

Information: Animal Activism Roundtable - October 4, 2019

From: Shoemaker, Wes AGRI:EX <Wes.Shoemaker@gov.bc.ca>, Shoemaker, Wes
AFF:EX <wes.shoemaker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: October 25, 2019 3:47:08 PM PDT
Attachments: Round Table Oct 4 2019 Meeting Summary Revised with BBWC Comments
(Clean).docx

Good afternoon:

Thank you for attending the round table meeting on October 4th in Abbotsford to discuss animal activism activities. I've attached the agenda from that meeting, which also includes the attendee list and the summary of our discussions. We look forward to meeting with you again soon to continue those discussions.

Thank you.

Wes Shoemaker
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture

Animal Activism Roundtable - April 2020

From: Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>
To: Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Raymond, Mark AFF:EX
Sent: March 3, 2020 8:57:09 AM PST
Attachments: Draft AA Agenda April 2020.docx

Good Morning,

I am reaching out to invite you to participate in the next roundtable discussion with Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister, regarding animal activism within BC. This roundtable event will expand on the previously held meeting on October 4, 2019 between AGRI and external stakeholders. Additionally, new topics of discussion will be covered such as: the perspective from law enforcement officers and, the opportunity to weigh in on newly proposed actions for the Ministry of Agriculture and industry stakeholders for combating animal activism within BC.

Animal Activism Roundtable
Date: April 7th or 14th , 2020
Time: 9:30am to 1:00pm
Location: Ministry of Agriculture
Room 131
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford

Please respond to this email with a preferred date – April 7th or April 14th.

Attached to this email is a copy of the proposed Agenda. Please let me know if you would like additional items added or changed to this draft agenda in advance. This meeting will provide a great opportunity for AGRI to engage with industry stakeholders on the topic of animal activism, and to ask questions to gain insight into what they can apply in your respective organizations. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

Please RSVP to:
Mark Raymond
Executive Director, Sector Development
Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca <mailto:Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>

Thank You,
Mark Raymond, Executive Director
Sector Development Branch, Business Development Division
1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, 778—666-0567

Agenda (Draft)

Animal Activism Roundtable

Date: April 7th or 14th , 2020

Time: 9:30am to 1:00pm

Location: Ministry of Agriculture
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford

| | | |
|----------|--|--|
| 9:30 AM | Refreshments Served | Coffee, tea, breakfast pastries and fruit |
| 10:00 AM | Welcome, Introductions and Housekeeping | Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 10:10 AM | Roundtable Objectives | Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 10:15 AM | Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent Incidents Industry Concerns | Roundtable |
| 11:15 AM | Break | |
| | Law Enforcement Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update | Cory Lepine, RCMP Corporal for the Livestock Section |
| 11:30 AM | Preparing for Future Incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Action Plan How do we coordinate? What advice/recommendation do we have for agricultural producers? | Roundtable |
| 12:30 PM | Next Steps | Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 1:00 PM | Adjourn | |

Industry Roundtable - Poultry Processors.docx

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>
To: Ethier, Tom FLNR:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 3, 2020 10:53:14 AM PDT
Attachments: Industry Roundtable - Poultry Processors.docx, ATT00001.htm

Tom - here is some background on what the industry is confronted with given the closures of a couple (2 but could be 3 - we will know Monday).

So I think MLP is gonna wanna know.^{s.16}

s.16

Problem is the decisions have to be made super fast - like Monday/Tuesday.

FW: Roundtable Topics - Animal Activism

From: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>
To: Ethier, Tom AGRI:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Larkin, Brenda AGRI:EX <Brenda.Larkin@gov.bc.ca>, Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2020 4:20:34 PM PDT
Attachments: AA Action Plan Version 3.docx, 191328 DM IN animal activism Dec.docx, Draft AA Agenda April 2020.docx, Round Table Oct 4 2019 Meeting Summary Revised with BBWC Comments (Clean).docx

Tom information below:

From: Raymond, Mark AGRI:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 16, 2020 12:38 PM
To: Lalani, Arif AGRI:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Zachary, Dawnae AGRI:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>; Hodson, Georgina AGRI:EX <Georgina.Hodson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Roundtable Topics - Animal Activism

Hi Arif,

Yes this will likely be a zoom chat.

I've attached the agenda from the Roundtable meeting on October 4th, which includes the attendee list and the summary of our discussions. This was circulated to past attendees.

We will be moving the above as well as updated materials of the below up the line in eApprovals.

Thank you.

