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s.13 ; s.16

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR DECISION

Ref: 195460

Date: August 3, 2021

Title: Proposed Fur Farm Regulation amendments

Issue: Need to codify the recent Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Order in legislation.

Background:

Substantive background information can be found in CLIFF 194646 (Appendix A)

On July 26, 2021 the British Columbia (B.C.) PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry issued an order under the *Public Health Act* prohibiting the opening of new mink farms and requiring a cap on the number of animals on existing farms. Subsequently, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) released a statement stating that the Ministry is undertaking amendments to the Fur Farm Regulation to ensure enduring compliance with health protection strategies outlined in the June 29, 2021 Public Health Risk Assessment of Farmed Mink report (Appendix B).

Concerns regarding the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in mink farms and the impact of a mutated virus on vaccines have led to calls for mink culls and an end to mink and fur farming internationally. Culls of animals on infected farms have occurred in the Netherlands, France, Spain, and Poland, with Denmark culling all mink in the country. Public opposition to fur has also led to the creation or promise of fur farming bans in several countries (see Appendix A).

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fur farming industry has been in a general decline internationally. In B.C., the number of mink farms decreased from 17 licensed farms and 14 licensed operators in 2016 to 13 mink farms and seven operators in 2021. There are 9 operating mink farms, each employing between one and 30 employees. Employees are generally domestic workers, with 5 temporary foreign workers currently on farm. All the farms are on privately owned parcels of Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land, and none are on First Nations land.

Mink production in B.C. has been inherently unprofitable for the last several years. Pelt prices have been inadequate to cover operating costs (e.g. feed, labour) for most mink producers. Based on data developed in support of the AgriStability program and taken from established sources (e.g. StatsCan, USDA) average market prices for pelts dropped from a high in 2011 of \$97.07 to a low of \$26.51 in 2020. The price had trailed off to a low of \$18.70 in December 2020; however, there is likely a significant amount of 2020 production which has not yet been marketed. The closure of normal auction events and a need for cashflow and shortage of storage space may have contributed to very low prices late in the year. Prices are volatile year

to year but there has been a general decline in the demand and prices of mink pelts for several years.

A small number of North American pelts were sold at the Copenhagen fur action in April of 2021 at an average price of \$35.91; these would be pelts produced in 2020. It is unknown if this is a return to more normal prices spurred on by reduced production from Denmark culling all their mink, or if this is an anomaly from a small sales volume offseason from the bulk of normal sales. Additional auctions will need to be observed to establish a reasonable estimate of current prices. Public opposition to fur farming continues for both health and animal welfare reasons, which may impact demand.

The farmed fur industry has experienced considerable market declines in recent years. The increasing public opposition to the use of fur has prompted designer brands such as Chanel, Gucci, Burberry, Versace, Coach, Michael Kors, Jimmy Choo, Ralph Lauren, and others to ban the use of fur in their designs. The use of fur is also banned in more affordable brands such as ASOS, Gap, H&M, J. Crew, Macy's, Topshop, and Urban Outfitters. Even Canada Goose, a brand infamous for use of coyote fur on their parkas, has announced its intention to stop using real fur by 2022.

There is broader trend in society towards increased welfare considerations for animals used for human purposes. In the U.S. there have been increased regulations on the use of animals in scientific testing, as well as bans on farm practices such as the use of gestation crates in swine production. There is a large market for cruelty-free and vegan cosmetics products, with the cruelty-free cosmetics industry estimated to be worth \$10 billion USD by 2024. In B.C., the Ministry has received large amounts of correspondence from multiple groups and individuals calling for an end to mink farming, and fur farming more generally, in the province. Following the first B.C. mink farm SARS-CoV-2 infection, the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (B.C. SPCA) publicly called for an end to fur farming in B.C. A survey referenced by the B.C. SPCA suggests that 85% of B.C. respondents are opposed to fur farming.

s.14

First Nations Considerations:

Under the modern treaty agreements, B.C. is required to notify each of the Treaty First Nations of proposed legislation if the respective Final Agreement provides that Treaty First Nation Government with law making authority in respect of the subject matter of the legislation. The Tsawwassen, Maa-nulth and Tla'amin Final Agreements all have law-making authority related to the regulation of business and land, which is the most analogous to the regulation of mink farming. None of the existing mink fur farms are located on First Nations lands, however, the amendments prohibit future fur farms, which could include farms located

on those lands. Therefore, the treaty requirement to notify the Treaty First Nations is likely triggered.

