



Investment
Agriculture
Foundation
of British Columbia



HIGHLIGHTING IAF's role in program delivery partnerships with government and project support for industry

FIRST CONFERENCE HELD: BC FARM ANIMAL CARE

“Open your doors, you have nothing to hide!” thundered Temple Grandin to 150 rapt attendees at the first ever BC Farm Animal Care Conference on November 10, 2011.

Dr. Grandin's sentiments were echoed throughout the day by numerous other conference presenters committed to ethical practice, transparency and the coordination of industry efforts to confront animal care issues.

A recurring theme throughout the day was that better animal management practices and better returns in agri-businesses are not mutually exclusive. Minister Don McRae in particular emphasized the connection between sound animal management practices and commercial success, pointing out that “BC products are trusted for taste, quality, production practices and animal health, both domestically and internationally.”

Other presentation topics ranged from a history of industrialization and agricultural intensification, certified livestock transport, and Canada's codes of practice, culminating in Dr. Grandin's lecture on best animal management practices, industry and consumer education, and the need for regulatory clarity.

The conference is part of the larger BC Farm Animal Care Initiative funded by IAF. The five year project leads and coordinates the province's farm animal care activities in response to negative publicity created by activists and the mounting pressure against animal-based agriculture to amend practices on the farm. Through the initiative, BC livestock and poultry producers will have a more unified voice in proactively addressing the public's farm animal care concerns before they become serious issues.

“The BC Farm Animal Care Initiative,” pork processor Bonnie Windsor noted, “has provided us with credibility and given us a social license. It has and will continue to be a vehicle for us, providing us with support and fostering awareness for consumers and producers alike.”

In addition to the conference, a number of other accomplishments have been achieved under the initiative, such as the production of informational rack cards, the launch of the BC Farm Animal “Care Line” and collaboration with the BC SPCA to respond to reports of farm animal abuse.

The potential that the initiative offers was aptly expressed in Minister McRae's speech when he emphasized, “A high standard of animal care can benefit everyone.” The BC Farm Animal Care Conference represented an important milestone towards achieving this collective good in BC.

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Funding for the BC Farm Animal Care Initiative is provided by the Foundation through former federal adaptation programming. (50007)

The Investment Agriculture Foundation was established in 1996. We are an industry-led, not-for-profit organization.

OUR MISSION IS TO ASSIST BRITISH COLUMBIA'S PRODUCERS, PROCESSORS, AGRI-BUSINESSES AND RURAL COMMUNITIES TO ADAPT, DIVERSIFY AND GROW.

Funding is available to help the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia to seize new opportunities and deal with emerging issues.

Information about our mandate, vision, core values and available funding can be found in the About Us section of our website.

www.iafbc.ca

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

As we reflect on one of the Investment Agriculture Foundation’s major goals – “helping the agri-food industry prepare for tomorrow’s possibilities” – we can honestly say that we are pleased with the progress we are making in laying the foundation for a more innovative and resilient sector.

As an industry-led organization, we rely heavily on the spirited collaboration of our directors and staff, all of whom are active in advancing the needs and interests of the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia.

2011 provided many noteworthy examples of this collaborative spirit:

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An external evaluation of the Foundation’s Local Government Agriculture Area Planning Program demonstrated that the planning process itself positively influences the level of awareness and opinions of agriculture within a region. In 2011, the Foundation approved two new projects under this program, bringing the total number supported by the Foundation to 30.

.....
We launched our first webinar. “From Ideas to Impacts” was created to take prospective clients through the steps involved in putting together a funding application for consideration by the Foundation.

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The Foundation expanded its program administration portfolio by working with the provincial government to help administer the Ranching Task Force Funding Initiative.¹

.....
In partnership with the federal and provincial governments, the Foundation was pleased to be asked to deliver the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program,² in support of projects leading to innovations that will enhance the agriculture, food and agri-product sector’s profitability and competitiveness. Close to 70 applications were received.

.....
The Foundation played host to the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Councils’ annual meeting and was a key partner in the Canadian Farm Writers Federation’s tour of BC, a component of its annual conference held in conjunction with the International Federation of Agricultural Journalists.

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Dr. David Sparling was invited to lead the Foundation’s board and industry partners in a discussion on agri-innovation. The workshop looked at how agri-food innovation is changing and the implications for BC agriculture and food. The group also looked at and discussed strategies for supporting agri-food innovation.

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After a full year of promotion, the Emerging Sectors Initiative recorded more than 200 inquiries, half of which arose from clients approaching the Foundation for the first time. Outreach activities, to explore potential collaborations and project funding, included 60 groups.

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The Foundation’s BC Value Chain Initiative came to the end of its second and final year. Eight new value chains were initiated with the Foundation’s assistance and five other groups are actively pursuing the creation of value chains. This board-led initiative provided direct exposure to approximately 1,000 producers, processors and others in the agri-food supply chain.

