

Ministry of Agriculture

2014/15 – 2016/17 SERVICE PLAN

February 2014



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Published by the Ministry of Agriculture

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



It is an honour to present the *Ministry of Agriculture 2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan*.

The best way the B.C. government can help farmers, ranchers and those in the seafood and processing business succeed is to focus on developing a business environment that supports innovation and competitiveness in agrifoods. The hard working British Columbians that form our agrifoods industry play a big part in generating jobs, stimulating investment and encouraging growth and stability in communities across our province, and the B.C. government will keep working with them to find and take advantage of opportunities to earn new dollars. I'm proud to say that despite the fiscal pressures experienced in world markets, and the competitiveness of the international agrifoods sector, our efforts to date are working.

B.C.'s agrifoods sector grew by over one billion dollars in the last two years, reaching a total annual revenue of \$11.7 billion in 2012. We are on target to achieve our goal of the sector becoming a \$14 billion-a-year industry by 2017, and this Service Plan outlines how we are going to get there and working to achieve government's vision of a strong economy and secure tomorrow.

B.C. foods are in demand locally and around the world because they are recognized as trusted sources of nutrition that can be served with confidence. The Ministry of Agriculture will continue to work with industry, including through a new minister's advisory committee, to build markets for B.C. foods and help our farming, seafood and processing businesses earn more dollars. Our efforts to expand markets include programs within B.C. like our Buy Local program, growing domestic trade such as our work with other provinces to break down trade barriers on wine, and through programs that help prepare our exporters with the tools and information they need to sell B.C. products overseas.

B.C. food products are sold in more than 130 countries, and total \$2.5 billion in annual exports, and we are working to help that number grow. Through the hard work of ministry staff in B.C. and in our trade offices in China, B.C. has set records for agrifood exports to China in each of the last four years, and are expected to have reached an estimated \$225 million in 2013. We're pursuing similar opportunities in other Asian and European countries, while continuing to look at increasing our exports to our traditional trading partner, the United States.

Ensuring the more than 61,600 British Columbians employed in agriculture, seafood and food processing have a secure and sustainable future also means emphasizing the need for B.C. to support a competitive and modern industry. The government's Core Review is making sure the Ministry and the Agricultural Land Commission provide British Columbians with the best service possible, while emphasizing the need for the Commission to continue to be an independent decision maker and preserve B.C.'s productive agricultural land for future generations. We'll also continue our work with the Commission to help them deliver on the improvements promised from the budget increase in *Balanced Budget 2013* to further encourage the stability of farm families and the farming industry.

Other programs that support competitiveness that the Ministry will focus on this year include developing an annual replant program for B.C. treefruit growers, building on the recently established Centre of Excellence for Agriculture at the University of the Fraser Valley, continuing to provide carbon tax rebates on coloured fuels, and delivering our ongoing grant program for greenhouse growers. All of these programs support B.C. food producers ability to compete in the marketplace, and invest in jobs and innovation in the Province. The B.C. government's role in the federal-provincial *Growing Forward 2* agreement will further promote innovation and competitiveness in B.C.'s diverse agrifoods sector, and drive development of new products, processes, markets and new employment opportunities.

The Ministry's new meat inspection program for provincially licensed abattoirs was fully implemented on January 1, 2014. The new program ensures safety and quality are paramount and supports meat producers and processors capacity to provide quality B.C. meat products to meet growing local demand.

The *Ministry of Agriculture 2014/15 – 2016/17 Service Plan* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.



Honourable Pat Pimm
Minister of Agriculture
February 4, 2014

Table of Contents

Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement 3

Purpose of the Ministry 6

Strategic Context 8

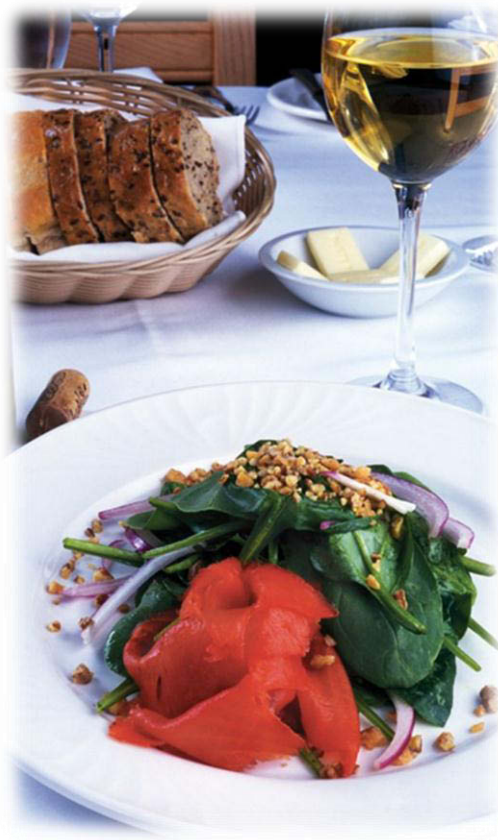
Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures 13

Resource Summary 26

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information 27

Appendix B: Agricultural Land Commission 30

Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board 33





Early Morning in Fraser Valley fields

Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) supports an innovative, adaptive, globally competitive and socially and environmentally responsible agrifoods sector valued by all British Columbians. The Ministry's support of healthy and safe agrifood and seafood production and post-production processing provides new and value-added products for domestic and international markets, contributing to B.C. jobs and the economy as well as to diversified rural communities.

The Ministry champions the agrifoods sector by:

- Supporting practices that promote adaptable, sustainable and competitive agrifoods production;
- Ensuring, in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the Federal Government, a regulatory system that promotes animal and plant health and food safety, which includes a provincially operated meat inspection program;
- Delivering programs to stabilize farm incomes when threatened by circumstances beyond farmers' control to ensure continued long-term production;
- Providing guidance and funding to the sector to increase market development;
- Supporting the agricultural industry's contribution to the green economy;
- Working with other ministries, federal partners and other governments, stakeholders and industry to ensure sustainable marine fisheries; and,
- Working to balance urban / agricultural interests.

The Ministry relies on interagency cooperation with organizations such as the Agricultural Land Commission and the BC Farm Industry Review Board. The Agricultural Land Commission is an administrative tribunal that oversees the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land-use zone that recognizes agriculture as a priority use. The Agricultural Land Commission operates independently but is funded through the Ministry. Similarly, the BC Farm Industry Review Board is an administrative tribunal funded by the Ministry but which operates independently as the general supervisor of commodity boards and commissions and in hearing regulated marketing appeals, produce grading license appeals, appeals related to animal custody decisions of the British Columbia

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, farm practices complaints and conducting farm practices studies.

