustainability at Thompson Rivers University.

MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Agriculture generates 3.5 per cent of the province's total greenhouse gas emissions. We're working to make this industry carbon-neutral to help achieve our target of a 33 per cent reduction of greenhouse gases by 2020 by:

- » Developing opportunities in bioenergy technology and new techniques to reduce and manage waste.
- » Examining ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from food production.
- » Integrating the needs of agriculture in provincial water management policies and programs.
- » Improving environmental management in the agriculture and agri-food sectors and working on ways for farmers to receive benefits for ecological goods and service.
- » Reducing environmental impacts by optimizing rangeland forest production for livestock and co-ordinating invasive plant management provincewide.

Our government is investing almost \$8 million to support production of liquid biofuels with demonstrated low greenhouse gas emissions in British Columbia. This will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 33 per cent by 2020 and help meet the provincial standard of five per cent minimum annual average renewable content for gasoline and diesel used in B.C. beginning in 2010.

HELPING BRITISH COLUMBIANS EAT HEALTHY AND LOCALLY

Tremendous regional differences in British Columbia have resulted in the most diverse agricultural production of any province in Canada.

We're capitalizing on this opportunity to reduce the distance from farm to plate so consumers have fresh, healthy, locally grown food.

We're also helping connect consumers to locally produced food with resources like our online guide to farmers markets.

We're promoting local agriculture and food products, and working to strengthen community food systems.

We also make sure that children get started right with a taste of fresh B.C. produce through the School Fruit and Vegetable Nutrition Program.

Through programs like Agriculture in the Classroom, children are able to see first-hand the connection between the earth and their plate.

A major goal is to connect people in urban centres with the sources of the food they love, as well as educating the next generation about where their food comes from.

We also continue to support groups that help spark an interest in agriculture and assist in bridging the gap between urban and rural populations.

The Province is supporting new strategies to market British Columbia grown farm products, create jobs and new growth in Agriculture and food.

AGRICULTURE: GROWING SUCCESS IN B.C.

With over 225 commodities, British Columbia's diverse agricultural sector is part of a \$22-billion provincial food industry that supports nearly 300,000 jobs.

We're working to support the long-term success of the industry through actions that will help promote British Columbia products, create jobs and help producers be good stewards of the land.

