

Ministry of Agriculture

2016/17 Annual Service Plan Report



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Minister's Message and Accountability Statement



It is my pleasure to present the Ministry of Agriculture's 2016/17 Annual Service Plan Report. The B.C. government has worked with B.C. farmers and food producers to build our agrifoods sector, and we have had success.

The sector has grown by more than \$3.5 billion dollars since 2010, reaching a record \$14.0 billion in agrifoods revenue in 2016. We have also seen record growth in our agrifood and seafood exports, reaching a record \$3.8 billion, setting a new record for the fourth year in a row. Employment in the sector grew to nearly 63,000 British Columbians in 2016, and has one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the province.

B.C. seafood is respected and desired worldwide as great tasting and sustainably harvested. It employs more than 3,400 British Columbians, many in rural and remote communities. Our seafood sector accounted for about \$1.3 billion in exports and Atlantic salmon has been the top food export for the past five years. B.C. is committed to the socially and ecologically responsible management of our fisheries, including an environmentally and economically sustainable aquaculture industry for the benefit of all British Columbians.

The 2015 BC Agrifoods and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan identifies the next steps in achieve the goal to grow the B.C. agrifoods industry to a \$15 billion-a-year industry by 2020. The Plan supports the building of domestic markets and maintaining a secure food supply. The B.C. government has invested \$8 million in the Buy Local program since 2012 to help B.C. companies find new customers locally. Starting in 2017/18, the Buy Local program is receiving long-term stable funding, a total of \$6 million – a \$2 million increase to the Ministry's base budget starting in 2017/18. This is helping support local agrifood companies promote local foods that are grown, raised, harvested and processed in B.C.

To help build export markets for B.C. foods the B.C. Government released a number of new initiatives, including our new international market development strategy, hiring two B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Trade and Investment Representatives – one in Hong Kong and one in South Korea, and an online, searchable Export Ready Business Catalogue that profiles about 100 ready to export B.C. products.

B.C. producers continue to receive support through Growing Forward 2 (GF2) as the federal and provincial government are investing about \$426.9 million in B.C. through this program from 2013-2018. GF2 provides B.C. producers with risk management support and programs that offer income stability in difficult times. Overall, GF2 ensures our province's producers and processors are using the latest knowledge and technology so they can compete internationally and maximize their potential for earning new dollars while providing high quality food.

The Ministry of Agriculture *2016/17 Annual Service Plan Report* compares the actual results to the expected results identified in the Ministry's *2016/17 Service Plan*. I am accountable for those results as reported.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Norm Letnick', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Honourable Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture

June 15, 2017

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Purpose of the Ministry

The Ministry of Agriculture (the Ministry) is responsible for the production, marketing, processing and merchandising of agrifood and seafood products; the institution and carrying out of advisory, research, promotional, sustainability and adaptation, food safety or plant and animal health programs, projects or undertakings relating to agrifood and seafood; and the collection of information and preparation and dissemination of statistics relating to agrifood and seafood. The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 30 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at: <http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/amr/amr/1135179498>.

Strategic Direction and Context

The [B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan](#) sets out actions in three key areas of priority to help grow B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector: increasing production, driving competitiveness, and building markets. The agrifood and seafood sector includes agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food and beverage processing. This plan addresses key challenges and opportunities facing the sector including achieving economic growth, adapting to climate change and maintaining a secure food supply.

The Ministry's operations are guided by the Minister of Agriculture's [Mandate Letter](#) and the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20](#) in which the agrifood and seafood sector is featured. The Ministry, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Farm Industry Review Board must operate under the [Taxpayer Accountability Principles](#) – cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity – to ensure that decisions that are made reflect the priorities and values of government and the citizens of B.C.

B.C. has an enviable reputation as a leader in the production and processing of a wide range of safe, high-quality agrifood and seafood products, and enjoys a strong local domestic market driven by the largest population of the four western provinces. The Ministry works collaboratively with B.C.'s agrifood and seafood industry to improve the sustainability and security of B.C.'s food supply by improving production methods, enhancing biosecurity measures, and ensuring the highest standards in animal care and food safety.

B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector is one of the most diverse agrifood and seafood sectors in Canada. B.C. produces over 200 agriculture commodities and 100 seafood species while other provinces' sectors are often characterized by higher concentration of production in a few key commodities (e.g. canola in Saskatchewan, dairy in Ontario). B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector is also characterized by a high concentration of small and medium-sized farm enterprises, with about 20,000 farms and 2,500 food and beverage processing enterprises. This diversity means B.C.'s sector is insulated from shocks to the production of or demand for any single commodity.

B.C. agrifood and seafood annual revenues reached \$14 billion in 2016, up 27% since 2011. The B.C. agrifood and seafood sector also provides stable jobs to 63,000 (2016) British Columbians and is a top producer of key commodities, including farmed salmon, blueberries, mushrooms, greenhouse vegetables, nursery and floriculture. Food and beverage processing is B.C.'s second largest manufacturing sector and accounts for about 70 per cent of total combined annual agrifood and seafood sector revenues which in turn contributed \$4.5 billion to B.C.'s gross domestic product

(GDP) in 2016. B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector ranks third in Canada in total business research and development (R&D) expenditures, with almost \$42 million invested since 2012.

In 2016, B.C. agrifood and seafood export value reached an all-time high of \$3.8 billion, a 58% increase from 2011. B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector produce over 700 export products and targeted more than 150 markets, maintaining access and a competitive advantage in these global markets through quick responses to changing market opportunities, innovation, including new product development, and establishing and servicing niche markets.

Report on Performance

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Results

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

- **Goal 1:** Economic growth and diversity throughout the agrifood and seafood sector;
- **Goal 2:** An environmentally sustainable agrifood and seafood sector; and,
- **Goal 3:** Enhanced community and social well-being through responsible agrifood and seafood sector practices.

The Ministry is committed to supporting government's strategic priorities, as laid out in the Minister of Agriculture's *B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*, the Minister's *Mandate Letter* and the [Province of British Columbia Strategic Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20](#). The strategic priorities have been consolidated and reflected in this service plan.

Through the implementation of the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles*, the Ministry is strengthening cost management capabilities and fostering a principled culture of efficiency and accountability at all levels to ensure that this service plan is delivered in a way that best serves the public interest.

Goal 1: Economic growth and diversity throughout the agrifood and seafood sector.

Objective 1.1: Increase agrifood and seafood production.

B.C.'s agrifood and seafood producers benefit from a number of attributes, including a mild climate and extended growing season in many regions, an international reputation for food safety and quality, strong domestic markets and proximity to many export markets. These competitive advantages place B.C. in a strong position in the event of possible future disruptions to food supply systems. Increasing production of our wide range of products, introducing new products and increasing the value of market sales, will increase the sector's revenues and create jobs for British Columbians.