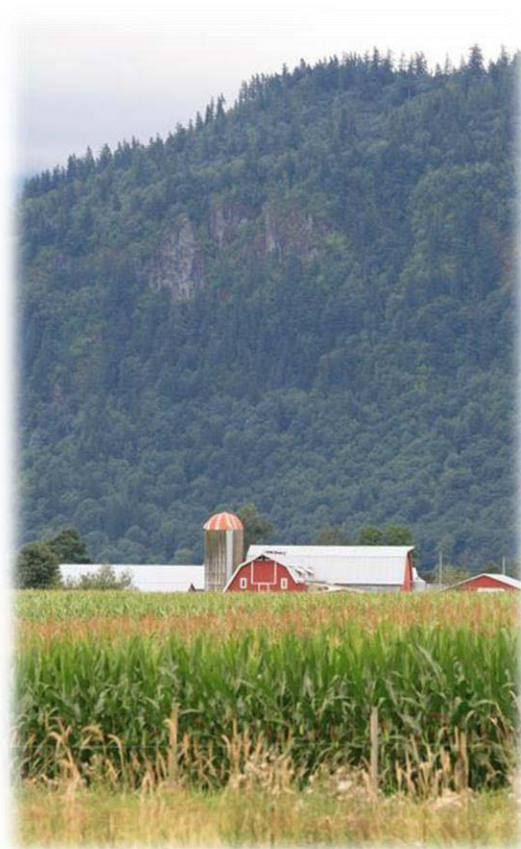
The Ministry also collaborates with the Federal Government, other provincial ministries, local governments, First Nations, industry and non-governmental organizations in terms of funding and service delivery. The mandates of these bodies connect in a variety of key areas such as trade, climate change, innovation, resource management coordination, food safety and quality, support for local food, commitments to First Nations, animal and plant health, pest management, environmental issues and promotion of B.C. agrifoods products.

Management and regulation of agriculture are shared jurisdictional interests of both the Federal and Provincial Governments. The Ministry and the industry receive considerable financial support from federal cost-shared programs. The \$3 billion Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial agricultural policy framework agreement, *Growing Forward 2* is expected to bring about \$255 million of Federal funding to the Province over the agreement's five year life, which started on April 1, 2013 and ends March 31, 2018. Business Risk Management programming is expected to account for about \$186 million of the funding, depending on program demand. The remaining \$69 million will support Strategic Initiative programming, targeting sector innovation, competitiveness, access to markets, adaptability and industry capacity.

Management and regulation of capture fisheries and aquaculture are shared jurisdictional interests of both the Federal and Provincial Governments. The Federal Government has primary responsibility for the conservation of wild fish stocks and appropriate management of wild fisheries and aquaculture, both finfish and shellfish. The Ministry interests have a twofold focus – ensuring sustainability of fisheries and the environment, and for maximizing the economic and social benefit of fisheries for the people of B.C. The Ministry works with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to ensure appropriate fisheries management practices which support a sustainable industry, and works closely with industry to encourage sector innovation, competitiveness and market access. The Ministry also cooperates with other Federal and Provincial agencies on food safety issues, and environmental protection.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 31 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry and a further 73 regulations relating to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at:

www.leg.bc.ca/procs/allacts/agric.htm.



Less than 5 per cent of B.C.'s land is suitable for farming due to issues such as slope and soil type and coverage. This farm is nestled in the Fraser Valley.

Strategic Context

The Ministry of Agriculture works to promote an innovative, adaptive and globally competitive agrifoods sector for the benefit of all British Columbians. The agrifoods sector- which includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and processing - is an important and successful contributor to the B.C. economy, and has responded vigorously to challenges and opportunities. While much has been accomplished, there is still more to do as new markets, products, competitors and issues impact the sector. The Ministry continues to work with the sector to support its competitiveness and viability.

Ministry staff, including the BC Farm Industry Review Board and the Agricultural Land Commission, number over 350. This includes veterinarians, microbiologists, virologists, Professional Agrologists and Engineers, planners, production and food science/processing industry specialists, business analysts and economists, as well as an array of other technical, business, administrative and financial experts. As a natural resource focused ministry, staff combine on-site field observations and client contact, research, knowledge and their professional training and judgment to identify opportunities and avoid or mitigate risks. Increased access to data and new equipment accelerates sharing of insights from fieldwork, research and analyses. The Containment Level 3 lab in Abbotsford, for example, speeds B.C.'s time-critical analyses of samples that would otherwise have to be sent out of province. Similarly, specialist staff develop spatial information identifying the types of agricultural production, part of the foundation for local government agricultural planning processes.

The following section provides a summary of some external factors and trends affecting the Ministry's activities.

Global economic outlook

The Economic Forecast Council expects British Columbia's real GDP to grow by 2.3 per cent in 2014 and 2.7 per cent in 2015. Risks to British Columbia's economic outlook include the potential for further slowing of domestic activity, renewed weakness in the US economy and slowing Asian demand. Additional risks include the ongoing sovereign debt situation in Europe and a fluctuating Canadian dollar.

National and Provincial Factors

By 2030, Canada is expected to be one of only a handful of countries exporting more food than it imports. In 2012, B.C. agricultural and seafood exports went to over 130 countries and represented \$2.5 billion in economic activity in the Province. B.C., as Canada's Pacific Gateway, has opportunities to export more agrifoods products and increase its economic return to the Province. B.C.'s advantages include the diversity of its agrifoods commodities.

Over the past several years, B.C.'s agrifoods sector has faced several changes affecting its competitiveness and profitability. A strong Canadian dollar and the high costs of energy and other inputs have placed downward pressure on the agrifoods sectors. The sector competes in international markets where Canada is now negotiating bilateral and multilateral agreements. International and national competitors, with similar or lower cost structures and larger economies of scale, will likely continue to squeeze profit margins for B.C.'s producers and processors. In the agrifoods sector, where

over 80 per cent of the seafood is destined for the export market, there is a strong focus on maintaining access and competitive advantage in global markets, necessitating quick responses to changing market opportunities.

In 2012, B.C.'s agricultural, fisheries, aquaculture and processing sectors employed almost 61,600 people and generated \$11.7 billion in annual revenue. This is building to the 2017 target of \$14 billion of annual revenue. The nearly 20,000 farms had total sales of \$2.8 billion in 2012, and employed 26,000 people. The 639 aquaculture operations had \$375.1 million in sales, while the 3,053 commercial fishing vessels had sales of \$293.4 million and, together, employed another 3,800 people. The roughly 1400 processors handled a wide range of agricultural and seafood products, employed an estimated 31,800 people and generated nearly \$8.2 billion in sales.



B.C. seafood is sought after in local, Canadian and international markets. Here, Premier Christy Clark promotes B.C. seafood in Asia.

The 2013-2018 *Growin Forward 2* Federal/ Provincial/ Territorial agreement provides joint Canada/ B.C. funding for strategic initiatives and business risk management programming for B.C.'s agrifoods sector. To maximize the strategic benefits of this funding, the Ministry's operations are guided by the Minister of Agriculture's [Mandate Letter](#) and the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17](#), in which the agrifoods sector is featured. Similarly, the Ministry's work is informed by the [2012 B.C. AGRIFOODS: a strategy for growth](#), which includes an emphasis on employment and the economic importance of the sector, and is part of [Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan](#).

