

FW: URGENT Imminent Emergency Transfer due to over work in extreme heat conditions -s.15
Abbotsford, B.C.

From: Tucker, Shannon AFF:EX <Shannon.Tucker@gov.bc.ca>
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 28, 2021 9:19:38 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png
FYI

From: Irwin, Michelle A AFF:EX <Michelle.Irwin@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 28, 2021 9:19 AM
To: Tucker, Shannon AFF:EX <Shannon.Tucker@gov.bc.ca>; Wiens, Cheryl AFF:EX <Cheryl.Wiens@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: URGENT Imminent Emergency Transfer due to over work in extreme heat conditions -s.15
Abbotsford, B.C.

FYI

Regards,

Michelle Irwin | Labour Operations Manager | Labour Unit | BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Fisheries |
778-974-5792

s.16

Page 02 of 18

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.16

INFO: Heat wave- office issues

From: Boyd, Wes CSNR:EX <Wes.Boyd@gov.bc.ca>
To: EMLI Executive Committee <EMPRExCo@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, AFF Executive <agfexec@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, IRR Executive <ABREXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, ENV Executive Committee <ENVEXCOM@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Martins, Sonja CSNR:EX <Sonja.Martins@gov.bc.ca>, Keith, Tyler CSNR:EX <Tyler.Keith@gov.bc.ca>, MacDonald, Lori CSNR:EX <Lori.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 28, 2021 12:59:47 PM PDT

Colleagues,

With this unprecedented heat wave across the province, we are aware of challenges in many of our buildings across the province where building infrastructure/HVAC etc is not keeping pace with the heat demands. Some of these have resolutions in place and in others staff are being encouraged to work from home or find alternate locations to work.

The PSA and CITZ are aware of these issues and further communications may be forthcoming.

If you have any questions, please let me or Sonja Martins know.

Thanks,

Wes

Wes Boyd

Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer
Corporate Services for the Natural Resource Ministries

2nd Floor, 2975 Jutland Road | Victoria, BC | V8W 9M1 |

(He/Him/His) C: 250.508.5791

FW: Heat stress/fur farms

From: Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>
To: McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 28, 2021 2:00:44 PM PDT

Hi Jennifer, see below from Lesley Fox. MLP and DM were cc'd. Checked with Jena in comms and she has only seen this one and no other emails from other industry groups expressing concern re livestock and heat. Thoughts on who should comment and how? Thanks,

Ursula

From: Lesley Fox <lesley@thefurbearers.com>
Sent: June 28, 2021 1:41 PM
To: Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Heat stress/fur farms
Importance: High

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good afternoon, Ursula. I received a notification that Dr. Gunvaldsen is away today. I am hoping that you can please respond to my question below? Thank you for your help. It's greatly appreciated.

Lesley Fox
Executive Director

The Fur-Bearers
Suite 701, 718-333 Brooksbank Ave
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3V8

Office: 604-435-1850

www.TheFurBearers.com

Our Mission: To protect fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement through conservation, advocacy, research and education (C.A.R.E.).

From: Lesley Fox <lesley@thefurbearers.com>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 1:39 PM
To: 'Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca' <Rayna.Gunvaldsen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: 'AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca' <AGR.Minister@gov.bc.ca>; 'Ethier, Tom AGR:EX' <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Heat stress/fur farms
Importance: High

Dear Dr. Gunvaldsen,

As you know, BC is under an extreme heat advisory. According to the NFACC codes for mink, mink are susceptible to heat stress. There are also provisions in the codes related to increasing water intake during times of extremes (3.3.2 Watering systems), but also notes "Some water-borne pathogens can cause disease in mink (15). Watering systems can be a source of pathogens or bacterial contamination".

Considering the public interest in the issue of fur farming, how is the Ministry enforcing these provisions and is there a death rate related to heat exhaustion/stress that the Ministry deems acceptable? How are farmers reporting death rates on days like today?

Thank you for any further information as it relates to the care of individuals on fur farms.

Lesley Fox
Executive Director

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Suite 701, 718-333 Brooksbank Ave
North Vancouver, BC
V7J 3V8

Office: 604-435-1850

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Our Mission: To protect fur-bearing animals in the wild and in confinement through conservation, advocacy, research and education (C.A.R.E.).

