

Stakeholder Outreach Roundtable

Stakeholder Outreach-Minister Lana Popham post-election, new mandate check-in

Commodity Group(s): BC Grain Producers Association

Date: February 18, 2021

Conference Call Coordinates:

External Attendees

- Rick Kantz, BC Grain Producers Association President and Grain Grower.
rkantz@pris.ca
- Sharla Pearce, BC Grain Producers Association, Manager
sharla@bcgrain.com

Staff Support

- Lori Vickers, Regional Agrologist/ Grains & Oilseeds Specialist
- Brenna Schilds, Regional Development Agrologist
- Georgina Beyers, Director, Industry Development

Agenda

- Introductions
- Welcome – Minister Lana Popham
- Minister's Mandate and Alignment with BC Grain Producers Association – Minister Lana Popham
- COVID 19-Impact on the Sector
- Industry Outlook
 - a. BCGPA research program
 - b. Suggested ways AFF can continue to support and work with the BCGPA
 - c. BC Grain sector's Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, and Opportunities

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Background:

- The BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA) is composed of approximately 250 growers from across BC. These growers represent collectively over 300,000 acres of grain and oilseed field crops, including wheat, barley, oats, peas and canola. Over 80% is in the northeast.
- BC grain growers produce more than 330,000 tonnes of grains and oilseeds annually, valued at over \$50M in farm cash receipts.
- The purpose of the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA) is to improve the viability of the grains and oilseed industry in the BC Peace River Region. The Association and its members maintain sustained liaisons with other agencies to benefit the field crop industry. The BCGPA encourages all farmers to participate within their industry so that their voices may be heard.

Identified Topics

1. Minister's Mandate and (potential) Alignments with BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

Requiring further exploration by ministry staff

- The BC grain sector can benefit from expansion of the Grow BC, Feed BC and Buy BC programs to encourage greater food security and local business growth, specifically through the BC Grain food hub feasibility study:
 - The BC GPA is working with Urban (and Regional) Food Strategies to explore the feasibility of a grain food hub that fits the scope of the grain growers in the northeast. The final report is expected by March 31, 2021.
 - The study is exploring the feasibility of various value-added grain processing options such as malt barley, rolled oats, split peas.
 - The grain food hub feasibility study is being conducted recognizing the size and scale of grain farms in the northeast and their current access to domestic and global markets.
 - In addition, the study is going to explore the increased need for grain drying in the region.
- The emerging Agri-tech sector in B.C. will benefit the grain sector by the increased usage of precision agriculture. Precision agriculture is the use of new technologies to increase crop yields and profitability while lowering the use of inputs (land, water, fertilizer, pesticides).
 - Incorporation of precision agriculture onto farm requires technological inputs (GPS devices on tractors, LIDAR images, drone monitoring, monitoring and data analysis – weather, soil, pests).
 - Precision agriculture also requires increased human capital; skilled professionals to use the technology and offer data analysis of the results.
 - Pesticides and other agricultural inputs remain an important management tool that grain growers need, despite public opinion.
 - Precision agriculture is a tool that can be further utilized to increase the sustainability of the BC grain sector, but farmers may need assistance, education and training to adopt the new technologies.
- Climate change: BC grain growers have had challenges over the past several years responding to weather extremes during the growing and harvest season. In the last few years, growers have been challenged by extreme moisture during the growing season and/or early snowfall during fall

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harvest. The incorporation of more grain dryers onto farms may help ease some of the challenges with extreme weather. Risk for other extreme weather can be reduced through the BRMB suite of programs.

- Grain dryers are increasingly needed in the region to dry down crops after harvest for safe storage (especially in wet years) and to allow grain growers to extend their harvest season rather than waiting for grain to dry down naturally in the field.
 - Grain dryers are costly to purchase and costly to run, especially with the increase in the carbon tax.
 - To address some of these concerns, AFF introduced a program this winter where farmers with an EFP were eligible for 60% of costs covered to a maximum of \$50k for the purchase and installation of selected energy efficiency upgrades to grain dryers. A total of ten applications were approved for funding.
 - The GPA expressed interest in the EFP grain dryer efficiency program to continue into next fiscal.
 - In order to see full benefits of such a program across the north, rural landowners need to have access to natural gas. There are many rural landowners across the northeast who do not have natural gas access to their homes and farmyards.
- BRMB Programs
 - 2020 Grain claims totaled >\$15 Million (Peas \$5.5m, Canola \$2.2m, Barley \$1.3m, Unseeded grain \$2.2m, Grain Basket (whole farm coverage) \$2.5m).
 - The vast majority of growers buy up coverage, however a localized vocal minority of growers chose not to buy up coverage and may indicate the program does not work for them.
 - Indemnity's were 95% paid before December 5, 2020.
 - 2020 was a big year for growers. In the spring, they had previous years unharvested over winter crops to deal with, then it was too wet to plant the 2020 crop. This was followed by excessive moisture losses on 2020 seeded crops.
 - Upcoming (Feb) BC GPA Advisory; BRM continue working with the BCGPA in data collection/sharing, improving these relationships and reviewing program design.
 - B.C. government established the 2019 & 2020 AgriStability enhanced program removing the reference margin limit and increasing the compensation rate, for all farms, from 70% to 80%.

2. COVID-19 Impacts on the Sector

- No impacts or needs were identified at the beginning of the pandemic as many grain growers already had input secured on their farm for the 2020 growing season and the industry generally relies on local, domestic labour for operations.
- 2020 was an exceptional spring weather wise for grain growers in the Peace. Some of the 2019 harvest was delayed until spring 2020. Despite the increased amount of grain going to market in the spring of 2020, rail networks were able to manage the increased demand, partially due to the pandemic slowing shipment of other goods/services (such as containers from Asia), allowing rail networks to ship record amounts of grain.