Strategies

- Implemented [B.C.'s Seafood Strategy](#), maximizing the aquaculture, commercial, and marine recreational fisheries to support a diversified economy while balancing environmental sustainability objectives.
- Worked with the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, private landowners, local governments and industry to develop and implement approaches that will increase and intensify production on unused and underutilized land.
- Provided strategic business development leadership and built business management awareness, market intelligence, and capacity within the agrifood and seafood sector.
- Continued delivery of the sustainable, long-term [Tree Fruit Replant Program](#) that supported grower's efforts to meet consumer demands for high-value, high-quality fruit.
- Created and implemented a provincial forage plan, increasing the quality and quantity of forage for regional and export markets.
- Continued to use Buy Local programming and industry partnerships to promote local agrifood and seafood production and recognition.

- Continued to work with stakeholders and other ministries to ensure that Provincial policies and programs relating to wildlife management and losses due to wildlife-agriculture conflicts are effective.
- Continued to work with the *Agricultural Land Commission* and the *B.C. Farm Industry Review Board* to maintain the performance and accountability regime that is in compliance with the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles*.

Performance Measure 1: Annual revenue growth in the agrifood, seafood, and processing sectors (\$ Billions).

Performance Measure	2014 Baseline	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 Target
Agriculture	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.3	3.5
Seafood	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.2	1.0	1.0
Food and Beverage Manufacturing	8.4	9.2	9.2	9.8	9.7	9.9
Total Annual Projected Revenue*	12.2	13.2	13.3	14.0	14.0	14.4

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Cansim Tables 002-0001 and 003-0001 and adapted from Cansim Table 304-0015. Forecast and Targets – B.C. Ministry of Agriculture

*Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Discussion

This performance measure reflects the objective of achieving economic growth and aligns with the Ministry’s *B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*, and the previous strategy: *B.C. Agrifoods: A Strategy for Growth*. This performance measure reports on the annual revenues for the agrifood and seafood sector that includes the value of farm cash receipts for crops and livestock, the landed value of seafood, and the value of shipments from B.C. food and beverage processors.

The actual 2016 annual revenue for the agrifood and seafood sector was \$14.0 billion. These annual revenues are higher than the expected 2016 target and also achieve the 2017 *B.C. Agrifoods: A Strategy for Growth* final growth target of \$14.0 billion a year ahead of schedule.

A review of each sector shows actual 2016 revenues for primary agriculture below the expected 2016 target as market prices fell for both livestock and crops. Seafood revenues were ahead of the seafood target as production levels increased. Food and beverage manufacturing revenues were ahead of target with 7% growth above 2015. The sector continues to realize strong growth and is trending to reach the *B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan* goal of \$15 billion by 2020.

Objective 1.2: Increase competitiveness of the agrifood and seafood sector.

The Ministry encourages growth in the agrifood and seafood sector through programs that foster innovation, including the development of new products and agri-technologies, competitiveness and improved market access. The Ministry works with industry to identify opportunities and take calculated and balanced risks that create value, increase efficiencies and reduce costs which enhance the viability of agrifood and seafood businesses. The Ministry also works toward maximizing the return on investment (ROI). The Ministry has analyzed innovation project returns and currently

reports ROI at 6:1 (\$6 dollars of revenue and sector benefit generated for every \$1 of program spending).

Strategies

- Supported 99 innovation projects in 2016/17, totaling \$4.1 million, to enable the development, piloting, commercialization and adoption of new products, practices, and technologies.
- Updated the AgriService BC web portal and strategy to ensure that programs and services were easily accessed by British Columbians and agrifood and seafood sector businesses.
- Provided B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector with timely information, market data, and market intelligence reports to identify trends and opportunities for proactive planning in the sector.
- Worked with industry to promote local agrifood and seafood through buy local initiatives.
- Supported access to retail for local producers and processors.
- Provided an online B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Export-Ready Business Catalogue in English, Chinese, French, Japanese and Korean to help facilitate the development of new trade relationships between B.C. exporters and foreign buyers.
- Participated in and supported labour market initiatives by promoting the sector's interests and encouraging industry to leverage labour partnerships, labour training, youth employment, seasonal agriculture workers and temporary foreign worker programs and by identifying and implementing opportunities to support succession planning.
- With the Ministry of Finance as the lead, successfully implemented the 25 per cent tax credit on the value of farmed food donated to nonprofit organizations.

Objective 1.3: Build markets for agrifood and seafood products at home, across Canada, and internationally.

The Ministry encourages the growth of the agrifood and seafood sector through programs, policies, and trade agreements that develop markets and improve market access. By expanding domestic, interprovincial and international markets, we can ensure sustainable, long-term growth for B.C.'s agrifood and seafood sector and contribute to economic growth and continued job creation across the province.

Strategies

- Worked with industry and government partners to create and implement an international marketing strategy that guides market development and trade access priorities and continues to build on the province's export successes.
- Helped producers and processors capitalize on new domestic and international market opportunities by supporting marketing skills training for over 250 individuals and publishing 14 marketing how-to guides.
- Supported a coordinated industry presence in 22 tradeshows and market development activities, in collaboration with the Ministry of International Trade, to expand export sales of B.C.'s agrifood and seafood products to international markets, including the U.S. and China.
- Provided \$1.1 million to support industry participation in 279 international market development events through the BC Agrifood and Seafood Export Program, resulting in \$22.9 million in sales deals signed between B.C. exporters and foreign buyers.
- Implemented the ministry's interprovincial trade strategy in an effort to break down barriers for B.C. agrifood and seafood products in other provincial markets (e.g. pursue agreement from all Canadian provinces on direct-to-consumer shipments of wine).

Performance Measure 2: Annual Value of Agrifood and Seafood Exports (\$ Billions).

Performance Measure	2014 Baseline	2015 Actual	2016 Target	2016 Actual	2017 Target	2018 Target
Annual Value of Agrifood and Seafood Exports	\$2.9	\$3.5	\$3.05	\$3.8	\$3.1	\$3.2

Data Source: Statistics Canada, CATSNET Analytics

Discussion

In 2016, B.C. exported \$3.8 billion worth of agrifood and seafood products. This Actual 2016 export value surpassed all of the Targets set for this measure. This performance measure tracks B.C. agrifood and seafood exports to 160 markets, including those destined for B.C.’s top five markets of the United States, China, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong. Exports are driven by market conditions and are not wholly under the Ministry’s control.

Goal 2: An environmentally sustainable agrifood and seafood sector.

Objective 2.1: Sustainable management of British Columbia’s soil, water and air resources to reduce the sector’s impact on the environment.

