



BC's AGRI-FOOD

Update



Honourable Pat Bell
Minister of Agriculture and Lands

Featuring News From the Agriculture Sector of B.C.'s Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

MAY 2007

Flooding Update

WWW.AGF.GOV.BC.CA/EMERGENCY/FLOOD/

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

Youth and innovation are in the spotlight as we celebrate 4-H accomplishments and look at the exciting potential for a new wine region in British Columbia. Agri-tourism received a boost with funding for the B.C. Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions to encourage fairs and exhibitions to create displays highlighting the diversity of local agri-tourism while competing for cash and prizes. On April 24 we celebrated Agriculture Day and asked British Columbians to support local farmers by choosing local, buying fresh and acting now today and everyday. As always, I appreciate your feedback and look forward to hearing from you at AL.MINISTER@GOV.BC.CA.

Until next month,

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

What's New

click on the new button on our website for the most current news



Kira Wilson enjoys cherry tomatoes after learning to love them at school. "I just had to write and say how WONDERFUL the healthy snack program is," said Kira's Mom, Jodie. "My daughter who is in kindergarten was not into veggies at all. That has certainly changed - the picture says it all!! She can't get enough of the cherry tomatoes that were recently featured - and we are more than happy to oblige and have her fill up on them. Only I did just learn that tomatoes are a fruit - and not a veggie at all!"

B.C. Beef Processors Get \$12.5 Million To Implement Feed Ban

The Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia are investing \$12.5 million in B.C.'s beef industry to help accelerate the elimination of bovine spongiform encephalopathy from B.C.'s cattle herds. The federal-provincial funding will help the province's beef processing sector comply with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's enhanced feed ban, which takes effect on July 12, 2007. For more information visit: www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/SRM_Program/index.htm

Lytton-Lillooet To Realize its Grape Potential



Photo courtesy of the Bridge River - Lillooet News.

Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell visited the vineyard of Lillooet Mayor Christ'l Roshard on April 5, 2007 to present a \$40,000 cheque to the British Columbia Grapegrowers Association to conduct a climate and feasibility assessment of growing wine grapes in the Lytton-Lillooet area.

In 2004, the Lillooet Land and Resource Management plan identified the need for economic diversification in the region. With growing season temperatures comparable to those of the Okanagan, the area was identified as a prime candidate for grape growing. Mayor Roshard made her property available for a 2005 pilot project where five grape trials were planted. A second trial was planted on the Ruddock Ranch property and plans are in the works for two more trial sites. This new study will build on research currently underway and provide valuable information to identify if the region can be viable in commercial grape production. The British Columbia Grapegrowers Association is a non-profit organization that represents all commercial grape producers in B.C. on agricultural issues and concerns.

In British Columbia, grapes are grown in the Okanagan Valley, the Similkameen Valley and the Fraser Valley, and on Vancouver Island. B.C. is Canada's number one producer of premium wine grapes, with the 2005 crop worth almost \$24.5 million. The industry employs more than 3,000 full- and part-time workers.

British Columbia 4-H – 93 Years Young!



4-H'ers toured a farm as part of the Provincial 4-H Public Speaking competition April 14 in Dawson Creek. This month 4-H launches Agri-Career Adventure 2007, a 5 day program beginning May 4th, to explore careers in the agriculture industry.

This year is the 93rd anniversary of BC 4-H, a member of the Canadian 4-H Council. The name 4-H stands for Head, Heart, Hands and Health. The 4-H program provides young people with an opportunity to learn how to become productive, self-assured adults who can make their community and country a better place in which to live. This is fostered through project and program work, experiences with their 4-H club members and leaders, and their participation in district, regional and provincial programs. The goal of the 4-H program is youth development. The BC 4-H program, a partnership between BC 4-H and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, has 194 clubs and 2,926 youth members. The provincial government has supported 4-H in B.C. since its start in 1914 and recently provided a \$95,000 funding contribution as the annual commitment to 4-H for the current fiscal year.



MONTHLY TRIVIA QUESTION

The farm of the 1890s had no cars, few telephones and little electricity. Most of the work was done by the 17,000 horses in use on B.C. farms in 1894. Tractors first appeared in the early 20th century and by 1922 numbered 332. Today there are well over 33,000. As late as 1933, there were only 20 combines - today there are over 1700. To produce today's crops without fuel and electricity would require 27 million more farm workers and 61 million more horses and mules. Egg production in 1912 had farmers investing \$2.75 on feed per hen, per week, for a yield (on average) of how many eggs?

The 6th person to email AL.MINISTER@GOV.BC.CA with the correct answer will receive a Best Place on Earth travel mug.

Congratulations to April's TRIVIA WINNER: Clayton Bradley, Portfolio Administrator, Regional Client Services

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