

BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission Newsletter

March 2016

2016 Audit Stats

Number of premises to be audited
59
Number of audits completed
4
Number of audits with outstanding
2015 Corrective Actions
2

Current Hatchability

Industry Average:
81.83%
Year to Date (USA eggs included)

Average Lay Cycle End:

Projected March 2016

57 weeks 6 days

Projected Mid- April 2016

57 weeks 6 days

Producers should begin to manage their flocks for a 58 week cycle end.

Breeder Pricing

These are the average industry prices:

Female: \$9.02

Males: \$12.32



Producer Owned Office Survey

All producers are asked to participate in the following survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3KGYZD> regarding a Commission owned office. The survey will take under 5 minutes to complete. Your feedback and opinions are appreciated.

Employment Opportunity

The BC Poultry in Motion trailer is looking to hire a new Coordinator and Driver. Please see the attached job description for more information.

Avian Influenza Insurance Information

Please see the attached Avian Influenza Insurance Review document and the attached Work Plan for the AI Insurance.

Producers are reminded to send in their license applications to the office by **March 31**. Email veronica@bcbhec.com or fax to 604-850-1683.

BC Agriculture Council Energy Consultation Wanted

Please see the attached BCAC Consultation Notice. Producers are asked to provide feedback on energy management. The consultation is open until March 11, 2016.

Provincial Government Increases Investment in Agriculture!

Please see the attached news release to learn about the provinces exciting new investments in agriculture over the next three years.

The 2015 BC Hatching Eggs Annual report is now available online:

[Click here to view](#)

BC Poultry Conference

Just a reminder that the BC Poultry Conference is coming up next week! The conference runs from March 9 to March 11. There is a great line up of speakers and two vet panels that you can attend. For more information visit the conference website:

<https://b-com.mci-group.com/EventPortal/Information/BCPC2016/WELCOME.aspx>

Production Cycles

Period	Start Date	End Date
A-129	Feb.22, 2015	Apr.18, 2015
A-130	Apr.19, 2015	Jun.13, 2015
A-131	Jun.14, 2015	Aug.8, 2015
A-132	Aug.9, 2015	Oct.3, 2015
A-133	Oct.4, 2015	Nov.28, 2015
A-134	Nov.29, 2015	Jan.23, 2016
A-135	Jan.24, 2016	March.20, 2016

Pricing Orders

Period	Live Chicken	Hatching Eggs	Saleable Chicks	Day-Old Broiler Chicks
A-131	161.59¢/kg	504.83¢/doz	52.59¢/chick	71.51¢/chick
A-132	159.50¢/kg	503.99¢/doz	52.50¢/chick	71.42¢/chick
A-133	162.97¢/kg	517.58¢/doz	53.91¢/chick	72.83¢/chick
A-134	162.66¢/kg	520.90¢/doz	54.26¢/chick	73.18¢/chick
A-135	159.81¢/kg	514.01¢/doz	53.54¢/chick	72.46¢/chick



Poultry in Motion™ Coordinator & Driver

Do you have....

- A passion for farming,
- A ¾ tonne truck capable of towing and
- Strong communication and presentation skills?

Join Poultry in Motion™ !



The Poultry in Motion™ is a fully equipped mobile mini barn that shows how poultry farming is done in BC. It travels to schools, fairs, festivals and other agriculture events in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island from February to November.



Responsibilities

- Coordinate all aspects of Poultry in Motion™, including arranging school and fair bookings (usually in the “off” season).
- Stock trailer with day old chicks, broiler, and breeder birds.
- Drive trailer to and from schools, fairs and events.
- Give engaging presentations at elementary and secondary schools.
- Answer questions about Poultry in Motion™ and poultry farming in BC.
- Care for broiler and breeder birds between events.

Qualifications

- Knowledge of the agriculture industry and experience looking after livestock.
- Own a truck, preferably 3/4 ton or larger capable of towing.
- Have a Clean Driving Record.
- Available several days per week including weekends.
- Be a reliable self-starter, have high integrity and strong strategic organizational skills.
- Be computer literate and have a high level of independence and flexibility.
- Have access to RV type storage (preferred).