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3. Industry Outlook

- a. BC GPA research program
 - GPA made the difficult decision to cease their small plot research plots effective January 20, 2021. This was primarily due to them being unable to find a stable funding stream for the small plot research.
 - The bulk of the Association's resources focused on this program and there were little to no resources left for equally important projects, which were not getting the attention they needed.
 - The association will now focus on other areas of importance and pivot to larger scale, on-farm research.
- b. Suggested ways AFF can continue to support and work with the BC GPA:
 - Evaluate findings from the grain food hub feasibility study and encourage any viable business ventures.
 - Expand the grain dryer efficiency program and, working with the recommendations from the grain food hub study, identify strategies to increase grain dryers on farms.
 - Extension and support services to help grain growers adopt precision agriculture techniques on farm.
- c. BC Grain sector Strengths, Weaknesses, Challenges, and Opportunities
 - Strengths
 - BC Grain Producers Association is an active industry groups involved in regional, provincial and national issues, with a great understanding and relations with Government.
 - Council collects levy for projects and initiatives that benefit the whole industry.
 - Production strengths for B.C. Peace growers include the oil content in B.C. canola is consistently higher than other regions; a large affordable land base; and absence of many diseases and pests common to other grain producing regions.
 - Weaknesses
 - Limited infrastructure impedes niche market and value-added development. As a result, the opportunities to access higher value markets are limited.
 - Inconsistent funding for long-term research projects.
 - The BC GPA continue to struggle to secure funding for future research projects leading to the closure of their small plot research farms.
 - Opportunities
 - After the closure of their small plot research farm, the BCGPA will now focus on other areas of importance and pivot to larger scale, on-farm research.
 - There is potential to increase production of some existing crops - for example food grade peas with a market that is expanding and lucrative.
 - There is potential to expand the number of species grown to include crops like flax, triticale and camelina to supply new markets (e.g. oilseed and biofuels industry).

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- Grain food hub feasibility study is hoped to highlight any value-added processing opportunities for B.C. grain growers.
- Precision agriculture technology has high hopes to increase the sustainability of the sector.

Hello Blake,

In the spring we received information from you on direct rebates to farmers in British Columbia. Data for the B.C. carbon tax relief for vegetable, flower growers were provided. These data are an important component in the preparation of our farm expenses. A reminder that direct rebates include all payments made directly to producers under federal and provincial expense reducing programs. If there are other direct rebate programs in British Columbia, please provide any information that you have on them.

We are currently reviewing the years 2019 and 2020 for our next release. I have sent the amounts we have in our file (in dollars) thru the Electronic File Transfer Service: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/ec-ce/eft-tef>

Heating fuel rebates (carbon tax relief for vegetable, flower growers) (\$'s):

2019:

2020:

CTRGP (2019)	Total Expenditure by Project Code:
Vegetable-GH CTRGP	\$5,922,636.19
Nursery-GH CTRGP	\$158,730.28
Floraculture-GH CTRGP	\$1,427,089.88
TOTAL	\$7,508,456.35

CTRGP (2020)	Total Expenditure by Project Code:
Vegetable-GH CTRGP	\$5,962,621.75
Nursery-GH CTRGP	\$140,153.56
Floraculture-GH CTRGP	\$1,485,544.55
TOTAL	\$7,588,319.86

We would appreciate if you would confirm or revise this information by **November 5, 2021**.

Thank you for your assistance in the preparation of our estimates.

Steve Partridge

Analyst | Analyste

Canadian Agriculture Financial Statistics Section | Section des statistiques financières sur l'agriculture au Canada

Jean Talon Building | Immeuble Jean-Talon / Floor | Étage 12 B-7

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Steve.Partridge@statcan.gc.ca

Telephone | Téléphone 613-618-2206

Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

Hello Blake,

Last fall we received information from you on direct rebates to farmers in British Columbia. Data for the B.C. carbon tax relief for vegetable, flower growers were provided. These data are an important component in the preparation of our farm expenses. A reminder that direct rebates include all payments made directly to producers under federal and provincial expense reducing programs. If there are other direct rebate programs in British Columbia, please provide any information that you have on them.

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2020:

CTRGP (2020)	Total Expenditure by Project Code:
Vegetable-GH CTRGP	\$5,962,621.75
Nursery-GH CTRGP	\$140,153.56
Floriculture-GH CTRGP	\$1,485,544.55
TOTAL	\$7,588,319.86

2021:

We would appreciate if you would confirm or revise this information by **April 29, 2022**.

Thank you for your assistance in the preparation of our estimates.

Steve Partridge

Analyst | Analyste

Canadian Agriculture Financial Statistics Section | Section des statistiques financières sur l'agriculture au Canada

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Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION

Date: April 6, 2022

Title: Carbon tax impacts on poultry producers

Issue: Poultry producers are requesting a carbon tax credit similar to that provided to the greenhouse sector.

Background:

- The Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant Program announced in 2013, provides eligible B.C. commercial greenhouse growers with a grant equal to 80 percent of the carbon tax paid only on the purchase of natural gas and propane consumed for heating and producing CO₂ for their production greenhouses.
- Poultry, particularly broiler, production is energy intensive, especially during the early phases of development and at chick placement, when supplemental heat is a necessity.
- Industry feels it should be entitled to a carbon tax credit, like what has been provided to the greenhouse sector. In addition, they have significant opposition to the increases in carbon tax as it is having an effect, increasing expenses.
- Carbon pricing is gaining momentum globally. In Canada, the federal government implemented a coordinated nation-wide carbon price, beginning at \$20 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions (tCO₂e) in 2019 and rising to \$50 per tonne as of April 1, 2022. As of 2019, over 70 jurisdictions, representing about 20% of global GHG emissions, have put a price on carbon.

Discussion:

- While this has been an ongoing topic of discussion with BC Poultry Producers, the government has been clear that carbon tax increases will continue and there is no interest in offering a carbon tax exemption.
- Greenhouse growers do not consume fuel purely for the creation of energy. Fuel is consumed to produce food grade carbon dioxide which is needed to increase the production yield.

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- Although there is no carbon tax relief program for the poultry sector in B.C., there are funding options to help support B.C. farmers in reducing energy consumption.
 - In support of agricultural climate action, Budget 2022 includes \$15 million over three years to support increased Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) programming. Budget 2022 will include more support for what the BMP program already funds: on-farm practice changes related to energy efficiency and alternative energy that poultry farmers can access (Appendix A). The funding will also support

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activities that enhance the BMP program: piloting, commercialization and on-farm adoption of new agri-technologies, practices and fuel-switching that assists the sector's transition to net-zero.