Business Risk Management programs are in place to help farmers manage risks from income declines resulting from causes such as drought, flooding, low prices, and increased input costs. The programs work together by providing protection for different types of losses, as well as cash flow options.

There are four cost-shared programs, described here: first, AgriInvest helps cover small income declines and allows for investments that help mitigate risks or improve market income; second, AgriStability provides short term benefits when there are large declines in the margin between revenue and operating expenses caused by circumstances such as significant market fluctuations in commodity prices or input costs; third, AgriInsurance offers protection against production losses for specific crops caused by weather events and other natural hazards such as hail, drought, flooding or disease; and fourth, AgriRecovery provides disaster assistance to help farmers cover extraordinary costs required to return their businesses to production.

In addition, the Advance Payments Program is a complementary federal-only program to help crop and livestock producers with cash flow and to provide flexibility for marketing of commodities.

The Ministry of Agriculture continues to make all efforts to reduce administrative and discretionary costs in order to achieve its savings targets without impacting direct services.

Expenditure management controls are in place to balance the ministry's budget and support a balanced budget for the Province.

Capitalizing on B.C.'s reputation for safety and quality

B.C. has an enviable reputation as a leader in the production and processing of a wide range of safe, high-quality agrifoods products.



Effective January 1, 2014, the Ministry of Agriculture, on behalf of B.C., assumed responsibility for delivery of a new, provincially-operated meat inspection program in the Province. The program, with meat product safety as its top priority, supports producers and processors as they meet local demand for B.C.-produced meat products.

Growing focus on buying locally produced products

B.C. enjoys a domestic market driven by the largest population of the four western provinces. Growing support in B.C. for locally produced food is leading to changes in eating habits and consumer choices. These changes have contributed to the number of farmers' markets across B.C. increasing from about 100 to almost 150 and total direct sales have increased by approximately 150 per cent between 2006 and 2012. Local seafood is available through many farmers' markets as well as through dockside sales in coastal communities. Buying locally produced products, either at farmers' markets or retail stores, reduces the distance food travels from farm to plate, transportation costs and greenhouse gas emissions. It also supports families involved in the production, harvesting and processing sectors and strengthens the future of the agrifoods sector provincially.

Increasing Innovation

Innovation leads to tangible benefits for producers, processors and the citizens of B.C. An innovative sector is one that continually develops and adopts new products and practices to remain competitive and sustainable. Innovation can take place anywhere along the innovation continuum, from basic exploratory research through to final product delivery. Focused investment in innovation can increase productivity, reduce costs, advance sustainability and lead to the development and commercialization of new products, processes and practices that will make the sector more competitive.



Highly engineered, innovative facilities combine with skilled production staff resulting in quality mushroom production at this B.C. operation. Photo courtesy of All Seasons Mushrooms.

Since B.C. is a relatively small producer in the global trading arena, B.C.'s agrifoods commodity pricing is led by much larger producers. As a result, innovation - including new product development - is very important in establishing and servicing niche markets and responding to market opportunities for B.C.'s agrifoods.

Urban / Agricultural Interactions

A large portion of B.C.'s most productive farmland is near urban development. This can lead to tensions over odour, noise and dust as well as competing demands for water. The Ministry works with producers and communities through the Strengthening Farming Program to address a range of conflicts. The Farm Industry Review Board also hears farm practices complaints and provides impartial resolution to disputes related to these issues. The Agricultural Land Commission assists farm families and contributes to the sector's overall sustainability by ensuring that land is retained in the Agricultural Land Reserve and that appropriate use is made of land in the reserve.

Resource Management Collaboration and Coordination

When Government's structure to manage Crown land and natural resources was reconfigured in the spring of 2011, it created an improved arena for coordination and integration. The natural resource ministries involved include: Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation; Agriculture; Energy and Mines; Natural Gas Development; Environment; and Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations. Under the direction of the Natural Resource Board, these ministries are making bold changes to service delivery in the natural resource sector. This sectoral approach promotes streamlined authorization processes and enhanced access to public services across the Province. The reconfiguration facilitates more consistent engagement and consultation with industry, stakeholders, partners and clients. It also enhances inclusion of Aboriginal, economic and environmental considerations into decision making. The ministries are working together to make these improvements and meet the commitments of the *BC Strategic Plan* and *The BC Jobs Plan*.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation remains responsible for the overarching Crown-First Nations relationship as well as consultation policy, and supports all natural resource sector ministries on strategic consultation issues such as proposed policy or legislative changes. Through its New Relationship with First Nations, that Ministry along with government as a whole remains committed to constructive consultation with Aboriginal peoples on socio-economic issues and opportunities.

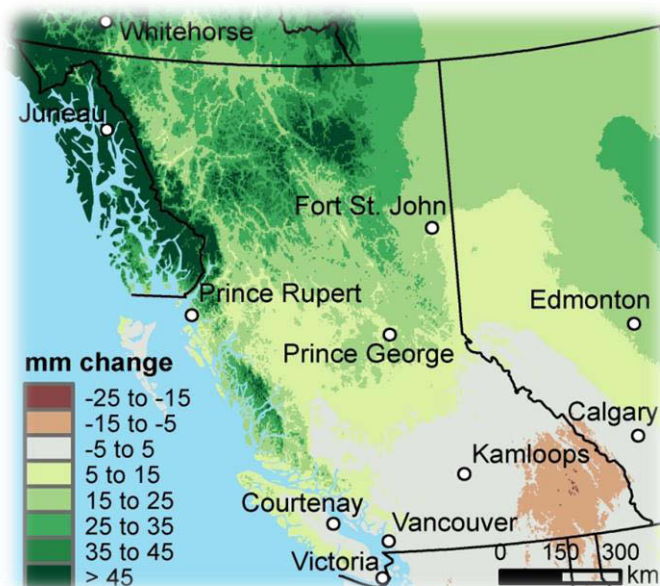


Aerial view of farming in the Fraser River Delta

The Ministry of Agriculture will continue to work with the Ministry of Environment on the review of the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation, the Organic Matter Recycling Regulation and the

Packaging and Recycling Regulation in 2014-15. The Ministry also expects to continue to provide agricultural perspectives to the Agricultural Water Committee through fiscal 2014-15. This Committee includes the BC Agriculture Council and continues to provide input into the Ministry of Environment's *Water Sustainability Act* process. The severe drought conditions in many of the US states in 2012, floods of 2013 and the predictions of changes in B.C.'s future precipitation levels are reminders of the agricultural sector's vulnerability to climate change and the importance of climate change adaptation and mitigation in our Ministry.

Collaboration of the Natural Resource Sector ministries reinforces sustainable environmental management, and can promote the creation of family-supporting jobs. The Natural Resource Sector ministries cooperate in emergency management, such as managing livestock evacuation during floods or fires. Improving the efficiency of service delivery will also help address the budget realities and demographic challenges facing the Province. Similarly, significant interaction takes place between Natural Resource Sector ministries during natural gas exploration and removal near or on farmland.