2011 also saw a number of changes to the Foundation. We said good-bye to director Don Claridge and welcome to Robert Dawson. We also had a number of staff changes, with Jamai Schile and Andrea McGavin leaving to pursue graduate school studies, Bill Henderson retiring and Emily MacNair departing to take on a continuing role as coordinator of the Climate Action Initiative. We extend our appreciation and thanks to each of them.

IAF does make a difference. Industry is being changed with our support. As a board, we are entrusted with the privilege of stewarding the investments that the federal and provincial governments make in adaptation and innovation programming. It is a responsibility we take very seriously. We are keen to build on our good reputation and assist whenever possible with the delivery of new programs that are intended to enable the agriculture and agri-food industry adapt, diversify and grow.

And finally, after six years as a director with IAF and the last three as chair, this is my final official message. In trying to find a way to thank the many people that I have met and worked with during this period, the exact words and sentiments are hard to express. Nor would I be able to list them all or describe the impression that they have made upon me. The Foundation is a great organization to have been involved with and I would encourage anyone who might doubt this, to take a closer look. To all of the directors that I have had the honour of spending time with, and as importantly, to the staff who have always been there to support the agriculture and agri-food industry in BC, I will leave you with this reflection. Your professionalism, skill set and dedication to the needs of the industry in British Columbia, client service and program management are unparalleled in my experience and very worthy of the gratitude that is seldom given to you. Thank you.

On behalf of the directors,

Stuart Wilson
Chair

Peter Donkers
Executive Director

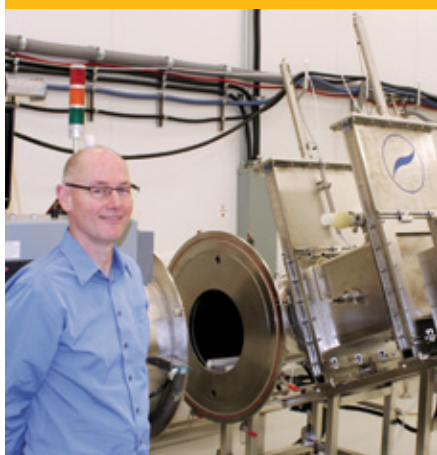


¹ The Canada-BC Ranching Task Force Initiative is funded through the Canada-BC AgriFlexibility Agreement.
² The Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program is funded through Growing Forward, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR INNOVATION

in Agriculture and Agri-Food

The 2011/2012 recipient of the Foundation's award for innovation was Dr. Timothy Durance, co-CEO, founder and chairman of EnWave Corporation. Dr. Durance was recognized for leading the innovation and advancement of commercial-scale food dehydration technology, known as *nutraREV* (Radiant Energy Vacuum).



Dr. Durance has been honing *nutraREV* technology for more than a decade. It is the application of microwave energy in a low-pressure or vacuum environment, which reduces energy usage and increases productivity. It is currently used in the food industry to dry fruits, vegetables and other products more quickly and less expensively than the conventional methods

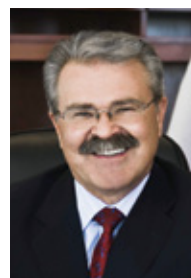
of freeze drying and air drying, with better flavour, colour, texture and more nutrients.

nutraREV promises to make a significant impact in the BC agri-food sector, allowing producers of raw commodities to also supply value-added dry products. It has already been used to dehydrate BC blueberries for sale throughout the world, and is currently being developed for specific commercial applications for several global companies.

"It's very gratifying to be recognized in BC, where I've spent nearly my entire career, and especially the last decade of it focused on developing this technology," says Dr. Durance. "BC is an excellent location for agricultural innovators, given the diversity of the agri-food industry. *nutraREV* has the potential to benefit all agri-food sectors by providing producers with an economical, high quality method to diversify their operations."

Dr. Durance was formerly a professor at the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Land and Food Systems, where he originally developed the technology.

MINISTER'S MESSAGES



Message from Minister Ritz

British Columbia's farmers and agriculture and food sector are well served by programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF). Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing efforts. Your hard work and dedication translate into a dynamic sector that is an important part of this country's economic strength.

The last year has definitely been a busy one. The Government of Canada has provided \$730,000 for 23 projects through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program. In addition to delivering these investments, the IAF is also involved in the delivery of the \$10 million Canada-British Columbia Agriculture Flexibility agreement and the federal-provincial Growing Forward program. Your attention to innovative approaches to research, food safety and environmental issues serves the agriculture sector well.

Helping our farmers make a living from the marketplace is a priority for the Government of Canada. By working together we can continue to make sure BC's agriculture industry remains innovative, competitive, and has the tools it needs to prosper in the future.

Wishing you a productive and prosperous year ahead.

Gerry Ritz, PC, MP
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board



Message from Minister McRae

On behalf of the Government of British Columbia, I would like to thank the Investment Agriculture Foundation for its leadership that ensures agriculture in BC adapts, diversifies and grows for tomorrow. Your organization leads the way for future generations of farmers across BC and Canada. IAF's projects help to support BC's agri-food sector, which generates

\$10.5 billion for the provincial economy and supports more than 61,000 jobs.