- Federal funding is also available through two programs: Poultry and Egg On-farm Investment Program and the Agricultural Clean Technology program, which supports three main areas: green energy and energy efficiency, precision agriculture, and the bioeconomy, all with the aim of helping farmers cut greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to a changing climate.
 - For example, under the Agricultural Clean Technology program:
 - Eclipse Farms Ltd. in Duncan utilized to fund a biomass boiler (to reduce dependence on propane).
 - Cedar Grove Farms in Abbotsford also used the funding for a Green Machine Composting system to eliminate the use of natural gas in mortality disposal.
- Rebates through Fortis BC for the installation of radiant tube and unit heaters.

Summary:

- Encourage producers to explore new ways to reduce their energy consumption. This could include retrofitting barns, exploring the application of new, energy-efficient technologies, or adapting management styles to offer a reduced carbon footprint.
- Producers looking for new solutions can work with AGRI and CAP programming to explore potentially innovative project applications, through the Canada/BC Agri-Innovation Program as well as the Climate Adaptation Program.
- Poultry producers can apply for up to 70 percent cost-share funding under the federal Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) for barn or equipment retrofits that upgrade technologies to address heat issues.
- Under PEFIP, applicants (poultry producers) have the flexibility to seek funding for eligible activities that started on or after March 19, 2019.
- The 2021/22 BMP program is now closed for the year, but funding will be available for cooling technologies as early as April 2022.

Contact: Christina Forbes

Appendix A - Funding programs that may assist poultry farmers to lower energy consumption

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Appendix A: Funding Programs that may assist poultry farmers to lower energy consumption

Beneficial Management Practices Program

The Canada-B.C. Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program helps farmers and ranchers reduce energy use for climate change.

- On-Farm energy assessments are available through the BMP program as well as BMPs to replace fossil fuel heating with renewable heating.
- This includes cost-share funding, at a 30% cost-share up to \$30,000, to improve cooling capacity through improved insulation, and installation of thermal curtains, heat exchangers, and heat pumps as well as alternative energy technology, but does not include evaporative cooling.
- Funding for the 22/23 fiscal year, for the BMP projects described above to improve energy efficiency, will open on May 3, 2022.
- Visit <https://iafbc.ca/environmental-farm-plan/> for more details.

Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program

Poultry farmers can apply to the federal Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) that would provide funding to retrofit equipment or barns to address heat issues.

- The program supports on-farm investments in efficiency or productivity, environmental sustainability and improving animal welfare.
- Applicants have the flexibility to seek funding for eligible activities that started on or after March 19, 2019. The project activities must be completed by March 31, 2031.
- PEFIP will provide non-repayable contributions of almost \$647 million over ten years.
- The funding allocations include:
 - \$347.3 million for chicken producers;
 - \$76.9 million for turkey producers;
 - \$134 million for egg producers; and
 - \$88.6 million for broiler hatching egg producers
- The program shares costs between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the applicant as follows: a maximum of 70 percent AAFC and a minimum of 30 percent applicant.

Agriculture Clean Technology Program: Adoption Stream

- Agricultural Clean Technology Program: Adoption Stream: Step 1. What this program offers - agriculture.canada.ca
- The Adoption Stream will support the purchase and installation of commercially available clean technologies and processes with a priority given to those that show evidence of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and other environmental co-benefits.
- Eligible activities under the Adoption Stream are of the following nature and type:
 - Green energy and energy efficiency
 - Precision agriculture
 - Bioeconomy solutions

FortisBC Radiant Tube and Unit Heater Rebates

- FortisBC natural gas customers may be eligible for the installation of radiant tube and unit heaters in heating large spaces.
- To be eligible for rebates, heaters must use natural gas, be located in a conditioned space and be installed in either existing or new construction buildings.
- Radiant tube and unit heater rebates > FortisBC

Materials for Minister's Meeting with Malcolm Odermatt, President, BC Grain Producers Association - June 14 @ 1:30pm

From: Evers, Charlene AFF:EX
To: Smith, Jessica C AF:EX <Jessica.C.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Sundhu, Ellora AF:EX <Ellora.Sundhu@gov.bc.ca>, Lalani, Arif AFF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Duguay, Ilene AF:EX <Ilene.Duguay@gov.bc.ca>, MacLellan, Alyssa AF:EX <Alyssa.MacLellan@gov.bc.ca>, Hansen, Erin AFF:EX <Erin.Hansen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 13, 2022 1:57:46 PM PDT
Attachments: 197656 MLP MN with BCGPA_carbon tax_updated.docx
Good afternoon,

Please find attached the materials for the above referenced meeting to discuss solutions to offset the effects of Carbon tax and the BC Low Carbon Fuel Standards on food security.

Attending: MLP/Jess/Ellora/Peter/Arif/Mark

Thank you,
Char

Charlene Evers
Senior Executive Assistant to
Peter Pokorny, Deputy Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Food
☎ 778 974-3844

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING

Ref: 197656

Date: June 13, 2022

Title: Meeting request from the BC Grain Producers Association (BCGPA)

Issue: Rising costs of production in British Columbia (B.C.)

Background:

- Rising costs of all inputs and overall financial risks are concerning Peace Region Grain/Oilseed growers.
- BCGPA would like to have an open discussion with the Minister on ways to alleviate some of the increases to cost of production.

Discussion:

Based on discussions with the BCGPA topics that may arise include:

Lowering of the Renewable Low Carbon Fuel Requirements Regulation (RLCFRR) Exemption

- BCGPA listed this topic as their number one priority.
- The RLCFRR was introduced in 2010 to reduce the carbon intensity of fuels in B.C. and is overseen by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation (EMLI).
- The regulation requires fuel suppliers reduce the average carbon intensity (grams of carbon dioxide emitted per unit of energy consumed) of their fuels by 1.09 percent annually.
- Fuel Suppliers that meet the 1.09 percent reduction standard over the course of the year are offered market credits, whereas those that do not, receive debit balances. Suppliers must end a compliance period with a zero or credit balance to avoid penalties.
- Exemptions for the RLCFRR have decreased over three scheduled annual compliance periods. In 2020 the exemption limit was 75M litres sold. This was reduced to 25M litres sold in 2021 and further reduced to 200,000 liters in 2022.
- Since this change, grain and oilseed producers in Northeastern B.C. report a 16 cents/liter increase in colored fuel prices in B.C. compared to prices in Alberta.
- BCGPA seeks approaches (e.g. exemption or rebate) for this cost to be minimized because it would provide instant relief to producers by reducing input costs.
- B.C. Grain/Oilseed producers are minimizing their fuel use by minimizing in-field passes, using larger headers on combines, and using straight cutting (combining standing crop directly in the field) instead of swathing (cutting the crop and letting it dry down) before performing a second pass to combine.

