

# GROWING together

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROMOTE AGRICULTURE

*Through effective long-term planning, local governments are focusing on agriculture to drive economic development in their communities. Following are highlights of some of these projects and initiatives.*

Planning that involves key stakeholders is an important component in ensuring continued agricultural growth in British Columbia and an increasing number of local governments are responding to that challenge. While some communities are working on first-time agricultural plans, others are in the process of implementing strategies to address specific agricultural challenges and opportunities in their areas.

### Town of Oliver

The Town of Oliver and Electoral Area C of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen are in the process of developing a Wine Capital of Canada Strategic Plan to promote the region's highly successful wine and wine tourism industries.

Jessica Murphy, chair of the Oliver and District Community Economic Development Society, said the plan will capitalize on Oliver's climate and environment, rural agricultural lands and wineries, wine village and people as its key selling points.

"Our goal is to make Oliver well known for



With vineyards producing many premium grape varieties, Tinhorn Creek Estate Winery is one of several wineries in the Oliver area that have helped put B.C.'s wine industry on the world map.

its wines, restaurants and country inns within the next five years, while still continuing to be an authentic rural area," Murphy said. "The development of the plan is ongoing, with input from the town council, the advisory

planning committee, the Oliver and District Chamber of Commerce and winery owners."

Oliver has 13 wineries and is home to 10 per cent of Canada's wineries and over 20 per cent of the country's fine grape acreage.

### District of Salmon Arm

A steering committee comprised of representatives from the farming community, local government, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, is overseeing the development of an agricultural plan for the District of Salmon Arm.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia provided a \$10,000 grant to aid in the development of the plan, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the District of Salmon Arm lending financial and technical support to the project.

"The focus of the plan will be on issues affecting the local agricultural industry and opportunities for development," said Jon Turlock,

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## PARTICIPANTS TRADE IDEAS AT AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

*Forum will be a regular event to address opportunities and challenges of AACs*

More than 100 participants met in Abbotsford recently for the first ever Agricultural Advisory Committee workshop, a forum aimed at facilitating the exchange of ideas and lessons on how to make AACs more effective in local government planning.

It is hoped the workshop, which addressed start-up challenges, functions and mandate, effective communication and the needs of Agricultural Advisory Committees, will become a regular event.

Representatives from six Agricultural Advisory Committees from across the province shared accomplishments and challenges through presentations on topics

such as the role of AACs in the development of agricultural plans, farm tours, agri-tourism and how to increase public awareness of farm activities.

Marvin Hunt, City of Surrey councillor and a member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, recounted some of the committee's projects and activities, noting that AACs are a great way to build good, strong relations between local governments and the farm community.

"The AAC has assisted in establishing a development permit area for the protection of farming," Hunt told delegates. "This area, on the urban side of the agricultural-urban boundary, deals with a number of matters all

directed at lessening urban-rural conflict."

Hunt said the Surrey AAC has played an important role in building agricultural awareness through its annual farm tours, which have continued to grow in popularity. The committee has also been involved in ongoing infrastructure improvement projects to address water runoff issues in lowland farming areas.

The workshop was held in conjunction with the annual Pacific Agriculture Show and brought together representatives from 18 of the province's 19 AACs. Delegates from local governments interested in establishing AACs were also present.

Mike Molloy, who represented the Regional District of Central Okanagan Agricultural Advisory Committee, said the presentations were highly productive, helping to stimulate discussion on several key issues.

