FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY BRANCH
2003/04 – 2005/06 SERVICE PLAN

Goal: **Safe, high quality British Columbia products from sustainable agri-food systems**

Outcome: Increased domestic and international confidence in British Columbia's agri-food products
Enhanced economic growth for British Columbia's agri-food industry

Objective	Key Strategies:
▪ **Support BC's agri-food industries in the development, implementation and maintenance of agri-food systems that are economically, environmentally and socially sustainable**	▪ ***Build awareness and knowledge regarding food safety and quality and plant and animal health*** *Key Activities:* • Develop a food safety risk profile for BC's agri-food industries • Develop a Food Safety and Quality Branch webpage that is populated with informational resources for BC's agri-food industries and support the development and maintenance of Infobasket • Develop a database of antimicrobial resistance levels in BC livestock and poultry and a database on antimicrobial use in livestock and poultry feed • Conduct random sampling of raw milk at the farm level for food safety related risks • Develop a data base on the bacterial levels of water used by dairy farms in BC • Participate in the Production Limiting Disease Survey (Bovine Virus Diarrhea, Johne's, Neospora, and Bovine Leukosis) led by the Canadian Animal Health Coalition • Develop pest management training material and provide planner training for the joint industry/ministry environmental farm planning initiative ▪ ***Strengthen capacity to respond to food safety and quality and plant and animal health issues and opportunities*** *Key Activities:* • Lead the establishment of Agri-Food Futures Funds for Food Quality and Safety and for Apiculture including development of strategic plans • Support the development/evolution of programs within the Food Safety and Quality Chapter of the Agriculture Policy Framework that contribute to the advancement of BC industries • Contribute to the development of a provincial strategy for weed management, including the development of a plan for funding noxious weed management on crown lands in BC

Objective	Key Strategies:

- ***Facilitate the development, implementation and maintenance of BC industry-led food safety and quality programs***
  <u>*Key Activities*</u>:
  - Develop a protocol by which to evaluate applications for certification under the *Agri-Food Choice and Quality Act* and promote utilization of this program by BC's agri-food industries

- ***Support the development, implementation and maintenance of nationally-driven food safety and quality, and traceability programs***
  <u>*Key Activities:*</u>
  - Participate in technical evaluations of four on-farm food safety program applications (as per the national recognition protocol)
  - Implement and administer the BC component of the National Cervid Certification Program

- ***Facilitate the development, implementation, and maintenance of management strategies to mitigate the impact of plant and animal diseases, invasive pests and noxious weeds and/or to address food safety risks***
  <u>*Key Activities:*</u>
  - Develop an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy to advance IPM research and IPM adoption on BC farms
  - Facilitate the development and delivery of management strategies (based on a risk assessment) for alfalfa weevil, cereal leaf beetle, leafrollers, pepino mosaic virus, blueberry scorch, pepper powdery mildew, little cherry virus, and apple scab and other yet-to-be-identified pests/diseases
  - Facilitate implementation of the BC tree fruit industry's "Growing With Care" integrated fruit production program

- ***Develop and administer provincial regulatory programs and policies that ensure safe food and the health of plant and animal systems***
  <u>*Key Activities:*</u>
  - Support the Legislation Branch and industry in the de-regulation and re-regulation of: the *Milk Industry*, and *Bee Acts* and associated regulations, the *Pharmacist, Pharmacy Operations and Drug Scheduling Act's* "Veterinary Drug and Medicated Feed Regulation"
  - Support the Ministry of Health Services and agri-food industry in the transition to an outcome-based provincial meat inspection system