Additionally, the duty to consult Indigenous Peoples is triggered when contemplated Crown conduct has the potential to adversely affect asserted or proven Aboriginal rights, title, or treaty rights (Section 35 Rights). Aboriginal title includes the right to decide how the land will be used and includes the economic benefits of that land. As the prohibition on mink farming limits a particular use of land that an Aboriginal title holder may choose in the future, the proposed regulation could constitute an adverse effect on s. 35 Aboriginal title sufficient to trigger the duty to consult.

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Attachments:

APPENDIX A: CLIFF 194646

APPENDIX B: June 29, 2021 Public Health Risk Assessment of Farmed Mink report

APPENDIX C: Timeline for implementation

APPENDIX D: Mink Farming Policy Analysis

APPENDIX A

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR DECISION

Ref: 194646

Date: May 26, 2021

Title: Continuation of Fur Farming in B.C. with ongoing COVID presence

Issue: Outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 in populations of farmed mink, increased risk to human health from virus mutations and prevalence of COVID in B.C., and long-term viability of fur farming with ongoing COVID presence

Background:

Fur farming has become an issue of increasing public concern. Due to the SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks on Fraser Valley mink farms, on December 14, 2020 the B.C. Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BCSPCA) issued a media release condemning mink farming and calling for an end to the practice in B.C. This release was accompanied by a petition to be brought forward to policy makers. On May 17, 2021, a third Fraser Valley mink farm was put under quarantine due to a SARS-CoV-2 outbreak. In response to this outbreak the BCSPCA released another media statement calling for a ban on fur farming. Public opposition to fur has also led to the creation or promise of fur farming bans in several countries (see Appendix A).

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (AFF) currently acknowledges and regulates fur farming as an acceptable farm practice in B.C. The legislation governing the industry are the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, the Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation, the *Animal Health Act*, and the Fur Farm Regulation. The regulation of fur farming in B.C. is consistent with other provinces, while approaches to animal welfare regulation varies across provinces.

The fur farming industry has been in a general decline internationally. In B.C., the number of mink farms decreased from 17 licensed farms and 14 licensed operators in 2016 to 11 farms and seven operators in 2020. There is one chinchilla farm and no fox farms currently operating in B.C. The fur farms usually employ between one to 30 employees. Employees are generally domestic workers. See attached Appendix D for detailed information about the economics of the fur farm industry.

Mink are susceptible to catching the SARS-CoV-2 virus from humans, with potential for the virus to mutate in the mink and be re-introduced to humans. Concerns regarding the spread of the virus in farms and the impact of a mutated virus on vaccines have led to calls for mink culls and an end to mink and fur farming internationally. Culls of animals on infected farms have occurred in the Netherlands, France, Spain, and Poland, with Denmark culling all mink in the country.

The Ministry of Health (HLTH) and other agencies are working with the mink industry to implement ongoing human and animal virus surveillance and enhanced COVID-19 safety plans on farms. On February 8, 2021, HLTH estimated there was a low and acceptable risk of a SARS-CoV-2 variant of concern arising at a mink farm, being transmitted to a worker and then to the general population or wildlife, in a way that would significantly threaten the health of the population. This estimate involved a significant degree of uncertainty and assumes that mitigation measures are well implemented, and that industry continues to cooperate with health protocols. HLTH also estimated, with moderate uncertainty, that there is a very low risk of SARS-CoV-2 overflowing from farms, infecting wild animals, and creating a reservoir of ongoing transmission and viral replication.

HLTH risk assessment was provided prior to the increase in SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and continued high case numbers/third wave in the Fraser Health region. On March 2, 2021, Dr. Emily Newhouse, Medical Health Officer for Fraser Health considered new information and the level of compliance of mink farmers with the COVID safety plans to change the Fraser Health risk assessment from low to moderate risk. An updated risk assessment has been requested from the CDC and Provincial Health Officer and will possibly be completed in June due to pressures on public health from the ongoing third wave of the pandemic. Fraser Health also provided information that Whole Genome Sequencing has identified a mutation of concern in the mink samples (the Y453F mutation); as of March 2, 2021, this mutation has not been linked to any mass outbreaks in humans.