Grain Dryer Fuel Carbon Tax Exemption or Rebate

- Grain dryers are increasingly needed in the region to dry down crops after harvest for safe storage, to allow grain growers to extend their harvest season, and respond to increasingly erratic climatic conditions.
- Due to electrical infrastructure limitations, the primary sources of fuel for these dryers in the Peace Region are natural gas and propane which are subject to carbon tax.
- Producers report that grain dryers are costly to purchase and run, especially with the increased carbon tax.
- BCGPA notes that the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant (GCTRG), which started in 2012, provides carbon tax relief to B.C. commercial Greenhouse growers and is seeking a similar program for grain drying to help lower production costs.
- GCTRG reimburses up to 80 percent of the carbon tax paid by eligible growers on their purchase of natural gas and propane used for heating eligible production greenhouses.
- GCTRG returned approximately \$11M to commercial greenhouse operators in 2021/2022. The budget for the program is \$7.5M. The Ministry required access to contingency to offset the pressure to the budget.
- The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) program currently has upgrading Grain Dryer energy efficiency listed in their Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program. Producers were able to apply for funding earlier in May 2022 to help make energy improvements to their grain dryers and lower their carbon emissions.

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- In 2020/21, six Grain Dryer efficiency upgrade projects were completed and funded at a total cost-share value of \$0.20 M under the StrongerBC funding that was added to the BMP program. The program reimbursed 43% of total project costs, up to \$50,000 per project.

Carbon Credits

- BCGPA would like to see a carbon credit program that acknowledges and incentivizes regenerative practices that grain/oilseed growers use such as minimal soil disturbance practices (no-till) or field boundary hedges.
- The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (ENV) would be responsible for the development of a carbon offset protocol that might apply to grain producers.
- Given that reduced/no-till practices are now widely adopted across the grain sector, this business-as-usual practice likely no longer meets ENV's carbon offset requirements of additionality.
- BCGPA would need to demonstrate additional practices grain growers are willing to adopt to reduce their net greenhouse gas emissions for carbon offset projects to be

developed, which will also require the development and approval of a new offset protocol under the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act*.

Increased Production Costs

- Costs of equipment and production inputs including fertilizer, fuel, and pesticides have seen large increases. Several factors have contributed to these higher costs and include but are not limited to increased demand, production shortages, increased costs of production, supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and geopolitical sanctions, and increased costs of transportation. Availability has also been impacted by many of these factors.
- Although input costs have increased, commodity prices have increased significantly as well, especially wheat and canola; wheat futures are currently 300 percent higher than 2021 values.
- The Federal Advance Payments Program (APP) provides farmer access to additional cash flow at the start of the production cycle to ensure farmers can purchase important inputs such as fuel, fertilizer, and seed to maintain full production this growing season. APP provides access to affordable credit through cash advances of up to \$1M based on the expected value of their agricultural product, of which the first \$100,000 in each crop year is interest free. In response to the higher input costs, Canada is waiving the 2022 requirement for pre-production advances to be issued in two installments, 60 percent upfront and 40 percent after seeding is confirmed. This change will allow producers to receive 100 percent of their 2022 advance immediately when they apply.
- Farmers may also secure a commercial line of credit from Farm Credit Canada (FCC). Given the significant increase to input costs, in December 2021, FCC proactively offered credit limit increases of 30 percent for crop input financing to customers that met specific pre-approval criteria, ensuring they have access to the capital they need for the upcoming growing season.
- APP and FCC require farmers to enroll in AgriStability and AgriInsurance as security on loans. AgriStability is a low-cost business risk management program that helps farmers manage large declines in net farming income due to increased costs of production, including increased costs of fuel and fertilizer. Enrolment is currently open and has been extended to June 30, 2022. Farmers that have experienced significant loss may apply for an Interim Benefit payment during the farming season anytime until March 31, 2023. Interim Benefits pay up to 75 percent of a farmer's estimated final benefit payment and generally take two weeks to process.

Late/Wet Seeding Season-Business Risk Management (BRM) Programs

- During the last several years the Peace Region has had late seeding due to wet spring conditions and producers have expressed great concern for the 2022 production year.
- BCGPA would like a review of the Production Insurance (PI) unseeded acres rate as they feel it has not been appropriately adjusted for the increasing input costs.

- In response to increased input costs, principally herbicide, BRMB increased PI unseeded acre values by 15 percent (\$75.0/acre from \$65.0/acre) for the 2022 season.
- Grain/Oilseed producers have high upfront input costs. They must pay for inputs during the crop season in which they were purchased, regardless of whether acres go unseeded, and the inputs go unused. Although they may potentially be carried over to the following year.
 - AgriStability is a low-cost business risk management program that helps farmers manage large declines in net farming income due to increased costs of production, including increased costs of herbicide, fuel, and fertilizer.
- BCGPA believes that PI does not pay out early enough in the season to allow them to pay off their input bills and wishes to discuss ways of increasing cash flow earlier in the season when extreme weather prevents seeding.
 - PI claims on average, are paid out in less than 30 days.

Suggested Response:

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Contact: Brenna Schilds, Regional Agrologist, 250-795-4101

ED MR ADM AL DM PP

RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

From: Schmidt, Kevin AF:EX <Kevin.X.Schmidt@gov.bc.ca>
To: Raymond, Mark AF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>, Norton, Chris AF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>, Hansen, Erin AF:EX <Erin.Hansen@gov.bc.ca>, Bronstein, Ron AF:EX <Ron.Bronstein@gov.bc.ca>, McQueen, Andrea AF:EX <Andrea.McQueen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 18, 2022 4:32:54 PM PDT
Attachments: image001.png

Hi,

Yes, I can prep some bullets for you on the Carbon Tax file. I have a meeting with Don D'Souza tomorrow, and some updates from some industry work being completed and can get the bullets to you later next week so I can incorporate that latest info.

