

BRITISH COLUMBIA
FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD

S e r v i c e | P l a n

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INTRODUCTION

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board ("FIRB") is an administrative tribunal – a statutory appeal body with additional responsibilities for the general supervision of marketing boards and commissions ("commodity boards") – operating in the agriculture and aquaculture sectors.

The mandate of FIRB is set out in three statutes:

- the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* (the "NPMA");
- the *Agricultural Produce Grading Act* (the "APGA"); and
- the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* (the "FPPA").

Under the *NPMA*:

FIRB is responsible for general supervision of the operations of commodity boards created under that Act; hearing appeals filed by any person who is aggrieved by or dissatisfied with orders, decisions or determinations of the commodity boards; and acting as a signatory to federal provincial agreements for supply-managed commodities.

Under the *APGA*:

FIRB may hear appeals from persons who have had their grading licences refused, suspended, revoked or not renewed.

Under the *FPPA*:

FIRB is responsible for hearing complaints from persons aggrieved by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from agriculture or aquaculture operations, and may also study and report generally on farm practices.

FIRB is accountable to government for its administrative operations, but is independent of government in its decision-making. As an independent tribunal, FIRB ensures that the public interest is served and protected.

PROFILE AND MANDATE

Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act

The *NPMA* provides for the promotion, control and regulation of the production, transportation, packing, storage and marketing of agricultural products. Producers may join together and ask the government to delegate authority to regulate a specific agricultural product. If the request is granted, a marketing scheme is established as a regulation under the *NPMA*, and a marketing board or commission is formed to administer the regulation.

Some British Columbia agriculture sectors have been regulated since the 1930s, but the majority of marketing schemes were created in the mid-1960s. The regulated marketing system has provided economic stability to large sectors of the industry in British Columbia, and the value of the regulated agri-food sector has steadily increased over the past three decades. That progress continues today.

Agricultural Produce Grading Act

The *APGA* supports the goal of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (“MAFF”) to have safe, high-quality BC products from sustainable agri-food systems ensuring there is domestic and international confidence in BC foods.

Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act

Farming has always been important to British Columbia. Today, as both our population and our need for agricultural and aquacultural food products continue to grow and exert pressure on rural areas, harmonious relations between farming and non-farming interests are more important than ever.

The *FPPA* provides a balanced approach to resolving concerns about farming for the increasing number of British Columbians who live near farm operations. The *FPPA* links the “right to farm” concept with local government bylaw powers. The *FPPA* protects farmers who use normal farm practices, encourages local governments to support farming

through their local plans and bylaws, and creates a process to resolve complaints about farm practices.

British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Originally known as the British Columbia Marketing Board (“BCMB”), FIRB was created in 1934 under the *NPMA* to supervise the commodity boards. Over the years, the role has been expanded and its authority redefined to address changes in the regulated marketing sector.

The Farm Practices Board (“FPB”) was established in 1996 to provide a fair, equitable and timely process to hear complaints about odour, noise, dust and other disturbances arising from farm practices, and to conduct studies and make recommendations concerning any matter related to farm practices.

In 2003, the BCMB and FPB were amalgamated to create FIRB with the responsibilities set out in the *NPMA*, *APGA* and *FPPA*.

FIRB is composed of up to ten members appointed by Lieutenant Governor-in-Council (LGIC). There are presently seven part-time appointees, with experience in production, marketing, law and education related to agricultural issues.

Where possible, FIRB adheres to the principles of natural justice and administrative law, and promotes dispute resolution, where appropriate, eliminating the need for a formal hearing.

Responsibilities - Regulated Marketing

Supervisory Role

Today, there are nine commodity boards administering nine marketing schemes.

- British Columbia Broiler Hatching Egg Commission
- British Columbia Chicken Marketing Board
- British Columbia Cranberry Marketing Board
- British Columbia Egg Marketing Board
- British Columbia Hog Marketing Commission
- British Columbia Milk Marketing Board
- British Columbia Mushroom Marketing Commission
(*Scheme to be revoked in 2004*)
- British Columbia Turkey Marketing Board
- British Columbia Vegetable Marketing Commission

FIRB meets regularly with commodity boards to discuss existing and emerging issues in the administration of the marketing schemes and to examine the policies and orders of the board to ensure they fall within the statutory authority of the board and do not unfairly impact individual producers or sectors of the industry. FIRB may amend, vary or cancel the orders of a board. FIRB supervises the performance of the boards and is a signatory to Memoranda of Understanding between the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (“Minister”) and the commodity boards. FIRB may review issues related to the administration of a marketing scheme or the regulated marketing system, exercise authority to correct irregularities in the composition or operations of a commodity board or take action to ensure compliance with the *NPMA* and the marketing schemes.