First Nations Considerations:

A ban on fur farming would not impact traditional Indigenous rights to hunting and trapping. Two Indigenous groups have provided perspectives: the Indigenous Trappers of B.C. who support mink farming; and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs who oppose mink farming.

Discussion:

There are two key considerations regarding renewed calls to end fur farming in B.C.:

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Approved / Not Approved

LANA POPHAM, Minister

Date Signed

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Attachments:

APPENDIX A: Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jurisdictional Scan

APPENDIX B: Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming

APPENDIX C: Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

APPENDIX D: Mink Farming Policy Analysis V.2

APPENDIX A (Ref: 194646)

Fur Farm Ban Legislation Jurisdictional Scan

The purpose of this table is to provide an overview of the varying international legislation regarding fur farms.

In addition to the countries outline below, bans on fur farming also exist in Austria, Slovakia, Belgium, Luxembourg, Slovenia, the Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic and Hungary, but substantive information on these laws was unable to be found. Legislation on fur farm bans are also being proposed in Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Montenegro, and Ukraine.

Full Ban Legislation

Jurisdiction	Information	Info Links
United Kingdom	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) Act</i> created in 2000</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibits “the keeping of animals solely or primarily for slaughter for the value of their fur” in England and Wales Allows for the creation of scheme to allow for compensation of individuals for losses as a result of ceasing business In 2002 the practice was prohibited in Scotland with the <i>Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Scotland) Act</i> and Northern Ireland with the Fur Farming (Prohibition) (Northern Ireland) Order The legislation still allows for the import of animal furs from other countries and the sales of some furs <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once the UK has officially left the EU, the country is considering a total ban on the sale of fur 	<p>Legislation: UK Act https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/33/contents</p> <p>Scotland Act https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2002/10/contents</p> <p>Northern Ireland Order https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/2002/3151/contents</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2020/sep/25/uk-considering-outright-ban-on-fur-sales-after-brexit</p>
Norway	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires all farms to be closed by February 2025 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Norway was once the world’s largest producer of fox pelts, with 20,000 farms in 1939 	<p>Other Info: https://dyrever.no/dyverern/breaking-news-norway-bans-fur-farming/</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-norway-fur-idUSKBN1F426E</p>
California	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> Assembly Bill 44, which amended the <i>Fish and Game Code</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bill comes into effect January 2023 	<p>Legislation: https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200AB44</p> <p>Other Info:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bans the sale and manufacturing of fur products in the state Used fur, fur products used for specified purposes, and any activity expressly authorized by federal law are exempt from the bill Allows for fines of up to \$1,000 for repeated violations <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statewide ban follows bans of fur sales in Los Angeles and San Francisco 	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/13/fur-ban-california-outlaws-making-and-selling-new-products
The Netherlands	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Fur Farming Prohibition Act</i> created in 2013</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Banned mink farming with a transition period to phase out farms by 2024 Allows for compensation to farmers for ceasing business Following a COVID-19 outbreak at more than 40 farms, the phase out timeline was brought up to March 2021 Minks at the COVID-19 affected farms were culled in the interest of public health Farmers at the farms unaffected by COVID-19 could slaughter their mink in 2020, but are not allowed to re-stock <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Netherlands is the European Union’s second largest mink producer Fox and chinchilla fur farming was phased out in the country in the mid-1990s 	<p>Other Info: https://nos.nl/artikel/2345662-kabinet-maakt-eind-aan-nertsenfokkerij-alle-bedrijven-volgend-jaar-dicht.html</p> <p>https://www.hsi.org/news-media/dutch-mink-fur-farms-to-be-permanently-closed/</p>
Croatia	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Protection Act</i></p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation initially introduced in 2007 and came into effect in 2017 Provided a ten-year phase out period for existing fur farms prior to full adoption Prohibits the farming and breeding of animals for fur production purposes 	<p>Legislation: http://www.mvep.hr/files/file/dokumenti/prevodenje/zakoni/25-Zakon-o-za%C5%A1titi-%C5%BEivotinja--NN-102-17-ENG.pdf</p>
Bans as an effect of other legislation		
Japan	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Invasive Alien Species Act</i> created in 2005</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p>	<p>Legislation: https://www.env.go.jp/en/nature/as.html</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bans actions of raising, planting, storing, carrying or importing invasive alien species • The American Mink is considered an invasive alien species under the Act, effectively making their farming illegal <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mink farms built prior to 2006 could continue operation • The singular mink farm existing in Japan ceased operation in 2015 after years of animal welfare issues 	<p>Other Info: https://www.furfreealliance.com/japan-makes-end-fur-farming/</p>
Germany	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Products Trade Prohibition Act</i> created in 2017</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires strict requirements for keeping animals, such as increased cage sizes and swimming basins for mink • Farms permitted to keep operating without adapting to new legislation until 2022 <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The stricter welfare requirements made fur farming unprofitable • The last fur farm in the country closed in 2019 	<p>Legislation: http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/khfeverbg/BJNR239400008.html#BJNR239400008BJNG000300124</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.tagesspiegel.de/gesellschaft/panorama/pelze-in-der-letzten-deutschen-nerzfarm-sind-keine-tiere-mehr/24151900.html</p>
Sweden	<p><u>Primary Instrument</u> <i>Animal Welfare Act</i> created in 1988 and amended in 2018</p> <p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires animals to be able to “perform behaviours for which they are strongly motivated for and that are important for their well-being (natural behaviour)” <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of the legislation instituted stricter requirements on the keeping of fur animals • Required foxes to only be kept in such a way that they can be active, dig and socialize with other foxes • New requirements rendered fox farming economically unsustainable in the country, closing all farms in 2001 • Mink farms are still allowed under the legislation 	<p>Legislation: https://www.government.se/494b85/contentassets/9f6a4e0fb1704a0ba72531b63811ac22/animal-welfare-act-sfs-2018-1192-12-mars-2020.pdf</p> <p>Other Info: https://www.djurensratt.se/blogg/decline-swedish-fur-industry#:~:text=Fur%20farming%20came%20to%20Sweden,2%20million%20pelts%20a%20year.</p>
Bans promised or currently being debated		
France	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p>	<p>https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned ban introduced in a speech September 29, 2020 by Minister of Environmental Transition Barbara Pompili No new farms will be authorized, and all existing farms must close by 2025 <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not impact the orylog rabbit fur industry 	<p>news/article/france-french-government-announces-ban-on-wild-animal-performances-and-mink-farming/</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-animals-circus-idUSKBN26K24V</p>
Poland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned ban introduced in September 2020 Closure of all existing farms within a year of the ban passing Ban would impact 700 of the 810 fur farms in Poland Currently, no compensation for farmers referenced in the bill 	<p>https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/sep/29/film-showing-cannibalism-prompts-probable-ban-on-fur-farms-in-poland</p>
Ireland	<p><u>Key Facts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phased removal of all fur farms in the country (three in operation currently) <p><u>Additional considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibition of Fur Farming Bill 2018 put forward in government and got to the first stage of the legislative process, but was not passed any further due to dissolution of the government. 	<p>https://www.thejournal.ie/future-of-fur-mink-farming-ireland-5271940-Nov2020/</p> <p>https://www.politico.eu/article/ireland-signals-likely-end-to-fur-farming-with-cull-of-120000-mink/</p> <p>https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/28e8c1-government-approves-phasing-out-of-fur-farming/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/press/pressreleases/2019/june/title,128816,en.html</p>