"Many AACs have tended to operate in isolation and it was not until this conference that we realized that we have a lot of issues in common, as well as a lot to learn from each other," said Molloy. "For example the Surrey

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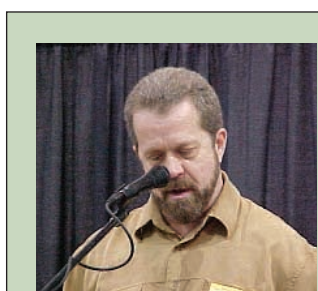
*Farming has always been important to British Columbia. Today, as both our population and our need for agricultural food products continue to grow, harmonious relations*

*between farming and government are critical. Local governments play a significant role in the growth and stability of the agriculture industry. The many positive relationships developed between local governments, ministry staff and industry encourage the development of agricultural plans to benefit B.C.'s communities.*

*Half of British Columbia's population lies outside the Lower Mainland. Our government is working hard to make sure prosperity and opportunity enriches every region of our province. Our abundant energy sources and low taxes promise to make B.C. even more attractive to food producers and processors.*

*I encourage local governments to work with the ministry and local industry to continue to develop agricultural plans, agricultural advisory committees and keep B.C. increasingly competitive in the global environment. Together, we will continue to hone B.C.'s viable and profitable agriculture industry to provide safe, high-quality food for consumers and export markets.*

**Hon. John van Dongen**  
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries



**Ian Vantreight** (representing the Peninsula Agriculture Commission) makes a presentation on, **Initiatives: Saanichton & Water Rates**, at the AAC Workshop. Vantreight operates GA Vantreight and Sons and is president of the Island Vegetable Co-op. He is also Chair of the Workforce Policy Board and past Chair of the Peninsula Agriculture Commission's Water Sub-Committee.

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## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROMOTE AGRICULTURE

Planning and Development Officer for the District of Salmon Arm and a non-voting member of the steering committee. "It will include an up-to-date profile of the local agricultural sector, objectives and policies to assist agriculture and informational brochures promoting agriculture within the District of Salmon Arm."

Work on a land-use inventory and agricultural overview by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has already been concluded. The Salmon Arm agricultural plan is expected to be completed by May 2004 and subsequently incorporated into the District's Official Community Plan.

### City of Richmond

The City of Richmond's Agricultural Advisory Committee has held its first meeting following the adoption of the Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy (RAVS) in June.

The formation of the committee is the first step in the implementation of the RAVS, which took four years to develop and drew all three levels of government to the drawing board.

The Richmond Agricultural Viability Strategy will be implemented through 2021



In 2001, Richmond alone accounted for just over 47 per cent of B.C.'s cranberry acreage.

and details over 60 recommendations covering areas such as agricultural decision-making; non-farm uses and parks and recreation; public education and awareness; and economic growth and diversification.

Located in the heart of Canada's third largest metropolitan area, Richmond is well known for its extensive cranberry farms.

In 2001, cranberry production in the area covered 778 hectares – more than a quarter of the land devoted to cranberries in Canada.

### Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley Regional Districts

The first ever economic strategy aimed at addressing issues related to agricultural productivity in the Lower Mainland has been completed.

A workshop to secure stakeholder endorsement and build partnerships in support of the Economic Strategy for Agriculture in the Lower Mainland was held in March. It brought together provincial and local government officials and agricultural industry representatives to build consensus on the implementation of the plan.

"The goal of the strategy was to identify the things that we could do to foster an economically viable agricultural industry in the Lower Mainland," said Ralph Perkins, senior planner with the Greater Vancouver Regional District. "It contains 80 specific recommendations to further various goals, ranging from the protection of the agricultural resource base to enhanced marketing opportunities for producers."

The strategy was developed as a partnership project involving the Greater Vancouver Regional District, the Fraser Valley Regional District, the Agricultural Land Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia.



Nearly 68 per cent of the province's vegetable greenhouse area is located within the Greater Vancouver Regional District.

### City of Surrey

The City of Surrey's Agricultural Advisory Committee has established a sub-committee to address the economic expansion and diversification goals of the City's agricultural plan.

The sub-committee's report will provide an overview of agricultural trends in Surrey as well as identify agricultural diversification opportunities to be pursued under the Surrey Agricultural Plan (SAP).

The Surrey Agricultural Plan was adopted in 1999 to provide a blueprint on how the City and farmers could work together to promote the development of agriculture in the area.