Appellate Role

As a quasi-judicial appeal body, FIRB is empowered to hear appeals from any person who is aggrieved by or dissatisfied by an order, decision or determination of a commodity board in British Columbia.

FIRB uses various forms of dispute resolution ("DR") processes to assist the parties to resolve issues by agreement. If DR is not used or is unsuccessful, a hearing is convened. After hearing an appeal, FIRB may dismiss the appeal, confirm or vary the order, decision or determination being appealed, return the matter to the commodity board for reconsideration or make another order FIRB considers appropriate in the circumstances. FIRB's regulated marketing decisions may be appealed only to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and only on a question of law.

FIRB's dispute resolution process provides all parties with impartial and fair resolutions to disputes. FIRB's appellate role also ensures that commodity boards remain accountable in the exercise of their authority under the *NPMA*.

Using its powers under the *NPMA*, FIRB may also hear appeals under the *APGA* concerning grading licence issues.

Signatory Role

FIRB, the Minister and the supply-managed commodity boards are the British Columbia signatories to agreements with the Federal Minister, other provincial and territorial ministers, and supervisory and commodity boards in Canada (federal provincial agreements). These agreements provide for the cooperative use of federal and provincial legislation in managing the production and marketing of table eggs, chicken, hatching eggs and turkey in Canada. FIRB is not a signatory to the federal provincial agreement in the dairy industry – the National Milk Marketing Agreement – although FIRB approval is required before the BC Milk Marketing Board may enter into federal or inter-provincial agreements.

Responsibilities - Farm Practices

What is a Farm Operation?

A farm operation can include the following activities: growing or raising plants (including in greenhouses) and animals (including certain types of exotics); clearing, draining, irrigating or cultivating land; using farm machinery, equipment, devices, materials and structures; applying fertilizers, manure, pesticides and biological control agents (including ground and air spraying); cultivating specialty wood or fibre crops; conducting turf production; carrying on an aquaculture operation; raising or keeping game; raising or keeping fur bearing animals; and processing or direct farm marketing.

Complaints Role

As a quasi-judicial body, FIRB is empowered to hear complaints from persons aggrieved by odour, noise, dust or other disturbances arising from farm operations.

FIRB uses various forms of DR processes to resolve issues by agreement. If DR is not used or is unsuccessful, a hearing is convened. After hearing a complaint FIRB must dismiss the complaint if the farm operation is determined to be following normal farm practices; or order the farmer to cease or modify his or her practices if the farm operation is not following normal farm practice.

FIRB's farm practices decisions may only be appealed to the Supreme Court of British Columbia, and only on a question of law or jurisdiction.

Where possible, FIRB promotes dispute resolution without the need for formal panel hearings. For farmers, neighbours, local governments, and the public, FIRB is an impartial body that can determine whether a farmer follows “normal farm practices.” FIRB adheres to the principles of natural justice and administrative law in this quasi-judicial role.

Studies and Reports Role

FIRB may, under the *FPPA*, conduct studies and make recommendations concerning any matter related to farm practices. These activities may be on the FIRB's own initiative, at the request of a municipality, a regional district, or a trust council under the *Islands Trust Act* or at the request or direction of the Minister.

YEAR IN REVIEW – FISCAL 2003/04 HIGHLIGHTS

On November 1, 2003, changes to the *NPMA* and the *FPPA* came into force, consolidating the BCMB and the FPB into FIRB. This consolidation did not change the regulated marketing and farm practices mandates, which are continued under FIRB.

Core Review and Deregulation Task Force

- The framework for Memoranda of Understanding (“MOU”) between the Minister, the chair of FIRB and the chair and members of commodity boards outlining the roles of each party and performance objectives for commodity boards were developed by MAFF and FIRB. MOUs have been signed with the Chicken Board and Mushroom Commission and draft MOUs have been discussed with the Egg Board and Turkey Board.
- Needs assessments were conducted to review regulatory requirements and strategies in the non-supply managed regulated industries. The Mushroom Scheme was revoked on March 31, 2004. Regulation of the vegetable industry will continue under more appropriate statutory authority and policy direction. Assessments of the cranberry and hog industries continue.
- FIRB advised MAFF on changes to the *NPMA* and various schemes to address matters such as the designation of agencies, LGIC appointed chairs, providing more streamlined election rules and procedures, and the administrative consolidation of the powers of the Egg Board.
- Position descriptions and a merit-based recruiting and selection process for LGIC appointments to FIRB and chairs of commodity boards were developed.
- FIRB members and staff continued to participate in the development and delivery of programs to improve governance in the regulated marketing system through director, dispute resolution and other professional development training.