This is a contract position, renewable each year and subject to performance review and program feedback.

Remuneration is based on the number of fairs, schools, etc. booked/attended.

If you are interested, please forward your resume and cover letter before March 7, 2016 to:

BC Chicken Growers' Association, PO Box 581, Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8

Email: office@bcchickengrowers.ca Fax: 604 853-4808

Section 3

The **third section** of the trailer holds market-ready chickens or broilers as they are referred to in the industry. These will be between 5 and 6 weeks old. These broilers are ready to be shipped. Notice that the type of feed the chickens are consuming is now much coarser. The water lines have been raised as the birds grow and the computer will show a much cooler temperature.



To complete the experience, an attendant will be available at the **Poultry in Motion Mini Barn** to answer questions and provide informational pamphlets and recipe booklets.

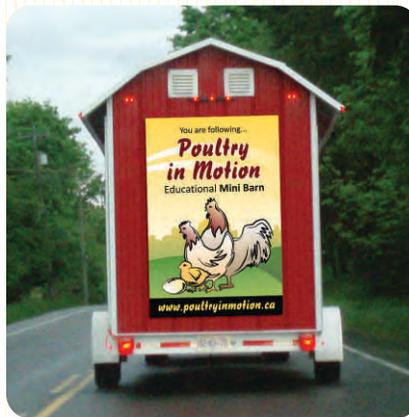
Don't forget to watch our 9 minute educational video **Safari Man Dan's Canadian Chicken Adventure**.

If you would like Poultry in Motion to come to your classroom or event, please contact:

BC Chicken Growers' Association
P.O. Box 581
Abbotsford, BC V2T 6Z8

Phone: 604-859-9332
Fax: 604-853-4808

www.poultryinmotion.ca
office@poultryinmotion.ca



Poultry in Motion

Educational Mini Barn



BC Chicken Growers'
ASSOCIATION



BC Hatching
eggs

Poultry in Motion

The **BC Chicken Growers' Association** and the **BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers' Association** have developed a mobile mini barn in an effort to educate consumers and increase awareness about chicken farming in BC. This fully equipped mini barn has been featured at fairs, schools and agriculture events around the province.

The trailer consists of **three sections** each showing a different stage of development: the parent stock – the broiler breeders – who produce the fertilized eggs, day-old chicks and market ready chickens. Each section is set up as a small scale poultry barn, showing the technology and responsible animal husbandry that is practiced on BC chicken farms. The pictures in the background are from farms in the Fraser Valley.



The **first section** of the trailer contains the broiler breeders. Hens and roosters produce the fertilized eggs that hatch into broiler chicks. If visitors are lucky, they will be able to see an egg which has been laid in the metal nest boxes. On a farm, these eggs are collected at least twice a day.

Section 2

The **second section** of our mini barn houses day old chicks hatched in one of the lower mainland hatcheries. These are delivered to farms within hours of hatching and they receive their first feed and water in the barn where they are placed. Before the chicks even arrive, extra feed has been placed in trays on the floor so they can quickly find their food. The water lines are also adjusted so that it is comfortable for the chicks to drink. Alert visitors will notice that there is a computer in each section which is used to maintain the appropriate climate.



Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act
Mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza Insurance Review

Notice to Producers
February 2016



Mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza Insurance Review

In response to industry requests to provide legal clarity around the authority of boards and commissions established under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act (NPMA)* regarding mandatory disease requirements and given the impact and effects of the 2014/15 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak, the BC Ministry of Agriculture amended the *NPMA* during the Spring 2015 Legislative Session. The poultry boards and commission are now enabled to consider establishing disease insurance requirements as part of the scheme by way of amendment to their General/Consolidated Orders.

BC FIRB has stated that the boards and commission must “determine in the first instance, through a demonstrated SAFETI based approach – the information they require to make decisions that are in compliance with their scheme and in accord with sound marketing policy”. BC FIRB indicated that prior approval would be required if a board or commission were to want to establish mandatory disease insurance requirements.