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

Strategies

- Provided programs and activities that identified and addressed critical agricultural environmental issues and enabled adoption of beneficial management practices supporting environmentally responsible production.
- Encouraged innovations that reduced the environmental impact of agrifood and seafood production, including reducing air emissions and improving the management of processing byproducts.
- Supported research and development, evaluation, technology transfer, monitoring and indicator development to promote the adoption of environmentally sustainable beneficial management practices.
- Implemented a nutrient management strategy for selected regions and industry sectors.
- Further developed nutrient management programming and services to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as a component of B.C.’s Climate Leadership Plan.
 - Expanded Beneficial Management Practices cost-share funding eligibility and parameters to support the sector to implement practices that promote improved nutrient management and further reductions in GHG emissions.
 - Expanded trials to develop and demonstrate nutrient management best practices to the agriculture industry.
 - Scaled-up monitoring of nutrient management benefits and developed longer term performance indicators to measure their success.
- Responded to producer inquiries and farm practice complaints to support sustainable agricultural production and reduce emerging environmental impacts from farming activities.

Performance Measure 3: Cumulative and Annual Number of Environmental Farm Plans Completed.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Baseline	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Cumulative number of Environmental Farm Plans	4,458	4,637	4,695	4,858	5,058
Annual number of Environmental Farm Plans completed	294	200	237	200	200

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch

1. Includes projects funded through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative that commenced in 2013/14.

2. 2018/19 and 2019/2020 targets assume continuation of environmental sustainability programming in the next federal-provincial-territorial policy framework.

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 on B.C. farms and ranches.

The farm/ranch operator conducts an assessment with the assistance of a trained planning advisor. The performance measure is the cumulative number of completed Environmental Farm Plans. During the 2016/17 fiscal year, 237 Environmental Farm Plans were completed, surpassing the targeted increase in number of plans. The completion of these plans advanced the Ministry’s goal of increasing awareness and knowledge among producers, enabling them to make positive differences for the environment and climate change mitigation. Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is a prerequisite to accessing funding to implement Beneficial Management Practices targeted at specific agri-environmental situations.

Objective 2.2: Sustainable agrifood and seafood management practices that assist successful adaptation to climate change.

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

Strategies

- Participated in the development of regionally appropriate water and land management strategies with local government and industry.
- Promoted research and development to capitalize on opportunities for B.C.’s agrifood and seafood sector associated with climate change conditions.
- Worked with industry, local governments and other partners to increase the capacity of B.C. farmers to adapt to climate change and weather-related production risks and impacts, as committed in the *Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan*.
- Worked with provincial agencies, local governments, industries and other partners to establish a single portal access to weather-related data and tools, and ensure that data is easily accessed by all British Columbians and agrifood and seafood sector businesses.

- Supported the irrigation design certification program that provides industry with the most water efficient irrigation technologies, enhances sustainability and climate change adaptation, and encourages the responsible management of our water resources and nutrients.
- Supported the implementation of B.C.’s *Climate Leadership Plan* and the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*.
- Released the Okanagan Regional Adaptation Strategy, the 6th Regional Adaptation Strategy completed for the Province to address regionally specific climate change impacts.

Performance Measure 4: Number of Climate Adaptation Projects Completed.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Baseline	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Cumulative number of regional adaptation projects and farm-level adaptation projects completed	19	25	30	45	50
Annual number of projects completed	9	8	11	19	5

Data Source: B.C. Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative.

1. Includes projects funded through Growing Forward 2 (GF2), a five-year federal-provincial-territorial initiative that commenced in 2013/14.

Discussion

In addition to supporting achievement of B.C.’s greenhouse gas reduction targets through the Climate Leadership Plan, the Ministry is taking significant action to support the agriculture sector’s adaptation to climate change. Successful adaptation to climate change is necessary if the agrifood sector is to continue to grow and be an important contributor to the B.C. economy. Government and the agriculture industry have both made adaptation a priority, and are working in partnership to build resilience and adaptive capacity in the sector.

This measure provides an indication of B.C.’s progress in building agricultural adaptive capacity to climate change risks and it consists of projects that flow from multi-partner regional adaptation strategies and the Farm Adaptation Innovator Program. The regional adaptation and farm-level projects are being delivered collaboratively by industry, local governments, research organizations and other partners through the [B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative](#). The initiatives are supported by and delivered through the B.C. Agricultural Research & Development Corporation and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia.

Regional adaptation strategies have been previously completed for the Cowichan, Delta, Peace, Cariboo and Fraser Valley. The Okanagan regional adaptation strategy was released in July 2016 and addresses four priority climate change impact areas: warmer and drier summer conditions, changes in pest populations, increases in extreme precipitation events, and increased wildfire risk. Priority actions from the regional strategies are developed into projects that provide collaborative solutions to regional issues. Project examples to date include farm-level toolkits and manuals, producer decision support tools, and projects that address specific adaptation concerns.

The Farm Adaptation Innovator Program supports applied research projects at a farm level to pilot, demonstrate, and share knowledge about farm practices and technologies that reduce weather related

production risks associated with climate change. Partners include producers, research institutions and agricultural organizations.

It is common for regional adaptation projects and farm-level projects to be delivered over multiple years to accommodate their large scope, multi-stakeholder nature, or need to include multiple production cycles.

In 2016/17, the target for the annual number of projects completed was exceeded by three projects. The completion of adaptation projects is helping agricultural producers to deal with climate change impacts such as drought, excess moisture, flood risk, and pests and diseases, as well as to take advantage of the opportunities associated with increased growing days as the climate warms.

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

Objective 3.1: Promote positive relationships to facilitate sustainable agrifood and seafood production.

Preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission with local governments making important decisions to ensure farmers can continue to farm in communities across the province.

Agrifood and seafood activity depends on good relations with local government and community members. With approximately 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 works with local governments, industry and key stakeholders, and the Agricultural Land Commission to promote and enable farming in farming areas.

Strategies

- Promoted a positive regulatory climate with local governments to support the agrifood and seafood sector across B.C., in part by establishing standards to guide local government bylaw development.
- Worked with the ALC to create new economic opportunities for farming families by amending regulations to provide clarity to farmers about hosting agri-tourism activities and new opportunities for events of a certain size (e.g. weddings) within the ALR without an application to the ALC.
- Supported local governments and their subcommittees in planning for, and promoting, the agrifood and seafood sector in their jurisdictions.
- Worked with industry to promote local agrifood and seafood through buy local initiatives.
- Supported quality certification programs that provided industry with a competitive edge, enhanced sustainability, and encouraged the use of B.C. inputs in food and beverage processing (e.g. the Golden Mile wine appellation, and regulating the use of the term ‘organic’ when marketing food and beverage products).
- Supported access to retail for local producers and processors.