APPENDIX B (Ref: 194646)

Jurisdictions which allow and regulate fur farming

The following table outlines jurisdictions where fur farming is allowed and regulated. This table does not provide an exhaustive list of countries where fur farming is allowed; instead, it highlights jurisdictions which produce the most pelts.

Canada	Fur farms exist in all provinces, but most farms are found in the following provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ontario• Nova Scotia• British Columbia• Newfoundland and Labrador• Prince Edward Island• Quebec
United States	Fur farms exist in 23 states, with the following states producing the most pelts annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wisconsin• Utah• Idaho• Oregon• Minnesota
International	In addition to Canada and the United States, the following countries' fur farms produce the most pelts annually: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Denmark• Finland• Spain• Russia• China

APPENDIX C (Ref: 194646)

Fur Animal Welfare Requirements in Legislation

This table provides a comparison of the animal welfare requirements in legislation in different jurisdictions. Sweden and Germany were chosen for comparison as these countries' welfare requirements have made some or all fur farming economically unviable within the countries. The legislation governing animal welfare in the different jurisdictions are as follows:

British Columbia: The Fur Farm Regulation, *Animal Health Act*, *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (PCAA), Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation

Canada: The National Farm Animal Care Council's Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink and Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), the *Criminal Code*

Sweden: *Animal Care Act*, Animal Welfare Ordinance, Regulations and general guidelines of the Swedish Board of Agriculture on the rearing and keeping of fur animals

Germany: *German Animal Welfare Act*

	General animal welfare requirements	Mink	Foxes	Chinchillas
BC	<p>Care Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons responsible for an animal must not cause or allow an animal to be in distress. - Animals must be protected from circumstances likely to cause distress - Animals must have access to a sufficient food supply and clean, palatable water. <p>Facility Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must protect the animals from extreme weather. - Must be sufficiently lighted and allow for access to sufficient hours of continuous daylight. - Must allow for the observation and care of animals. <p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be of sufficient size to comfortably accommodate all animals intended to be held. - If more than one animal is in a cage there must be either another level or a nest box. - Must be safe and clean and allow for proper drainage when washed. - Must allow air to flow freely in around the cage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Mink. - The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasonable and generally accepted practices for care are described in the Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farmed Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>). - The Code referenced can be used as a defence against conviction under the PCAA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific requirements established.¹
Canada	<p>Care Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everyone who willfully causes, or allows, unnecessary pain, suffering or injury to an animal commits an offence under the <i>Criminal Code</i> 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cages with multiple animals must have a hammock/shelf/platform and at least one manipulative enrichment 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mature foxes must be housed individually, with pups housed in pairs or groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No specific requirements established.

	<p>- Producers must ensure welfare needs (e.g. clean water, sufficient feed to maintain health and vigour, shelter and environmental enrichment) can be met on site.</p> <p>Facility Requirements</p> <p>-Air flow for dry, healthy environment and prevention of excessive heat and cold is always required.</p> <p>- Must replicate daylight provided by a natural photoperiod.</p> <p>- Any light provided must be sufficient to express natural behaviours.</p> <p>- Artificial lighting must not negatively impact the normal circadian rhythm.</p> <p>- Must allow animals to observe each other.</p> <p>Cage requirements</p> <p>-Access to water is always required.</p> <p><i>Nest boxes:</i></p> <p>- Must be designed to hold adequate bedding and allow for good nesting behaviour to provide a comfortable, safe, and secluded place.</p> <p>- Must be able to accommodate all animals in the pen comfortably at the same time.</p>	<p>Minimum dimensions: 0.20-0.25m length, 0.38m height, 1.45-2.22 m² minimum floor space</p> <p>- If over two animals in cage, a minimum of 0.65m² per additional animal.</p>	<p>- All foxes must have access to at least one enrichment that can be manipulated.</p> <p>Minimum dimensions: <i>Single foxes:</i> 0.91m length, 0.91m height, 1.1-1.4m² minimum floor space</p> <p>- Pairs of animals to have a minimum of 0.84m² per animal.</p>	