Administrative Justice Project

- FIRB members and staff worked with the Administrative Justice Office in the development of the *Administrative Tribunals Appointments and Administration Act*, the *Administrative Tribunals Act* and consequential amendments to the *NPMA* and *FPPA* concerning FIRB's statutory powers, practices and procedures.

Supervision and Signatory

- FIRB directed all supply-managed commodity boards to review their programs for specialty and niche production and marketing against established criteria, and to report to FIRB on improvements to their programs. A coalition of organic wholesalers, distributors and retailers also initiated their own review. Consultation and information sharing is taking place between the various organizations involved.
- As a result of a mediated appeal settlement, the Milk Board conducted a review of the viability of its Graduated Entry Program. The Milk Board's proposals and industry submissions have been referred to FIRB for decision early in fiscal year 2004/05.
- FIRB members and staff supported and monitored negotiations by commodity boards with national agencies and provincial commodity boards to renew the federal provincial agreements for hatching eggs, table eggs and turkeys in order to achieve more equitable and appropriate procedures for determining provincial production allocations.
- FIRB members and staff facilitated discussions between the Chicken Board and chicken processors regarding BC's allocation. These discussions resulted in the establishment of a process led by the Chicken Board to examine the issue in detail and, if necessary, to negotiate improvements to BC's allocation with the Chicken Farmers of Canada.
- BC signatories for eggs (Minister, FIRB, Egg Board) and turkeys (Minister, FIRB, Turkey Board) filed formal complaints with National Farm Products Council regarding Eggs for Processing and the Canadian Turkey Marketing Agency's allocation policies. BC was successful in negotiating an agreement to restore BC's Eggs for Processing allocation pending further review, and

- discussions continue on how to improve the national allocation plan for turkey so that BC's market share is recognized.
- FIRB chair, as chair of the National Association of Supervisory Agencies (“NAASA”), led a working group to discuss improvements to the governance of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency.
 - FIRB, chair, members and staff provided collective and individual support to the poultry boards and industry stakeholders in response to the Avian Influenza outbreak.

Appellate

- After a series of appeals and court actions, FIRB negotiated an interim settlement allowing the Chicken Board and the Hatching Egg Commission to review existing new processor and new hatchery entrant programs. New orders from both regulatory bodies are expected early in fiscal year 2004/05.
- FIRB facilitated discussions in the chicken industry to address over-hatch (chicks excess to market requirements) issues that had the potential to put BC in a penalty (overproduction) position under the national plan for chicken.
- FIRB issued decisions regarding an Interior chicken processor and other processors on the Lower Mainland regarding permits for specialty and export production and defining the different rights and responsibilities of quota and permit holders.
- FIRB issued a decision in response to several appeals defining the rights and responsibilities of chicken quota holders faced with penalties for under or over production.
- After several adjournments to allow for unsuccessful industry negotiations, FIRB issued a decision directing that the costs for producers shipping milk to their processors will be shared equally by all BC producers under a total freight cost pooling system.
- FIRB issued several decisions on the merits, adjournment decisions and facilitated agreements allowing commodity boards and industry stakeholders to review specialty production and marketing issues in order to develop improvements to existing programs.

Farm Practices - General

- FIRB members and staff attended familiarization briefings and tours related to the Environmental Farm Planning program (Abbotsford) and to various aquaculture issues and operations (Campbell River area).
- FIRB members and staff participated in and presented at a strengthening farming workshop in Summerland conducted for representatives of industry and local governments in the Okanagan.
- FIRB members and staff participated in and presented at a strengthening farming workshop in Abbotsford for MAFF and Agriculture Land Commission staff.