I am pleased that our partnership with the IAF encourages strategic investment in unique, home-grown projects that benefit BC's farming sectors. This includes the \$1.5 million Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program, an initiative that helps farm businesses, organizations, and individuals adopt exciting new technologies. I am also appreciative of the IAF's administration of the Canada-BC Ranching Task Force and Tree Fruit funding initiatives. The combined provincial-federal funding of \$5 million for each sector, through the AgriFlexibility initiative, is used to help the ranching sector invest in market development opportunities and research, and the fruit sector to develop new technology infrastructure.

I am confident 2012 will be another successful year for the IAF and the board of directors. The Ministry of Agriculture enjoys working with the IAF and we value the many contributions your organization makes to the sustainability of agriculture in communities across the province.

Don McRae
Minister of Agriculture



CROPS & VALUE ADDED

The diversity of British Columbia’s landscape and soils is reflected in the diversity of large and small farms producing an astonishing range of crops. Whether organic or conventional, fresh or processed, consumed close to home or exported, BC producers and processors should be proud of the quality products they grow.

The Foundation delivers a number of funding programs designed to help all horticultural sectors be healthy and vibrant. In 2011, 29 crop-related projects were approved for \$1,678,650. In addition to these new projects, the cranberry, greenhouse and tree fruit sectors continued to receive funding for priority projects under strategic initiatives established in prior years.

In 2010, the federal and provincial government jointly announced \$5 million in AgriFlexibility funding to support BC’s tree fruit industry in developing new marketing opportunities and infrastructure and further improving orchard pest management. The Foundation disbursed \$158,108 to the tree fruit industry in 2011 in support of their AgriFlexibility projects.



Approved Crop Projects Primary Agriculture

FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
A0647 ES	Split Rock Sekw'e'l'was Wild Plant Nursery	Cayoose Creek St'at'imc	\$62,912	AFFF
A0659	Characterization, Detection & Vector Identification of Blueberry Premature Fruit Drop & Blueberry Mosaic Virus	BC Blueberry Council	\$12,000	CAAP
A0664	Reducing Bitter Pit in Apples with Foliar Applications of Apogee	Okanagan Tree Fruit Co-operative Ltd.	\$38,500	CAAP
A0666	Treatment of Bartlett Pears with 1-MCP	Okanagan Tree Fruit Co-operative Ltd.	\$39,735	CAAP
A0678.1	Cranberry Productivity Enhancement: Part 1 of 2	BC Cranberry Marketing Commission	\$218,500	CAAP
A0678.2	–	–	–	–2
INN018	Improved Semiochemical Application Technology for Mating Disruption of BC Orchard Pests	semiosBIO Technologies Inc.	\$140,000	CBCAIP
INN039	Developing Molecular Tools, Production Technologies & Knowledge Dissemination to Promote Development of Microbial Biopesticides & Parasitoids for BC Agriculture	BC Cranberry Marketing Commission	\$165,000	CBCAIP
INN043	–	–	–	–2
INN044	–	–	–	–2
SP167	Strategic Plan for BC Grain Producers	BC Grain Producers' Association	\$3,750	Safety Net
SP170	Using Social Media to Increase Sales of Fresh Strawberries in BC	Fraser Valley Strawberry Growers' Association	\$7,750	Safety Net
SP174	Organic & Conventional Tools for Post-Harvest Control of Silver Scurf: Effect of Application	BC Potato & Vegetable Growers' Association	\$2,000	CAAP
SP178	Beneficial Management Practices in Commercial Field Vegetables & Berries in British Columbia: Modernizing Access for the BC Field Vegetable & Berry Industry	Lower Mainland Horticulture Improvement Association	\$9,750	Safety Net
W0154 QP6541	Simple Day-neutral Strawberry Yield Production Method Development	Research & Development Institute for the Agri-Environment	\$5,000	CAAP
W0156 ON0130	Increasing Efficacy & Effectiveness of Application of Disinfectants against Persistent Viruses of Greenhouse Vegetables under Commercial Conditions	Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers	\$20,250	CAAP
W0158 ON0153	Enhancing Floriculture Pest Management Practices to Incorporate Risk Reduction & Sustainable Practices & to Reduce Biosecurity Threats to the Industry	Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc.	\$70,946	CAAP
W0164 QP6582	Efficiency Testing for New Beauveria bassiana-based Ornamental Plant Biological Control Product	Quebec Institute for the Development of Ornamental Horticulture & Anatis Bioprotection	\$10,000	CAAP
W0165 ON0193	Stabilizing Access to Propagation Material for the Bulb Flower Sector: Strategy Development for a Sustainable Sector	Flowers Canada (Ontario) Inc.	\$38,250	CAAP