Sweden ²	<p>Care requirements</p> <p>- Animals must be kept and cared for in a good environment such that: 1. well-being is promoted; 2. animals are able to express natural behaviours; and 3. behavioural disorders are prevented.</p> <p>- Animals must be observed at least once per day and kept in a way that allows observation without difficulty or disturbance</p> <p>- Action must be taken immediately if abnormal behaviour is noticed</p> <p>- Animals must be provided with daylight access beyond windows</p> <p>- Animals must be protected from direct sunlight and not kept in constant darkness or light</p>	<p>Care requirements</p> <p>- Adult animals may not be kept together</p> <p>- Claws should be inspected and cut regularly</p> <p>- Regular food requirements must not be reduced to bring about weight loss</p> <p>- Feeding must occur twice a day</p> <p>Cage Requirements</p> <p>- Requirements for climbing cages, platforms in every cage, nest boxes with bedding material and enrichment</p>	<p>Care requirements</p> <p>- Animals must be kept in a way that satisfies their need to socialise with other foxes and to move, dig and otherwise occupy themselves.³</p>	<p>Care requirements</p> <p>- Animals must be kept in pairs</p> <p>- Freedom of movement must not be restricted by obstructing objects such as a collar</p> <p>- Chinchillas must be protected against sudden and loud noises</p> <p>Cage Requirements</p> <p>- Requirements for multi-level cages, enrichment objects and access to sand</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Animals must be exposed to and accustomed to humans starting at a young age - Killing and pelting must take place away from live animals - Animals must be kept satisfactorily clean <p>Facility Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be designed to prevent disturbances from noise, pollution or other factors - Light level must be sufficient for animals to behave normally and correspond to the animals' natural circadian rhythm - Presence of pests must be minimized <p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide enough space to meet the normal need for movement and appropriate enrichment - Cages lined up so animals cannot harm one another 	<p>objects that must be replaced regularly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cages must not be kept on top of each other <p>Minimum dimensions: 0.8m length, 0.45m height, 0.255m² bottom area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 0.085m² for each additional young animal 		<p>baths at least once per day</p> <p>Minimum dimensions: 0.5m width, 1m height, 0.5m² total area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 0.16m² for each additional young animal
Germany	<p>Facility Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must allow for the natural behaviour of the animal, and allow them to eat, drink and rest according to their species. - Must be equipped with frost-protected watering devices and allow constant access to drinking water. - Must allow for the removal of the fur animals without pain or avoidable suffering. - Must offer protection from direct sunlight. - Lighting levels must accord with animals' natural cycles - Must allow for observation of animals. - Adult animals are not kept individually. - Animals can see others of their species. - Excrement is removed at least daily if kept inside or at least weekly if the animals are kept outside. -Fur animal must be accustomed to handling by people from birth. 	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Floor of housing must be at least partially paved. - Must have at least one platform per animal on which an adult animal can lie and stand up and under which an adult animal can stand up. - Must have devices for climbing that do not consist of wire mesh and have holding devices. - Must be equipped with tunnels. - Must include a swimming pool with of at least 1m² and 30cm deep. <p>Minimum dimensions, in addition to nest box and swimming pool: 1.7m width, 1.7m length, 1m height.</p>	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be mounted in an elevated position and have a main chamber and an antechamber which hides the entrance to the main chamber. - Must have at least 2m² for digging and draining of excretions - Must have at least one platform per animal on which an adult animal can lie and sit upright and under which an adult animal can sit upright. - Must be equipped with tunnels. <p>Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box:</p>	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must be equipped with tunnels - Must have at least one platform per animal - Must have a sand bath filled with quartz-free sand with an area of at least 250cm² <p>Minimum dimensions in addition to nest box and sand bath: 1m width, 1m length, 1m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 0.5m² for each additional animal