Components of the SAP already under implementation include flood control in lowland areas and various initiatives of the City's Agricultural Advisory Committee, such as public education and buffering along the ALR boundary.

### Regional District of Comox-Strathcona

Preliminary work on implementing an agricultural strategy for the Comox Valley will commence this fall, following the Regional District's endorsement in February of the Comox Valley Agricultural Plan.

The implementation committee will include representatives from various agencies and organizations tasked with monitoring the execution of the plan, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the farmers market and the Agricultural Land Commission.

"We have already begun working on some

of the goals of the plan, such as raising agricultural awareness," said Beth Rees, a planner with the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona. "Two brochures have been produced aimed at educating the public on key issues related to agriculture in the Comox Valley."

The Comox Valley Agricultural Plan (see full article on page 3) covers areas such as improved water and land management, environmental stewardship and market development for producers.

### District of Pitt Meadows

A task force comprised of representatives from the District of Pitt Meadows, the Pitt Meadows Agricultural Advisory Committee and the Tourism Society has completed work on a draft agri-tourism policy for the area.

The Pitt Meadows agri-tourism policy will seek to promote an economically viable agri-tourism industry and increase awareness of the contributions made by agriculture to the area, while preserving Pitt Meadows' natural environment and agricultural land.

A cornerstone of the policy will be to build on the heritage, values and uniqueness of farm life in Pitt Meadows by fostering farm-based agri-tourism opportunities. The draft policy has been approved by the Pitt Meadows AAC, Tourism Society and Farmers Institute and will now proceed to council for deliberation.

*If you have any questions or comments about this article, please contact: Barry Smith, Sr. Land Use Specialist, Resource Management Branch, MAFF, phone: 604 556-3106, e-mail: barry.smith@gems4.gov.bc.ca*



### Did you know?

Abbotsford accounts for more than 80 per cent of B.C.'s raspberry acreage and nearly 48 per cent of all lands devoted to raspberry production in Canada.

Source: Statistics Canada; Census of Agriculture

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## PARTICIPANTS TRADE IDEAS AT AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKSHOP

and Chilliwack AACs organize educational tours of agri-businesses in their area and that's one innovative idea we would like to initiate."

Sandra Kochan, AAC chair for the Regional District of Central Okanagan, said the workshop is helping to redefine and expand the committee's role and activities to include education, advocacy and increased partnerships with other regional committees, the agricultural community and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

"Following the workshop, we made a presentation to the regional board and the response was very positive," said Kochan. "The mandate of the committee is being re-written to make it more proactive and some of the mayors without AACs in their communities have expressed interest in setting up committees of their own."

Jessica Murphy of the Oliver and District Community Economic Development Society described the workshop as informative, adding that plans for the establishment of an AAC in Electoral Area C of the Regional

District of Okanagan-Similkameen (Oliver rural) are being fast tracked.

"Our focus was to gather ideas that would be helpful to us in establishing our AAC and in developing an agricultural plan for the area," Murphy said. "As a community, we are strongly committed to protecting farm lands and the workshop offered the opportunity to clarify our thinking on various issues."

Ken Schwarzle, chair of the Kent Agricultural Advisory Committee, said the forum provided helpful insight on how to increase agricultural awareness using agri-tourism as a tool. The Kent committee was established in December last year so the event was a first-time opportunity to glean ideas from more experienced AACs.

"I think it's really important to make the community more aware of agriculture and its benefits," said Schwarzle. "Agri-tourism is one effective way of doing this because it helps draw people who may not otherwise be agriculture-oriented."

Schwarzle said local governments that want

to set up AACs need to learn from the experiences of others as well as carefully assess what their communities produce. "Every area is going to be different in terms of how their AAC works," he said. "For example, Kent is very strong in the dairy sector so that's an important factor for us to consider."

Following recommendations at the workshop, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food

and Fisheries is developing a Web site that will make information on Agricultural Advisory Committees more readily accessible to local governments and the general public.