The Ministry of Agriculture considers that Notifiable Avian Influenza (NAI) discovery has shifted from being an “if” to a “when” occurrence and should be looked at from the perspective of “how to build the response into industry practice”. There is an expectation that the boards and commission would actively consider establishing mandatory disease insurance requirements. The Ministry also indicated that the ability to access Agri-Recovery for a subsequent NAI outbreak was not guaranteed, given its objective to cover exceptional events not previously covered by the program.

During the fall of 2015, each of the four feather boards independently determined the need to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with pursuing the implementation of mandatory disease insurance. In November 2015, the four boards met to discuss the matter and determined there to be value in working collectively and collaboratively to address the question of mandatory disease insurance. A Work Plan has been developed (available on the website) outlining the information to be gathered as well as the key questions to be answered as part of the review.

The boards and commission have established a Steering Committee to oversee the work. The committee members include:

- Broiler Hatching Egg Commission – Allan Cross and Stephanie Nelson
- Chicken – Greg Gauthier and Bill Vanderspek
- Eggs – Aryn Alibhai and Dwight Yochim
- Turkey – Michel Benoit
- BC Poultry Association – Ravi Bathe and Garnet Etsell

Greg Gauthier will Chair the Steering Committee; Christine Rickson, BC Chicken Marketing Board is the Committee Secretary; and Michel Benoit, BC Turkey Marketing Board will engage consultants to conduct the work and coordinate with the BC Poultry Association on behalf of the boards and commission.

The boards and commission have agreed to engage Harvey Sasaki, Agri-Saki Consulting Inc. to manage the implementation of the work plan and complete the work in key phases under the direction of the Steering Committee, including the preparation of the submission to BC FIRB.

Information and reports on each phase of the work plan activities will be posted to each of the board's and commission's website as they are completed.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the work plan, please direct them to Harvey Sasaki @ harveysasaki@gmail.com.

February 1, 2016

Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act Mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza Insurance Review

*Work Plan
January 27, 2016*



Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act

Mandatory Insurance for Registered Poultry Producers

Work Plan

Sponsors:

- BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (BCBHEC)
- BC Chicken Marketing Board (BCCMB)
- BC Egg Marketing Board (BCEMB)
- BC Turkey Marketing Board (BCTMB)

Stakeholders:

- All licenced BC poultry producers
- BC Broiler Hatching Egg Producers Association (BCBHEPA)
- BC Chicken Growers Association (BCCGA)
- BC Egg Producers Association (BCEPA)
- BC Turkey Association (BCTA)
- BC Poultry Association (BCPA)
- BC Primary Poultry Processors Association (BCPPPA)
- BC Egg Processors Council (BCEPA)
- Allied Trades

Purpose:

The poultry boards and commission have the absolute discretion to make any decisions. This work plan is intended to provide the boards and commission with a process to assemble the information and analysis as well as engage and consult stakeholder to make decisions whether or not to use the authorities provided under the *Natural Products Marketing Act (NPMA)* to require producers to have disease insurance. In this regard, the purpose of the work plan is

- To undertake the requisite due diligence incumbent on the poultry boards and commission in consideration of implementing mandatory Avian Influenza disease insurance in the regulated poultry industry in British Columbia.

Outcomes:

While it remains in the discretion of the poultry boards and commission to make any decisions regarding disease insurance, the expected outcomes of this work plan include:

- The poultry boards and commission having duly engaged stakeholders and acquired the requisite information upon which to make an informed decision on whether or not to exercise the authority granted under the *NPMA* to require licenced poultry producers to maintain disease insurance as a condition of licence.
- In the event that the poultry boards and commission have determined that requiring mandatory disease insurance is in keeping with sound marketing policy:
 - Seek and receive prior approval of the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BC FIRB) to amend the general/consolidated orders of each of the four schemes to require mandatory Avian Influenza disease insurance.