B.C. summer precipitation change expected by the 2050s based on 1961-1990 baseline precipitation. Courtesy: Climate Impacts Consortium

The Ministry works closely with Fisheries and Oceans Canada regarding aquaculture and commercial harvesting to ensure the sustainability and maximum economic value of fisheries.

The October 2012 final report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Decline of Sockeye Salmon in the Fraser River (the "Cohen Commission") includes 75 recommendations regarding the policies, practices and procedures of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. On March 22, 2013, the B.C. Government announced that it accepts the intent of each of the eight Cohen Commission recommendations that directly reference the Province and the need to work cooperatively with federal and local governments. In addition, the B.C. Government's response notes the Province has no intention of issuing any new tenure agreements for net-pen salmon farms in the Discovery Islands until September 30, 2020.

The Ministry also works with B.C. agencies to maintain a healthy environment for fisheries, and address issues such as discharge from urban sewage and processing facilities.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry's service plan is organized around three long-term goals:

- **Goal 1:** Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province;
- **Goal 2:** An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector; and,
- **Goal 3:** Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

The Ministry is committed to supporting government's strategic priorities for a strong economy and a secure tomorrow, as laid out in the Minister of Agriculture's *Mandate Letter* and the *Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2013/14 – 2016/17*. Part of delivering on the Plan involves implementing the 2012 *B.C. AGRIFOODS: a strategy for growth*, which is part of the *Canada Starts Here: The BC Jobs Plan*. The priorities in the Minister's *Mandate Letter* as well as in the above plans are consolidated and reflected in this service plan.

The Ministry worked with industry to develop the agrifoods strategy, launched in March 2012, to leverage opportunities and accelerate growth in the agrifoods sector. As part of the commitment made under *The BC Jobs Plan*, the Ministry commissioned a special report to identify opportunities for growth and innovation in the greenhouse industry and is following up on the resulting recommendations.



Salad made from fresh B.C. greens, berries and chicken

Goal 1: Agricultural and food sectors contribute positively to the economic diversity and well-being of the Province

Objective 1.1: An economically sustainable agricultural and food sector.

The Ministry supports sector profitability and self-reliance through programs and services that provide farmers with tools to adapt and sustain their businesses in the face of environmental and market risk.

Strategies

- Promote, deliver and improve national business risk management programs and services.
- Provide strategic business development leadership and build business management awareness, market intelligence, and capacity within the agricultural and food sector.
- Work with the University of the Fraser Valley and the Ministry of Advanced Education to create a new Centre of Excellence for Agriculture.
- Continue to provide carbon tax relief to the agricultural sector, as committed to in *Balanced Budget 2013*.
- Begin development of a sustainable tree fruit replant program for implementation upon the expiry of the existing program.



Ranching is an important component of the B.C. agrifoods sector.

Performance Measure 1: Ratio of administrative costs to Production Insurance premiums.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Ratio of administrative costs ¹ to Production Insurance premiums	20:80	20:80	20:80	20:80

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture.

¹ Administrative costs include both fixed and variable costs.

Discussion

This measure indicates efficiency of government's delivery of the Production Insurance program by comparing administrative cost ratios to the private sector's. Production Insurance in Canada is delivered by provincial administrations.

The Ministry reports against a ratio of administrative costs to premiums, with a very tight, ongoing target of 20:80. B.C. selected this type of ratio because it is most comparable to the private sector. The value of private sector ratios for most insurance products ranges between 25:75 and 30:70. B.C.'s 20:80 target, with lower administrative costs than the private sector, represents a tight balance for B.C. between efficiency and resource requirements to protect the integrity of the program.¹

Objective 1.2: Strategic growth and development of the agrifoods sector.

The Ministry encourages growth in the agrifoods sector through programs that foster innovation, competitiveness and improved market access.

Strategies

- Facilitate access to new markets for B.C. agrifoods producers and processors by seeking resolution of trade barriers to B.C. agrifoods products in international and domestic markets, including interprovincial barriers to trade in wine.
- Help producers and processors to capitalize on new market opportunities.
- Work with the Minister of International Trade to ensure trade capacity for B.C. agricultural support is sufficient to secure additional Asian trade export growth.
- Work with the B.C. Association of Cattle Feeders in development and promotion of their “Certified Beef” brand and with the provincial organic farming sector to enhance branding of B.C. organic foods.
- Support innovative product and process development, commercialization and technology adoption.
- Enable production and use of renewable energy.



Some of B.C.'s 3,053 fishing vessels which harvest fresh seafood

¹ Production Insurance administrative costs vary widely between provinces. B.C.'s 20 per cent cost is on the lower end of other provinces' costs, which varied from just under 10 per cent to over 150 per cent of premiums. Provinces with diverse types of crops and relatively low farm cash receipts, such as B.C., tend to have relatively higher program costs, than do provinces with homogeneous crop production and higher farm cash receipts. The value of the crops produced is also significant when considering administrative costs. Production Insurance, as with all insurance, must incur administrative costs to protect the program from abuse and adverse selection. Failure to do so results in high claim rates which cause higher producer premiums and overall program costs. At the national level, three different administrative cost measures are used for comparative purposes: administrative costs to premiums received; administrative costs to value of coverage; and administrative costs per contract. B.C. uses the first ratio as it is most comparable to private sector insurance costs.

- Support the building of industry capacity through enhanced access to relevant information and funding programs.

Performance Measure 2: Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry.

Performance Measure	2012 Baseline ¹	2013 Forecast ⁵	2014 Target	2015 Target	2016 Target
Annual revenue growth in agrifoods industry ³	Farm Cash Receipts ² \$2.841 billion	4.0% Decline in farm cash receipts	4.0% Growth in farm cash receipts	4.5% Growth in farm cash receipts	5.0% Growth in farm cash receipts
	Seafood \$0.669 billion	1.0% Growth in landed value	1.0% Growth in landed value	1.0% Growth in landed value	1.0% Growth in landed value
	Food and Beverage Manufacturing ⁴ \$8.176 billion	2.4% Decline in value of shipments for food and beverage	5.0% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	5.5% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage	6.0% Growth in value of shipments for food and beverage
Total Annual Projected Revenue	\$11.686 billion	\$11.383 billion	\$11.898 billion	\$12.493 billion	\$13.178 billion

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Cansim Tables 002-001 and 003-001 and adapted from Cansim Table 304-0015.

¹ For consistency, revenue growth is calculated using the actual published 2012 revenues rather than the three year average used in the 2012/13 – 2014/15 Service Plan.

² Farm cash receipts include crop and livestock receipts as well as direct payments to the sector.

³ The agrifoods industry includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture, and processing/manufacturing.

⁴ The July to December 2012 Beverage Manufacturing estimates were imputed using the 2011 estimates for the same months since the 2012 data were restricted for confidentiality reasons.

⁵ The 2013 forecast is an estimate based on data available as of January 2014.