*If you have any questions or comments about this article, please contact: Karen Thomas, Land Use Agrologist with the Resource Management Branch, MAFF, phone: 604 556-3106, e-mail: karen.thomas@gems2.gov.bc.ca*

### AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES September – 2003

- City of Abbotsford
- Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot
- Regional District of Central Kootenay
  - Creston Valley AAC
  - Electoral Area I & J (Castlegar Area) AAC
  - Electoral Area E (Blewett Area) AAC
- Regional District of Central Okanagan
- City of Chilliwack
- Regional District of Comox-Strathcona
- Greater Vancouver Regional District
- Islands Trust - Saltspring Island
- City of Kelowna
- District of Kent
- Township of Langley
- Peninsula Agricultural Commission
  - District of Saanich
  - District of Central Saanich
  - District of North Saanich
  - Town of Sidney
- Peace River Regional District
- City of Penticton
- District of Pitt Meadows
- City of Richmond
- City of Surrey

# A VISION FOR AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

*The Comox Valley Agricultural Plan is an example of how effective planning can help chart the path for a thriving and sustainable agricultural industry.*

Like many family-run farms in the Comox Valley, Len Lightfoot sells most of his produce at the local farmers market, which he helped establish 11 years ago. When he was asked to represent the market on a steering committee charged with overseeing the development of an agricultural plan for the area, Lightfoot welcomed the opportunity to bring the voice of small-scale farmers to the planning process.

"It was a chance to make sure that the needs of small producers are addressed and not just those with 100 acres of farmland," said Lightfoot, who produces lettuce, cabbage, carrots and tomatoes out of six polygreen houses managed jointly with his wife. "There are many farms with just five acres that are making a real economic contribution to the area and they need to be recognized and supported."

The end result of the steering committee's work – with assistance from a team of private consultants – was the Comox Valley Agricultural Plan. The plan, which was endorsed in February by the Board of the Regional District of Comox-Strathcona, lays out a long-term vision for growth not just for large-scale agri-businesses in the area but also for medium-sized and small producers.

Kel Kelly, former electoral area representative on the steering committee, said the Comox Valley Agricultural Plan will go a long way in making agriculture a key economic generator in the region.

"Agriculture is already one of the highest per capita employers in the Comox Valley but there is still a lot of unrealized potential both in terms of food production and jobs," Kelly said. "The plan helps address some of the main challenges facing farmers and producers in the area."

For example, the Comox Valley Agricultural Plan seeks to reduce conflict in agricultural and urban land use through buffering and by recognizing the status of pre-existing farmlands. It will also facilitate the growth and expansion of local markets, the production and export of niche or specialty agricultural products and partnerships between environmental and agricultural interests.

"The plan recognizes the need for cooperative protocols that will allow agricultural and environmental interests to work closely together in addressing issues such as unfenced creeks, for example," said Kelly. "However, agricultural and environmental goals often complement each other and it is equally important to educate the public about this."