RE: Media Request on Heat Wave Production Insurance Claims

From: Finn, Heather GCPE:EX <Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>
To: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>, Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>, Garnier, Jack AFF:EX <Jack.Garnier@gov.bc.ca>, Lee, Isabella AFF:EX <Isabella.Lee@gov.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 29, 2021 4:31:39 PM PDT

Yeah, probably a good idea to flag the deadline. How much info do producers need to include in the application before the deadline? What happens if they don't know the full extent of damages/losses yet?

Heather Finn

778-679-2104

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 29, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>; Garnier, Jack AFF:EX <Jack.Garnier@gov.bc.ca>; Lee, Isabella AFF:EX <Isabella.Lee@gov.bc.ca>; Finn, Heather GCPE:EX <Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>; Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>; Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Media Request on Heat Wave Production Insurance Claims
Looks fine to me. Re tomorrow being last day to sign up...perhaps this is one for SM too?

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 29, 2021, at 4:05 PM, Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Sam,
Suggested approach below. Peter is hoping to hear back from us this afternoon. Thanks!

Reporter

Peter Mitham, Editor
Country Life in B.C.
pmitham@telus.net
604-737-7069

Deadline ASAP

Request

Does production insurance have anything to report on notice of claims as a result of the heat wave?

I understand the province is considering a compensation package, so it must have something to report.

It would be good to have some representation in the newsletter item we are working on for tomorrow morning.

Recommendation

- B.C. berry growers and tree fruit growers are experiencing significant losses as a result of the June heat wave and the B.C. government has programs and people in place to help.

- Production Insurance offers insured growers relief for fruit loss and some plant loss when they are damaged through weather losses, including the heat wave.
- This insurance pays approximately \$14 million per year to insured berry and tree fruit growers for damaged fruit and plants.
- For crops that have been lost or severely damaged, ministry staff are working with producers to get their crops assessed and claims processed as quickly as possible.
- As of June 29, there are 81 Notice of Losses related to extreme heat. Of those claims, 50 are from lower mainland berry farmers and 31 from tree fruit growers in the Okanagan Valley.
- Growers may also enroll in AgriStability, a program that protects producers against large declines in their farming income which includes production losses such as those caused by excess heat. The 2021 closing application date for AgriStability is June 30.
- The ministry has an excellent team of dedicated professionals that help B.C. farmers manage their business risks. Producers with questions about protecting their incomes should contact the ministry directly.

RE: Situation Report - Extreme Heat June 29, 2021

From: Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>
To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Barclay, Brent S AFF:EX <Brent.B Barclay@gov.bc.ca>, Knox, Graham G AFF:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca>, Poon, David AFF:EX <David.Poon@gov.bc.ca>, Anslow, Martha AFF:EX <Martha.Anslow@gov.bc.ca>, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>, Steward, Lonny AFF:EX <Lonny.Steward@gov.bc.ca>, Pigg, Timothy AFF:EX <Timothy.Pigg@gov.bc.ca>, Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca>, Viney, Ursula E AFF:EX <Ursula.Viney@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 29, 2021 6:15:12 PM PDT
Attachments: Situation Report - Extreme Heat - Mortality Disposal Update - June 29 2021.docx, Situation Report - Extreme Heat - June 29 2021.docx

Good Afternoon,

Attached is a compilation of the current state of challenges across some Horticulture and Livestock commodity groups, as at end of day June 29, 2021 pulled together by Georgina's team. Of highest concern currently:

- * Poultry operations reporting high mortality rates (~500,000 birds). Ministry staff are monitoring as reports from various groups are compiled from the weekend. Ministry staff also liaising on disposal options (also attached is a supplemental updated on disposal pulled together by Dave Poon's Team for information).
- * Cherries are on the threshold of harvest. High instances of burning. High concern among industry reps that BRM programs will not compensate for lesser quality fruit. Photos included in the attached report.
- * Blueberries and Raspberries are being harvested now. High reports of sunscald, resulting in fruit that has ripened too quickly, producing fruit that is soft, discoloured, and small. A greater volume of fruit will likely be downgraded from the fresh market and redirected to process markets.

We will continue to update this report in the coming days.