Mark

ACTION PLAN

Animal Welfare and Activism Events

Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with Public Safety and Solicitor General, RCMP and Industry

Introduction

On October 29th, 2019 Agriculture Day Minister Lana Popham made a statement denouncing the recent animal activism activities within BC. This action plan reflects the Minister's sentiments, including a jurisdiction scan of how other provinces are responding to animal activists, a standard operating procedure, a communications outline and a retail/processor response plan regarding potentially harmful animal activist activities. The goal of this action plan is to compliment the Ministry of Agriculture's current stance on animal activism and to provide a roadmap moving forward on how to address and dictate response within the ministry.

There is a heightened awareness in the industry with respect to on-farm animal activism. Recent incidents have resulted in theft of livestock, activists entering a premise (welfare, removal of animals) and are of concern due to:

- **Biosecurity:** Trespassers can unknowingly bring harmful agents (e.g. Influenza, African Swine Fever) onto a farm via contaminated clothing and footwear, equipment and vehicles.
- **Animal Welfare:** Trespassing can result in pain, stress and trauma for livestock subjected to mixing or 'freeing.'
- **Personal Safety/Trespassing:** Often farmers' place of work and residence are the same property. Farmers are legally entitled to a safe working environment, free of harassment and trespassers.
- **Mental Health:** Repeated stress and public demonization can impact farmer mental health.
- **Public Health:** Interacting with or removing animals or deadstock from farms carries risks for individuals to contract zoonotic diseases
- **Economic Impacts:** Trespasser actions and consequences can obstruct production and damage crops or livestock, resulting in economic loss.

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The following is a proposed action plan on how to support animal agriculture retailers and processors during animal activism events and activities, proactively and reactively. This plan is separated into two sections: near term and long-term opportunities.

Section A: Near Term Opportunities

1.) Promote BC's strict animal welfare laws and support throughout the entire value food chain through awareness and educational campaigns both within industry and to the public

- Begin to educate retailers, abattoirs, and transporters of the animal agriculture sector on the relevant animal welfare material, and their commitment to animal welfare
- Develop promotional campaigns that educate consumers on high animal welfare standards and strengthen the industry
- Encourage adherence to industry standards within industry
 - AGRI to emphasize the use of the NFACC and the PCA within the entire food processing chain
 - Promote industry to build a brand that emphasizes the morals and resolutions the NFACC and the PCA reflect
- Facilitate educational offerings, information exchanges, and mentoring within BC for retailers, food processors and transporters
 - possibly could base the framework from the One Welfare platform:
 - Increasing education and awareness will help to establish different ways of working and improve efficiency within local and global networks of those working in animal welfare, human wellbeing and environmental issues.

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Animal Welfare and Activism Events

Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with Public Safety and Solicitor General, RCMP and Industry

2.) Encourage producers, retailers, food processors and transporters to have an Emergency Response Plan dedicated to animal activism events

- Allows for preparedness when the value chain is disturbed or interrupted
- Encourage business to plan “Mock Recalls” related to animal activism
- The largest impact felt from animal activism activities on retailer’s food processors in the interruption of market accessibility
 - Have emergency management, food processing analysts and industry specialists work with industry stakeholders to accomplish this
 - Look specifically at Ontario’s Farm and Food Care “Proudly Presenting Agriculture” and recommendations from law enforcement on how to manage an animal activism event

3.) Prioritize regaining public trust in AGRI response to animal activism related activities

- Promote actions that AGRI plans on taking to minimize impact of animal activism on producers, the food processing value chain, and the animal agriculture market
- Highlight the welfare funding through CAP that is already implemented
- Establish an educational outreach program on what is at risk when animal activism takes illegal actions (such as extreme stress on animals, trespassing, and potential zoonotic disease transfer)
 - Highlight the Minister Popham’s statement regarding animal activism and have it echoed throughout the Ministry and in all outgoing communications

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Animal Welfare and Activism Events

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Section B: Long Term Opportunities

1.) Support retailers, food processors and transporters through relationships and advocacy by creating a more adaptable market

- Build relationships throughout the value chain
- Promote business courses that focus on building out risk assessments related to animal activism
- Continue to host roundtable discussions between abattoirs, retailers, industry stakeholders and government
 - Focus discussion on creating more nimble markets
 - Encourage the production of emergency response plans

2.) Conduct an internal AGRI review and participate in a multibranch review of ramifications associated with illegal animal activism events.