Thanks,

Kevin Schmidt CPA, CA

General Manager, Business Operations

Business Risk Management Branch

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

200-1690 Powick Road

Kelowna, BC V1X 7G5

Phone: 236-766-7086

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From: Raymond, Mark AF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: August 18, 2022 1:44 PM

To: Norton, Chris AF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>; Schmidt, Kevin AF:EX <Kevin.X.Schmidt@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Hansen, Erin AF:EX <Erin.Hansen@gov.bc.ca>; Bronstein, Ron AF:EX <Ron.Bronstein@gov.bc.ca>; McQueen, Andrea AF:EX <Andrea.McQueen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Hi Chris,

There are likely a couple pieces here which is:

- Carbon Tax which impacts our Greenhouse Growers Carbon Tax Rebate Program
- Agriculture Carbon Off-set programming (possible tie)

The Carbon Tax file is currently sitting with Kevin Schmidt in BRMB and the agriculture carbon off-set programming is joint work between my team and RACI.

Kevin – Can you weigh in on the below?

Thank You,
Mark

From: Norton, Chris AF:EX <Chris.Norton@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: August 18, 2022 1:17 PM

To: Raymond, Mark AF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Hansen, Erin AF:EX <Erin.Hansen@gov.bc.ca>; Bronstein, Ron AF:EX <Ron.Bronstein@gov.bc.ca>; Raymond, Mark AF:EX <Mark.Raymond@gov.bc.ca>; McQueen, Andrea AF:EX <Andrea.McQueen@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Hi Mark,

Jeff is kindly requesting your team to prep some bullets for him on AF's engagement/position to this point, and to work with Ron and the RACI climate team in case there's any other colour to add. I understand it's Susan Smith who has been leading.

eApp 6072/198558 over to you for materials.

Thank you.

Chris Norton

Executive Administrative Assistant

Science, Policy and Inspection Division | Ministry of Agriculture and Food

☎ (c) (236) 478-1998 | ✉ chris.norton@gov.bc.ca

🌱 Please consider the environment before printing

I respectfully acknowledge that I work in the traditional territory of the Lekwungen people.

This includes the Songhees & Esquimalt First Nations whose historical relationship with the land continues to this day.

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From: Groot, Jeff AF:EX

Sent: August 18, 2022 12:20 PM

To: Lalani, Arif AF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

K. Happy to attend. I'll ask Mark to get me a summary from the work Susan has been doing so I'm up to speed.

JG

Jeff Groot

Executive Lead, Regenerative Agriculture and Climate Initiatives

Ministry of Agriculture and Food

C: 250.920.9203

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

Sent: August 18, 2022 12:20 PM

To: Groot, Jeff AF:EX <Jeff.Groot@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Re: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

This is a DM meeting. If Peter is unable to attend then we need to see if delegates are okay. Jeff given the climate file it would be you in regards to carbon pricing.

Arif Lalani, ADM, Agriculture and Food

From: Groot, Jeff AF:EX <Jeff.Groot@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, August 18, 2022 12:15:16 PM

To: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Lalani, Arif AF:EX <Arif.Lalani@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

I believe this has historically been an Arif piece (I understand Susan Smith @ ESSB is leading), so for this meeting at least, I'd suggest he's probably a better fit.

Bigger picture though, looping Arif here for his input on whether that should continue to be the case or if this fits more within RACI?

JG

Jeff Groot

Executive Lead, Regenerative Agriculture and Climate Initiatives

From: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 18, 2022 11:55 AM
To: Groot, Jeff AF:EX <Jeff.Groot@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Hi Jeff,

Would this be a 'you' thing to attend obo Peter? Go to the very bottom of this email for more details. Peter will be in Abbotsford meeting with our new Chief Veterinary Officer at that time.

Char

From: Fillion Haycock, Chantal ENV:EX <Chantal.FillionHaycock@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 18, 2022 11:52 AM
To: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Thanks Charlene. Can a delegate from AF be arranged if we go with 10-11 on the 6th?

From: Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 18, 2022 11:48 AM
To: Fillion Haycock, Chantal ENV:EX <Chantal.FillionHaycock@gov.bc.ca>; Bevan, Audra L JERI:EX <Audra.Bevan@gov.bc.ca>; Hrenyk, Alyssa FIN:EX <Alyssa.Hrenyk@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Grace EMLI:EX <Grace.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Peter is only available 2:30-3pm that day.

Thanks,
Charlene

From: Fillion Haycock, Chantal ENV:EX <Chantal.FillionHaycock@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 18, 2022 11:32 AM
To: Bevan, Audra L JERI:EX <Audra.Bevan@gov.bc.ca>; Hrenyk, Alyssa FIN:EX <Alyssa.Hrenyk@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Grace EMLI:EX <Grace.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Hi everyone,

It looks like we may need to move this forward due to some changes in the subsequent briefing to Ministers. Knowing that schedules have probably changed, can you please let me know whether your DMs (preferable) or a delegate would be able to attend at the following times?

September 6: 10-noon, 2:30-3:15

Thank you!

Chantal

From: Fillion Haycock, Chantal ENV:EX
Sent: August 15, 2022 8:17 AM
To: Bevan, Audra L JERI:EX <Audra.Bevan@gov.bc.ca>; Hrenyk, Alyssa FIN:EX <Alyssa.Hrenyk@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Grace EMLI:EX <Grace.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Hi,
Thanks to all for your responses. We're going to move forward with this briefing on September 8 from 3-4 pm. Invites will be out shortly.
Thanks,
Chantal

From: Bevan, Audra L JERI:EX <Audra.Bevan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 11, 2022 2:43 PM
To: Fillion Haycock, Chantal ENV:EX <Chantal.FillionHaycock@gov.bc.ca>; Hrenyk, Alyssa FIN:EX <Alyssa.Hrenyk@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Grace EMLI:EX <Grace.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Hello,

Please see Bobbi's availability highlighted below.

Thank you,
Audra

From: Fillion Haycock, Chantal ENV:EX <Chantal.FillionHaycock@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: August 11, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Hrenyk, Alyssa FIN:EX <Alyssa.Hrenyk@gov.bc.ca>; McKenzie, Grace EMLI:EX <Grace.McKenzie@gov.bc.ca>; Evers, Charlene AF:EX <Charlene.Evers@gov.bc.ca>; Bevan, Audra L JERI:EX <Audra.Bevan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rhodes, Angie ENV:EX <Angie.Rhodes@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Multi-DM Meeting Request - Carbon Pricing Update

Hello All,
I'm looking to set up a meeting with DMs Wood, Mihlar, Pokorny, and Plecas to brief them on the newest updates in Carbon Pricing, as below. This is going to need to happen before UBCM. Can you please let me know availability in the following windows? For Alyssa, we're also looking to have ADM Mounteney attend so if you could get her availability as well, I'd appreciate it.