Farm Practices - Complaints

- FIRB issued a decision concerning a small orchard operation in Kamloops outlining the requirements that a farm operation must demonstrate to qualify as a “farm business” and therefore be protected under the *FPPA*.
- After unsuccessful settlement negotiations followed by a lengthy hearing, FIRB issued a decision concerning a duck operation in Langley that further defined the meaning of “normal farm practice” in terms of size of an operation, size of the farm, proximity of neighbours and the type of manure management system used by a farm.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Vision

FIRB envisions a future in which the regulated marketing system operates effectively in compliance with the public interest and through its decisions and studies, FIRB contributes to establishing and maintaining a cooperative environment in which a viable and strong farming community co-exists with the non-farming community.

Mission

FIRB exercises its independent statutory mandate to ensure that BC marketing boards and commissions operate in compliance with governing legislation and policies, and through provision of fair and effective dispute resolution and inquiry processes, assists the farming and non-farming communities to reduce conflict, resolve issues, and reach mutual understanding of each other's concerns.

Values

FIRB values a working environment of mutual respect, accountability and fiscal responsibility. In exercising its mandate, FIRB will be guided by the following principles:

- proactive, flexible and cooperative leadership,
- open and transparent consultation,
- accessible and efficient practices and services,
- independent, impartial, timely and consistent dispute resolution and decision-making,
- ongoing professional development of members and staff,
- maintaining professionalism through the observance of the Code of Conduct and membership in the BC Council of Administrative Tribunals.

In performing its responsibilities, FIRB will act with discretion and integrity. In delivering its mandate, it will:

- maintain its independence as an administrative tribunal,
- maintain transparency and be open to consultation with all interested persons,
- conduct business with discretion and in confidence,
- provide impartial, timely and consistent decision-making,
- maintain and develop member and staff expertise through effective professional development, and
- exercise fiscal responsibility and administer its operations efficiently.

PLANNING CONTEXT

Farming in British Columbia Today

Today, farming is found in almost every corner of BC. Much of the province's agricultural activity takes place adjacent to urban areas, and aquaculture activity can be located in pristine coastal areas that are also important for tourism.

At the same time, a growing number of British Columbians are choosing to move from urban surroundings, to live as non-farm residents in farming or fishing communities. They are attracted by the pastoral surroundings, open spaces, and perceived rural lifestyle, but since most urban British Columbians have not grown up with a direct connection to a farm or the farm community, their views about farming may be unrealistic.

Farms today represent modern business operations – from small to very large – that demand a significant commitment in resources, expertise and plain hard work from their owners. A farmer's scope may be local, but his or her horizon must now be global. In addition to unpredictable weather-related risk management, a farmer must keep pace with international trade agreements, increasingly competitive global markets, and changing consumer preferences. For both farmed lands and waters, environmental and wildlife protection remain high on the public agenda. This convergence of market, consumer, technological and cultural factors presents challenges to responsible, sustainable farming, and it has stimulated whole-scale transition in some of the province's longest-standing commodities.

The regulated agri-food industry, like many other sectors, has faced significant and far-reaching changes in the last decade. Because our markets are increasingly global in scope, distant economies and evolving consumer preferences influence and affect BC more quickly and acutely than ever before. Today, a corporate merger on the other side of the world can close a local processing plant, or consumer demand for a product can suddenly spur production.

Global market pressures affect almost all commodities in every jurisdiction. BC's relationship with the Canadian government is, therefore, also affected, as all provinces look for solutions within our national borders.

Reflecting today's environment, appeals continue to become more complex, dealing with structural and economic issues involving national agreements, regional issues, and price-discovery processes. This increasing complexity of issues has also resulted in hearings by the FIRB that are longer, more involved, and more costly for everyone concerned. Similarly farm practice complaints are increasingly complex often involving many complainants responding to an issue. Frequently, the nature of the issues involved in an appeal or complaint can result in a number of interested persons being involved in the proceedings.

Living Next Door to Farming

Despite these sweeping changes, farming is still heavy, site-based work. Predictably, some farming activities generate noise, dust, odours and other disturbances. These may include operating farm machinery, bird scare devices, frost protection machines, fish-farm power generators, and grow lights in greenhouses, and spreading manure, spraying crops, and moving farm vehicles or boats.

Many farm activities must take place early in the morning, late in the evening, or on weekends, when other business activities may be idle and many non-farm citizens are at home. Farm activities may also change over time, as farmers adopt new technologies.

The parallel trends towards urban expansion and intensive farming are two different but vital parts of the British Columbia landscape today. All British Columbians benefit when we find efficient, effective ways to confront issues of common concern and solve disputes as quickly and agreeably as possible.