	<p>Cage Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cages must not be kept on top of each other - Animals must have access to behavior-appropriate environmental enrichment outside of the nest box <p><i>Nest box:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must have separate area with solid walls where all animals can rest at the same time - Opening is positioned so that newborn animals are restrained, and adult animals have easy access - Must have hay, straw or another suitable material to ensure animals can keep the nest box warm with their body heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 1m² for each additional animal. 	<p>3.46m width, 3.46m length, 1.5m height</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Area should be increased by 3m² for each additional animal 	
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¹ Chinchillas are not mentioned in the Animal Care Codes of Practice Regulation, nor is there a Code of Practice for chinchilla care established by the National Farm Animal Care Council.

² In January 2019 the Swedish Board of Agriculture (SBA) concluded a study on whether mink in the fur industry live in conditions compliant with the *Animal Welfare Act*. The findings of the study were inconclusive, but the SBA noted positive changes in mink welfare since their regulations were established.

³ The welfare requirements on the keeping of farmed foxes has made fox fur farming economically unviable within Sweden.

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 195513

Date: August 4, 2021

Title: Farm Status for Regenerative Agriculture

Issue: Regenerative agriculture operation not receiving farm class.

Background:

The Classification of Land as a Farm Regulation (Reg), B.C. Reg. 411/95, made under the *Assessment Act*, was developed to award farm class as a benefit to operations that exceed a certain gross annual sales value, relative to property size, through engaging in a qualifying agricultural use. Farm class provides benefits such as property tax breaks and breaks on raw materials and resources to help support farming businesses. The issue of regenerative agriculture operations not receiving farm class arises from BC Assessment's interpretation and application of the Reg to a circumstance, i.e., a regenerative agriculture operation, that deviates from assumptions about farming practices underlying the Reg and policy.

First Nations Considerations:

Many indigenous methods of agriculture are regenerative by nature, s.13
s.13

Discussion:

The Province is working on a new regenerative agriculture and agri-tech network (RAAN) with a goal of supporting innovation in B.C.'s growing agri-tech sector. The commitment to develop the RAAN is part of the Ministry's mandate as we focus on leveraging agritech and regenerative practices to enhance food security, working closely with the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation (JERI).