June 29th Sit Rep:

Disposal Update:

Thank You,
Mark

From: Beyers, Georgina AFF:EX <Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca <mailto:Georgina.Beyers@gov.bc.ca> >
Sent: June 28, 2021 4:53 PM
To: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca <mailto:Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca> >; Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca <mailto:Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca> >
Cc: Barclay, Brent S AFF:EX <Brent.B Barclay@gov.bc.ca <mailto:Brent.B Barclay@gov.bc.ca> >; Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca <mailto:Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca> >; Knox, Graham G AFF:EX <Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca <mailto:Graham.Knox@gov.bc.ca> >
Subject: Situation Report - Extreme Heat June 28, 2021

Good afternoon,

Attached is a compilation of the current state of challenges across some Horticulture and Livestock commodity groups. Of highest concern currently:

- * Poultry operations reporting high mortality rates. Ministry staff are monitoring as reports from various groups are compiled from the weekend. Ministry staff also providing information about disposal.

* Blueberries and Raspberries are being harvested now. High reports of sunscald, resulting in fruit that has ripened too quickly, producing fruit that is soft, discoloured, and small. A greater volume of fruit will likely be downgraded from the fresh market and redirected to process markets.

We will continue to update this report in the coming days.

Thank you,
Georgina

Situation Report: Extreme Heat impacting Agricultural Operations (Province-wide)
Poultry Mortality Options

Point of Contact: Jake Turek, Waste Management Engineer, RMU

Status Update:

- At the moment, producers are able to find disposal options
- Continuous daily large mortality events will likely stress presently used resources (WCRL and commercial composters)
- There are additional disposal options available in gasification and landfilling, as well as on-farm composting
- Currently, the recommended options in descending order are: WCRL, Commercial Composting, Gasification, On-Farm Composting, Landfill
- The additional costs to dispose/compost birds would almost certainly be considered allowable expense under AgriStability.

WCRL:

- WCRL is taking as many birds as they can while keeping the system running smoothly
- Unprocessed mortalities pose an operational issue as the feathers clog the pumps

Gasification:

- Surrey's Convertus facility is able to accept 100,000 – 200,000 lbs per day of mortalities (taken from recent BC Pork Market Interruption Strategy)
 - Equivalent to 20,000 to 40,000 broilers per day
- \$150/ton tipping fee may be cost-prohibitive

Composting:

- Some producers have turned to composting on-farm and have been provided composting factsheets and the composting handbook
 - Potential issues with this is that the AEM Code doesn't apply to emergency response volumes
 - Every commercial producer wanting to compost on-farm would need to get approvals from ENV to move forward
- Commercial composters are taking what they can, but some are likely running close to capacity
 - Net Zero has sites in Abbotsford, Manning Park, and Whistler
 - Abbotsford and Sea to Sky can take up to 200 tonnes each (equiv. to ~91,000 broilers)
 - Manning Park facility can take up to 400 tonnes (equiv. to ~180,000 broilers)
- Composters are taking what they can, but if there are large numbers of daily mortalities, this option will be exhausted in short order

Landfills:

- Both Vancouver and Bailey Landfill in Chilliwack have shown willingness to accept mortalities on an emergency basis
- Vancouver Landfill needs to have an authorization to accept mortalities (Luc Lachance's group @ ENV would take care of this)
- Bailey Landfill want to see due diligence that all other options have been exhausted before they'll accept the mortalities

Situation Report: Extreme Heat impacting Agricultural Operations (Province-wide)

Point of Contact: Georgina Beyers

June 29, 2021

HORTICULTURE

Thematic Concerns/Impacts (cross horticulture commodities)

- Energy usage and the associated costs are high
- Cooling systems struggling with keeping up with demand
- Heat stress on labourers

Blueberries

- Early season blueberry varieties have been impacted by the extreme heat. Berries have sunscald, particularly on the south and west sides of the bushes. Both green and ripe berries are soft, leaky and discoloured.
- Initial estimates from industry are that around 30% of the blueberry crop has been damaged in the central and eastern regions of the Fraser Valley.
- Two popular varieties, Duke and Calypso, appear to have the most damage.
- Minimal sunscald damage reported from the western Fraser Valley
- The fresh market crop will be most impacted. It will be difficult for producers to machine harvest for the fresh market, and those that were planning to do so do not have labour lined up to hand pick.
- A greater proportion of the blueberry crop will likely be diverted from fresh market to process markets. Depending on the level of damage, frozen blueberries may be downgraded from individually quick-frozen berries to lower grades or need to be re-graded before being packed. Severely damaged fruit will be culled.