- Supported [4-H British Columbia](#) through delivery of projects, training, workshops and resources to provide youth with current information on the B.C. agriculture industry, farm safety, animal care, sustainable agriculture practices and other issues facing agriculture.
- Ensured strong legislation was in place that supports animal welfare, and supports for industry initiatives on training and education on animal welfare.

Performance Measure 5: Hectares of Agricultural Land Use Inventories completed.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Baseline	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Cumulative hectares (ha of Agricultural Land Use Inventories ¹	2.0M ha	2.5M ha	3.0M ha	3.5M ha	3.9M ha
Hectares of Agricultural Land Use Inventories completed per year	0.2M ha	0.5M ha	1.0M ha	0.5M ha	0.4M ha

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture

1. This new performance measure replaces “Number of Agricultural Area Plans completed” used in previous Service Plans. The “Hectares of Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUIs) Completed” provides a more robust and direct measure of the Ministry’s progress inventorying agricultural lands.

Discussion

Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUIs) collect comprehensive data about land use and land cover on lands associated with agriculture and agricultural potential. These inventories (ALUIs) generate a wealth of information that helps facilitate support for the agriculture sector and inform agriculture practices:

- Informing the development of agriculturally supportive bylaws that support the economic development of the sector;
- Enabling accurate monitoring of changes in land use patterns and practices and estimation of farm vacancy rates and potential farming expansion;
- Driving predictive models, such as the Agricultural Water Demand Model (AWDM) and Air Emission Model. The AWDM provides current and future water requirements for agricultural lands necessary to establish dedicated agriculture water and develop Water Sustainability Plans (WSP) under the Water Sustainability Act (WSA), as well as to support water use strategic planning at the regional and municipal levels;
- Improving our understanding of climate change impacts and associated risks and opportunities;
- Providing background information for a wide range of local government land use planning;
- Tracking land use on the Agricultural Land Reserve to inform future policy decisions; and
- Helping advise emergency response for environmental disasters and animal health events.

Each ALUI project utilizes a unique mix of partnerships and resources, depending on the interest in project and the identified need for the data. Local governments, nonprofit organizations, and community interest groups provide support for projects in their local areas. In 2016/17, new methodologies for surveying the Northeast region of the province (the Peace) were adopted. These included using new technology to interpret satellite imagery. This allowed more hectares of ALUI to be completed than originally targeted.

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 protecting public health and maintaining consumer confidence domestically and internationally.

Strategies

- Continued to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and biosecurity strategies that reduce the risk of animal disease outbreaks.
- Engaged industry and other federal and provincial agencies to update the B.C. Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support Plan.
- Promoted industry adoption of initiatives to enhance biosecurity in B.C.
- Continued to work with industry, federal, provincial, and local government agencies to ensure effective coordination to critical disease control responses for both plants and animals.
- Maintained provincially operated veterinary and plant diagnostic laboratories for the timely and accurate diagnosis of production limiting, foreign and new and emerging diseases and pests.
- Implemented and delivered comprehensive provincial-level programs for animal, fish and plant health that manage the risks of animal and fish disease, plant pests and invasive species and contribute to national programs.
- Implemented an evidence informed food safety framework that tailors food safety programs and services to support the agrifood and seafood sector’s implementation of nationally and internationally recognized food safety systems and practices.
- Maintained provincially operated, cost-effective inspection programs for meat, dairy plants and seafood to ensure regulatory compliance of provincially licensed operations.
- Enforcement of unlawful slaughter of animals intended for human consumption, as well as unlawful seafood processing.
- Delivered plant health management and integrated pest management programs and services to promote healthy and viable crops.
- Advised growers on integrated pest management practices.
- Provided training for safe and appropriate use of pesticides and enable the registration of pesticides.
- Worked across provincial agencies and with industry to identify options to address and reduce Salmonella Enteritidis in the poultry and egg population in B.C.
- Provided financial incentives through cost-share funding to implement practices and systems, such as livestock tag reading infrastructure, to address market and regulatory demands.

Performance Measure 6: Number of Livestock Farm and Co-mingling Sites Registered in B.C. Premises Identification Program.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Baseline	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Number of livestock farms and co-mingling sites registered in B.C. Premises Identification Program	2,303	2,820	2,837	3,220	3,690

Data source: Ministry of Agriculture, B.C. Premises Identification Program

Discussion

The B.C. Premises Identification (BCPID) Program is one of the pillars of livestock traceability and links livestock and poultry to land locations or premises. The BCPID Program was established to support the planning, control and prevention of foreign animal diseases outbreaks, such as Avian Influenza in poultry or Bovine Tuberculosis in livestock. BCPID is also used as an early warning system to notify animal owners of an emergency such as flood or fire that could affect their animals or operations. To minimize the economic and social impacts of a disease outbreak or natural disaster emergency, the BCPID program aims to include all of British Columbia's 8905 livestock operations (Census Canada, 2016) in order to best support emergency response and recovery operations. The Ministry is continuing to work towards registration of all livestock operations. The majority of regulated pork, poultry and dairy cattle premises have been registered through collaboration with industry boards and associations. Among non-regulated producers, the Ministry is using a range of strategies to encourage voluntary registration, including collaboration with commodity associations, streamlining the application process, and requiring registration under BCPID as a condition of eligibility for cost-shared food safety and traceability programs.

