



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

JUNE 2007

Flooding Update

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

FROM THE DESK OF PAT BELL

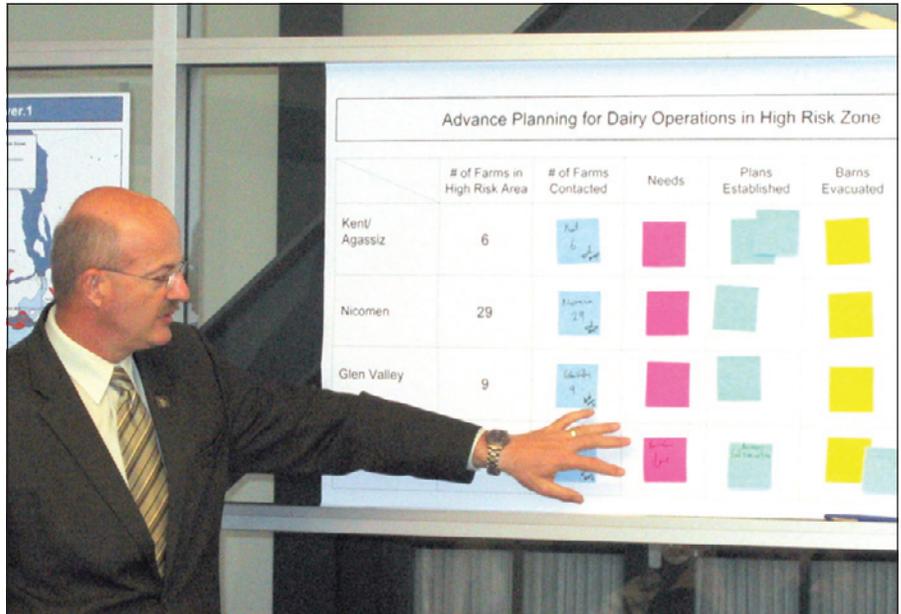
In May, Statistics Canada released the 2006 Agriculture Census results, showcasing B.C. as a leader across Canada, with a large number of smaller farms, product diversity, and innovative pilot projects. B.C. has the greatest number of women working on farms and nearly one in six farms is now selling organic fruit, vegetables or meat. The Census recorded strong growth in the greenhouse, nursery, blueberry and sweet cherry sectors and our wine industry saw 26 per cent more growers and over 10 per cent more grape production. This month marks my second year leading the agriculture portfolio, and I am confident that by continuing to work together we can ensure that B.C.'s agriculture industry remains competitive, viable, and environmentally sustainable for years to come.

Until next month,

Pat Bell

Minister of Agriculture and Lands

AL.MINISTER@GOV.BC.CA



Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell visits the Ministry Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) in Abbotsford on May 14, 2007.

Ministry Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) in Abbotsford

In partnership with the Provincial Emergency Program, the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands has activated a Ministry Emergency Operations Centre in Abbotsford to provide the agriculture industry with flood management assistance. The key focus of the MEOC is to co-ordinate efforts between the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General's Provincial Emergency Program and B.C.'s agricultural industry to avoid livestock losses and manage environmental hazards. Led by a full complement of senior Ministry of Agriculture and Lands officials, the MEOC is also working closely with the BC Agriculture Council and the dairy, poultry and hog industries to analyze risks, monitor flooding and notify local communities of high and low risk zones throughout the province. The MEOC is in close contact with local government and sector associations to explore relocation and evacuation options for animals.

For the latest flood information visit: www.agf.gov.bc.ca/emergency/Flood

Federal And Provincial Governments Provide \$7.5 Million For British Columbia Ranchers

PRINCE GEORGE, British Columbia, May 11, 2007 – Ranchers in British Columbia affected by drought in 2006 will receive \$7.5 million in assistance from federal and provincial governments. The Government of Canada will invest \$4.5 million in direct payments to ranchers and the Government of British Columbia is contributing \$3.0 million to drought-related initiatives. For more information:

<http://news.gc.ca/web/view/getBinaryData.jsp?fileName=images/clf/news->

Organic Farms on the Rise

Organic farming involves the production of food and other agricultural products without the use of synthetic inputs. Organic farmers believe there is an essential link between the health of the soil, plants, animals and humans. The province recently provided a \$100,000 grant to the Certified Organic Associations of British Columbia (COABC) to enhance and promote B.C.'s organic agriculture industry as it adapts to new national standards for inter-provincial and international trade and provide support to producers looking to move into the industry. In B.C. over 600 producers are certified as organic, with vegetables, fruits, field crops, livestock and vineyards having the highest number. In 2005, the production value was over \$29 million, while value added/processing was worth another \$23 million. Well above the national average of 7.7 per cent, 16.3 per cent of all provincial operations now sell organic fruit, vegetables or meat.

Hugh G. Philip, PAg, Entomologist



As a foundation for Hugh's professional career in entomology he obtained a B.Sc. Agriculture (1968) and M.Sc. Entomology (1970) from the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Since 1989, Hugh was employed by the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands as an entomologist responsible for applied research and technology transfer on the management of insect pests of tree fruits primarily, but also of cereals and oilseeds, grapes, special crops and livestock, forages and beef cattle. Hugh participated in field days and educational seminars to teach growers how

to identify and monitor harmful and beneficial insects and mites, and how to select an appropriate control strategy if required. He authored or co-authored eight published scientific papers, over 60 technical research reports, numerous extension publications. Hugh retired this past month and plans to do some fishing with his son and grandson in between gardening and completing odd jobs around home.

Happy Retirement Hugh!



MONTHLY TRIVIA QUESTION

Potatoes are the most grown vegetable in the world. In B.C., there are more potatoes grown than any other vegetable. The main areas where potatoes are grown are the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the Okanagan and the Kootenays.

Potatoes need to be harvested at certain temperatures to maximize the length of time they can be stored. If the temperature is too warm, the pulp deteriorates before cooling can occur. If the temperature is too cool, what happens?

The 5th person to email AL.MINISTER@GOV.BC.CA with the correct answer will receive a Best Place on Earth t-shirt.

Congratulations! May's TRIVIA WINNER is:

Bonita Wallace, Natural Resource Officer, FrontCounter BC, Integrated Land Management Bureau

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Ministry of
Agriculture and Lands