Raspberries

- The fresh, individually quick-frozen and process raspberry crops have been severely impacted. Raspberries are soft, discoloured, small, and now starting to shrivel.
- Raspberries are being machine harvested for processing. Yields are down and fruit is not releasing well.
- Processors are having difficulty processing the raspberries into puree due to low water content. Raspberries may be further downgraded to juice.
- Sunscald is most apparent on the west side of the plants.
- It is too early to determine the full impact of heat stress on the mid- and late-season varieties that are still at the green berry stage.
- The price for all grades of raspberries is at a record high due to a global shortage of raspberries.
- Raspberry fields that were previously stressed due to winter damage or root health issues are more severely impacted.
- There are reports of raspberry primocanes collapsing from the heat, which may impact next year's raspberry crop.

Treefruit

- Significant damage to Santana and Lapins variety's is occurring for S. Okanagan cherry producers

Situation Report: Extreme Heat impacting Agricultural Operations (Province-wide)

Point of Contact: Georgina Beyers



- Temperatures over 35 degrees will negatively impact the overall quality of fruit (cherries) during, and the two-weeks leading up to harvest:
 - Sunburn, shriving, dehydration of stems and softening of fruit.
 - Some blocks in S. Okanagan reporting over 25-30% sunburn, with the hottest weather forecasted to occur in the next 2-4 days.
- The high forecasted temperatures will increase the ripening of the fruit, leading to the potential of smaller cherries at time of harvest
 - With the larger than average crop potential, a further reduction in fruit size could lead to a glut of small-sized fruit, reducing grower returns.
- The heat should only impact near-ripe fruit, as “greener” cherries will be more resilient to the heat,
- Some orchardists have shifted to night harvest (generally from 12 midnight to 9 or 10 am) to minimize heat stress to workers. Night harvest will also minimize heat stress on the harvested cherries,
- Apple orchards can utilize overhead sprinklers to help with evaporative cooling, however this technique cannot be used in cherry orchards due to the potential of splitting,
- Several products are registered to help reduce the impacts of heat/sunburn on apples.
 - Application of these products is well underway in many farms
- Business Risk Management programs do cover YIELD loss which could tie into extreme heat (will provide additional information from BRMB BN tomorrow)

Cranberries

- Cranberry fields are in bloom. High temperatures may impact pollination.

Situation Report: Extreme Heat impacting Agricultural Operations (Province-wide)

Point of Contact: Georgina Beyers

- The impact on the cranberry crop may become more apparent at the green berry stage.

Strawberries

- The impact of the heat on the strawberry crop is minimal as strawberry harvest is coming to an end in June-bearing fields, and day-neutral fields are between crops.
- Weak strawberry fields are showing signs of plant stress.

Hazelnuts

Orchards

- No significant issues to be reported.
- Older trees are coping with the heat better than younger trees.
- Some new plantings are looking a bit burnt.
- Irrigation has been maximized in most of the fields to help reduce heat stress
- It is expected that any issue or damage it will show later in the summer or the crop in fall.

Nurseries/propagators

- Extra hours of labor to work in the heat to keep the potted plants watered.
- Cut back on production due to limited labour resources and to avoid stressing baby plants by transplanting in this heat.
- Lack of adequate labor.
- Delay on order delivery to costumers.
- Heat damage, potted young saplings are turning brown.
- Concerns of water shortage if conditions persist.
- Loss of trees is expected.
- Increase on Hydro bills and energy consumption.

Organics

- Farms with sandy/rocky soils are finding it difficult to stay on top of irrigation and are irrigating on all day.
- Some producers are seeing that wells are much lower than normal for this time of year. Concern about being able to keep crops irrigated for the rest of the season.
- Pollination is not possible in this heat.
- Certain crop failures (peas, spinach, other greens, etc.).
- Some producers are getting up at 2 AM to harvest in order to ensure product quality/keep products until they can get in the cooler.
- Some farms have sent workers home, shifted delivery dates as it is too hot to have workers in the field.
- Some restaurants have closed to ensure staff safety, and so the farms that serve them have been affected.
- Weekend Farmer's Markets were cut short in some regions, and there was reduced foot traffic.
- Grass is growing more slowly and so farmers are grazing areas meant for hay. Potential feed shortage is a huge concern for some growers.
- Effects of extreme heat can take a few weeks to be noticed and farmers are worried.