## Background

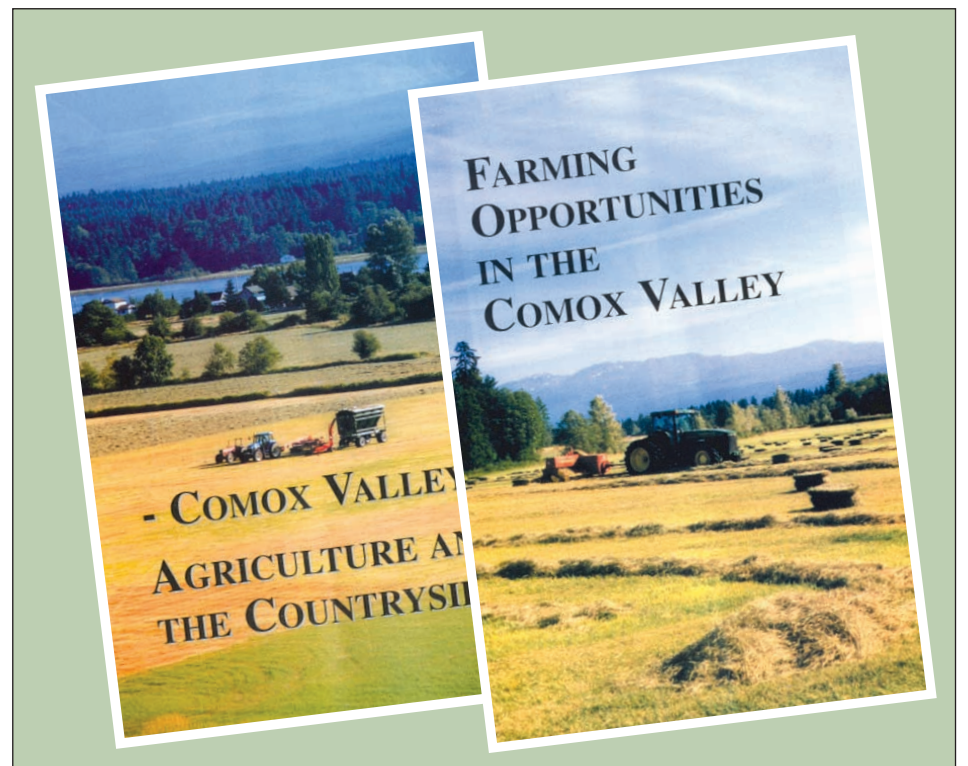
The groundwork for the development of the agricultural plan was laid in the Rural Comox Valley Official Community Plan, which was adopted in 1999. That plan made provision for the development of an agricultural strategy for the area, a process that was formally initiated in February 2001.

The goal of the Comox Valley Agricultural Plan is to further the development of socially, culturally, environmentally and economically sustainable farming in the area. It is aimed at improving water and land management, enhancing environmental stewardship of agricultural lands and expanding business and marketing opportunities for farmers. The plan is also intended to promote food security and safety as well as increased agricultural awareness in the community.

*"Agriculture is already one of the highest per capita employers in the Comox Valley but there is still a lot of unrealized potential both in terms of food production and jobs."*

*Kel Kelly, Steering Committee representative*

Funding for the plan was provided by the Regional District, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, the agriculture community, the Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia. The Comox Valley plan was completed in



Two brochures developed as part of the Comox Valley Agricultural Plan will help educate the public about farming issues in the area.

two phases. The first phase focused on the development of relevant background information and identification of key agricultural issues and opportunities, such as access to irrigation water, flooding, rural-urban interface planning, agri-tourism, on-farm processing and promotion of local products. Phase two of the project centred on the development of the actual plan.

The 13-member steering committee that oversaw the development of the plan was comprised of representatives from the Agricultural Advisory Committee, the Farmers Institute, Island Farmers Alliance, as well as regional board members and Regional District staff. It also included representatives from the local farmers market, the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

"The Comox Valley Agricultural Plan recognizes the contribution that agriculture makes to the community as well as the importance of effective planning in minimizing land-use conflict," said Niels Holbek, Agricultural Land Commission representative and chair of the steering committee. "Most importantly, it is action-oriented in its recommendations, identifying and assigning specific responsibilities to lead organizations charged with its implementation."

Lightfoot says for farmers like him, the plan is particularly significant because it will lead to continuity in agricultural decision-making and provides producers with the assurance that policy makers will continue to work towards the development of agriculture in the area over the long-term.

"It makes for a much more stable climate for the development of agriculture in the Comox Valley," said Lightfoot. "Farmers have to worry less about unpredictability in agricultural policy-making because there's a plan there for everybody to read and follow, whether it's farmers, the Regional District or those buying new lots in the area."

## Lessons

For communities intending to develop their own agricultural plans, Holbeck says there are many lessons to be learned from the

work of the steering committee and the process of developing the Comox Valley plan.

"It's important to pay close attention to the terms of reference and anticipated outcomes so that everybody is on the same page right from the beginning," said Holbek. "Communities also need to involve the public in the process, through open houses for example, and make sure the final plan does not simply gather dust."