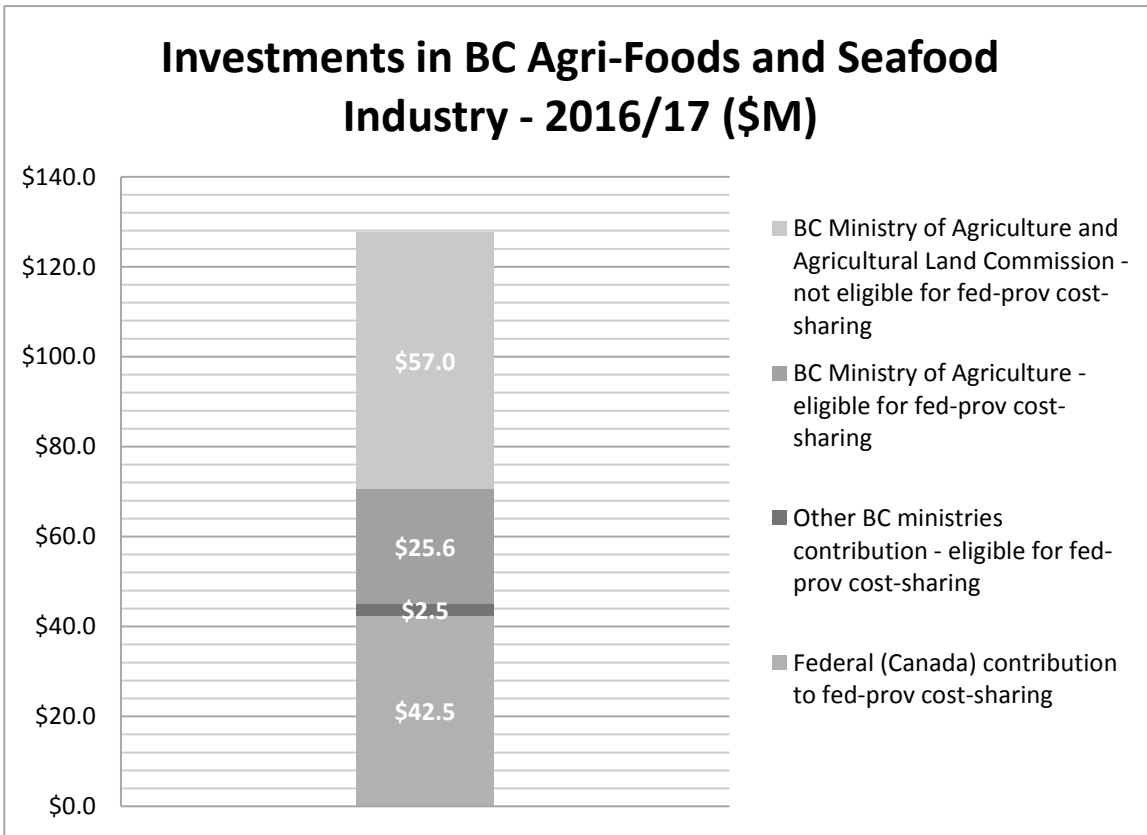
Several factors, such as market and regulatory demands, are expected to cause a significant increase in registration rates. In preparation for this influx of registrations, an online premises registration tool for livestock operators to quickly register their premises is now available. In 2017 to date, approximately 80% of new premises registrations are being made using this online tool. The availability of online registration contributed to the 2016/17 target for registrations being slightly exceeded.

Financial Report

Discussion of Results

The Ministry’s total expenses of \$87.34M (excluding \$0.22M accrued from 2015/16) is a combination of the base budget, approval to access the Contingencies and New Programs Vote, and other authorizations. An additional \$5 million funding for BC SPCA for the construction of new facilities was managed through Contingencies access. The increased expenditures of \$1.2 million for the Production Insurance Special Account was authorized in response to increased demand for the program and was matched by increased premiums revenue.

In 2016/17, the Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Land Commission spent \$82.6 million on programs and services supporting BC’s agri-foods and seafood sector. The ministry was able to apply \$25.6 million of that amount and an additional \$2.5 million being spent by other ministries to secure \$42.5 million in federal funding that was used to support BC’s industry. In total, the ministry invested \$127.6 million in BC’s agri-food and seafood sector.



Financial Report Summary Table

	2016/17 Estimates	Other Authorizations	Total Estimates	Actual	Variance
Operating Expenses (\$000)					
Agriculture Science and Policy 1¹	16,544	4,908	21,452	19,491	1,961
Business Development	40,202	0	40,202	41,786	(1,584)
B.C. Farm Industry Review Board	1,206	0	1,206	1,401	(195)
Executive and Support Services	6,996	0	6,996	7,178	(182)
Agricultural Land Commission	4,524	0	4,524	4,502	22
Production Insurance Special Account (Net) 2²	12,000	1,200	13,200	13,200	0
Sub-Total	81,472	6,200	87,578	87,558	22
Adjustment of Prior Year Accural	0	0	0	(218)	(218)
Total	81,472	6,200	87,578	87,340	(196)
Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)					
Executive and Support Services	1,168	85	1,253	678	575
Total	1,168	85	1,253	678	575

¹ Other Authorizations includes TB approved access to Contingency of \$5M to fund new SPCA facilities.

² Other Authorizations includes TB approval to increase expenditure by \$1.2M for increased insurable value and policy sales.

Appendix A – Contact Information and Hyperlinks

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Agricultural Land Commission

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B.C. Farm Industry Review Board

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

Appendix B – List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

Agricultural Land Commission

Purpose of the Commission

The Provincial Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is the independent administrative tribunal dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming in B.C. The ALC is responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial land use zone where agriculture is the primary land use taking place on the limited agricultural land base. The ALR is based on the biophysical resource base (soil and climate) where lands are capable of growing crops. As an administrative tribunal operating at arm's-length from government, the ALC 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 an autonomous provincial agency established under provincial legislation to implement legislative policy. The ALC is expected to exercise its role in a non-partisan manner and Commission members must faithfully, honestly and impartially perform their duties.

The work of the ALC is carried out by a provincial government appointed Chair, six Vice-chairs and 12 Commissioners from six regions of the province who are collectively the board of directors of the ALC. The board is supported by a centrally located professional staff secretariat.

The ALC's goals, objectives and strategies are guided by its legislative mandate as set out in s.6 and s.4.3 of the ALC Act as noted below, and by the *2016/17 Ministers Mandate Letter*. In addition, the ALC operates under the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles* – cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect, and integrity – to ensure that decisions that are made reflect the priorities and values of government and the citizens of B.C.

The ALC's mandate as set out in s.6 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act is:

- 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.

When exercising its powers in Zone 2 (the North, Kootenay and Interior region) under s. 4.3 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act, the ALC also considers in descending order of priority:

- the purposes of the commission set out in Section 6;
- economic, cultural and social values;
- regional and community planning objectives;
- other prescribed considerations.

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

Following the implementation of process changes and hiring of additional staff resources in 2016/17, the ALC was able to largely meet the targets set by Ministerial Order M072. In 2016/17, the ALC made decisions on 376 applications. This included 216 decisions for applications received during the fiscal year and 160 decisions for applications received in previous fiscal years, which has effectively eliminated any backlog.

Strategies

- Consideration of Section 6 of the mandate in all Commission decisions.
- Consideration of Section 4.3 of the mandate in all Commission decisions with Zone 2.
- 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 with regard to all application requests and land use planning initiatives.
- Timely decision making of application requests.

Discussion

The Commission operates with six regional panels that only include members from the regions where they are making application decisions. The applications considered by the Commission are forwarded for consideration by municipal and regional governments.

On March 3, 2016, by Ministerial Order M072, the Minister of Agriculture provided the ALC with expectations regarding timelines for the processing of applications intended to support the implementation of a continuous improvement process to better serve B.C. farmers that took effect April 1, 2016.

The ALC also initiated the implementation of an online portal that supports the tracking of application status both publicly and for applicants and updated all of the ALC's interpretative policies in response to amendments to the Agricultural Land Reserve Use, Subdivision and Procedure Regulation in 2016/17.

Objective 1.2: Expand land use planning functions to work with local governments on community planning, major projects and emerging issues.