- Inquire within AGRI policy and legislation branch of the possibility of developing fines and penalties related to animal activism biosecurity breaches
- Form a coalition with other pertinent agencies to conduct further review of other acts and legislation
 - AGRI to form coalition with PSSG, RCMP and other applicable Ministers to review the penalties associated with illegal animal activism events (trespassing, arson, etc)

3.) Establish mental welfare awareness within the entire food processing value chain and producers within the entire food processing value chain and producers

- Promote the importance of mental health throughout the entire food value chain
- Highlight the interconnections between positive animal welfare and individual mental wellbeing
 - Engage with all members of the food value chain regarding the status of employees, family members etc. mental health
 - AGRI could utilize the One Welfare platform as reference
 - Perform a jurisdictional scan of other provinces programs related to producers and mental health

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Produced by the Industry Development Unit, collaboratively informed by:

Tom Droppo, Industry Specialist – Pork and Dairy

Clayton Botkin, Industry Specialist – Poultry

Laura Code, Industry Specialist – Beef and Livestock

Taylor Jeffery, Livestock Technician

Georgina Hodson, Director – Industry Development

Mark Raymond, Executive Director – Sector Development Branch

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Animal Welfare and Activism Events

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Appendix 1: Jurisdictional Scan

The following chart summarizes current status, as well as response actions to date in various jurisdictions:

| Province | Description of Incidents | Supportive Activities Underway/Planned |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| British Columbia | Documented incidents in the chicken, hog, egg, dairy, game farm and turkey sectors, including “undercover” filming, protests, and harassment (e.g. threatening letters). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable with various law enforcement agencies/ministries and stakeholders to educate the producers of their rights. • Recently adopted welfare codes of practice (builds public trust). |
| Alberta | Spike in incidents (especially pork). Concerns are associated with illegal activity (trespass, harassment, mischief), public / personal safety and animal health and welfare. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On October 3, 2019, the Government of Alberta announced that it would be developing options to amend the province’s <i>Petty Trespass Act</i> to specifically address trespassing on agricultural land, and to increase penalties under the Act. • Alberta also plans to amend the Animal Health General Regulation and possibly the <i>Agricultural Pest Act</i> to address biosecurity breaches and create compensation tools for farmers/ranchers impacted by biosecurity breach. |
| Saskatchewan | On-farm animal activism is of concern to several Saskatchewan’s stakeholder organizations. Producers are looking for support in how to deal with animal rights activism on their property. Organizations are looking for recommendations to producers on how to deal with confrontation, and how to conduct themselves in the event of a trespasser. | <p>Recent changes made to <i>Saskatchewan’s Trespass to Property Act</i>. These changes provide additional protection to landowners. The Act makes it an offence, without lawful authority, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter onto posted or enclosed lands or other premises without the consent of the owner or occupier; • Enter onto lands or other premises, even if not posted or enclosed, after being requested not to do so by the owner or other occupier; • Engage in prohibited activities on the lands or other premises without the consent of the owner or occupier; |

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| | <p>Industry is frustrated with increased rural crime and how the police and judicial system handles the incidents. These incidents affect producer's livelihood and their business. Industry recommends producers revisiting security protocols for property and how to conduct themselves in an event of a trespass.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fail to leave lands or other premises, or to discontinue an activity, after being requested to do so by the owner or other occupier; and • After leaving lands or other premise or discontinuing an activity pursuant to the request of an owner or other occupier, return to the lands or other premises or resume the activities. • Persons contravening the Act are liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to \$2,000. • The amendments to the <i>Trespass to Property Act</i> will come into force soon. We are optimistic that these amendments will reduce acts of trespass and improve the safety of livestock producers. • We encourage livestock producers who are the victim of trespass, harassment, or other criminal conduct to contact the police. |
| Manitoba | <p>The department is aware of isolated incidents in the past that include members of activist groups attempting to join communal farming communities as members of farm staff or interested parties. As well, activist groups have appeared at high traffic, facilities with public access (e.g. auction marts).</p> <p>However, currently, the Province is not aware of any available historical data sets to accurately review the incidence and frequency of all activist activities on farm</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba's Animal Welfare branch can enforce and can respond through the <i>Animal Care Act</i> to any significant complaint against activists who have placed the health of an animal at risk or owners whom may have animal welfare issues on their premises. • The Provincial Animal Care Committee exists to improve collaboration between associations, universities and governments and discuss important emerging issues related to animal care that include activist realities. • The provincial Chief Veterinarian's Office continues to be involved in overarching efforts with industry associations |

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Animal Welfare and Activism Events