Master Distiller with still in B.C. distillery. Photo: Courtesy of Pemberton Distillery

Discussion:

This measure reflects the growth in annual revenues by the agrifoods sector by monitoring growth in the value of farm cash receipts for crops and livestock, the landed value of seafood, and the estimated value of shipments from B.C. food and beverage processors. Revenue growth is an indicator of the contribution of B.C.'s agrifoods industries to the provincial economy. Targets are based on the average annual rate of change in revenues. Since these revenues are driven by market conditions, they are not wholly under the Ministry's control.

In 2013, the forecasted revenues for food and beverage manufacturing and primary agricultural sectors are lower than those realised in 2012. These declines reflect a return to historical average prices and harvest levels for many agricultural commodities following 2012, in which many grain, fruit and livestock categories experienced record high yields and/or prices. The 2014-2016 targets, if achieved, would see the agrifoods industry revenues reach the *Agrifoods Strategy* goal of \$14 billion in sectoral revenues by 2017.

Goal 2: An environmentally responsible agrifoods sector.

Objective 2.1: Sustainable management of British Columbia's soil, water and air resources for agrifoods production and processing.

The Ministry supports the agrifoods sector to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

Strategies

- Provide programs and activities to identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and enable adoption of best management practices supporting environmentally responsible production. For example, the Agriculture Water Demand Model will be expanded to the South Thompson, Cariboo Regional District, Peace River and Islands Trust in 2014/15 to help ensure adequate water supply for food production.
- Support local governments, as well as the agricultural and food sectors to respond to and recover from environmental disasters.
- Work with commercial fishing industry to maintain and expand world standard eco-certification, such as that set by the Marine Stewardship Council.



Ministry staff member provides technical information on soil management on a farm in the Fraser Valley, B.C.

Performance Measure 3: Cumulative and annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans ¹	3830 ²	4055	4255	4430
Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	250	225	200	175

Data Source: Agricultural Research and Development Corporation reports and agreements.

¹ Canada-British Columbia *Growing Forward* Agreement (2008-2013) and *Growing Forward 2*, (2013-2018).

² The 2013/14 Base data are made up of the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans.

Discussion

This measure provides an indication of the response of farmers to environmental opportunities and risks on their farms. An Environmental Farm Plan is a voluntary, confidential assessment of opportunities to enhance environmental operations of B.C. farms and ranches. An assessment is conducted by the farm/ranch operator with the assistance of a trained planning advisor. The performance measure is the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. These assessments are a pre-requisite to accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices targeted at specific agri-environmental situations.

The Province has a target of 4580 B.C. farms having Environmental Farm Plans by the end of the *Growing Forward 2* agreement in 2018, as is reflected in the above targets. We are also currently working with the sector to help producers develop plans in more cost effective ways, including development of group plans. B.C. is also considering cross compliance, i.e. requiring that plans be developed before access can be given to specific programs.

Objective 2.2: Sustainable agrifoods management practices that assist successful mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry to develop innovative products, tools and processes to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

Strategies

- Promote opportunities for reduction in carbon dioxide equivalent emissions and encourage improved environmental practice initiatives in the sector, which is striving to become more carbon-neutral.
- Support the Province’s climate change goals by identifying, researching and developing market opportunities for the agrifoods sector, including development and use of new products that will thrive under new climatic conditions.
- Support improvements in the efficiency of water and energy use by the agrifoods sector.
- Foster industry responsiveness to new and emerging capture fisheries and aquaculture opportunities to enable development and diversification of seafood products.



Ministry staff member samples soil from a corn field in the Fraser Valley as part of a Fraser Valley Soil Nutrient Study.

Performance Measure 4: Cumulative and annual reduction of agricultural sector carbon dioxide (CO₂) or carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions arising from actions supported by Ministry programs.

Performance Measure	2008/09 Baseline ²	2012/13 Actual ³	2013/14 Forecast	2014/15 Target ⁴	2015/16 Target ⁴	2016/17 Target ⁴
Cumulative reduction in CO ₂ or CO ₂ e emissions resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs ¹	19,000	91,000	105,000	120,000	135,000	150,000
Annual reduction in CO ₂ or CO ₂ e emissions resulting from actions supported by Ministry programs	N/A	23,000	14,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Pacific Carbon Trust and Climate Action Secretariat

¹ Includes the number of offset tonnes of carbon dioxide or CO₂ equivalent emissions retired through the Pacific Carbon Trust each year in emissions reduction projects which can be classified as coming from the agricultural sector, (for example: energy efficiencies recognized in the greenhouse industry); Carbon offsets are measured as one metric tonne of carbon dioxide or equivalent (CO₂e).

² Based on 2008 calendar year.

³ Forecast and Target numbers have changed significantly from the 2013/14 – 2015/16 Service Plan to reflect 2012/13 Actual numbers.

⁴ Target numbers are contingent upon continued offset contracting between agriculture companies and the Climate Action Secretariat (including the former Pacific Carbon Trust).

Discussion

This measure indicates the success of the Ministry in encouraging farms to implement innovations or practices which reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Beneficial Management Practices contribute to CO₂e reductions and are funded under *Growing Forward 2*. Caps, cost-shares and types of eligible projects are reviewed and adjusted annually.

Beneficial Management Practices will only qualify for *Growing Forward 2* funding if they are identified in approved Environmental Farm Plans (see Performance Measure 2). These projects focus on minimizing farm impact on water quality and quantity, energy use and climate change issues such as greenhouse gas production. Examples of Beneficial Management Practices include the installation of thermal curtains in greenhouses to reduce heat loss and CO₂e production and the change in type of equipment used, which can reduce fuel consumption and contribute to CO₂e savings.



Beekeeper, shown here with his bees. Healthy bees are critical to agricultural production.

Goal 3: Community and social well-being are enhanced by responsible agricultural and food sector practices.

Objective 3.1: Promote a positive urban / agrifoods relationship to facilitate sustainable production for farms.



Urban development alongside an agricultural area, Comox-Strathcona, Vancouver Island, B.C.

Agricultural activity depends on good relations with local government and community members. With only 1.5 per cent of British Columbians living on farms, it has become increasingly important for local governments to keep in touch with farm and ranch communities to help facilitate support for the agricultural sector. The Ministry, for example, is conducting work on vegetative borders to intercept dust from barn exhaust fans to reduce impacts on neighbours.

Preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, and the Ministry supports the Agricultural Land

Commission's work by promoting a positive urban / agricultural environment to ensure farmers can continue to farm in farming areas.

Strategies

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local governments to support the agrifoods sector across B.C., in part by establishing standards to guide local government bylaw development in farming areas.
- Support and deliver on activities contributing to sustainable agriculture business development in First Nations communities.
- Build a greater understanding of agriculture’s contribution to communities through proactive, province-wide communication strategies.
- Work with the Ministry of Finance to implement a tax credit program for farmers who donate their farmed food to B.C. food banks.
- Propose any changes needed to the Agricultural Land Reserve to support the Agricultural Land Commission’s work to fulfill its mandate to balance protection of good farmland with the stability of farm families and the farming industry and responsible economic development.
- Support local food initiatives, such as “Buy Local”, to promote B.C. products domestically.
- Provide information to inform Provincial and Federal agency decisions regarding siting and operation of aquaculture facilities.
- Projects, training, workshops and resources to provide youth with current information on the BC agriculture industry, farm safety, animal care, issues facing agriculture, and sustainable agriculture.