The steering committee endorsed the proposed structure and terms of reference for an informal agricultural plan implementation committee in June. The membership of the proposed implementation team will consist of representatives from many of the organizations involved in the development of the plan. While the committee's task is expected to commence in September, work towards some of the objectives of the plan is already underway – the Regional District has produced two informational brochures to create greater public awareness of the agricultural industry in the Comox Valley.

The implementation team will provide ongoing support for the plan, develop a strategy and associated timelines and budgets for its implementation and report to the Regional District on a semi-annual basis on progress made in meeting defined goals and objectives.

As the Comox Valley Agricultural plan moves into implementation, Lightfoot says it is important for the farming community to remain closely involved in the process. He has watched the farmers market flourish over the years and hopes the plan's implementation will pave the way for its continued growth and a thriving and sustainable agricultural sector throughout the Comox Valley.

"The agricultural plan communicates a very strong and important message that we value agriculture in this community," said Lightfoot. "It tells farmers that there is a commitment to creating an enabling environment for their businesses to succeed."

*If you have any questions or comments about this article, please contact: Jill Hatfield, District Agriculturist, South Coastal Region, MAFF, phone: 250 897-7518, e-mail: jill.hatfield@gems8.gov.bc.ca*

## GUIDE TO DEVELOPING TRAILS IN FARM AND RANCH AREAS



This 51-page guide is a valuable new resource for trail planners, developers and managers. Learn how to minimize the impacts of trails on agricultural lands through tools such as buffering and signage, and the involvement of local farmers in the trail planning process.

The guide is available online at:  
[www.agf.gov.bc.ca/trail\\_guide/agtrails\\_toc.pdf](http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/trail_guide/agtrails_toc.pdf)

## Did you know?

Comox Valley farmers sold over \$23 million worth of products in 2001 and had an investment in land, buildings, machinery and livestock worth over \$194 million.

## By the Numbers: the Growing Contribution of Agriculture to Local Economies

Agriculture is a major economic engine in many B.C. municipalities. 107 of the province's 154 municipalities have land in the ALR and agri-business continues to play a major role in many local economies.

### TOP 20 MUNICIPALITIES BY TOTAL ANNUAL GROSS FARM RECEIPTS

MUNICIPALITY	1995\$	2000\$
Abbotsford	\$315 m	\$452 m
Langley (Township)	\$150 m	\$203 m
Chilliwack	\$141 m	\$185 m
Surrey	\$107 m	\$181 m
Delta	\$65 m	\$161 m
Pitt Meadows	\$59 m	\$51 m
Kelowna	\$35 m	\$48 m
Maple Ridge	\$27 m	\$39 m
Spallumcheen	\$34 m	\$38 m
Richmond	\$56 m	\$38 m
Kent	\$21 m	\$37 m
Kamloops	\$16 m	\$23 m
Mission	\$18 m	\$20 m
Central Saanich	\$17 m	\$19 m
Burnaby	\$19 m	\$15 m
North Cowichan	\$13 m	\$14 m
Lake Country	\$10 m	\$11 m
Summerland	\$10 m	\$10 m
North Saanich	\$10 m	\$10 m
Salmon Arm	\$9 m	\$10 m

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture

Note: Annual Gross Farm Receipts rose in B.C. from \$1.8 billion in 1995 to \$2.3 billion in 2000. In most cases the key agricultural regions and municipalities in B.C. reflected this upward trend. A few municipalities displayed a drop in gross farm receipts between 1995 and 2000. This, appears to be the result of possible reporting differences associated with the Census of Agriculture "headquarters rule". In some cases a farm may have its headquarters located in one jurisdiction with a portion of the farm located in another jurisdiction but all of the farm's revenue is applied to the municipality within which the farm headquarters is located.

## Smart Growth Conference Explores Sustainable Urban-Rural Planning

How can local governments meet urban development needs while protecting valuable agricultural lands? Do urban containment boundaries meant to preserve rural agricultural lands really inhibit urban development?