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| | | towards enhancing their public trust and social responsibility that result in ongoing improvements. |
| Ontario | Increased advocacy from producers around on-farm activism in Ontario (e.g., letter writing campaign, etc.). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario's Minister Hardeman met with sector representatives in June to discuss concerns. Heard frustration over convictions not pursued in the judicial system. Stakeholders have called for assurance of a more rigid process to address incidents (from a prevention and enforcement perspective). • Currently considering all options, including new legislation, to shield farmers from animal rights activists. |
| Quebec | <p>Producers have not been briefing the Ministry's regional offices of activism incidents.</p> <p>Reported events have been identified through social media (e.g., cyberbullying, protests against livestock production, and release of videos of animal slaughter or mistreatment). In August 2014, individuals illegally released 3000 mink from a breeding farm.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At this time, there are no specific activities underway to support producers other than the already existing support geared for mental health. • Steering group members of the <i>Stratégie Québécoise de santé et de bien-être des animaux</i> were invited to forward to their co-chair, and to the president of the committee <i>Un bien-être (Comité national de santé et bien-être animal)</i>, incidents of activism brought to their attention. • On October 17, 2018, partners of the annual meeting of the <i>Stratégie Québécoise de santé et de bien-être des animaux</i> had as their theme "Health, Well-being: Truth and Consequences". Ms. Pierrette Desrosiers, psychologist and one of the speakers, made a presentation entitled "Animal and caretaker welfare: what is the link, where some aspects of the impact of aggressive activism were addressed. • Incidents of on-farm activism may be reported to the <i>Sûreté du Québec</i> and suspects may be charged with break and enter and mischief. |

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Animal Welfare and Activism Events

Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with Public Safety and Solicitor General, RCMP and Industry

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| <p>New Brunswick</p> | <p>Anti-dairy campaign advertised on buses and billboards in Fredericton and Moncton, NB in June 2019. Vegan Education Group NB conducted campaign with the slogan 'Dairy is Scary' directs consumers to Erin Janus's YouTube video posted in 2015 about the dairy industry. One billboard showed a dairy calf accompanied by the slogan 'dairy took my mom and my life'.</p> <p>A visitor to a farm during Open Farm Day in 2018 asked the question what happens to calves after they are born. The visitor (a self-proclaimed vegan) was not happy when she was told that animals may not be kept and started a Go Fund Me campaign on Social Media to save the calves and raise money to bring them to a sanctuary.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to media requests, New Brunswick's Department of Agriculture has supported the industry in promoting the work of dairy farmers on adhering to animal welfare standards through the Pro Action Program. |
| <p>Prince Edward Island</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities are prevention focused to promote public trust (animal welfare) and assurance in agriculture. Support industry-led and producer-led assurance projects as appropriate through CAP. • Collaborate with Canadian Centre for Food Integrity to promote public trust. • Animal Welfare Act incorporates all NFACC Codes of Practice by reference. • Working with communications colleagues to develop series of tweets "Welfare Wednesdays" to educate re: Codes of Practice. |

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Animal Welfare and Activism Events

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| Yukon | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government of Yukon is updating legislation regarding the welfare and control of animals, which includes livestock. |
|--------------|--|---|

Agenda (Draft)

Animal Activism Roundtable

Date: April 7th or 9th , 2020

Time: 9:30am to 1:00pm

Location: Ministry of Agriculture
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford

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|----------|--|--|
| 9:30 AM | Refreshments Served | Coffee, tea, breakfast pastries and fruit |
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| 10:10 AM | Roundtable Objectives | Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 10:15 AM | Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recent Incidents Industry Concerns | Roundtable |
| 11:15 AM | Break | |
| | Law Enforcement Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update | Cory Lepine, RCMP Corporal for the Livestock Section |
| 11:30 AM | Preparing for Future Incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Action Plan How do we coordinate? What advice/recommendation do we have for agricultural producers? | Roundtable |
| 12:30 PM | Next Steps | Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 1:00 PM | Adjourn | |

Agenda

Animal Activisim Roundtable

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Time: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

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Room 131
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford

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| 11:15 AM | Break | |
| 11:30 AM | Law Enforcement Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update Preparing for Future Incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How best to respond? How do we coordinate? What advice/recommendation do we have for agriclutural producers? | Brenda Butterworth-Carr, ADM and Director of Police Services Roundtable |
| 12:30 PM | Next Steps | Wes Shoemaker, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 1:00 PM | Adjourn | |