Challenges

The primary challenges facing FIRB include:

- a total disruption of the British Columbia poultry industry created by the outbreak of avian influenza, which will require major effort by all stakeholders to address,
- establish a management framework to support the merger of the mandate and responsibilities of the BCMB and the FPB,
- complete changes to the regulated marketing system directed by cabinet resulting from the Core Review and Deregulation process,
- continued pressure on the supply-managed regulated industry to meet the market demand for conventional and specialty production,
- growing friction due to “urban sprawl” creating pressure on agriculture and aquaculture operations from increased residential density and recreational usage, including environmental impacts such as water runoff, traffic and trespassing,
- changing face of farming. Larger, more complex and intensive farm operations, such as greenhouses, fish farms and on-farm processing or direct marketing activities, can have a greater impact on neighbouring properties (e.g., a higher volume of noise and odours), roadways (e.g., increased service and customer traffic), other local infrastructure (e.g., waste-disposal systems), and, potentially, on the environment,
- strong challenges facing the aquaculture sector may require increased involvement,
- maintaining a degree of independence from MAFF, while continuing an appropriate level of constructive debate on issues of joint jurisdiction,
- being responsive to social and business trends toward decreased regulation and the rise of special interest groups, and
- effectively carrying out the full range of responsibilities with finite resources.

Opportunities

Because of its unique roles and position, FIRB also has distinct opportunities. Some of those include:

- the ability to work effectively as an integrated, independent, results-oriented board; one that is small, highly focused, and adaptable in responding to change,
- recent FIRB decisions have been upheld by the courts providing support for the governing legislation that should lessen appeals and litigation in the future,
- work with commodity boards to implement recommendations of the regulated marketing system review will improve decision-making and should reduce the amount and frequency of disputes,
- negotiation of new or revised federal/provincial agreements for the supply-managed sector provides the opportunity to address the need for increased production allocations,
- implementing the recommendations of the Administrative Justice Project provides the opportunity to make changes to the governing legislation, strengthening the ability of FIRB to meet the challenges, and
- the appointment process is now in place providing an effective member reappointment and transition plan.

Key Strategic Issues

FIRB has set its objectives for the fiscal years 2004/05 to 2006/07 in response to the following key strategic issues:

- given the impact of avian influenza, FIRB will need to provide leadership and direction as commodity boards rebuild the regulated poultry industry,
- given the limited financial and member/staff resources there is a need to balance priorities to ensure that FIRB meets its statutory obligations,
- creating a better understanding of the roles of the Minister, MAFF and FIRB in carrying out the mandate resulting in a more effective working relationship,
- assisting MAFF in the development of its regulated marketing economic policy and supporting the implementation of the policy,
- strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of FIRB by working with the Administrative Justice Office to make the required changes to our enabling legislation,
- strengthening the governance of the regulated marketing system through the implementation of the recommendations from the review of the regulated marketing system,
- creating a more effective production allocation process for the supply-managed sector of the regulated sector through effective participation in the development of new or revised federal/provincial agreements,
- accommodating specialty production within the regulated marketing system, and
- the potential for the aquaculture industry to require extensive FIRB resources in the event of a farm practice complaint or a section 11 study.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES, PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS

Goal: FIRB fulfills its statutory obligations.

Outcome: All disputes are resolved in a timely fashion.

The regulated marketing system operates effectively and in a manner that protects the public interest.

The regulated marketing system has the support of industry partners including conventional and specialty producers.

There is a better understanding of normal farm practices and a resulting confidence in decisions of FIRB leading to a reduction in ongoing conflicts between farming and non-farming communities.

Objective 1

A fair and timely dispute resolution process is in place to resolve disputes.

Measure	2003/04 Base	2004/05 Target	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target
Decisions on merits rendered within 60 days of completion of hearing.	Decisions on merits issued within 135 days (appeals) and 100 days (complaints) of hearing (average).	50% of decisions on merits rendered within 60 days of hearing.	75% of decisions on merits rendered within 60 days of hearing.	100% of decisions on merits rendered within 60 days of hearing.
Length of time to finalize disputes reduced.	Appeals/complaints finalized within 240 days of filing (average).	50% of disputes finalized within 120 days of filing.	75% of disputes finalized within 120 days of filing.	100% of disputes finalized within 120 days of filing.
Average number of appeals per year reduced.	Number of appeals per FY from 1999/00 to 2003/04 – 26 (average).	Number of appeals per FY reduced by 15%.	Number of appeals per FY reduced by 30%.	Number of appeals per FY reduced by 50%.