Mushroom

- Operations experiencing technical challenges (compressor down, cool system down) during the last 3 days.
- Only Champs has reported crop loss; they estimate about 10% of their weekly crop. Note, however, that their energy requirements are higher because they run their spawn on phase 3 which requires immediate cooling.
- New arrangements for labourers to work earlier shifts to avoid the heat; in the growing chambers and hallways, the temperature are somewhat lower thanks to the evaporation of the water used to clean walls and floor.

Situation Report: Extreme Heat impacting Agricultural Operations (Province-wide)

Point of Contact: Georgina Beyers
Bees

- Beekeepers are quite accustomed to work in hot conditions. When it reaches the current conditions, they stay out of the apiary. Opening hives only causes stress on the bees.
- Foraging behavior declines and bees focus much of their attention on collecting water.
- The main concern for beekeepers is lack of moisture which results in floral sources shutting down nectar secretion.

Grain & Oilseeds

- Moisture required within a three-day window to prevent significant crop impact and/or crop failure.
 - Crops were off to a good start with good establishment.
 - Soil moisture levels in south and north Peace were low and moderate prior to the current heat conditions.
 - Full effects of the heat impact and moisture shortage may take a few weeks to be fully expressed.
-

Thematic Concerns/Impacts (cross livestock commodities)

- Animal welfare concerns
- Animal transport avoided or only at strategic timing to decrease stress to the animal and untimely death(s)
- Heat related mortality (sudden death)

Poultry

- **Cross-commodity Impacts**
 - All commodities have been impacted by the extreme heat and ventilation challenges.
 - Right now, all feather commodity boards are reporting that producers are bearing the costs associated with mortality, disposal and cleanup.
 - The Animal Health Center has received and expects to continue to receive significant poultry submissions from producers and veterinarians with cases required for potential insurance claims.
 - AFF staff have provided resources to all commodity boards related to disposal and composting on-farm
 - AFF staff have provided AgriStability enrolment information related to the June 30th, 2021 application deadline to commodity boards.
 - Catching crews are trying to keep up, and where able, processors are working to accommodate any processing that they can. Catchers reported high absenteeism over the weekend and through Monday, limiting what could move.
 - Mitigation tools on-farm are limited to existing infrastructure and leave little room for failures. Backup generators are required on-site, but power supply was not limited, and high outdoor air temperatures limited the ability to cool.
 - Effects on long-lived birds may not be known for some time as egg production may be significantly impacted by the heat and the stress.
- **BC Chicken Marketing Board (per Bill Vanderspek)**
 - Estimates more than 250,000 mortalities and continued reports are expected to come in over the coming days.
 - Having issues getting reports from producers, sending out a special bulletin today requesting updates.
- **BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission (per Stephanie Nelson)**

Situation Report: Extreme Heat impacting Agricultural Operations (Province-wide)

Point of Contact: Georgina Beyers

- Reporting 25,000 birds in mortality so far, with far more expected to come in the coming days ahead. Three flocks have reportedly been rendered.
- Production impacts are expected to be substantial as birds will reduce laying due to the extreme heat stress even in flocks with minimal mortality.
- **BC Turkey Marketing Board (per Michel Benoit, Nancy Sampson and Kathy Erickson)**
 - Report 6 farms with significant losses. One farm housing 50,000 toms (750,000 kg) approaching shipping were lost as of late Sunday, with an additional farm of 11,000 hens that died Sunday-Monday, these birds were also approaching shipping weight.
- **BC Egg Marketing Board (per Katie Lowe and Joey Aebig)**
 - Reporting 150,000 hens lost so far.