List of Attendees
Round Table: Animal Activist Activities – October 4, 2019

| Organization | Attendee(s) | Title |
|---|---|---|
| Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General | Brenda Butterworth-Carr | ADM and Director of Police Services |
| Ministry of Agriculture | Wes Shoemaker Mark Raymond Ursula Viney | Deputy Minister Executive Director Director |
| Abbotsford Police Department | Casey Vinet Mike Serr | Inspector Chief |
| RCMP | Phil Simkin | Sergant (Community Industry Response Group) |
| BC Cattleman's Association | Kevin Boon | General Manager |
| BC Agriculture Council | Reg Enns | Executive Director |
| BC FIRB | Peter Donkers Wanda Gorsuch | Chair Manager |
| Milk Marketing Board | Tom Hoogendoorn | Vice Chair |
| BC Dairy Association | Christine Terpsma Holger Schwichtenberg | A/Director Chair of BCDA Mainland |
| BC Chicken Marketing Board | Bill Vanderspek Gay Hahn (on behalf of Harvey Sasaki) | Executive Director Member |
| BC Chicken Growers Association | Jeff Spitters | Director |
| BC Egg Marketing Board | Gunta Vitins Katie Lowe | Chair Executive Director |
| BC Egg Producers Association | Mark Seimens | Director |
| BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission | Jim Collins Beata Kunze Stephanie Nelson | Chair Member Executive Director |
| BC Broiler Hatching Egg Association | Art de Ruiter | Director |
| BC Poultry Association | Steve Heppell | President |
| BC Turkey Marketing Board | Michel Benoit (on behalf of Kevin Klippenstein) | General Manager |
| BC Turkey Association | Henry Klassen | Director |
| BC Hog Marketing Commission | Christine Koch Bert Van Dalfsen | General Manager Chair |
| BC Pork Producers Association | Jack DeWitt | Chair |

Meeting Summary

- A review of recent trespass incidents by animal welfare activists was provided by the Ministry and some of the industry associations.
- The agriculture community have several concerns with respect to these incidents including: the trespass on and damage to personal property; the safety and wellbeing of individual farmers and their families; the stress placed on the animals given the presence of strangers and all of the commotion; and the compromise to biosecurity measures and the potential spread of disease.
- Concern was expressed about the perceived lack of consequences and accountability for the actions of protestors and the feeling that not enough was being done to deter future occurrences.
- Abbotsford PD explained their response to the incident and the rationale behind their approach. Every individual who was present for the protest had been processed by APD and a number of charges have been submitted to Crown Counsel (pending) as a result of their activities during the protest.
- Ontario and Alberta have both introduced proposed legislation respond to the increased incidents of animal activism and the Province of BC will reach out to these jurisdictions to learn more about their approach as it evaluates what further steps may be required.
- The participants at the meeting perceived that Police agencies across the province are lacking in knowledge/expertise to understand the agricultural/animal welfare issues and may benefit from working with the Agricultural community to provide education to their members.
- The ADM of Policing and Security Branch committed to following up with the Commanding Officer of the RCMP to ensure concerns were elevated and addressed accordingly.
- Several members expressed concern that the Ministry has not be public enough in its condemnation of the action of protestors and its impact on agriculture.

Actions:

- Police agencies across the Province would welcome the sharing of information related to any knowledge of planned protest so that this could be forward to their analysts for advance planning purposes.
- The Chief Constable for Abbotsford PD and the ADM of Police Services will raise this matter and related concerns with the BC Chiefs of Police Association to help create awareness and to mobilize support to work closely with the agriculture community in relation to future incidents. They have also identified as another potential followup item with the BCACP their advice on the adequacy of the current legislative measures (Tresspass Act, Animal Health Act, etc.) and whether additional tools/legislation (like that of Alberta/Ontario) would be recommended.
- Industry can further build on existing efforts to provide recommended policies and procedures to its members on how to respond and deal with the situation.
- The Ministry will consider strong public statements that can be made by the Minister in support of the agriculture community and to condemn the action of protestors.

Next Steps:

- A followup meeting of participants will be scheduled in approximately 90 days to provide an update on the measures taken with previous incidents and to report back on the progress of the actions discussed.

Animal Activism Roundtable Agenda and Action Plan

From: Jeffery, Taylor AGRI:EX <Taylor.Jeffery@gov.bc.ca>
To: m.benoit@bcturkey.com, jdunn@bcdairy.ca, office@bcchickengrowers.ca,
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<Taylor.Jeffery@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Production BCTMB <production@bcturkey.com>
Sent: July 13, 2020 2:22:41 PM PDT
Attachments: Draft Animal Activism Agenda July 15 2020.docx, Draft Animal Activism Action
Plan.docx

Hello Roundtable Attendees,

Attached to this email is a copy of the Animal Activism Roundtable Agenda, and the draft Action Plan that will be up for discussion during the upcoming July 15th meeting.