Scope:

The scope of the undertakings proposed in the work plan is limited to:

- Assessing whether insurance contributes to a return to a system of orderly marketing
- Assessing the need for mandatory Notifiable Avian Influenza (NAI) disease insurance that contributes to maintaining a system of orderly marketing.
- Identifying and assessing options other than insurance as a means to mitigate and manage risk of NAI discoveries in British Columbia.
- Assessing the need for mandatory Avian Influenza disease insurance will include identifying the absence or sufficiency of available disease insurance.

The undertaking is not intended to address the implementation of the disease insurance requirement, nor is it intended to support the creation of an insurance entity to provide disease insurance.

Background

Considerable time, energy and work has been undertaken by the poultry industry at the urging of government since the 2004 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak to identify, plan and implement measures to mitigate the risks of future AI discoveries. Subsequent discoveries in 2005, 2009 and 2014 have reinforced the need for the industry to have an effective risk mitigation strategy in place.

Following the 2004 HPAI outbreak, at the urging of government the industry initiated a risk assessment process with the objectives to:

- Identify and assess risk factors which predispose the poultry industry to infectious disease outbreaks.
- Provide opportunities and risk management options to industry and government.
- Minimize impact of disease outbreaks on public confidence in poultry produced in BC.
- Maintain expansion of domestic and international markets for poultry products produced in BC.

The risk analysis was built in four major phases:

- Identifying and ranking a broad range of risk factors which could impact on the frequency and intensity of future animal disease outbreaks. This phase led to the identification of some 34 risk factors facing the industry.
- Assessing and evaluating the gaps that exist with respect to the mitigation of these risks from industry structure, policy and management practice perspectives. This phase led to the consolidation of the risk analysis into a range of possible options and alternatives by which risk could be mitigated or eliminated.
- Conducting an economic and financial evaluation of a limited number of possible and practical response options. This phase identified that an “effective risk management response will necessarily involve an integration of a number of related and complementary actions, that collectively will lead to a positive impact on risk reduction. Three risk response options were identified for further analysis and consideration by decision makers.
- Developing a series of strategies, recommendations and actions for consideration. Six interrelated options were recommended.

Risk Analysis Steering Committee

A joint industry/government steering committee including BC FIRB representation received the Serecon Risk Analysis for approval. The steering committee unanimously adopted the report and in recognizing the significant implications of the recommendations, directed the development of a risk mitigation strategic plan that built on the Serecon recommended integrated risk management model of:

- Universal biosecurity system
- Active surveillance program
- Responsive financial management and compensation system

Universal Biosecurity

Serecon recommended the “BC poultry industry develops a “universal biosecurity program” which encompasses the full value chain of the sector”.

Active Surveillance

Serecon recommended “as a mechanism for early detection and to reduce the intensity of animal disease outbreaks, the industry establish an on-going active surveillance program, inclusive of all production sectors, and supported by a compensation system that compensates industry for their economic losses and recovery costs in the event of detection and business disruption/closure.”

Shared Risk Management System

Serecon recommended “the industry and government develop, and implement an integrated financial management and compensation program. “The Shared Risk Management System”, that provides funding mechanisms for recovery from disaster, self-insurance, government supported production insurance, private insurance, and compensation that substantively protects the industry from the significant perils it will face due to disease risks, and which will serve to sustain and grow the industry.”

Emergency Response

In addition to the recommendations contained in the Serecon Risk Analysis, the BC Poultry Association has put in place an emergency response plan that mirrors the federal/provincial Joint Emergency Operations Centre (JEOC) utilizing an Incident Command System (ICS) approach. Industry has received training in ICS and continually updates the emergency response plan based on reviews of recent events. The industry and government based on the 2014 HPAI outbreak are examining options for including industry in the JEOC to combine resources and improve the overall effectiveness of the response to future discoveries.

Sound Marketing Policy

Notwithstanding the poultry boards and commission joint submission in January 2014 on the Use of Regulatory Authority in Disease Insurance, the approach taken and work done by the BC poultry industry on the Risk Mitigation Strategy adopted the objective to manage/mitigate risk of NAI. The work was predicated on an integrated framework for the three key elements (biosecurity, surveillance and shared risk management).