Dairy

- Where possible, dairies attempting to relocate 'exterior' calf hutches to shaded areas or into utility sheds out of direct sunlight to avert extreme heat stress and dehydration. (no read on morts)
- Many
- Depending on facility design, decreased dry matter (DM) intakes in lactating herds are having a direct and immediate impact on total herd milk production. (awaiting metrics from BCMMB to monitor extent of drop in total milk production)
- Decreased breeding efficiency can be expected, that typically shows negative impacts weeks later after an extreme heat weather event.
- Culling of bull calves and cull cows delayed due to added stress of trucking and potential for more compromised animals.

Pork

- High concern amongst producers as hogs are very susceptible to heat stress and sudden death if can't dissipate heat. Air movement and controlling humidity are primary methods to keeping pigs cool.
- Decreased dry matter (DM) intakes of all age groups with corresponding significant drops in weight gains to almost zero.
- Delayed shipments of market-ready hogs to the processor as the additional stress of movement and trucking can be very stressful and cause sudden deaths or extremely compromised hogs.
- No field reports of losses just yet, but this could change soon.

Beef

- Currently no impacts noted by BCCA
- Info bulletin with extreme heat and blue algae information being distributed to producers tomorrow – this may generate people reporting issues. This information will be forwarded to Ministry staff

Sheep

- No heat related losses reported at this time.
- Increased coyote losses observed by one farm where the sheep are congregating in only shade available far from buildings. Farmer now remaining out with the sheep.

RE: For Action: Inquiry into Funding from Feds on Heat Pumps

From: Lyttle, Shawna AFF:EX s.15
:
1-LYTTLE, SHAWNA IR>
To: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX, Raymond, Mark AFF:EX
Cc: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX, Hansen, Erin AFF:EX, Jonson, Byron AFF:EX, Rhodes, Angie AFF:EX, Evers, Charlene AFF:EX
Sent: June 30, 2021 10:02:46 AM PDT

Sam has advised: *"It was a zoom meeting, I believe that Minister heard this... with a poultry focus"*. Maybe Clayton Botkin would have some recollection of this? If we can't get specifics about the particular operation that has the heat pump, perhaps we can just report back on the federal funding piece.

Thank you!

Shawna Lyttle

Manager of Executive Operations and Planning

Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

T: 778 974-2142

From: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 30, 2021 8:58 AM

To: Lyttle, Shawna AFF:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>; Raymond, Mark AFF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; Hansen, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Hansen@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>; Rhodes, Angie AFF:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AFF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Zachary, Dawnae AFF:EX <Dawnae.Zachary@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: For Action: Inquiry into Funding from Feds on Heat Pumps

Staff may not likely be aware and it would be helpful to get the name of the farmer and the location of his farm. Mark's team can then follow up.

Arif Lalani | ADM | Agriculture Resource Division | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

C 250.208.9902 | E arif.lalani@gov.bc.ca

From: Lyttle, Shawna AFF:EX <Shawna.Lyttle@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 30, 2021 8:34 AM

To: Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>; Hansen, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Hansen@gov.bc.ca>; Jonson, Byron AFF:EX <Byron.Jonson@gov.bc.ca>; Rhodes, Angie AFF:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: For Action: Inquiry into Funding from Feds on Heat Pumps

Good morning Arif:

At the bi-lat between Tom and MLP last night, there was a discussion re: the impacts of the heat wave on industry. Specifically, the ability for famers/producers to maintain proper cooling systems. The MO noted that there was a farmer who recently installed a heat pump (sorry, I don't have the details...I'm hoping staff are aware) and they were wondering: a) how that was working for the farmer and b) if this is something we should explore with the Feds – is there funding from them to help get this technology installed in other locations.

They have asked for an industry specialist to reach out and make these inquiries. Perhaps we could have the ESSB prepare an information note in this regard? I'll ask Angie to get that set up in CLIFF/eApprovals and send it to Erin to assign to staff.

Thank you.