Kind regards,

Taylor Lee Jeffery, BSc

Livestock Technologist, BC Ministry of Agriculture
Victoria, BC

NEW Phone: 250-883-6965

Cell: 604-300-5736

She/Her Pronouns

Agenda

Animal Activism Roundtable

Date: July 15, 2020

Time: 1:00pm to 3:30pm

Location: Via Zoom Call

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| 1:00 PM | Welcome and Introductions | Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 1:10 PM | Roundtable Objectives | Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 1:15 PM | Excelsior Hog Farm Perspective | Ray Binnendyk |
| 1:30 PM | Law Enforcement Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update | Cory Lepine, RCMP Corporal for the Livestock Section |
| 2:00 PM | Break | |
| 2:15 PM | Preparing for Future Incidents <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Action Plan • How do we coordinate? • Industry Concerns • What advice/recommendation do we have for agricultural producers? | Roundtable |
| 3:20 PM | Next Steps | Tom Ethier, Deputy Minister of Agriculture |
| 3:30 PM | Adjourn | |

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

Animal Welfare and Activism Events

Ministry of Agriculture, in partnership with Public Safety and Solicitor General, RCMP and Industry

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- **Animal Welfare:** Trespassing can result in pain, stress and trauma for livestock subjected to mixing or 'freeing.'
- **Personal Safety/Trespassing:** Often farmers' place of work and residence are the same property. Farmers are legally entitled to a safe working environment, free of harassment and trespassers.
- **Mental Health:** Repeated stress and public demonization can impact farmer mental health.
- **Public Health:** Interacting with or removing animals or deadstock from farms carries risks for individuals to contract zoonotic diseases
- **Economic Impacts:** Trespasser actions and consequences can obstruct production and damage crops or livestock, resulting in economic loss.

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The following is a proposed action plan on how to support animal agriculture retailers and processors during animal activism events and activities, proactively and reactively. This plan is separated into two sections: near term and long-term opportunities.

Section A: Near Term Opportunities

1.) Promote BC's strict animal welfare laws and support throughout the entire value food chain through awareness and educational campaigns both within industry and to the public

- Begin to educate retailers, abattoirs, and transporters of the animal agriculture sector on the relevant animal welfare material, and their commitment to animal welfare
- Develop promotional campaigns that educate consumers on high animal welfare standards and strengthen the industry
- Encourage adherence to industry standards within industry
 - AGRI to emphasize the use of the NFACC and the PCA within the entire food processing chain
 - Promote industry to build a brand that emphasizes the morals and resolutions the NFACC and the PCA reflect
- Facilitate educational offerings, information exchanges, and mentoring within BC for retailers, food processors and transporters
 - possibly could base the framework from the One Welfare platform:
 - Increasing education and awareness will help to establish different ways of working and improve efficiency within local and global networks of those working in animal welfare, human wellbeing and environmental issues.

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2.) Encourage producers, retailers, food processors and transporters to have an Emergency Response Plan dedicated to animal activism events

- Allows for preparedness when the value chain is disturbed or interrupted
- Encourage business to plan “Mock Recalls” related to animal activism
- The largest impact felt from animal activism activities on retailer’s food processors in the interruption of market accessibility
 - Have emergency management, food processing analysts and industry specialists work with industry stakeholders to accomplish this
 - Look specifically at Ontario’s Farm and Food Care “Proudly Presenting Agriculture” and recommendations from law enforcement on how to manage an animal activism event

3.) Prioritize regaining public trust in AGRI response to animal activism related activities

- Promote actions that AGRI plans on taking to minimize impact of animal activism on producers, the food processing value chain, and the animal agriculture market
- Highlight the welfare funding through CAP that is already implemented
- Establish an educational outreach program on what is at risk when animal activism takes illegal actions (such as extreme stress on animals, trespassing, and potential zoonotic disease transfer)
 - Highlight the Minister Popham’s statement regarding animal activism and have it echoed throughout the Ministry and in all outgoing communications

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Section B: Long Term Opportunities

1.) Support retailers, food processors and transporters through relationships and advocacy by creating a more adaptable market

- Build relationships throughout the value chain
- Promote business courses that focus on building out risk assessments related to animal activism
- Continue to host roundtable discussions between abattoirs, retailers, industry stakeholders and government
 - Focus discussion on creating more nimble markets
 - Encourage the production of emergency response plans

2.) Conduct an internal AGRI review and participate in a multibranch review of ramifications associated with illegal animal activism events.

- Inquire within AGRI policy and legislation branch of the possibility of developing fines and penalties related to animal activism biosecurity breaches
- Form a coalition with other pertinent agencies to conduct further review of other acts and legislation
 - AGRI to form coalition with PSSG, RCMP and other applicable Ministers to review the penalties associated with illegal animal activism events (trespassing, arson, etc)

3.) Establish mental welfare awareness within the entire food processing value chain and producers within the entire food processing value chain and producers

- Promote the importance of mental health throughout the entire food value chain
- Highlight the interconnections between positive animal welfare and individual mental wellbeing
 - Engage with all members of the food value chain regarding the status of employees, family members etc. mental health
 - AGRI could utilize the One Welfare platform as reference
 - Perform a jurisdictional scan of other provinces programs related to producers and mental health

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Produced by the Industry Development Unit, collaboratively informed by:

Tom Droppo, Industry Specialist – Pork and Dairy

Clayton Botkin, Industry Specialist – Poultry

Laura Code, Industry Specialist – Beef and Livestock

Taylor Jeffery, Livestock Technician

Georgina Hodson, Director – Industry Development

Mark Raymond, Executive Director – Sector Development Branch

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Appendix 1: Jurisdictional Scan

The following chart summarizes current status, as well as response actions to date in various jurisdictions:

| Province | Description of Incidents | Supportive Activities Underway/Planned |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| British Columbia | Documented incidents in the chicken, hog, egg, dairy, game farm and turkey sectors, including “undercover” filming, protests, and harassment (e.g. threatening letters). | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roundtable with various law enforcement agencies/ministries and stakeholders to educate the producers of their rights.• Recently adopted welfare codes of practice (builds public trust). |
| Alberta | Spike in incidents (especially pork). Concerns are associated with illegal activity (trespass, harassment, mischief), public / personal safety and animal health and welfare. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On October 3, 2019, the Government of Alberta announced that it would be developing options to amend the province’s <i>Petty Trespass Act</i> to specifically address trespassing on agricultural land, and to increase penalties under the Act.• Alberta also plans to amend the Animal Health General Regulation and possibly the <i>Agricultural Pest Act</i> to address biosecurity breaches and create compensation tools for farmers/ranchers impacted by biosecurity breach. |
| Saskatchewan | On-farm animal activism is of concern to several Saskatchewan’s stakeholder organizations. Producers are looking for support in how to deal with animal rights activism on their property. Organizations are looking for recommendations to producers on how to deal with confrontation, and how to conduct themselves in the event of a trespasser. | Recent changes made to <i>Saskatchewan’s Trespass to Property Act</i> . These changes provide additional protection to landowners. The Act makes it an offence, without lawful authority, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enter onto posted or enclosed lands or other premises without the consent of the owner or occupier;• Enter onto lands or other premises, even if not posted or enclosed, after being requested not to do so by the owner or other occupier;• Engage in prohibited activities on the lands or other premises without the consent of the owner or occupier; |

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| | <p>Industry is frustrated with increased rural crime and how the police and judicial system handles the incidents. These incidents affect producer's livelihood and their business. Industry recommends producers revisiting security protocols for property and how to conduct themselves in an event of a trespass.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fail to leave lands or other premises, or to discontinue an activity, after being requested to do so by the owner or other occupier; and • After leaving lands or other premise or discontinuing an activity pursuant to the request of an owner or other occupier, return to the lands or other premises or resume the activities. • Persons contravening the Act are liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to \$2,000. • The amendments to the <i>Trespass to Property Act</i> will come into force soon. We are optimistic that these amendments will reduce acts of trespass and improve the safety of livestock producers. • We encourage livestock producers who are the victim of trespass, harassment, or other criminal conduct to contact the police. |
| Manitoba | <p>The department is aware of isolated incidents in the past that include members of activist groups attempting to join communal farming communities as members of farm staff or interested parties. As well, activist groups have appeared at high traffic, facilities with public access (e.g. auction marts).</p> <p>However, currently, the Province is not aware of any available historical data sets to accurately review the incidence and frequency of all activist activities on farm</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manitoba's Animal Welfare branch can enforce and can respond through the <i>Animal Care Act</i> to any significant complaint against activists who have placed the health of an animal at risk or owners whom may have animal welfare issues on their premises. • The Provincial Animal Care Committee exists to improve collaboration between associations, universities and governments and discuss important emerging issues related to animal care that include activist realities. • The provincial Chief Veterinarian's Office continues to be involved in overarching efforts with industry associations |

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| | | towards enhancing their public trust and social responsibility that result in ongoing improvements. |
| Ontario | Increased advocacy from producers around on-farm activism in Ontario (e.g., letter writing campaign, etc.). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ontario's Minister Hardeman met with sector representatives in June to discuss concerns. Heard frustration over convictions not pursued in the judicial system. Stakeholders have called for assurance of a more rigid process to address incidents (from a prevention and enforcement perspective). Currently considering all options, including new legislation, to shield farmers from animal rights activists. |
| Quebec | <p>Producers have not been briefing the Ministry's regional offices of activism incidents.</p> <p>Reported events have been identified through social media (e.g., cyberbullying, protests against livestock production, and release of videos of animal slaughter or mistreatment). In August 2014, individuals illegally released 3000 mink from a breeding farm.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At this time, there are no specific activities underway to support producers other than the already existing support geared for mental health. Steering group members of the <i>Stratégie Québécoise de santé et de bien-être des animaux</i> were invited to forward to their co-chair, and to the president of the committee <i>Un bien-être (Comité national de santé et bien-être animal)</i>, incidents of activism brought to their attention. On October 17, 2018, partners of the annual meeting of the <i>Stratégie Québécoise de santé et de bien-être des animaux</i> had as their theme "Health, Well-being: Truth and Consequences". Ms. Pierrette Desrosiers, psychologist and one of the speakers, made a presentation entitled "Animal and caretaker welfare: what is the link, where some aspects of the impact of aggressive activism were addressed. Incidents of on-farm activism may be reported to the <i>Sûreté du Québec</i> and suspects may be charged with break and enter and mischief. |