Sept 1: 11:00 am-12:00 pm, 3:00-4:30 pm
Sept 2: 1:00-4:30 pm
Sept 6: 9:00 am-12:00 pm - Bobbi can do 11-12
Sept 8: 3:00-4:00 pm – works for Bobbi

Thank you!

Meeting or DM/MO/PO Request <i>customize this line based on the request</i>	
Request for meeting with	DM Heather Wood, DM Kevin Jardine, DM Fazil Mihlar, DM Peter Pokorny, DM Bobbi I
Topic	Carbon Pricing Update
Purpose	For ENV/FIN to provide DMs of EMLI, AF, and JERI an update on the carbon pricing rev upcoming decisions
Staff Attendees	Don D'Souza, Adria Fradley, ADM Renee Mounteney (FIN)
Materials	Deck to prepared
Materials to be shared with	n/a
Date/Time	Prior to MSR/MGH joint briefing
Meeting Duration	1 hour
Location	MS Teams
Cliff Log #	
eApprovals #	
Materials due to DMO	
Materials due to MO	

Additional info/comments:

Chantal Fillion Haycock (she/her) | Acting Senior Executive Assistant to Kevin Jardine
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
T: 236-478-3904
C: 250-882-6642
E: Chantal.FillionHaycock@gov.bc.ca



Where ideas work

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Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING

Ref: 199033

Date: October 20, 2022

Title: BC Ag Day – BC Grain

Issue: High costs of production in British Columbia (B.C.), carbon tax rebate on fuel used to dry grain and overall investment in agriculture programs.

- The BCAC Council and its members, in particular the Grain Growers, want to discuss ideas on ways to ease the impacts of rising costs.
- Costs of equipment and production inputs including fertilizer, fuel, and pesticides have seen large increases. Several factors have contributed to these higher costs and include but are not limited to increased demand, production shortages, increased costs of production, supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and geopolitical sanctions, and increased costs of transportation.
- Although input costs have increased, commodity prices have increased significantly as well.
- BRM, through the AgriStability program, provides support if a sudden, sharp rise in input costs occur and significantly reduce farm margins.
 - AgriStability is a whole farm margin-based (margin is allowable income, minus allowable expenses) income stabilization program, which protects producers against large input cost increases as well as declines in their farming income due to market conditions, production losses.
 - Program benefits are calculated using income and expense data, provided by each farmer through the Canada Revenue Agency. A payment is made if the current year margin falls more than 30 percent below the average of prior years.
 - AgriStability program payments to British Columbia (B.C.) producers totaled \$300 million for the period of 2007 to 2021.

Discussion:

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Suggested Response:

- A wide array of agriculture related programming is supported by both the Province of B.C. and Government of Canada including the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the agriculture and agrifood sector.

s.13; s.16; s.17

- To enhance economic sustainability, the federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture Ministers agreed to improve Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, including raising the AgriStability compensation rate from 70% to 80%.
- B.C. is a strong advocate for national program improvements and will continue its work with federal, provincial, and territorial partners to improve AgriStability nationally. We will continue to consult with industry on a new AgriStability model that will be faster, simpler, and more predictable.
- The AgriStability program helps producers manage significant financial risks, such as rising input costs, that threaten the viability of their farm and are beyond their capacity to manage.
- While BRM programs may provide some temporary relief from higher input costs, these programs are not designed nor intended to provide ongoing support for changes in market realities.

Grain Dryer Fuel Carbon Tax Exemption or Rebate

- Grain dryers are increasingly needed in the region to dry down crops after harvest for safe storage, to extend harvest season, and respond to erratic climate conditions; they can be costly to procure and operate.
- Due to electrical infrastructure limitations, the primary sources of fuel for these dryers in the Peace Region are natural gas and propane which are subject to carbon tax.
- The BC GPA notes that the Greenhouse Carbon Tax Relief Grant (GCTRG) which started in 2012, provides carbon tax relief to B.C. commercial greenhouse growers and is seeking a similar program for grain drying to help lower production cost.
- GCTRG reimburses up to 80 percent of the carbon tax paid by eligible growers on their purchase of natural gas and propane used for heating eligible production greenhouses.

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- Producers that have farm status and a current Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) are eligible to apply for cost-share funding through the Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) program towards the purchase and installation of grain dryer equipment that improves energy efficiency and lowers GHG emissions.
- In 2022, the BMP program has three intake periods for producers to submit applications to the BMP program (spring, summer and fall). The fall intake is currently open until October 27, 2022.
- With additional funding from CleanBC, the cost-share and funding cap available to applicants was increased from 30% cost-share and up to \$30,000 in funding in the spring intake, to 60 percent cost-share up and up to \$50,000 in funding in the summer and fall intakes.
- To date in 2022, the BMP program received (and approved) one application for a grain dryer energy efficiency project in the spring intake and two applications during the summer intake.

Overall investment in agriculture programs

- A wide array of agriculture related programming is supported by both the Province of B.C. and Government of Canada including the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a five-year, \$3 billion investment by federal, provincial and territorial governments to strengthen the agriculture and agrifood sector.
- Currently discussions are underway regarding the Next Policy Framework (NPF) which will be a five-year (2023–2028) investment by federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments to strengthen and grow Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. It will replace the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), which ends March 31, 2023.

Suggested Response:

- APP cash advances and FCC line of credit continue to be a source of cash to ensure farmers can continue in production.
- Promote enrollment in risk management tools such as Production Insurance (PI) and AgriStability. AgriStability is a low-cost business risk management program that can help farms manage costs of production.
- Encourage enrollment in the EFP program and participation in the associated BMP cost share programing.
- Encourage growers interested in engaging on future agriculture programing to participate in available feedback processes as arise, for example details related to opportunities to share input on the NPF to the federal government can be accessed [here](#) .
- Encourage Peace Region growers with specific questions on programs to contact their Regional Agrologist, Brenna Schilds at 250-795-4101 or Brenna.Schilds@gov.bc.ca .

