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## NEWS RELEASE COMMUNIQUÉ

For Immediate Release  
2015AGRI0025-000690  
May 15, 2015

Ministry of Agriculture  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

### **Projects providing B.C. agriculture with innovative ideas receive funding**

VICTORIA – British Columbia’s agri-food industry is receiving more than \$1.5 million for 17 new projects that support a broad range of innovative products, practices and technologies of direct benefit to the sector.

The projects announced today include:

- Testing the feasibility of a small scale micro-malting facility to produce local custom malted grains for the growing B.C. craft brewing and distilling industries.
- Investigating the potential of earwigs as a biological control of several important insect pests in apple orchards in the Okanagan and Similkameen.
- Developing a specialized grinder that will crush raw ungulate bone into a dry bone powder. There is a demand for bone powder in the pet food and supplement markets.

The funding comes from the Governments of Canada and British Columbia’s commitment under the Growing Forward 2 agreement to provide up to \$13.4 million between 2013 and 2018 through the Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program. Projects funded through the program must have the potential to lead to the commercialization and/or adoption of innovative products, technologies and practices. So far, 80 projects have shared more than \$7 million in funding.

Growing Forward 2 is a five-year agreement launched in 2013 that provides a \$3-billion, federal-provincial-territorial government investment in innovation, competitiveness and market development.

The Canada-B.C. Agri-Innovation Program is administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. Additional program information and application forms are available at: <http://iafbc.ca/agri-innovation.htm>

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Gerry Ritz, Federal Agriculture Minister –**

“Canada’s agricultural industry continues to thrive and compete in the global marketplace. These diverse projects will undoubtedly play a significant role in ensuring that innovation continues to bring immense benefits to the industry.”

#### **Norm Letnick, B.C. Minister of Agriculture –**

“By supporting innovation, we are assisting the B.C. agriculture sector in maintaining their competitive edge. This funding directly supports projects that can result in sector-wide

benefits, so together we can continue to grow our industry.”

**Ken Bates, Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. board chair –**

“The Canada–B.C. Agri-Innovation program funds projects that are looking for operable solutions to the issues facing agriculture. This is a program focused on creating better opportunities for B.C.’s farmers and food processors and increasing our ability to compete as we look to the future.”

**Learn More:**

For information on federal Growing Forward 2 programs, visit:

[www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2](http://www.agr.gc.ca/GrowingForward2)

Information on Growing Forward 2 programs in British Columbia is available at:

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=EB8322DE53664C7289317829FA25360E>

A backgrounder follows.

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## BACKGROUND

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#### **AgWest Veterinary Group Ltd.:**

\$15,650 to demonstrate the Aqua Cow Rise System equipment and help downer cows regain the ability to stand. The project will take place on commercial farms in the Fraser Valley.

#### **Applied Bio-nomics Ltd.:**

\$204,375 to research whether a storage mite is an alternative host prey for *Amblyseius fallacis*, a spider mite predator. If successful, a higher number of lower-cost bio-control tools will be available to berry growers.

#### **BC Agricultural Research & Development Corp.:**

\$115,500 to assess the technical and economic feasibility of building a gasification plant to convert used horse bedding and poultry litter into renewable energy and ash.

#### **BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission:**

\$30,000 to launch a hatch monitoring program that will improve the current process. The system will provide detailed egg and hatch information in real-time from all hatcheries. This will improve supply and viability of hatching eggs and enhance production management.

#### **BC Chicken Marketing Board:**

\$39,750 to develop a web-based grower dashboard system. The new online system will streamline required data and improve efficiency for producers.

#### **BC Greenhouse Growers Association:**

\$14,740 for two projects that will demonstrate the safety and efficacy of using Polyoxin D for integrated disease management in greenhouse tomatoes and cucumbers.

#### **Cawston Cold Storage:**

\$140,160 to test the potential of using earwigs as biological control for several apple orchard insect pests including the rosy apple aphid, leafrollers, budmoth and apple clearwing moth.

#### **Kalala Organic Vineyards Ltd.:**

\$4,300 to study the effectiveness of using Humic acid as foliar nutrition in a commercial organic vineyard.

#### **Net Zero Waste Abbotsford Inc.:**

\$42,315 for a project to capture waste heat from composting to heat greenhouses.

#### **NovoBind Livestock Technologies Inc.:**

\$415,000 to develop a bio-control mechanism for *Salmonella* that can be safely administered as a feed supplement.

**Pemberton Distillery Inc.:**

\$14,775 to test a small scale micro-malting facility that will produce local specialty and custom malted grains for the craft brewing and distilling industries in B.C.

**Red Dog Deli Raw Food Company Inc.:**

\$9,500 to develop a specialized bone grinder for raw ungulate bone crushing. The processing will provide a dry bone powder that is in demand in the pet food and supplement market.

**SFE Laboratories Inc.:**

\$248,520 to design a multiplex diagnostic kit for the simultaneous detection of four major pathogenic bacteria relevant to different food products.

**The Farm House Natural Cheeses:**

\$10,000 to finalize and implement the packaging design and labeling for a new cheese product.

**University of British Columbia:**

\$10,000 to study the effects of the pre-pubertal growth rate on puberty and estrus behaviour of Holstein heifers.

**University of Fraser Valley:**

\$221,520 to test several innovative greenhouse enhancement prototypes designed to increase yield potential and urban application while reducing capital and cultivation costs of traditional greenhouses.

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