Shawna Lyttle

Manager of Executive Operations and Planning

Deputy Minister's Office | Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

T: 778 974-2142

Re: Media Request on Tight Deadline - Vancouver Sun on Heat Wave

From: Godfrey, Sam AFF:EX <Sam.Godfrey@gov.bc.ca>
To: Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sundhu, Ellora AFF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>, Garnier, Jack AFF:EX <Jack.Garnier@gov.bc.ca>, Lee, Isabella AFF:EX <Isabella.Lee@gov.bc.ca>, Finn, Heather GCPE:EX <Heather.Finn@gov.bc.ca>, Ethier, Tom AFF:EX <Tom.Ethier@gov.bc.ca>, McGuire, Jennifer AFF:EX <Jennifer.Mcguire@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>, Boelens, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Boelens@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 30, 2021 2:52:19 PM PDT
Approved

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 30, 2021, at 2:21 PM, Townsend, Dave H GCPE:EX <Dave.H.Townsend@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Sam,

Sorry, tight deadline of 3 PM on this one. Just received the info on question 4 from FLNRO (they have responsibility for irrigation). Any concerns on the response below? Thanks.

Reporter

Glenda Luymes, Reporter
Vancouver Sun
gluymes@postmedia.com

s.22

Deadline ASAP

Request

I've been asked to write a story about agriculture and the weather today.

I realize that's a very general, but I have a few different angles... I'm interested in livestock as well as crops and water issues.

Some of these questions could form separate stories over the coming weeks if information is not available today. But my deadline for today is 3pm.

- I was wondering how the ministry has been supporting farmers during the heat wave? Does it change your operations at all?
- Is there a concern about increased animal mortality caused by the heat – I'm thinking specifically about big poultry operations. Can anything be done about this? Do you track animal mortality?
- I was also wondering about produce/berry growers – can you say anything about the impact of heat on crops? Will there be support for raspberry growers who have lost most of their crop?
- Lastly, can you provide an update on irrigation/water use issues and agriculture. If a farmer wants to start irrigating what is the process to get approval, and how long does that process take? I've heard that approval can take several years. Have you had an increase in applications in the last few months? Is the ministry working on securing access to water for future agriculture needs in light of a climate that seems/may be getting drier?

Recommendation

I was wondering how the ministry has been supporting farmers during the heat wave? Does it change your operations at all?

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries has a dedicated team of staff and they have been working closely with industry stakeholders over the past week during the province's heat wave.

Is there a concern about increased animal mortality caused by the heat – I'm thinking specifically about big poultry operations. Can anything be done about this? Do you track animal mortality?

- The ministry has been receiving reports of considerable mortality rates in B.C. poultry operations as they have been dealing with extreme heat and ventilation challenges. The ministry has also been providing resources related to disposal and composting of mortalities on-farm if needed.
- We continue to be in close contact with various groups including the BC Chicken Marketing Board, BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission, BC Turkey Marketing Board and the BC Egg Marketing Board.

I was also wondering about produce/berry growers – can you say anything about the impact of heat on crops? Will there be support for raspberry growers who have lost most of their crop?

- B.C. berry growers and tree fruit growers are experiencing significant losses as a result of the June heat wave and the B.C. government has programs and people in place to help.
- Production Insurance offers insured growers relief for fruit loss and some plant loss when they are damaged through weather losses, including the heat wave.
- This insurance pays approximately \$14 million per year to insured berry and tree fruit growers for damaged fruit and plants.
- For crops that have been lost or severely damaged, ministry staff are working with producers to get their crops assessed and claims processed as quickly as possible.
- As of June 29, there are 81 Notice of Losses related to extreme heat. Of those claims, 50 are from lower mainland berry farmers and 31 from tree fruit growers in the Okanagan Valley.
- Growers may also enroll in AgriStability, a program that protects producers against large declines in their farming income which includes production losses such as those caused by excess heat.
- However, it is important to note that the 2021 closing application date for AgriStability is today, June 30. During this heat event, ministry business risk management program staff have been making direct contact with as many industry stakeholders as possible to encourage them to begin the enrollment process prior to the deadline.
- The ministry has an excellent team of dedicated professionals that help B.C. farmers manage their business risks. Producers with questions about protecting their incomes should contact the ministry directly.

Lastly, can you provide an update on irrigation/water use issues and agriculture. If a farmer wants to start irrigating what is the process to get approval, and how long does that process take? I've heard that approval can take several years. Have you had an increase in applications in the last few months? Is the ministry working on securing access to water for future agriculture needs in light of a climate that seems/may be getting drier?

- Applications to begin irrigation would go through FrontCounter BC. The timing for the approval process for these applications vary wildly, varying by region and size.
- If an applicant qualifies as an existing groundwater user, the deadline to apply for a groundwater licence is March 1, 2022.