Approved Crop Projects Value Added/Processing

FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
A0677 ES	Business Model Development: Innovative, Turn-Key, Value-Added Aboriginal Agricultural Opportunity	Wachiay Friendship Centre	\$91,895	AFFF
AF002 – I0502	WIGA 2011 Viticulture & Enology Conference	Wine Islands Growers' Association	\$2,475	AFFF
INN011	Fermentation Monitoring	Quails' Gate Vineyards, Ltd.	\$25,000	CBCAIP
INN013	–	–	–	–4
INN015	Nitrogen Generation for Creation of Controlled Atmosphere in Winery Processing to Reduce Use of Sulphur Dioxide in Wine Production & Increase Quality & Shelf-Life	Summerhill Estate Winery Co.	\$81,069	CBCAIP
INN058	–	–	–	–2,4
SP176	Exploring the Viability of Hard Cider as a Value-added product for Okanagan	Dobernigg Orchards	\$5,969	CAAP
W0152 ES	Developing High-value, High-quality Fractionation Processes for Surplus Berries	North American BioExtracts	\$75,484	CAAP1
W0160 ES SK5104	Biofume's Natural Active Packaging	Biofume Technologies Inc.	\$9,975	CAAP
W0162 ES MB0406	Investigation of Material Properties & Performance of Natural Fibre Derived Biocomposites in an Automotive Application	Composites Innovation Centre Manitoba Inc. (CIC)	\$28,852	CAAP

[1] Project approved in 2010; [2] Legal agreement pending; [3] Project approved but later withdrawn or cancelled by applicant; [4] Flagged for funding announcement. ✦ See Funding Program legend on p.11



OUT WITH THE OLD AND IN WITH THE NEW

Producers in the Peace River Region face a uniquely difficult set of growing conditions. “The Peace is marked by weather extremes,” explains Clair Langlois, research manager of the BC Grain Producers Association. “One year farmers face floods, the next year drought. Seasons are often shorter than expected, soil can be so cold it endangers seedlings, and unpredictable moisture levels frequently damage crops.”

The key is finding crop varieties that can survive extreme geographic and climatic variations. “We need crops tailored to our region,” Langlois emphasizes. With help from IAF, grain producers have been investigating precisely which crops are up to the challenge, experimenting both with existing and new varieties of cereals, pulse and flax crops to determine which can be grown successfully. Research results will enable grain, oilseed and pulse producers to make the best possible cropping decisions leading to better quality crops and increased profitability and sustainability of agriculture in the region.

Langlois is particularly optimistic about the potential flax has shown in the Peace Region. “Flax has a real future here,” Langlois predicts. “Flax gives producers high value per bushel, requires less fertilizer and is good for crop rotation.”

In addition to research focused on producing nutritious food crops, the group has also been investigating which crops are best suited within the region for ethanol production, as interest in ethanol feedstock as an alternative use for agricultural production is increasing. The research has demonstrated that triticale, a hybrid of wheat and rye, has promise.

Additional sub-projects being researched include a flax breeding and commercialization study, performance testing to identify higher yielding malt barleys and wheat varieties, and field pea variety trials for short seasons.

The best part of this five-year applied research project, according to Langlois, is how broadly applicable variety testing results will be. “What we find here is going to help producers beyond the Peace in other northern prairie regions,” he anticipates. “This is a project which has tremendous potential in other areas.”

Funding: up to \$1,324,456 is being provided through former federal adaptation funding. (A0529)



TODD MAY ON THE BC CRANBERRY STRATEGIC INITIATIVE

“We’ve just come off completing a five-year strategic plan which will be ending here in 2011. This has really helped us to move forward. We were able to establish an industry resource that encompasses all aspects of the industry. We worked with a very modest budget from the growers prior to developing a strategic plan and the IAF funding being available. It’s allowed us to do many things that we wouldn’t even have dreamed of had we not had this opportunity... production research, health benefit research and market access. Funding has allowed us to establish some real guidelines and protocols for production research, for example, irrigation studies and research on pests such as girdlers. Having established an infrastructure at the commission where we can work on research projects, find results and effectively communicate that to our industry, we’re now excited to move forward and develop a research farm.”

Todd May
Maybog Farms, Richmond, BC
Commissioner, BC Cranberry Marketing Commission

Funding: up to \$574,667 through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets Framework. (S0002)



LIVESTOCK & POULTRY +VALUE ADDED

ALLEN JAMES ON THE BC POULTRY BIOSECURITY INITIATIVE

“The poultry biosecurity program is an outcome of the avian influenza outbreak of 2004. The federal and provincial governments each contributed a million and a half dollars toward a fund for examining biosecurity and assisting farmers to upgrade their biosecurity on farms. As a result, biosecurity has been improved on many farms and we’ve assisted with the capital expenses. With improved biosecurity, we’re going to cut down the opportunities for carrying the virus inside what we now call the controlled and the restricted access zones. The awareness of the need to improve biosecurity is probably as great a factor in the whole project as anything. Through the process of working with one or two other small outbreaks afterwards, there was a better level of cooperation between the parties concerned, including the community, including the industry, including the federal and provincial governments.”