First Nation producer holds freshly harvested carrot and potato.



Youth program participant learns about greenhouse production

Performance Measure 5: Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Baseline	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Cumulative number of Agricultural Area Plans completed	57	61	65	69
Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed per year	5	4	4	4

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

Discussion

This measure provides an indication of how capacity is being built within farm communities to influence issues that affect agriculture. An Agricultural Area Plan is a community-based initiative to develop practical solutions to agricultural issues and to identify opportunities to strengthen farming. Key stakeholders prepare the plan, which includes strategies for economic development, marketing, processing, agri-tourism and proposals for bylaw amendments to support agriculture. Relevant parts of an Agricultural Area Plan become a subset of the official community plan. In October 2013 there were 55 completed Agricultural Area Plans throughout B.C., with at least six more underway. The ultimate number of Agricultural Area Plans will depend on how jurisdictions choose to operate - e.g. some small communities may choose to work together on one plan, while other communities may consider separate plans to be unnecessary, as agriculture is an integral part of their community's economy.

Objective 3.2: Animal, plant and human health are safeguarded.

The Ministry, in partnership with federal, provincial and local government agencies, delivers services and initiatives to effectively manage food safety, plant, fish and livestock health risks contributing to positive public health and to maintaining consumer confidence domestically and internationally.



The Abbotsford Agriculture Centre's Animal Health Centre provides valuable necropsy services.

Strategies

- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and bio-security strategies that will reduce the risk of animal disease outbreaks.
- Implement and deliver comprehensive provincial level programs for animal and plant health that manage the risks of animal disease, plant pests and invasive species and contribute to national programs.
- Protect the health of British Columbians by beginning development of a food safety strategy and increasing awareness and adoption of food safety programs and practices in the agrifood sector.
- Further develop a provincially-operated, cost-effective meat inspection program to ensure ongoing food safety and industry support as well as livestock health and welfare.
- Maintain a provincially operated, cost effective seafood inspection system to ensure food safety, industry support, fish health and welfare in aquaculture production facilities and the value chain for fish handling and processing.
- Deliver plant health management programs and services to promote healthy and viable crops.
- Advise growers on best management practices for pest control.
- Provide training for safe use of pesticides which would enable registration of low risk products.

Performance Measure 6: Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days.

Performance Measure	2013/14 Forecast	2014/15 Target	2015/16 Target	2016/17 Target
Per cent of routine diagnostic animal and plant samples completed within seven working days ¹	87%	88%	89%	90%

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

¹ Samples tested in-house and not referred to another laboratory. Diagnostic tests require minimum times to complete, depending on the nature of the test.

The Plant Health Unit advises growers on the best management practices for pest control and provides training for safe use of pesticides. This training enables registration of low risk products.

The Plant Health Diagnostic Laboratory provides plant health diagnoses and helps to fulfill the Plant Health Program’s mandate of providing programs and services to promote plant protection. The Laboratory receives samples from growers of all commodities in B.C., pest management consultants, industry groups, home gardeners and the public. In collaboration with the plant health team and other ministry staff, the lab increases the capability for early detection of new insect and disease threats.

Discussion

The Abbotsford Agriculture Centre houses the Animal Health Centre and the Plant Health Diagnostics Laboratory. The Animal Health Centre is a veterinary diagnostic laboratory, with a mandate to diagnose, monitor and assist in controlling and preventing animal disease in B.C.

Although primarily concerned with food-producing animals, the Centre also provides diagnostic services for companion animals, wildlife, zoo animals and marine mammals. Submissions are made to the laboratory by veterinarians, livestock producers, government agencies, humane societies, zoos, aquariums and members of the public. The Centre offers a wide range of veterinary laboratory tests on a fee basis to diagnose disease and other causes of poor production or mortality in animals. Samples from wildlife, marine mammal and the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals investigations are also regularly submitted to the Centre for examination and diagnostic tests.



Abbotsford Agriculture Centre, with Animal Health Centre on left. This high-level containment laboratory improves safety for laboratory workers; prevents the escape of disease agents to the community; enhances rapid response to animal disease events; and increases preparedness for dealing with newly-emerging diseases that could affect both animal and human health.

Turnaround time (TAT) is used as our performance measure for the Animal Health Centre Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (AHL) as it is one of the most noticeable signs of laboratory service and is

often used as a key performance indicator of laboratory performance in general. We are an AAVLD accredited laboratory with a fully audited quality assurance program to address our results quality, but users of the Animal Health Centre's services are interested in service quality, which as well as delivering test accuracy, also includes availability, cost, relevance and timeliness. Of these characteristics, timeliness is perhaps the most important to the producer or veterinarian looking at other livestock or poultry at risk. Unsatisfactory TAT is a major source of complaints to diagnostic laboratories regarding poor service and consumes much time and effort from laboratory staff in complaint resolution and service improvement if it is not addressed.

Resource Summary

Core Business Area	2013/14 Restated Estimates ⁽¹⁾	2014/15 Estimates	2015/16 Plan	2016/17 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Agriculture Science and Policy ⁽²⁾	17,036	15,901	15,901	15,901
Business Development ⁽³⁾	41,869	40,519	40,619	40,619
BC Farm Industry Review Board	896	896	896	896
Executive and Support Services	6,901	6,901	6,901	6,901
Sub Total	66,702	64,217	64,317	64,317
Agricultural Land Commission ⁽⁴⁾	2,905	3,516	3,391	3,391
Production Insurance Account (Net) ⁽⁵⁾	9,700	12,000	12,000	12,000
Total	79,307	79,733	79,708	79,708
Capital Expenditures (\$000)				
Executive and Support Services ⁽⁶⁾	355	294	269	269
Total	355	294	269	269
Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
Agricultural Credit Act Receipts ⁽⁷⁾	6	0	0	0
Agricultural Credit Act Disbursements	0	0	0	0
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	6	0	0	0

(1) For comparative purposes, amounts shown for 2013/14 have been restated to be consistent with the presentation of the 2014/15 Estimates.

(2) The net decrease of \$1.135M in Agriculture Science and Policy is due to lower Meat Inspection Program budget in 2014/15 (\$1.085M) and a budget realignment to Business Development (\$0.050M).

(3) The net decrease in 2014/15 of \$1.350 million in Business Development is due to the budget transfer of (\$1.800M) to the Production Insurance Special Account, offset by \$0.400M budget lift for the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Rebate Program, and \$0.050M budget realignment from Agriculture Science and Policy. The \$0.100M budget increase in 2015/16 is due to an additional budget lift for the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Rebate Program.