Strategies

- Encourage local governments to engage in discussions with the Agricultural Land Commission and planning staff regarding 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.

Discussion

The Agricultural Land Commission Act mandates the ALC to work with local governments to accommodate and encourage farming on ALR lands. The Agricultural Land Commission Act also requires local governments to ensure its bylaws are consistent with the Agricultural Land Commission Act. Approximately 147 local governments have land in the ALR making coordinated and collaborative planning with local governments a priority for the ALC.

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.

Discussion

The Compliance and Enforcement (C&E) division receives complaint reports of suspected contraventions, carries out site inspections, investigates alleged contraventions and takes enforcement actions when necessary throughout the ALR in British Columbia.

ALC officials conduct inspections in order to determine compliance with regulatory requirements and conditions of decisions in response to complaints received from the public and referrals from local governments. Many factors influence the frequency and nature of inspections, including severity of actual or potential impacts to agricultural land, the factual circumstances of the alleged contravention, compliance history and available resources.

On March 3, 2016, by [Ministerial Order M072](#), the Minister of Agriculture provided the ALC with expectations regarding the development and execution of a compliance and enforcement system that is supported by additional staff resources and the development of compliance and enforcement framework made available on the ALC's website.

In 2016/17, the ALC was able to hire three new compliance officers and a program assistant to support and enhance the program previously delivered by only two compliance officers and produced a [Compliance and Enforcement Management Framework: "ALC's Approach to Ensuring Compliance"](#) document that is available on the ALC's website and provides an overview of the Commission's compliance and enforcement functions and program.

The ALC also initiated the implementation of the Natural Resource Inspection System (NRIS) that tracks inspections and complaint (referral of violation) data related to alleged non-compliance. The implementation of NRIS will provide the ALC with a tool for data capture and activity reporting, that will enable strategic planning of resources; and ensure consistency in undertaking and recording of inspections and complaints across the Province.

For more information on the operation and fiscal performance of the Agricultural Land Commission in 2016/2017 please refer the [ALC's 2016-2017 Annual Report on the ALC's website](#).

Appendix C – List of Crowns, Agencies, Boards and Commissions

British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Purpose of the Board

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) 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, BCFIRB provides oversight, policy direction and decisions to protect the public interest. In its adjudicative capacities, BCFIRB provides a less formal system than the court for resolving disputes in a timely and cost effective way. BCFIRB consists of a part-time board of up to ten members and nine full time equivalent staff positions, and is accountable to government for its administrative operations.

The Board's statutorily mandated responsibilities are established in the *Natural Products Marketing (B.C.) Act*, the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*, the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* and are supported by the *Administrative Tribunals Act*. They 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 regulated marketing board and commission orders, decisions and determinations;
- hearing appeals related to certain animal custody and cost 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.

The board has adjudicative independence in its decision-making, and through its annual service plan report, BCFIRB establishes the goals, objectives, strategies and performance measures it believes are necessary to achieve its administrative role as a public sector agency, including cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity as outlined in the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles*.

The Minister and Chair of BCFIRB established a *Mandate Letter* in response to the *Taxpayer Accountability Principles* announced in June 2015. The first annual *Mandate Letter* was signed effective June 2016 and was reported on regularly throughout 2016/17.

Further information about the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board may be found at <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/bcfarministryreviewboard>.

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.
- While preserving its independence as a tribunal, continuing to work to ensure effective relations with the Ministry of Agriculture, regulatory agencies and stakeholders.

Performance Measure 1: BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures in exercising their mandates.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & boards/commissions exercise appropriate governance & fiscal procedures.	Met	Met 2016/17 expectations	Met	Meet 2017/18 expectations	Meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

In 2016/17 BCFIRB administration and supervisory records demonstrated that expectations were met. BCFIRB expects itself and the boards and commissions it supervises under the *NPMA* to exercise appropriate governance and fiscal procedures. This includes meeting related legislative requirements (e.g. board/commission financial audits), addressing government financial accountability expectations (e.g. Tax Payer Accountability Principles); and continuing to implement and following sound governance practices.

While government recognizes BCFIRB's independence as an administrative tribunal in executing its statutory mandates, BCFIRB is accountable to the Minister concerning its budget, focusing on cost-consciousness, accountability, appropriate compensation, service, respect and integrity, as outlined in the Taxpayer Accountability Principles. Government's annual Mandate Letter was implemented between the Minister and BCFIRB Chair in June 2016. Highlights included regular reporting of cost-of services for appeals and complaints, implementing Treasury Board direction for member compensation, updating BCFIRB's Code of Conduct and implementing several service improvements for citizens. (e.g., enabling fee payments through Service BC).

BCFIRB is satisfied that boards and commissions continue to make progress towards demonstrating best practices in their governance and fiscal procedures, including publication of governance documents, compliance with election rules and transparent fiscal management. All boards and commissions had annual reports, audited financial statements, current election rules and General Orders posted to their websites. The Egg and Chicken boards completed full reviews and updated and modernized their General Order.

Performance Measure 2: Boards and commissions demonstrate that their programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Programs, policies and decisions reflect legislative intent, sound marketing policy and consider the public interest.	Met	Met 2016/17 expectations	Met	Meet 2017/18 expectations	Meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

BCFIRB 2016/17 supervisory records demonstrated that expectations were met. Under the NPMA BCFIRB is responsible for evaluating whether board and commission activities and decisions maintain orderly marketing in the public interest (legislative intent), and accord with “sound marketing policy”.

BCFIRB worked with boards and commissions throughout 2016/17 to ensure activities and decisions were administratively fair, in compliance with legislation/regulations and in accord with sound marketing policy. Highlights included completing a long-term review of vegetable regulation on Vancouver Island with the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission to resolve long-standing conflicts impacting orderly marketing, approving distribution of increased egg production opportunities by the BC Egg Marketing Board based on sound marketing policy, and working with the BC Chicken Marketing Board as part of a national process to update a federal-provincial agreement key to on-going orderly marketing and sound marketing policy for the BC chicken industry.

Performance Measure 3: BCFIRB demonstrates fiscal responsibility by operating within budget.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB expenditures are on budget.	Met	Expenditures are on budget	16% over-budget	Expenditures are on budget	Expenditures are on budget

Discussion

BCFIRB expended \$1.401 million in 2016/17, representing an over-expenditure of \$195,000 (16%). BCFIRB advised the Ministry of Agriculture early in the 2016/17 fiscal year of expected salary pressure due to a one-time staff overlap generated by retirement. The majority of the over-expenditure was due to legal services, resulting from high case volume and complexity in 2016/17. In addition to 66 appeals and complaints to BCFIRB, there were also 7 Judicial Reviews of BCFIRB decisions to the B.C. Supreme Court, necessitating preparation of significant documentation for court and the need to represent BCFIRB in court proceedings. Case volumes and complexities are challenging to predict

as they are driven by outside parties and must be managed in accordance with the law. Over the course of the year, increasing pressures on legal services were identified and forecast as early as possible.