Allen James
Sweetbriar Poultry Farm, Chilliwack, BC
Chair, BC Poultry Biosecurity Initiative,
Industry Advisory Management Committee

Funding for the BC Poultry Biosecurity Initiative is provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

British Columbia’s ranchers, farmers and beekeepers raise livestock and poultry for meat and an array of animal products from eggs and milk to honey. In turn, processors turn this into quality meat products, delectable cheeses and nutritious animal feed.



These sectors also benefit from the wide range of funding programs which the Foundation delivers. In 2011, 41 new projects were approved for funding of \$2,241,799. In addition, the strategic initiative for farm animal care continues to make headway. See the cover story on page 1.

Two years ago, the Foundation provided nearly \$1.2 million in provincial funding to the BC Hog Marketing Commission to assist with the transition from commodity production to premium specialty production with the twin aims of expanding the market for BC pork and increasing returns to producers. Substantial progress has been made and Johnston Packers of Chilliwack, which used to produce 80% commodity pork products, now produces 60% specialty products with its sights set on reaching 100%.

The provincial Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative continues to help the meat industry dispose of specified risk material (SRM) and other abattoir waste and help communities prepare for the possibility of a future mass carcass disposal event. In 2011, 16 new projects were approved for a total of \$338,770.

In the area of poultry biosecurity, implementation of the avian influenza strategic plan continues. The BC poultry industry is pursuing the development of a captive insurance model which would be registered in BC, managed by the industry and designed to share risk should another major avian influenza disease event occur. Following the recent completion of an on-farm biosecurity risk and mitigation consultation program for the non-regulated commercial poultry sector, attention has now turned to establishing and launching a biosecurity program for these producers.

In 2010, the federal and provincial government announced \$5 million in AgriFlexibility funding to help BC’s beef industry stay competitive and develop new marketing strategies. The money is used to fund some activities recommended by BC’s Ranching Task Force. In 2011, the management committee approved seven projects totalling more than \$1.2 million and the Foundation was pleased to enter into agreements with the BC Cattlemen’s Association, Thompson Rivers University and the College of New Caledonia.