Contact: Brenna Schilds, Regional Agrologist, 250-795-4101

DIR MR ADM AL DM

Ministry of Agriculture and Food
BRIEFING NOTE FOR MINISTER FOR INFORMATION FOR MEETING

Ref: 199017

Date: October 21, 2022

Title: BC Ag Day - Poultry

Issue: Animal Activism

AFF has heard industry's request for a regulatory response to extreme animal activism for several years.^{s.13}

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Background:

- Animal activists trespassed and breached biosecurity barriers on at least two (2) B.C. hog farms in 2019. The most public protest occurred at Excelsior Hog Farms on April 28, 2019.
- Farm families targeted by these groups are suffering emotional distress due to threats of personal assault, death, and accusations of animal abuse.
- Activist activity is impacting the full value chain as trucking companies, food processors and retail chains have experienced threats of violence and tactics to disrupt businesses.
- Activist groups also employ post-invasion tactics affecting farm businesses and families that includes social media attacks, telephone harassment, and placement of derogatory signage on roadsides adjacent to the farm, or signage on public transportation.
- Animal activists do not appear to be specifically concerned about animal welfare, instead using it as a platform to promote anti-animal agriculture.
- On June 1, 2019, the National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice became law in B.C., considerably strengthening animal welfare in this province. B.C. commodity boards have either made the Codes mandatory for licensed producers or developed national animal care programs based on the Codes.
- AFF has held multiple round table meetings with multiple stakeholders (e.g., Industry, RCMP, Municipal Police, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General) to garner a better understanding of industry concerns, law enforcement, and how best to respond.
- The BC Poultry Association wrote a letter to the Deputy Minister, dated October 6, 2022, stating that they are troubled that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is committing staff resources to the Farmed Animal Framework Assessment when they have been requesting assistance from the Ministry to protect their families, farms, and flocks from activists.

Discussion:

- Farmers are concerned over the potential of escalating tactics by activist groups and believe that existing deterrent measures and/or application of those measures are insufficient to protect livestock operations from trespass and breach of biosecurity.
- Farmers are becoming increasingly frustrated with law enforcement and protective actions against animal activists threatening a farm's livestock and business.

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- Not all law enforcement detachments are aware of the significant financial consequences that livestock producers can occur if biosecurity is breached.
- BCAC has expressed concern about the harm that comes from trespass occurring on farms and is now calling for a strategy to address these harms which includes modernized legislation.
- In a statement made to the BCAC in October 2019, Minister Popham spoke alongside Attorney General David Eby and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth about the government's intention to amend the *Trespass Act* in order to strengthen protections for farmers. This included a commitment to redouble efforts to work with the BCAC to determine what additional tools or enforcement actions may be necessary.
- BCAC has stated that other provinces are modernizing their approaches to farm trespass, listing several examples:
 - *Alberta*: BCAC has claimed that Alberta amended their legislation to increase fines to \$10,000 for an initial offence, and \$25,000 for subsequent trespassing.
 - This is correct, with these amounts having been increased in 2019 from \$2,000 and \$5,000, respectively. These increases were passed and came into force in 2019.
 - Their legislation specifically prohibits trespassing on land used for farming and has additional penalties for organizations and corporations that aid, counsel, or direct trespassing to occur. This offence can result in a fine of up to \$200,000 for the organization, regardless of whether any trespass takes place.
 - *Ontario*: BCAC claims that Ontario has raised its fines for trespassing to \$10,000 and removed caps on compensation owed by the trespasser, which are both correct in relation to Ontario's general trespassing legislation.
 - Ontario also recently introduced the *Security from Trespass and Protecting Food Safety Act* which came into force in December 2020, which prohibits entry on areas where animals are kept. The maximum associated fines are \$15,000 for a first offence and \$25,000 for any subsequent offences.
 - *Saskatchewan*: BCAC has stated that Saskatchewan legislation no longer requires "no trespass" signs to be posted on agricultural land in order for an offence to occur.
 - This is correct, and came about from an amendment that was passed in 2019, which came into force in January 2022. Under this revised legislation, the onus rests with the person wishing to enter land – they must receive the permission of the owner in order to enter agricultural lands, and without this permission, entry is an offence under the Act.
- While BC does not have targeted agricultural trespass legislation like Ontario, the BC *Trespass Act* was amended in 2019 to include references to livestock in its definition of which premises cannot be entered without permission.
- In BC, it is an offence to enter any enclosed land (enclosed by fence or natural boundary) or land where notice has been provided by the occupier (i.e. a "no trespass"

sign). Conviction of an offence under the *Trespass Act* can mean maximum liability of \$2000 and up to six months of imprisonment.

- The courts can order restitution to the occupier if there is damage sustained as a result of the trespass, with no cap on the maximum amount of restitution that can be ordered. The offence can also result in a violation ticket of \$115 for each incident of trespass.
- Additionally, the *Criminal Code of Canada* may be used to prosecute extreme animal activists in some contexts.
- The recent conviction and jail sentencing of two extreme animal activists (with sentences of 30 days imprisonment each) shows that the current legislation in BC is working to punish activists who engage in illegal actions.

Suggested Response:

- AF has heard industry's request for a regulatory response to extreme animal activism.

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ISSUE: Support to Mitigate the impacts of Carbon Tax

Background:

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- Poultry, particularly broiler, production is energy intensive, especially during the early phases of development and at chick placement, when supplemental heat is a necessity.
- Industry feels it should be entitled to a carbon tax credit, like what has been provided to the greenhouse sector. In addition, they have significant opposition to the increases in carbon tax as it is having an effect, increasing expenses.

Discussion:

- While this has been an ongoing topic of discussion with B.C. poultry associations, the government has been clear that carbon tax increases will continue and there is no interest in offering a carbon tax exemption.
- Greenhouse growers do not consume fuel purely for the creation of energy. Fuel is consumed to produce food grade carbon dioxide which is needed to increase the production yield.
- Although there is no carbon tax relief program for the poultry sector in B.C., there are funding options to help support B.C. farmers in reducing energy consumption.
 - In support of agricultural climate action, Budget 2022 includes \$15 million over three years to support increased Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) programming. Budget 2022 will include more support for what the BMP program already funds: on-farm practice changes related to energy efficiency and alternative energy that poultry farmers can access. The funding will also support activities that enhance the BMP program: piloting, commercialization and on-farm adoption of new agri-technologies, practices and fuel-switching that assists the sector's transition to net-zero.