These are just a few of the questions discussed at two workshops held in March of this year in Vernon and Penticton for local government representatives and staff and other participants from the community.

The workshops were organized by Smart Growth BC to acquaint local governments, as well as delegates from the private sector and community groups, with innovative approaches to planning and building more sustainable and livable communities.

"Local governments make a lot of the decisions that affect the development of our communities and the conference provided a forum to review some of the tenets that guide sustainable land-use and development," said Kevin McNaney, Community Assistance Program Coordinator for Smart Growth BC.

"When it comes to protecting agricultural lands, the ALR is the best form of urban containment and remains the most effective approach to curbing sprawl in agricultural communities."

Issues examined at the workshops included agricultural edge planning, misconceptions surrounding the impact of urban containment boundaries and the role of special management areas in land-use planning.

Sponsors for the conference included the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. About 400 participants attended the workshops, including mayors, councillors, local government planners, farmers, land developers and First Nations representatives.

*If you have any questions or comments about this article, please contact: Kevin McNaney, Community Assistance Program Coordinator, Smart Growth BC, phone: 604 915-5234, e-mail: kevin@smartgrowth.bc.ca*



Through a smart growth approach to development, local governments can better balance urban expansion with the need to preserve rural and agricultural lands.

### Did you know?

62 per cent of B.C.'s population growth between 1996 and 2001 occurred in the top 20 agricultural municipalities.

Source: Statistics Canada; Census of Agriculture

## Environmental Farm Planning Program is Good News for B.C.

A five-year project aimed at raising environmental awareness and promoting sustainable farm stewardship in British Columbia's agricultural sector is scheduled to begin this fall.

The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program is part of the Agriculture Policy

Framework agreement between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. The agreement is a component of a national initiative to position Canada as a world leader in environmentally responsible farming.

The B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC), the lead provincial farm organization, will undertake program delivery.

"The EFP program demonstrates the agricultural community's commitment to on-farm environmental stewardship," said George Hamilton, chair of the BCAC. "It presents a unique opportunity to work in partnership with producers, farm organizations and local governments to make B.C. agriculture more sustainable."

The BCAC will hold two-week long training workshops in Abbotsford and Kelowna for environmental farm planners in the fall. These planners will assist farm organizations and other recognized groups with demonstrated linkages

to the agricultural community in the delivery of the program.

Niels Holbek, coordinator for the program, said local governments can play a facilitating role in the successful implementation of the project, adding that a target of over 3,600 environmental farm plans are expected to be delivered and implemented through 2008.

"It will be a broad-based, voluntary program to help producers effectively assess their environmental strengths, identify and prioritize risks and develop an action plan to manage these risks," said Holbek. "Participating producers will be eligible for cost-shared incentives to help them implement eligible beneficial management practices outlined in their environmental farm plan."

Karen Goodings, chair of the Peace River Regional District, said the initiative is a positive step because environmental farm planning will improve the public confidence in the production practices of B.C. farmers.

"Environmental farm planning plays an important role in protecting producers, who tend to be very conscious of preserving the

environment because it forms part of their means of livelihood," said Goodings. "It helps them better focus on environmental issues arising from their activities and we encourage producer groups to get involved in the program."

Some of the expected outcomes of the program include increased adoption of technologies that enhance sustainable production, reduced conflict between agricultural and environmental interests, measurable improvements in environmental farm practices and producer certification as a long-term goal.

Agency partners include the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia.

*If you have any questions or comments about this article, please contact: Niels Holbek, Environmental Farm Plan Coordinator, British Columbia Agriculture Council, phone: 250 334-6547, e-mail: niels@bcac.bc.ca*



Ministry of Agriculture,  
Food and Fisheries



www.gov.bc.ca/agf

### Other Web Sites Worth Checking



British Columbia Agricultural Land Commission

www.alc.gov.bc.ca



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

www.agr.gc.ca



www.bcac.bc.ca