Approved Livestock Projects Primary Agriculture					
File No.	Project Title	Project Lead	IAF's Share	Funding Program *	
A0646 ES	Duncan Stock Assessment Yard & Assessment Training	BC Bee Breeders' Association	\$11,500	CAAP	
A0652 ES	Sto:lo Broiler Pilot Feasibility Study	Fraser Basin Council	\$24,000	–	3
A0662 ES	Chilcotin Apiculture Demonstration Project	Xeni Gwet'in First Nations Government	\$22,500	AFFF	
A0679	–	–	–	–	2
AIF015	Biosecurity Program for Non-Supply Managed Commercial Poultry in BC	Serecon Management Consulting Inc.	\$36,638	PIB/ERP	
AIP007	BC Poultry Industry Risk Based Insurance Product for Avian Influenza	Agri-Saki Consulting Incorporated	\$55,360	PIB/ERP	
AIP008	BC Poultry Industry Risk Based Insurance Product for Avian Influenza	Serecon Management Consulting Inc.	\$11,659	PIB/ERP	
AIP009	Risk Based Insurance Product for Avian Influenza: Phase 2	Serecon Management Consulting Inc.	\$230,000	PIB/ERP	
AIP010	Poultry Risk Mitigation Steering Committee Secretariat Services	ARDCorp Inc.	\$36,814	PIB/ERP	
LWTI 040C	Peace River Mass Carcass Disposal Phase II Pilot Project: Service Agreement C	Peace River Regional District	\$9,175	LWTI	
LWTI 054	Cariboo Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	Cariboo Regional District	\$9,302	LWTI	
LWTI 056	FADES Planning Phase VI Smart Risk Control Inc.	Fraser-Fort George Regional District	\$95,907	LWTI	
LWTI 058	Maple Ridge Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	District of Maple Ridge	\$8,518	LWTI	
LWTI 060	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	\$5,100	LWTI	
LWTI 061	Comox Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	Comox Valley Regional District	\$7,401	LWTI	
LWTI 062	Develop the Township of Langley's Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Emergency Disposal Plan	Township of Langley	\$10,604	LWTI	
LWTI 063	Develop the Regional District of East Kootenay's Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan	Regional District of East Kootenay	\$12,024	LWTI	
LWTI 064	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	\$7,102	LWTI	
LWTI 065	GIS Study to Locate Emergency Composting Sites in the Fraser Valley Regional District	Fraser Valley Regional District	\$8,500	LWTI	
LWTI 066	District of Kent Agassiz Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	District of Kent	\$7,000	LWTI	
LWTI 070	CFIA Permitting of Columbia Shuswap Regional District – Salmon Arm Landfill for SRM	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	\$9,220	LWTI	
LWTI 071	GIS Study to Determine Possible Sites for Mass Livestock Carcass Disposal in the Regional District of Nanaimo	Regional District of Nanaimo	\$17,000	LWTI	
LWTI 072	GIS Study to Determine Possible Sites for Emergency Mass Livestock Carcass Disposal in the Regional District of North Okanagan	District of Coldstream	\$21,000	LWTI	
LWTI 073	Develop the Thompson-Nicola Regional District's Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan	Thompson-Nicola Regional District	\$9,912	LWTI	
RTF001	Nechako Valley Livestock Evaluation Course	College of New Caledonia	\$7,314	CBCRTFFI	
RTF004	Development of a Humane Vibration Livestock Prod	Thompson Rivers University	\$28,600	CBCRTFFI	
RTF005	Use of Enzyme Additives to Improve Nutritive Value of Preserved Forages for Beef Cattle	Thompson Rivers University	\$180,000	CBCRTFFI	
W0148 ON0079	Study of a System to Score Newborn Calf Vitality	Ontario Veal Association	\$13,734	CAAP	
W0153 ES QP6527	Dairy Goat Production Plan Development	Société des éleveurs de chèvres laitières de race du Québec & Valacta	\$16,900	CAAP	
W0155 AB1069	Individual & Additive Value of Conventional & Non-Conventional Technologies in Commercial Beef Feedlot Production	Feedlot Health Management Service, Ltd.	\$57,641	CAAP	
W0157 QP6557	The Effect of Biosecurity Practices on Bacteria Populations in Poultry Barns Before & After Partial Bird Depopulation	Les éleveurs de volailles du Québec	\$10,000	CAAP	
W0159 AB1116	Mentorship Program Customized for Rural Veterinarians	Western Canadian Association of Bovine Practitioners	\$15,428	CAAP	
W0166 MB0369	Use of Residual Feed Intake to Select Breeding Stock in Forage-Based Beef Cattle Production Systems	Manitoba Cattle Producers Association	\$18,700	CAAP	
W0167 MB0411	Manitoba Dairy Herd Health Screening Project	Dairy Farmers of Manitoba	\$14,853	CAAP	
Approved Livestock Projects Value Added/Processing					
File No.	Project Title	Project Lead	IAF's Share	Funding Program *	
INN048	Develop the Technology & Expertise to Produce a Low Lactose MPC 85	Vitalus Nutrition Inc.	\$25,000	CBCAIP	
INN055	Developing a New Technology & Process for Pork Processing	Donald's Fine Foods (Britco Pork)	\$49,500	CBCAIP	
LWTI 059	Technical Support & OMRR Compliance Training for BC Slaughter Waste Composting Facility Operators	BC Association of Abattoirs	\$67,216	LWTI	
RTF002	Consumer Education & Research Program	BC Cattlemen's Association	\$532,758	CBCRTFFI	
RTF003	BCCA Value Chain Market Analysis & Strategy Development	BC Cattlemen's Association	\$199,925	CBCRTFFI	
RTF006	Strategic Economic Assessing of the BC Beef Cattle Value Chain	BC Cattlemen's Association	\$153,990	CBCRTFFI	
RTF007	–	–	–	–	2
[1] Project approved in 2010; [2] Legal agreement pending; [3] Project approved but later withdrawn or cancelled by applicant; ☆ See Funding Program legend on p.11					

IT PAYS TO BE PREPARED

Heavy snow collapses a barn roof killing a herd of dairy cows. Avian influenza hits the Fraser Valley poultry industry. A transport truck carrying a load of live farm animals slides off an icy road and overturns. Fire. Flood.

No, it’s not a horror movie script. These are actual events involving livestock and poultry that took place right here in BC. They aren’t things most people want to think about, but they happen.

While a reportable disease outbreak invokes measures at provincial and federal levels, most of these types of disasters are handled locally. Smaller events can usually be managed fairly easily. But what if the volume of livestock remains is just too great or the event stretches over an extended period? That’s where the Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative comes to the rescue.

Local governments can access funding to create a plan for emergency disposal of livestock carcasses, test that the plan really works in a simulated “tabletop” exercise, identify any gaps that need to be fixed, conduct a GIS study to find suitable, dedicated disposal sites and pursue the necessary permits.

Thirty-nine communities have already created an emergency plan or have one in the works (covering 92% of all BC livestock by weight). Eighteen have moved on to conduct the tabletop exercise (50%) and 12 are now in the process of conducting GIS studies.

“Carcass disposal is our Achilles’ heal,” says Rick Van Kleeck, who manages the initiative on behalf of the Foundation. “I’d like to see more communities prepared to handle an event and take us up on our offer of funding to find suitable sites and get them permitted. They may never need to use them, but if they do, they won’t have to scramble.”

Yes, it’s true. Rick is a former Boy Scout who still takes their “always prepared” motto to heart. He estimates there is enough money available to get 14 communities to the permitting stage. With the right tools in place, a disaster can be dealt with right away and everything can get back to normal as quickly as possible.