(4) Budget 2013 provided the Agricultural Land Commission budget increases from 2012/13 of \$0.931M in 2013/14, \$1.542M in 2014/15 and \$1.417M in 2015/16.

(5) The \$2.3M increase to the Production Insurance Account in 2014/15 is due to the \$1.8M transfer from Business Development and a \$0.500M budget lift with an offsetting increase to revenue.

(6) The net \$0.061M capital decrease in 2014/15 is due to a \$0.054M increase to vehicles purchases and a \$0.115M reduction in Information System.

(7) Receipts represent principal repayments on outstanding loans issued under the *Agricultural Credit Act*, which was terminated on March 31, 1995. The Miscellaneous Statutes Amendments Act, 2003, provides the provisions for the loan repayments.

* Further information on program funding and vote recoveries is available in the [Estimates and Supplement to the Estimates](#).

Appendix A: Ministry Contact Information

Ministry of Agriculture:

P.O. Box 9120 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria B.C., V8W 9B4

Ph.: (250) 387-5121

Agriculture Science and Policy Division:

Ph.: (250) 356-1821, Fax (250) 356-7279

Business Development Division:

Ph.: (250) 356-1122, Fax (250) 356-7279

Ministry of Agriculture - Regional Offices:

Abbotsford

1767 Angus Campbell Road, V3G 2M3

Ph.: (604) 556-3001

Fax: (604) 556-3030

Toll free: 1-888-221-7141

Animal Health toll free: 1-800-661-9903

Courtenay

2500 Cliffe Avenue, V9N 5M6

Ph.: (250) 897-7540

Fax: (250) 334-1410

Cranbrook/Invermere

635 – 4th Street, Invermere, V0A 1K0

Ph.: (250) 342-4219

Fax: (250) 342-4262

Creston

1243 Northwest Boulevard, V0B 1G6

Ph.: (250) 402-6429

Fax: (250) 402-6497

Dawson Creek

4th Floor, 1201 - 103rd Avenue, V1G 4J2

Ph.: (250) 784-2601

Fax: (250) 784-2299

Toll free: 1-877-772-2200

Duncan

5785 Duncan Street, V9L 5G2

Ph.: (250) 746-1210

Fax: (250) 746-1292

Fort St. John

10043 - 100th Street, V1J 3Y5

Ph.: (250) 787-3240

Fax: (250) 787-3299

Toll free: 1-888-822-1345

Kamloops

2nd Floor, 441 Columbia Street, V2C 2T3

Ph.: (250) 828-4506

Fax: (250) 828-4154

Toll free: 1-888-823-3355

Kelowna

Unit 200 - 1690 Powick Road, V1X 7G5

Ph.: (250) 861-7211

Fax: (250) 861-7490

Toll free: 1-888-332-3352

Oliver

Suite 201 - 583 Fairview Road, V0H 1T0

Ph.: (250) 498-5250 or 5251

Fax: (250) 498-4952

Toll free: 1-888-812-8811

Prince George

2000 South Ospika Boulevard, V2N 4W5

Ph.: (250) 614-7400

Fax: (250) 614-7435

Toll free: 1-800-334-3011

Smithers

3333 Tatlow Road, V0J 2N0

Ph.: (250) 847-6379

Fax: (250) 847-6353

Toll free: 1-888-540-8611

Vernon

2501 – 14th Avenue, V1T 8Z1

Ph.: (250) 260-4610

Fax: (250) 260-4602

Toll free: 1-877-702-5585

Williams Lake

300 - 640 Borland Street, V2G 4T1

Ph.: (250) 398-4500

Fax: (250) 398-4688

Toll free: 1-800-474-6133

Agricultural Land Commission

133 - 4940 Canada Way, Burnaby B.C., V5G 4K6

Ph.: (604) 660-7000

Fax: (604) 660-7033

Email: ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca

Internet: www.alc.gov.bc.ca

BC Farm Industry Review Board

780 Blanshard Street, Victoria B.C., V8W 9B5

Ph.: (250) 356-8945

Fax: (250) 356-5131

Email: firb@gov.bc.ca

Internet: www.firb.gov.bc.ca

For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture, including full contact information, visit our website at: www.gov.bc.ca/agri

Appendix B: Agricultural Land Commission

Purpose of the Commission

The Agricultural Land Commission is the provincial agency responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land use zone for the primary use of agriculture. As an administrative tribunal operating at arm's-length from government, the Agricultural Land Commission is accountable to the legislature through the Minister of Agriculture. Its operations are funded by a vote of the legislature.

In general, an administrative tribunal is a specialized government agency established under provincial legislation to implement legislative policy. Administrative tribunals engaged in an adjudicative process function in a manner more closely analogous to the courts. Procedure is less formal than before the courts and the rules of evidence do not apply, although decisions must be based only on sound evidence. The Agricultural Land Commission is expected to exercise its role in a non-partisan manner.

The work of the Agricultural Land Commission is carried out by provincial government appointed Commissioners. The appointed Commissioners are the board of directors of the Agricultural Land Commission which is supported by professional staff located in Burnaby.

The purposes of the Agricultural Land Commission as set out in the *Agricultural Land Commission Act* are:

- To preserve agricultural land;
- To encourage farming on agricultural land in collaboration with other communities of interest; and
- To encourage local governments, First Nations, the government and its agents to enable and accommodate farm use of agricultural land and uses compatible with agriculture in their plans, bylaws and policies.

The core business functions of the Agricultural Land Commission are land use planning and policy, working with local governments and stakeholders on land use matters affecting the Agricultural Land Reserve, compliance and enforcement and land use applications.

Through its annual business plan and other strategic documents, the Agricultural Land Commission establishes the goals, objectives and strategies it believes are necessary to achieve its mandate. Further information about the work of the Agricultural Land Commission may be found at www.alc.gov.bc.ca.

Agricultural Land Commission Business Plan Goals, Objectives and Strategies:

Goal 1: Preserve Agricultural Land and Encourage Farming

Objective 1.1: Preserve the provincial agricultural land base through comprehensive decision making

Strategies

- Consideration of agricultural capability and suitability of lands under application.
- Consideration of the potential impacts on the land base and the agricultural use of the land base.

Objective 1.2: Expand current planning functions to include proactive planning related to community planning, major projects and emerging issues.

Strategies

- Encourage local governments to engage in discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission and planning staff early in their land use planning processes.
- Encourage local government and other land use agencies to develop agriculturally sympathetic land use planning.
- Review Agricultural Land Reserve boundaries in select areas of the Province with a view to confirming the accuracy and appropriateness of the boundary.
- Become involved in major projects at the early conceptual developmental phase.
- Research and assess emerging issues that impact the agricultural land base.

Objective 1.3: Ensure a high degree of compliance with the Agricultural Land Commission Act, regulation and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission.