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Contact: Gray Daniels, Policy Analyst, 250-419-8715

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 195584

Date: August 23, 2021

Title: Update on statistics work in Sector Insights and Corporate Initiatives (SICI) Unit of Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch

Issue: Statistical data on agriculture for 2019 and 2020 has been delayed due to capacity issues for SICI unit

Background: The SICI Unit provides economic expertise and statistical analysis to inform ministry policy and program development. Five of the unit's nine employees compile and disseminate provincial agri-food and seafood sector information and statistics. The unit supports the Minister, senior executive, and the rest of the ministry by providing economic statistics on the primary agriculture, primary seafood and food and beverage manufacturing sectors.

Discussion:

1. Statistical reports currently underway and anticipated dates for drafts and publications:

Deliverable Name	Estimated draft prepared by	Published to web
Data Processing 2019-2020		
Fast Stats 2019	mid Sept. 2021	end Oct. 2021
Fast Stats 2020	end Oct. 2021	end Nov. 2021
Export Highlights 2020	mid Sept. 2021	end Oct. 2021
Sector Snapshots 2020	end Oct. 2021	end Nov. 2021
Year in Review 2019 (Agriculture and Seafood)	*TBD	*TBD
Year in Review 2020 (Agriculture and Seafood)	*TBD	*TBD

** Year in Review publications are very labour intensive and revisions to streamline the process and approach are underway.*

2. Explanation for delays in production of statistical output

The SICI team has experienced capacity issues since November 2019, including:

- ECON 27 employee (livestock) on temporary assignment to another ministry since November 2019
- ECON 27 employee (horticulture and labour) retired in September 2020
- RO 21 employee (exports) on temporary assignment since January 2021
- RO 18 employee (labour and seafood) on STIIP leave from January to July 2021
- Director of the SICI unit left for another ministry in June 2021

These capacity issues resulted in delays to annual publications and large areas of responsibility remaining unaddressed. For example, B.C. was not able to support the federal-led summer farm income forecasting.

3. Strategy for addressing capacity issues and improving statistical output for future years

To put the unit in a position to carry out the outstanding work, the Branch has hired 2 permanent full-time employees and 1 full-time TA, as well as two contracts and a gradual-return-to-work process for the employee who was on STIIP leave. It is anticipated to fill the vacant RO 21 position in September.

In addition, in March 2021 the unit began a modernization project. This includes re-envisioning our statistical outputs to better target them to user needs and improve efficiency. We will be evaluating our approach on streamlining the publications process which may include shifting some statistical outputs to Open Data BC (rather than the traditional PDF publications). This will allow users more flexibility to access and use the data they need.

Summary: Annual statistical publications for 2019 and 2020 were delayed because of capacity issues for the SICI unit. Recent hires are addressing the issues and will allow the unit to produce the publications by the end of November 2021. Going forward, the unit's modernization project will also bring efficiencies and a refreshed vision for the data products.

Contact: Jessica Schafer, Director, Sector Insights and Corporate Initiatives, 236-478-3208

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION

Ref: 195798

Date: August 27, 2021

Title: Post-Wildfire Recovery and Reseeding of Crown Lands

Issue: BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) concerns regarding recovery and reseeded of 2021 wildfire impacted Crown lands.

Background:

Timely reseeded of impacted Crown range lands and fire guards resulting from the 2021 wildfire season is a key concern for ranchers to ensure that grasses are reestablished as soon as possible for future grazing purposes, to help stabilize soils, and prevent the establishment of invasive species in impacted areas. BCCA has expressed concerns that reseeded and related recovery activities after previous wildfire seasons were not sufficiently collaborative, holistic, and timely. Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is the responsible agency for recovery of wildfire impacted Crown range and fire guards.

First Nations Considerations:

First Nations must be consulted regarding recovery of Crown lands, including plans for reseeded to ensure their interests are appropriately addressed.

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Discussion:

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Summary:

While some reseeding activities are anticipated to occur in 2021, factors such as limited available planting season, ongoing fire activity, consultation and funding needs will mean that additional reseeding activities will be delayed until the start of the 2022 planting season.

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Contact: Graham Knox, Director Emergency Management and Climate Change, 250-886-4761

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