The District of Kent is one community that is currently working through the process, having just wrapped up their tabletop exercise. But they also had a real chance to put their plan into action. After a fire raged through a dairy barn in September 2010, killing more than 130 cows, they opened up their newly minted emergency plan.

“This was the first incidence of this magnitude for us, and the plan was a fantastic resource,” says Gerald Basten, Kent’s deputy emergency program coordinator and deputy fire chief. “The next morning we started talking about what to do with the carcasses. The plan pointed us in the right direction.”

When they referred to their plan, they knew exactly who to call. Gerald adds: “If you have a plan, you’re ten steps ahead of the game.” As you may have already suspected, he is another former Boy Scout.

The Foundation delivers the federal-provincial Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative on behalf of the provincial government.



PAN AGRICULTURE

Not all agricultural initiatives and projects fit neatly into “plant” or “animal” categories. Some cross multiple commodity groups, while others are designed to broadly assist the entire agriculture and processing sectors. In 2011, nine new projects were approved for a total of \$249,427.

The Foundation often funds projects led by local governments where the intent is to make agriculture more viable or address urban/rural interface issues. Providing new agricultural experiences for young adults is another Foundation priority that crosses multiple sectors.

Several broadly-based strategic initiatives continued through 2011, including ones aimed at helping farmers markets, developing Agroforestry practices, supporting the organics and processing sectors, encouraging environmental practices, and revitalizing agriculture on Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands.

Approved Pan Agriculture Projects

FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *	
A0669	BC Agriculture Sector Labour Communication Strategy: Phase I	BC Agriculture Council	\$36,100	2010	
A0672	–	–	–	–	2
AF002 - I0495	Feasibility of a Governance Model for a Not-for-Profit Farmers' Markets Society	Comox Valley Farmers' Markets Association	\$7,000	AFFF	
AF002 - I0497	Islands Agriculture Show Pilot Project	Cowichan Valley Regional District	\$25,175	AFFF	
AF002 - I0499	Farmer 2 Farmer Exchange Project	Capital Region Food & Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable	\$5,000	AFFF	
AF002 - I0503	Victoria Public Market Needs Assessment & Governance	Victoria Downtown Public Market Society	\$10,000	AFFF	
AF018 11027	Agricultural Packaging Stewardship	BC Agriculture & Research Development Corp.	\$90,000	AFFF	
SP168 ES	Marketing & Communications Plan	Groundbreakers Collective	\$1,470	AFFF	
W0163 ES ON0126	Testing Bee Vectoring Technology for Delivering Fungal Agents in Crops to Increase the Health, Yield & Quality of the Seed & Fruit	Seeds of Diversity Canada	\$33,750	CAAP	

[1] Project approved in 2010; [2] Legal agreement pending; [3] Project approved but later withdrawn or cancelled by applicant; * See Funding Program legend on p.11



By the end of its third full year of operations, 16 new projects had been approved under ARDCorp’s Agriculture Environment and Wildlife Fund bringing the total to 70. Thirty-two projects have been completed.

There was a flurry of project activity in the final year of the Islands Agri-Food Initiative, with five new projects approved, including the first Islands Agriculture Show to be held in the Cowichan Valley in February 2012. Three projects were successfully completed, ranging from the development of a governance model for the Comox Valley Farmers’ Market to an informational exchange for island farmers held in March on the Saanich peninsula.