Given the amendments to the *Natural Products Marketing Act* that now explicitly enable the poultry boards and commission to consider implementing disease insurance requirements, it is clear that the boards and commission must turn their focus on applying due diligence and sound marketing policy in making a conscious decision on whether or not to require disease insurance as a condition of licence.

Process

The poultry boards and commission will take into consideration direction provided by the BC Farm Industry Review Board (BC FIRB) in various letters on mandatory insurance:

- August 14, 2014 – Supervisory Decision – Sound Marketing Policy and Board Authority – Mandatory Poultry Disease Insurance
- March 3, 2015 – Poultry Disease Insurance – Supervisory Decision Follow-up
- May 12, 2015 – Amendments to the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act*, Poultry Disease Insurance and August 14, 2014 Supervisory Decision
- September 12, 2015 Mandatory Disease Insurance Review and Assessment – Draft Work Plan.
- October 13, 2015 Mandatory Disease Insurance Review and Assessment - Next Steps.

The substantive directions provided by BC FIRB include:

- “Use of an appropriate SAFETI process to determine what, if any, insurance may be required to help ensure orderly marketing.”
- The need for mandatory insurance within the context of sound marketing policy
 - How to effectively return the poultry industry to a system of orderly marketing?
- Consideration of the impact of mandatory insurance on the industries as a whole, including competitive pricing, foregone opportunities, the availability (or lack thereof) of government funding and related considerations.
- Decisions and rationale are publicly available in a timely manner.

A five-phase approach is proposed to address the BC FIRB directions. For each phase a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy would be developed and implemented encompassing the following points:

- Utilize the poultry boards and commission websites for industry stakeholder and public comment.
- Presentations to the five poultry associations for input and comment.
- Distribution of information to and direct follow-up with the allied trades for input and comment.
- Compilation of input and comment into a report with response where appropriate and posted to the poultry boards and commission websites for validation.

Phase 1 – Why is a financial response needed?

Serecon’s Risk Analysis identified the need for industry and government to develop and implement an integrated financial management and compensation program. Determining why a financial response is required is important to answering the sound marketing policy question.

The key questions to be addressed in this Phase include:

- How to effectively and efficiently return the poultry industry to a system of orderly marketing?
 - Is a financial response necessary?
 - What other options/tools are available to the boards and commission.

Approach

Given the considerable work already done, this Phase will be limited to assessing that work and compiling a summary to address the questions related to sound marketing policy,

Expected Outcome

The report and stakeholder feedback would enable the poultry boards and commission to make a determination that a financial response to a NAI discovery is required to effectively and efficiently contribute to a system of orderly marketing following a NAI discovery.

Deliverables

- An engagement strategy for Phase 1.
- A report on the financial response to NAI and options for response.
- A report on the stakeholder and public feedback on the need for a financial response to NAI.

Phase 2 – Scope of Financial Response

Serecon's Risk Analysis identified that the scope of a financial response is not limited to the costs of enhanced cleaning and disinfecting infected premises. Experience gained through the NAI outbreaks in BC has identified costs that have implications on the industry that affect the system of orderly marketing. This Phase will not only address the scope of the financial response required, but also analyze the various options identified in Phase 1 that the boards and commission have to respond with. The key questions to pursue in this Phase include:

- What would be the scope of the response to maintain a system of orderly marketing?
 - What needs to be compensated?
 - Is it more than just C&D required and why?

The options analysis would include addressing questions such as:

- Why current board authority/orders are not able to maintain orderly marketing in the event of a disease outbreak?
- Why is a predictable financial response to avian influenza needed?
- What mechanisms already exist to provide required compensation?
 - Contingency Funds
 - *Health of Animals Act*
 - Business Risk Management Programs
 - Private insurance
- What new mechanisms are possible?
- What conditions must exist to enable the mechanisms to work efficiently and effectively?
 - Is mandatory participation required and why?
- What are the implications of adding mandatory insurance requirements on:
 - Industry cost competitiveness?
 - Pricing?
 - Foregone opportunities?
 - Availability of government funding?
 - Other related considerations?