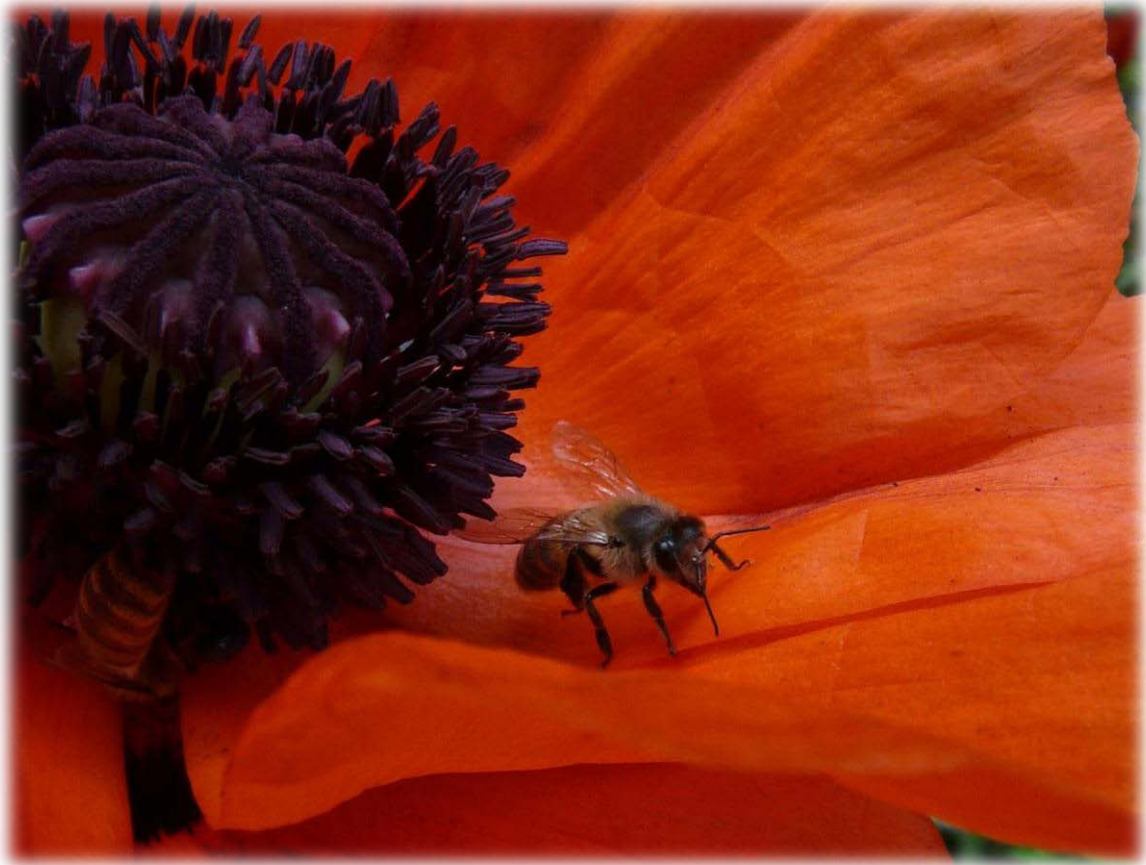
Strategies

- Ensure compliance with the Act, regulations and orders of the Agricultural Land Commission based on current resources.
- Follow up on complaints of inappropriate use of Agricultural Land Reserve lands.

Objective 1.4: Propose ways to strengthen the Agricultural Land Commission’s mandate and improve operations.

Strategies

- Work with the Minister responsible to bring forward proposed legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the Agricultural Land Reserve and the mandate of the Agricultural Land Commission.



Bee with probiscus showing, on poppy flower. Photo coutesy of Devorah White.

Appendix C: British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Purpose of the Board:

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (the Board) is an independent administrative tribunal that operates at arm's-length from government. As the regulatory tribunal responsible for the general supervision of B.C. regulated marketing boards and commissions, the Board makes rules, regulations, and policy decisions to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacity, the Board provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. The Board consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent positions and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

The Board's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and include:

- supervising B.C.'s regulated marketing boards and commissions;
- being a signatory to formal federal-provincial cooperation agreements in regulated marketing;
- hearing appeals of provincial agricultural commodity board decisions;
- hearing appeals of Minister of Agriculture decisions to refuse, suspend, revoke or not renew agricultural produce grading licenses;
- hearing appeals related to animal custody decisions of the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals;
- hearing farm practices complaints from persons disturbed by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or certain aquaculture operations; and
- conducting farm practices studies.

Through its annual strategic plan and other strategic documents, the Board establishes the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures it believes are necessary to achieve its mandates. Further information about the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board may be found at <http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca>.

British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board Business Plan Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures:

Goal 1: A regulated marketing system with effective self-governance.

Objective 1.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions practice good governance in their external and internal operations.

Strategies

- Ensuring that marketing boards and commission activities and decisions are administratively fair, in compliance with legislation/regulations and in accord with sound marketing policy.
- Requiring boards to give consideration to the government policy framework and the public interest.
- Providing supervisory intervention when necessary.
- Working to achieve priorities within budget while continuing to place importance on board and staff development and training.

Performance Measures:

- The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates. [Target: All boards and commissions continue to meet expectations in 2015].
- Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest [Target: All boards and commissions continue to meet expectations in 2015].
- The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget. [Target: Expenditures within 5 per cent of budget].

Goal 2: A principles-based, outcomes-oriented approach to regulation.

Objective 2.1: The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and marketing boards and commissions use a principles-based approach to regulating.

Strategies

- Working with boards and commissions to develop, adopt and employ a principles-based approach to regulation.
- Requiring all British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board, marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations to be made available to the public, except where privacy legislation and policies apply.
- Promoting policies that reflect B.C. interests at both the federal and provincial levels.

Performance Measures:

- The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises demonstrate the application of the Strategic, Accountable, Fair, Effective, Transparent and Inclusive principles in their programs, policies and decisions. [Target: All boards and commissions continue to meet expectations in 2015].
- British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board orders, decisions, determinations, practices and procedures and other information are published. Marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations are published promptly after being made in order to preserve rights of appeal under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*. [Target: All boards and commissions meet expectations].
- The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and, where possible, grow the market for B.C. produced product. [Target: No loss in production or in base allocation for supply managed sectors].

Goal 3: Effective, fair and independent resolution of inquiries and disputes.

Objective 3.1: Ensure issues and disputes arising within the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board’s jurisdiction are resolved in a fair and timely manner.

Strategies

- Using farm practices studies to help prevent and resolve farm practices disputes.
- Using supervisory processes to help prevent and resolve regulated marketing disputes.
- Using timely, fair and accessible processes to help resolve complaints (under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*), and appeals (under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act*).

Performance Measures:

- Most appeals and complaints are handled within target process timelines. [Target: 80 per cent].
- Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution by marketing boards and commissions and the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board. [Target: Alternate Dispute Resolution is used whenever appropriate.]



B.C.'s dairy sector generated \$503.3 million of farm cash receipts in 2012. This sector, the largest in B.C., generated 19 per cent of provincial farm cash receipts