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

Objective 2.1: BCFIRB 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 Measure 4: 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 (SAFETI) principles in their programs, policies and decisions.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
BCFIRB & Boards and Commissions apply SAFETI principles.	Met	All meet 2016/17 expectations	Met	Meet 2017/18 expectations	Meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

BCFIRB 2016/17 supervisory records demonstrated that expectations were met. BCFIRB is satisfied with progress made on the implementation of the principles-based approach to regulation, including SAFETI. BCFIRB worked with the boards and commissions to finalize adoption of this approach in 2016/17, reinforced by an all board workshop in early 2016. Implementation of a principles-based approach was evident through various board and commission initiatives, such as new entrant program reviews, responses to BCFIRB’s quota tools evaluation project launched in November 2016 and various board and commission decisions.

Performance Measure 5: BCFIRB 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 (B.C.) Act.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Orders, decisions & determinations are published promptly.	Met	Meet 2016/17 expectations	Met	Meet 2017/18 expectations	Meet 2018/19 expectations

Discussion

BCFIRB 2016/17 administrative and supervisory records demonstrated expectations were met. In 2016/17, BCFIRB posted all of its complaints and appeals decisions to its web site after seven days following the decision being made, as specified in its Rules of Practice and Procedure. Supervisory decisions, all significant correspondence and all updates to policies and procedures were also published in a timely fashion. BCFIRB continues to be satisfied with the progress boards and commissions are making publishing orders, determinations, decisions and other information in a timely manner.

Performance Measure 6: BCFIRB and the boards and commissions it supervises work to maintain and where possible grow the market for B.C. produced product.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
No production or base allocation loss in supply-managed sectors.	Met	No Loss	Met	No loss	No loss

Discussion

Regulated marketing products contributed an estimated farm-gate value of just over \$1.6 billion in 2015. Regulated marketing sectors contributed more than one-half of the \$3.0 billion farm gate value of all agricultural output in the province, with a commensurate economic contribution from downstream processing and marketing sectors.

B.C.’s share of national production in milk, eggs and chicken increased in 2016/17. Production in hatching eggs also increased in response to increased chicken production. Commodity boards continued to work with the value chain to grow markets including, for example, grass fed milk and low-sugar cranberry products. B.C. continues to be the national leader in specialty production under the regulatory framework established by BCFIRB.

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 (B.C.) Act*, and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*).

Performance Measure 7: BCFIRB reports annually on time from filing to resolution, cost per case, and user satisfaction for each of its appeals and complaints processes. Appeals and complaints to BCFIRB are routinely handled within usual time periods established in its Practice Directives.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
Appeals and complaints are routinely handled within usual time periods established in its Practice Directives	100%	100%	80%	100%	100%

Discussion

The table below summarizes BCFIRB’s appeals and complaints activities in 2016/17.

	Farm Practices Complaints (FPPA)	Regulated Marketing Appeals (NPMA)	Appeals under Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCAA)	Total
Carried forward from previous fiscal year	3	4	4	11
New appeals filed	17	26	12	55
Active appeals	20	30	16	66
Appeals resolved in fiscal year	5	16	15	36
Appeals carried forward to 2017/18	15	14	1	30

In total BCFIRB administered 66 cases in 2016/17. Of these, 36 were resolved in the fiscal year, with 15 decided following a hearing. The remaining 21 cases were either dismissed or withdrawn, including through settlement using Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Of the 15 cases decided following a hearing, 80% were heard and decided within the usual timelines set out in BCFIRB’s published Practice Directives. Case complexity can influence meeting usual timelines, which occurred in 20% of cases that proceeded to a hearing in 2016/17. Board members can require in-depth legal advice on various matters, additional time for analysis and decision-writing or, in rare circumstances, returning to the parties or subject matter experts for additional information, resulting in additional steps and time to ensure all principles of administrative justice are met.

Of the 16 total active animal custody appeals in 2016/17, twelve proceeded to a panel hearing with a decision rendered in the published usual time period, three were resolved without a hearing and one was carried over to 2017/18 fiscal for continued case management.

While there is considerable cost variability from case to case, approximate average cost-per-case estimates are \$11,200, \$1,700 and \$2,600, for *PCAA*, *NPMA* and *FPPA* mandates, respectively. The higher *PCAA* average cost reflects the fact that most appeals require a hearing. BCFIRB is currently refining its method to determine cost of service for its appeals and complaints and completing a new database to track and report on all appeal and complaint cases, status, costs and timelines.

In 2016/17, BCFIRB managed 7 Judicial Reviews to the B.C. Supreme Court. These cases can range significantly in cost, but in 2016/17 averaged about \$10,000 per Judicial Review case.

Lastly, a new electronic survey regarding case user experience was implemented in March 2017. The survey focuses on areas such as staff response times, transparency and ease of using the BCFIRB website. Confidential and aggregated survey information will be helpful to BCFIRB in making appropriate and warranted process improvements going forward.

Performance Measure 8: Demonstrated increased use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) by BCFIRB and the marketing boards and commissions.

Performance Measure	2015/16 Actual	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Actual	2017/18 Target	2018/19 Target
ADR is used whenever appropriate	Met	Whenever Appropriate	Met	Whenever Appropriate	Whenever Appropriate

Discussion

BCFIRB used an ADR process to resolve two farm practices complaints in 2016/17, resulting in an agreed on outcome most likely to have long-term success. BCFIRB will be continuing to explore all opportunities to use ADR methods to resolve disputes, saving costs and enhancing service and outcomes for citizens. BCFIRB is also generally satisfied that boards and commissions continue to routinely use dispute prevention and resolution options as appropriate in their decision-making processes.

Appendix D – Minister’s Mandate and Actions Summary

In the Premier’s July 2015 Mandate Letter to the Minister, the Minister of Agriculture received direction on strategic priorities for the 2016/17 fiscal year. These priorities and the ministry’s resulting actions are summarized below:

Mandate Letter Direction	Ministry’s Action
1. Balance your ministerial budget in order to control spending and ensure an overall balanced budget for the province of British Columbia.	Complete
2. Assess and report to Cabinet any benefits or challenges arising in the farming community from the 2014 ALC Amendment Act and regulatory changes to the ALC and ALR.	Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements in the ALC application process were implemented to address ongoing challenges, including implementing timeliness expectations and online reporting of application status and decisions. A recent user experience survey by the ALC has expressed positive feedback on the improvements. • Amendments to the ALCA and Regulation to provide additional economic opportunities for the farming community by providing clarity on agritourism activities or commercial events of a limited size (e.g. weddings) that could occur on the ALR without an application to the ALC.
3. Update and release BC Agrifoods and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan to reflect the growth in the industry and identify the opportunities that lie ahead.	Complete <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked with the Minister’s Agrifoods Advisory Committee (MAAC) to develop the new <i>BC Agrifood and Strategic Growth Plan</i>, released in December 2015. • Completed implementation of 15 of 51 actions and sub-actions identified in the growth plan. • All remaining actions are in progress with the exception of one action that will not be completed, that is, action # 2.5 to work with the federal government to expand the of Growing Forward programs for the seafood sector in the areas of innovation and competitiveness. The federal government has denied this request.