Approach

As with Phase 1 considerable work has already been done, as such, focus will be on assessing that work identifying and filling any gaps and present the findings by way of a report to the boards and commission focussing on:

- The key questions regarding the scope of the financial response.
- The options to address the scope of the financial response.
- The conditions required to enable the mechanisms to work efficiently and effectively.

Expected Outcome

The report and stakeholder feedback would enable the poultry boards and commission to determine whether insurance requiring participation by all registered producers can provide an effective and efficient financial response and identification of other considerations as part of the decision making process.

Deliverables

- Phase 2 stakeholder engagement strategy.
- A report on the sound marketing policy rationale:
 - Identifying gaps in maintaining a system of orderly marketing in the event of a major disease outbreak.
 - Options for satisfying a system of orderly marketing.
 - Analysis of the options.
 - Recommended option.

Phase 3 – Do the Conditions of Insurance Exist?

If insurance is to provide a viable mechanism for poultry boards and commission to provide the financial response to maintain orderly marketing, they must be satisfied that the conditions of insurance exist.

The key questions to be addressed in Phase 3 include:

- Do the conditions of insurability exist?
 - Ability to confirm cause of loss
 - Ability to measure loss
 - Establishing the loss rates
 - Defining coverage
 - Equal knowledge between insured and insurer
- What does the insurance product need to look like to be acceptable to the majority of industry?
 - What must it cover?
 - Are the costs acceptable?
 - Is it actuarially sound?
 - Is it administratively feasible?
 - Can the excess loss be reinsured?
- How would mandatory insurance affect the competitiveness of the BC poultry industries?

Approach

Given the work already done, assess the existing work and augment the gaps in knowledge and information to present findings by way of reports to the boards and commission that determine whether or not the conditions of insurability exist.

Expected Outcomes

The reports and stakeholder feedback would enable the poultry boards and commission to determine whether the conditions of insurability exist.

Deliverables

- Phase 3 stakeholder engagement strategy
- Loss Quantification Model Update
 - Establishing the basis for measuring losses
 - Establishing what could be covered

- Actuarial Soundness of a BC only approach
 - Establishing loss rates
 - Estimated losses based on coverage options
 - Establishing the basis for premium structure
 - Conditions for insurability
 - Capital requirements
 - Reinsurance feasibility/requirements
 - Need for mandatory participation

Phase 4 – Do Viable Insurance Delivery Mechanisms Exist?

Considerable work on insurance mechanisms has been previously conducted. Work in this Phase will focus on analyzing and providing a summation and update of previous work. This work will provide the basis for assuring the poultry boards and commission that viable delivery mechanisms exist to enable an informed decision.

There are a limited number of poultry disease insurance products and/or entities that can provide insurance. The poultry boards and commission must analyze what is currently available and decide which mechanism if any will achieve the desired outcomes of mandatory disease insurance in the BC regulated poultry industry. The key questions to be addressed include:

- What insurance mechanisms are currently available?
 - How applicable are they to achieving BC's desired outcomes for mandatory insurance?
- Why a BC only approach is necessary?
- Are there any residual legal implications/considerations that the boards and commission must take into consideration?

Approach

Assess the work done to date and present an evaluation of the full range of options available to the boards and commission. The evaluation will include:

- Legal considerations
- Financial (tax) implications
- Administrative considerations
- Producer acceptance

Expected Outcomes

The reports and stakeholder feedback would enable the poultry boards and commission to confirm whether viable insurance products can be delivered by viable business entities and whether that entity exists at this time.

Deliverables

- Phase 4 Stakeholder Engagement Strategy
- Evaluation of the financial response mechanisms.