Suggested Response:

- Encourage producers to explore new ways to reduce their energy consumption. This could include retrofitting barns, exploring the application of new, energy-efficient technologies, or adapting management styles to offer a reduced carbon footprint. Poultry producers can apply for up to 70 percent cost-share funding under the federal Poultry and Egg On-Farm Investment Program (PEFIP) for barn or equipment retrofits that upgrade technologies to address heat issues.
 - Under PEFIP, applicants (poultry producers) have the flexibility to seek funding for eligible activities that started on or after March 19, 2019.

Issue: BC Farm Industry Review Board

The BC Poultry Association has the following recommendations for changes to BCFIRB:

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Background:

- The BC Farm Industry Review Board (BC FIRB) is an independent administrative tribunal created under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* (NMPA).
- BC FIRB is responsible for:
 - The general supervision of regulated agricultural commodity boards created under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* (NMPA).
 - Hearing appeals filed by any person who is aggrieved by or dissatisfied with orders, decisions, or determinations of the commodity boards; and
 - Acting as a signatory to federal-provincial agreements for supply-managed commodities.

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- The BC Chicken Marketing Board differs from all other marketing boards established under the *Natural Products Marketing Act*, having an appointed chair and two appointed board members, along with two producer-elected board members. Other marketing boards only have an appointed chair.
- BCFIRB's Public Accountability and Reporting Project (PARP) Summary Reports compile information and data from B.C.'s eight commodity boards on sector performance targets, governance and quota management and movement into one resource. Appendices provide detailed data on B.C.'s regulated and supply-managed sectors through maps and tables.

Discussion:

- The Ministry cannot provide direction to BCFIRB as BCFIRB is an independent tribunal. Neither the Minister nor Ministry can direct BCFIRB.
- BCFIRB does not appoint regulated marketing board chairs. Regulated marketing board chairs are appointed by Cabinet (OIC). BCFIRB does not appoint regulated marketing board/Chicken Board independent members. The members are appointed by Cabinet (OIC)
- OIC appointments are vetted by the Crown Agencies and Board Resourcing Office (CABRO).

- Some OIC appointment candidates may be put forward by FIRB for vetting by CABRO. However, CABRO will also usually post a notice of position on their website up to 6 months in advance of appointment.
- CABRO then meets with the Minister to discuss and get her approval for candidates to be appointed.
- PARP is a proactive, transparent approach to supporting and demonstrating effective governance and sound leadership in regulated marketing and supply management for the benefit of B.C.'s agri-food sector and the public.
- Regular collection and publication of data and performance measures will help provide the agri-food industry, government, commodity boards and BCFIRB with a deeper understanding of the current state of each regulated sector, regulatory goals, and governance performance. Over time, PARP will provide a comprehensive, objective, evidence-based picture of how each sector is evolving over time.

Suggested Response:

- BC FIRB operates arms-length from government and performs an independent, quasi-judicial role. It is their mandate to oversee the marketing of regulated industries.
- As an independent administrative tribunal, BC FIRB decisions are made without interference from the Ministry; it would be inappropriate for the Ministry to involve itself in BC FIRB's oversight of the regulated industries.
- The Ministry respects the BC FIRB's independence in decision-making and does not want to do anything that could be perceived as fettering their independence.
- AF supports having independent members on the Chicken Marketing Board. Independent members add value, bringing public interest and a focus on governance to the forefront. They provide expertise and a skill set to fill gaps not otherwise available. Producer-only boards risk regulators being captured by those they regulate and may create a real or perceived conflict of interest.

Issue: BC's Farmed Animal Welfare Framework Assessment

The BC Poultry Association wrote a letter to the Deputy Minister, dated October 6, 2022, stating that they are troubled that the Ministry of Agriculture and Food is committing staff resources to the Farmed Animal Framework Assessment when all poultry sectors follow the National Codes of Practice under national programs that are validated and audited.

Background:

The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (the Ministry) is undertaking an assessment of B.C.'s farmed animal welfare framework.

The assessment will answer the following questions:

- Does B.C.'s current farmed animal welfare framework provide high standards of farmed animal welfare?
- Does B.C.'s current farmed animal welfare framework support individuals and organizations in the farmed animal sector to implement and sustain high standards of farmed animal welfare? and,
- In what way should B.C.'s farmed animal welfare framework evolve to ensure the welfare of farmed animals, best support the professionals within the farmed animal sector, increase public confidence, and ensure high welfare standards into the future?

The assessment will involve the Ministry creating a background document to inform a Deputy Minister (DM) appointed Advisory Committee composed of diverse sector representatives. The Advisory Committee will review the background materials, conduct broader engagement (with industry and subject matter experts), and provide a final report to the DM for consideration.

First Nations Considerations:

Engagement with Indigenous partners will help to ensure that the background reflects Indigenous knowledge and interests and supports reconciliation. Ministry staff have identified several organizations and individuals that could provide insight into Indigenous knowledge, practices and interests related to farmed animal welfare.

Discussion:

The DM is undertaking an assessment of B.C.'s animal welfare framework to gain a better understanding of its strengths and identify any potential areas for improvement.

- The assessment is necessary to ensure the framework supports high standards for farmed animal welfare so that public trust in the farmed animal sector is maintained.

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- This initial engagement is intended to confirm the accuracy of Ministry staff findings and ensure the Ministry has a solid understanding of the framework, which can later be outlined in a background document.

Suggested Response:

- Ministry staff, led by the Corporate Policy and Priorities Branch, are currently engaging with key partners to better understand the farmed animal welfare framework in B.C. This work will continue throughout fall and winter.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministry) staff are reaching out to animal welfare experts, farming organizations, and Indigenous partners to gain their insight and expertise on options that may improve the existing legislation, and support animal welfare in our province.
- We are not targeting any specific areas for change and are open to hearing about all aspects of animal welfare in B.C., including criteria and standards related to animal care and welfare, the suitability of penalties, possible enforcement models and so on.

Contact: Christina Forbes, Livestock Industry Specialist, 236-766-7057

DIR MR ADM AL DM