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| New Brunswick | <p>Anti-dairy campaign advertised on buses and billboards in Fredericton and Moncton, NB in June 2019. Vegan Education Group NB conducted campaign with the slogan 'Dairy is Scary' directs consumers to Erin Janus's YouTube video posted in 2015 about the dairy industry. One billboard showed a dairy calf accompanied by the slogan 'dairy took my mom and my life'.</p> <p>A visitor to a farm during Open Farm Day in 2018 asked the question what happens to calves after they are born. The visitor (a self-proclaimed vegan) was not happy when she was told that animals may not be kept and started a Go Fund Me campaign on Social Media to save the calves and raise money to bring them to a sanctuary.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to media requests, New Brunswick's Department of Agriculture has supported the industry in promoting the work of dairy farmers on adhering to animal welfare standards through the Pro Action Program. |
| Prince Edward Island | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All activities are prevention focused to promote public trust (animal welfare) and assurance in agriculture. Support industry-led and producer-led assurance projects as appropriate through CAP. • Collaborate with Canadian Centre for Food Integrity to promote public trust. • Animal Welfare Act incorporates all NFACC Codes of Practice by reference. • Working with communications colleagues to develop series of tweets "Welfare Wednesdays" to educate re: Codes of Practice. |

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| Yukon | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government of Yukon is updating legislation regarding the welfare and control of animals, which includes livestock. |
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September 25, 2020

Minister of Agriculture
PO BOX 9043, STN PROV GOVT.
Victoria BC
V8W 9E2

Sent via electronic mail to: AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister:

The BC Poultry Association would like to raise our concerns about the potential threat to BC farms by animal activists. Our concerns are shared by other livestock producers throughout the province.

We were all thrilled at the 2019 Ag Day when the current Agriculture Minister and British Columbia's Attorney General and the Solicitor General stood in front of farmers to make a proclamation with a commitment to help farmers.

"So, let me be clear, this government is working hard to deter those who are illegally harassing and intimidating farmers and ranchers. We are working hard to deter people who trespass on your property and damage your farm equipment and endanger the animals in your care. We understand the current rules are not stopping illegal protesting activity and we have already taken a number of steps to address this problem.

Since Ag Day, almost a year ago, very little progress has been made. True, we've had two round table meetings with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and others, but we've seen very little progress made on the legislative front. In the past half year Ontario, Alberta and Saskatchewan have enacted strong laws to protect their farmers and their families. Manitoba is working on some legislative changes.

Meanwhile, several of our poultry farms have found intruders in their barns late at night. These illegal break-ins jeopardize the safety and health of the birds and could jeopardize the entire BC poultry industry if the trespassers introduce a disease into the barns such as avian influenza. Over the past years, and especially during the pandemic, many elected provincial officials have spoken about the importance of BC agriculture producing food for British Columbians. The

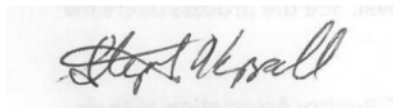
illegal actions of these trespassers put the half billion-dollar poultry sector at risk. In 2004, BC's poultry barns were emptied due to avian influenza and we had to import poultry products.

The poultry sector realizes that there will always be some people that are opposed to animal agriculture and we realize that they have a right to peaceful protests. We are asking for stronger legislation from the province for those activists that come onto our farms (private property), come armed with tools to break into our barns, cause malicious damage, steal our animals, endanger the physical and mental health of our family and workers, and jeopardize our very way of living and raising food for British Columbia. It is not right that our poultry farmers are being threatened for trying to feed British Columbia.

We are looking to the province of BC to take action to protect BC farmers and farms. The Federal Agriculture Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau has said repeatedly that the federal government is not looking at ways to boost trespassing legislation. We are asking for stronger legislation around trespass onto farms, illegal entry into our barns, theft of animals, and malicious damage. We recommend raising the minimum fine for these actions and using administration monetary penalties (AMPs) instead of going through the court system.

We would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss the issue in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Heppell", is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Steve Heppell, President, BC Poultry Association

Cc

Reg Ens, BC Agriculture Council