Phase 5 – Mandatory Insurance Delivery Mechanism

It is understood by the poultry boards and commission that it is not possible to demonstrate at this time that the establishment of the BC Poultry Captive Insurance Company is work that falls under orderly marketing. Work on this aspect must occur concurrently but it is understood that levies collected under the *NPMA* authority cannot be used for these tasks. The poultry associations will be required to find alternate funding for industry share of the cost of these works.

Should the poultry boards and commission determine in Phase 4 that a captive insurance company is the best mechanism to support maintaining orderly marketing following a NAI discovery it will be incumbent on the poultry boards and commission to demonstrate how such an insurance program would be implemented. The focus must be on clearly defining the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the boards, commission and the delivery mechanism within the scope of orderly marketing policy.

Approach

The poultry boards and commission will define the roles, responsibilities and relationships between them and the captive insurance company. This may include:

- Clearly stated expectations, roles, responsibilities, accountabilities of each party.
- Roles, responsibilities and accountabilities of associations.
- Information sharing requirements.
- Contracts for services, i.e. premium collection, audit and inspection.

Expected Outcome

All parties, the poultry boards, commission, associations and captive insurance company have a clear understanding of expectations, roles, responsibilities and relationships as it relates to board and commission mandatory disease insurance requirements.

Deliverables

- Stage 5 stakeholder engagement strategy
- A Memorandum of Understanding outlining the respective roles, responsibilities and relationships between all parties.
- Service agreements between the boards and commission and the captive insurance company.

Cost Estimates

The expected cost of activities to complete all four phases is \$200,000. A portion of the costs of all phases may possibly be recovered through the BCPA's BC Poultry Captive Insurance Company federal Agri-Risk Initiative funding. The Agri-Risk Initiative may cover up to two-thirds of the cost of eligible activities.

The industry share of costs (\$67,000) would be covered by the boards and commission, provided that Agri-Risk Initiative funding can be applied to the activities that fall within the scope of the BCPA's project.



Consultation Notice

February 19, 2016

Dear BCAC Members and Agriculture Stakeholders,

Federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) agriculture ministers have committed to improving Canada's approach to emergency management in agriculture and [want your ideas and feedback](#). Emergency management is most effective when it reflects the combined thinking of governments and stakeholders.

FPT governments have jointly drafted the *Strategic Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture in Canada*. The Framework recognizes the evolving and increasingly complex risks faced by the Canadian agriculture sector, and proposes a stronger, more cohesive and collaborative approach to preventing, mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies.

Go online to read the [draft Framework](#), participate in the consultation and [share your ideas](#). **The consultation is open until March 11, 2016.**

Please contact AgEM-GUAq@AGR.GC.CA if you have any questions about the consultation or would like to request the consultation documents in an alternative format.

We look forward to hearing from you!

The B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC) is the province's umbrella farm organization. We are a council of 28 provincial farm organizations and, through our members, we represent the majority of B.C.'s 20 000 farm families who, in turn, generate 96 percent of the farm gate receipts in British Columbia (2.9 billion in 2014). Agriculture is the third largest resource sector in the province, playing a significant and important role in the provincial economy both in terms of GDP and job creation (approximately 27 000 people were employed by B.C. farmers and ranchers in 2014). B.C. is the most agriculturally diverse province in Canada, producing over 200 agricultural commodities. **Learn more at www.bcac.bc.ca**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 17, 2016

Provincial Government Increases Investment in Agriculture

ABBOTSFORD – The provincial government has tabled its fourth consecutive balanced budget. The fresh budget includes new provisions to support the growth and sustainability of agriculture in British Columbia. B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC) Chair, Stan Vander Waal, says the provincial government’s renewed focus on agriculture is appreciated and appropriate.

“Investment in agriculture is a no brainer,” says Vander Waal. “Agriculture is a sustainable economic pillar and it’s regarded by the United Nations as one of the most effective ways to reduce poverty and hunger, especially in rural communities. Investment in the resilience of B.C. agriculture is an investment in the health of British Columbians and the long-term success of our provincial economy.”