<p>4. Work with the Minister of International Trade (MIT) to identify and execute strategies to continue to grow B.C. agricultural products</p>	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four tradeshows/events led and funded by the Ministry, with support provided by MIT (Seafood Expo Global, Belgium; Asia Fruit Logistica, Hong Kong; SIAL, Paris; China Fish and Seafood Exposition, China). • 17 tradeshows/events led by MIT, with funding and support provided by AGRI (Food & Hotel Asia 2016, Singapore; Seoul International Wines and Spirits Expo, South Korea; Salon de Gourmet, Spain; Taste of Canada, London; Taste of BC, Netherlands; Seoul Food Show, South Korea; BC Food Pro West B.C. Buyers Day, Vancouver; Comox Valley Seafood Buyers Mission, Comox; Taste of Canada, Minnesota; HKTDC Food Expo, Hong Kong; Busan International Seafood and Fisheries Expo, South Korea; China Seafood Promotion, China; Food and Hotel China, China; Canada Food Expo, Japan and South Korea; Fruit Logistica Berlin, Germany; International Wine Buyers and Media Delegation, Vancouver/Kelowna; Seafood Expo North America, Massachusetts; and Natural Products Expo West, California). • Two export market opportunity seminars led by AGRI, with support provided by MIT (Doing Business in Japan and Korea, Burnaby; Expand Your Presence in China, Richmond). • AGRI-MIT International Market Development Strategy developed to guide the delivery of activities, programs and services over the next five years. • BC Agrifood and Seafood Export Ready Business Catalogue developed to help showcase and promote B.C. products to international buyers at tradeshows/events/meetings. Catalogue now available in Chinese, English, French, Japanese and Korean.
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<p>5. Continue to execute Strong Economy, Secure Tomorrow commitments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Work with Finance to implement the 25% tax credit on the value of farmed food donated to non-profit organizations for budget 2016/17. b. Work with the BC Association of Cattle Feeders (BCACF) to develop and promote their “100% BC Beef Brand”. c. Work with Intergovernmental Relations to break down interprovincial trade barriers on B.C. wine and Craft Beer to create new markets for B.C. producers. d. Work with the provincial organic farming sector to create a “Certified BC Organic” brand to market our locally produced organic foods. 	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. With the Ministry of Finance as the overall lead, implemented the B.C. Farmers’ Food Donation Tax Credit as a pilot for 2016-18. b. BC Abattoirs Association (BCAA) (assuming program from BCACF) has rebranded “Certified BC Beef” to “100% BC Beef”. The Ministry supports promotion of “100% BC Beef”. c. Reached agreements with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia and Memoranda of Understanding with Quebec and Ontario to enable direct-to-consumer shipments of B.C. wine, craft beer and spirits. d. On January 1, 2017, the <i>Food and Agricultural Products Classification Act</i>, SBC 2016, c.1, was brought into force with the new Organic Certification Regulation. Provisions of the new Organic Certification Regulation will protect the term “organic” and come into effect on September 1, 2018. This provides time for the organic industry to transition to the new requirements. Supported the Canada Organic Trade Association to implement a two-year BC Certified Organic Brand Strategy.
<p>6. Identify options and present to Cabinet opportunities to develop a longer-term Buy Local strategy to encourage British Columbians to purchase local agricultural products and develop long term food supply security for the province.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first ever B.C. Agrifood and Seafood Conference was hosted in November 2016. With over 300 attendees, the conference focused on developing long term food supply security for the province. • The Ministry implemented a long-term strategy to encourage British Columbian to purchase local agrifood and seafood products. This includes: an industry-government cost-shared funding program that supports industry-led domestic marketing activities (the Buy Local Program); a province-wide culinary promotion that encourages restaurant and food service establishments to source and sell locally-produced agrifood and seafood products (the Eat Drink Local Program); an industry-government cost-shared funding

	<p>program that supports marketing skills training, market research and strategic market development planning (the Market Development Preparedness Program); marketing how-to guides and related resources that support increased marketing capacity; and, marketing workshops, webinars and seminars that support market preparedness.</p>
<p>7. Implement the <i>Fish and Seafood Act</i> passed by the legislature in the 2015 Spring Legislative Session.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>New Fish and Seafood Act</i> and regulations came into force January 1, 2017.
<p>8. Review and make recommendations to Cabinet on the provincial Aquaculture strategy by October 31, 2015.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquaculture Strategy was approved and is a key action in the <i>BC Agrifood and Seafood Strategic Growth Plan</i>, released December 2015. • Provided industry with a single access point to federal and provincial authorities through the establishment of a provincial Seafood Secretariat to provide consistent provincial policy positions. • Implemented, concurrent with the <i>Fish and Seafood Act</i>, consequential amendments to the <i>Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act</i> to confirm that aquaculture operators are protected from nuisance lawsuits and overly restrictive bylaws if they are following normal operational practices. • Struck the Minister of Agriculture’s Advisory Council on Finfish Aquaculture, comprised of a range of sector stakeholders to make recommendations concerning the future of British Columbia’s aquaculture operations.
<p>9. Working with the Ministry of Environment, undertake an analysis to help the B.C. agriculture industry adapt to a changing climate and make recommendations to Cabinet on challenges and opportunities climate change will have for B.C. agriculture.</p>	<p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed an analysis of the implications of climate change on agricultural infrastructure, including options for incremental investment or long-term structural investment. • Completed the Okanagan Regional Adaptation Strategy which is one of six in the province. Each strategy identifies and priorities regional adaptation projects that support adaptation. The number of regional adaptation projects completed rose by three over the year bringing the total number of

<p>10. Work with the BC Wine Appellation Task Group to make recommendations to Cabinet on how to improve the certification of 100-percent B.C. made wine.</p>	<p>projects completed to 30.</p> <p>Complete</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On January 1, 2017, the <i>Food and Agricultural Products Classification Act</i>, SBC 2016, c.1, was brought into force with an amended Wines of Marked Quality Regulation. These amendments set the quality standards that will give British Columbians the ability to distinguish products in the market place, giving them a level of certainty they have in making one selection over another based on quality attributes.
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