Strategies

- Use the Administrative Justice Project to get the required changes to the governing legislation to provide flexibility to more effectively handle disputes.
- Establish effective and clear policies, practices and procedures in support of changes to governing legislation.
- Work with commodity boards to put in place effective dispute resolution processes.
- Work with the British Columbia Council of Marketing Boards (COMB) to ensure that all commodity board directors obtain governance and dispute resolution training.
- Establish a FIRB administrative and procedural structure that protects the integrity of the dispute resolution processes.
- FIRB members are assigned and take leadership roles working with commodity boards to assist in reducing conflicts.
- Ensure that appointed FIRB member(s) have knowledge and experience in farm practices matters including aquaculture.

Objective 2

Commodity boards are effective and accountable within their statutory and policy mandates through good governance and performance measurement.

Measure	2003/04 Base	2004/05 Target	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target
Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) in place between Minister, FIRB chair and commodity board chair and/or commodity boards setting out roles & responsibilities.	MOUs with Chicken Board and Mushroom Commission.	MOU between Minister and FIRB chair. Admin MOU between MAFF and FIRB. Development of MOUs between Minister, FIRB chair and all commodity boards.	All MOUs in place. Performance review, reporting and measurement processes established.	Performance planning, reporting and evaluation perfected. Performance measures in MOUs regularly achieved.
Appointment of commodity board chairs where appropriate.	Independent chairs for Chicken Board and Mushroom Commission.	Independent chairs for all other boards (as appropriate).	Performance evaluation and continuity plans in place.	Reappointment or recruiting of new appointees as appropriate.

Strategies

- Finalize the MOU between the Minister and FIRB chair to set out the roles and responsibilities of each party and the performance objectives of FIRB. Finalize an administrative MOU between MAFF and FIRB outlining respective and joint responsibilities.
- Develop MOUs in cooperation with MAFF and the commodity boards to describe the roles and responsibilities of each party and to establish performance objectives for the commodity boards.
- Develop annual performance measures and reporting and evaluation schedules in consultation with each commodity board chair to ensure that performance objectives are met.
- Conduct annual operational reviews of the commodity boards to ensure effective administration and compliance with governing legislation and policies.
- Provide support, guidance or leadership in the public interest as appropriate to the commodity boards as they seek to maintain orderly marketing in the poultry industry during the avian flu crisis.

Objective 3

British Columbia's share of the national allocation under the federal provincial agreements ("FPAs") provides sufficient production to meet processor and specialty market requirements.

Measure	2003/04 Base	2004/05 Target	2005/06 Target	2006/07 Target
BC's allocation sufficient to meet process and specialty market.	Milk – discussions with western provinces in support of corrections to the Western Milk Pool ("WMP").	Milk – revised WMP in place.	Milk – allocation is appropriate and defensible.	All supply-managed commodities have market responsive FPAs that provide suitable allocations to BC.
	Chicken – BC assessing whether adjustments are required to BC's base allocation.	Chicken – base adjustment study completed.	Chicken – BC allocation is appropriate and defensible.	
	Turkey – BC allocation does not meet BC market demand.	Turkey – revised allocation methodology in place.	Turkey – FPA in place with appropriate and defensible allocation for BC.	
	Eggs – increased allocation required.	Eggs – increased allocation received.	Eggs – FPA in place with appropriate and defensible allocation for BC.	

Strategies

- Participate in the development of renewed FPAs to ensure that the BC provincial interest is recognized and protected.
- Develop, with MAFF and the supply-managed commodity boards, strategies to improve existing FPAs and to enhance the utilization of the provincial allocations and promote opportunities for growth to producers and processors.
- Supervise the performance of the supply-managed boards to ensure they are in compliance with existing FPAs.
- Support the supply-managed boards in the development of operational frameworks within their FPAs to ensure market responsive and legally defensible allocation methodologies are in place which ensure BC producers and processors receive an equitable share of the national allocation to supply market demand and to provide growth opportunities.
- Support the supply-managed boards in the development of strategies to maintain orderly marketing through the crisis generated by the avian flu and to restore production and marketing to pre-crisis levels.

HOW TO CONTACT FIRB

For information about FIRB and its work, the regulated marketing system in BC, any of the commodity boards or about farm practices dispute resolution, please contact us:

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