BCAC is carefully reviewing the new budget to identify potential impacts to agriculture and new opportunities for B.C. farmers and ranchers. Overall, Vander Waal describes the new budget as “a positive step in the right direction” but notes that several additional steps are needed to help B.C. farmers and ranchers overcome significant challenges related to farm succession planning, right to farm and industry competitiveness.

“While this budget does not include everything needed to secure the long-term sustainability of agriculture in our province, it’s clear that BCAC’s voice was heard. We commend the provincial government for maintaining strong fiscal control and for upholding an AAA credit rating. BCAC thanks B.C. Minister of Agriculture, Norm Letnick and his colleagues for listening to B.C. farmers and ranchers. Equipping the Agriculture Land Commission with sufficient dollars to proactively monitor and enforce regulations on land located within Agriculture Land Reserve will help keep B.C. farmland for farming, safeguarding provincial food security and farmers’ capacity to farm”.

Budget**Highlights:**

- As requested by BCAC, the provincial government will invest an additional three million dollars over the next three years (1.1 million in 2016/17) to help the Agriculture Land Commission (ALC) proactively monitor and enforce compliance on land located within the Agriculture Land Reserve to keep farmland for farming.
- As requested by BCAC, qualified farmers will enjoy new PST exemptions. Telescopic handlers (e.g. for handling forage/hay/manure/pallets), skid steers and polycarbonate greenhouses are now PST exempt for bonafide farmers. BCAC has been requesting fundamental changes to PST for several years. While these new exemptions are appreciated, they do not go as far as BCAC would like to see. Going forward, the Province is establishing a committee that will review PST to identify and address key factors impeding competitiveness. The terms of reference for this committee will exclude consideration of the HST.
- As requested by BCAC, the provincial government will continue to fund and facilitate rural connectivity to bring high speed internet to rural parts of the province. Connectivity is an important investment that supports the competitiveness of BC farmers and ranchers and it also helps improve safety of workers in remote locations.

Budget**Highlights****(cont.):**

- The Province has allocated an additional two million dollars to BC's Buy Local program to facilitate increased sales of BC grown, raised and processed agricultural products. Independent agrifood businesses and organizations can apply to IAF to access this cost shared funding. BCAC supports investment that builds preference for BC grown and raised agricultural products, but we continue to ask government to invest in a more strategic, long-term and inclusive approach to support the growth of the entire agriculture and agri-foods sector, not just individual operations.
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- Farmers Food Tax Credit. Farmers can now obtain a non-refundable tax credit valued at 25% of the fair market value of qualifying product donated to a registered charity.
- Continued Agriculture in the Classroom funding for fruits, vegetables and dairy.
- As requested by BCAC, funding for climate change adaptation, including funding for dikes and flood mitigation (\$55 million), wild fire management and emergency response planning.
- Funding for small communities (< 25 000) to assist in the adapting to changing opportunities (for example, responding to the closing of a major employer).

Glen Lucas, General Manager for the B.C. Fruit Growers Association is glad to know that BCAC's request for climate adaptation and emergency response planning made its way into the budget. "Intense summer droughts and intense winter flooding has become the new normal for many B.C. farmers. The associated costs are not sustainable for farming families, which is why funding for long-term planning and adaptation is critical". Kevin Boon, General Manager for the BC Cattlemen's Association, echoed Lucas's comments, recalling wildfires that devastated entire ranches and kilometers of livestock fencing last summer. "The impact to affected ranching families and their communities was overwhelming. The provincial government's investment in wildfire management mirrors actual need so I look forward to seeing the funds put to good use".

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The B.C. Agriculture Council (BCAC) is the province's umbrella farm organization. We are a council of 28 provincial farm organizations and, through our members, we represent the majority of B.C.'s 20 000 farm families

who, in turn, generate 96 percent of the farm gate receipts in British Columbia (2.9 billion in 2014). Agriculture is the third largest resource sector in the province, playing a significant and important role in the provincial economy both in terms of GDP and job creation (approximately 27 000 people were employed by B.C. farmers and ranchers in 2014). B.C. is the most agriculturally diverse province in Canada, producing over 200 agricultural commodities.



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