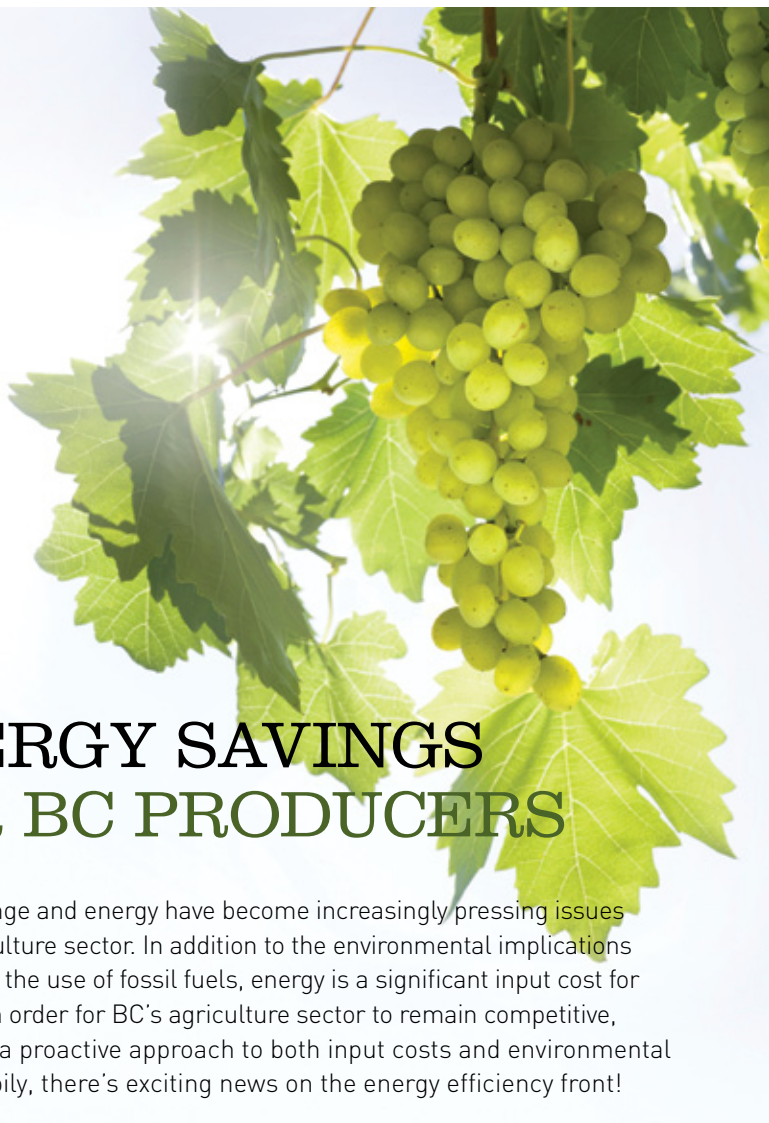
In the second year of the Organic Sector Development Program strategic initiative – delivered by the Certified Organic Associations of BC – six new projects were approved for funding bringing the total projects to date to 19. Most projects involve applied research on problems specific to organic vegetable production. Others have looked at organic poultry production and linking farm apprentices with established mentors in an effort to encourage more young organic farmers. Four projects were completed in 2011.

In the zone where forestry and agriculture meet, the second phase of the Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative got its operational start in 2011. The first three projects were approved for funding, including a detailed market analysis for a Canadian hawthorn sales channel. The initiative is delivered by the Federation of BC Woodlot Associations.

Applications continue to be accepted for projects that align with the objectives identified in the organics sector and agroforestry strategic plans. As these initiatives are funded under the federal Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program, all projects must be completed by December 31, 2013.

CLIMATE ACTION INITIATIVE

When the BC Agriculture Climate Change Action Plan was released in 2010, the climate action initiative transitioned to the role of implementing projects to address specific elements of the action plan. In 2011, the second phase of the BC Farm Energy Assessment pilot was completed and farm energy assessments are now available through the Canada-BC Beneficial Management Practices program delivered by ARDCorp. This is an important first step toward assisting farms to improve their energy efficiency and a new energy advisor will provide additional technical support. An assessment of the risks and opportunities associated with climate change adaptation is expected to wrap up early in the new year and background research work has been completed for a new project that will evaluate the status of agri-food product carbon footprinting and labelling.



ENERGY SAVINGS FOR BC PRODUCERS

Climate change and energy have become increasingly pressing issues for the agriculture sector. In addition to the environmental implications presented by the use of fossil fuels, energy is a significant input cost for producers. In order for BC’s agriculture sector to remain competitive, it must take a proactive approach to both input costs and environmental issues. Happily, there’s exciting news on the energy efficiency front!

Phase two of the BC Farm Energy Assessment Pilot finished in August 2011, with results that can potentially benefit agricultural producers across the province. During this eight-month project, 20 agricultural operations across BC were invited to participate in the project and pave the way for other producers to implement energy efficiency measures in the future.

When the energy assessment tool was developed during the first phase, data on key energy efficiency opportunities was collected for a wide variety of commodities. The energy consumption on 27 BC farms was measured, and assessments were completed to identify different ways these farms could become more energy efficient.

Led by the BC Agriculture Council’s BC Agriculture and Food Climate Action Initiative and funded by the Foundation, this phase focused on the expansion of the assessment tool to a broader range of farm types such as grain, tree fruit, nurseries, grapes and vineyards.



Based on participants’ interest in exploring clean energy technology options for their farms as identified in the first phase, this phase also facilitated high level evaluations of alternatives and provided producers with information on potential options for further exploration.

According to Kamloops dairy farmer Laura Hunter, the assessment was instrumental in guiding a barn renovation on Blackwell Dairy Farms. The assessment introduced Hunter to a variety of energy saving upgrades she could implement to save on heating and lighting and improve ventilation.

“Updating an older facility can be an extremely daunting process for a farmer,”explains Hunter. “The assessment was helpful in breaking down which options are best for a specific operation and educating participants on the incentives available to producers interested in energy efficiency measures.”

The Farm Energy Assessment tool is now available to producers through the Canada-BC Environmental Farm Plan and Best Management Practices (BMPs) programs, which are currently delivered by ARDCorp.

By capturing and communicating farm energy issues and opportunities and encouraging clean energy technologies, the Farm Energy Assessment tool is helping BC agriculture become more competitive and sustainable by enabling individual producers to save money and incorporate environmentally responsible practices in their businesses.

Funding: \$34,629 provided through the federal Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program and \$23,300 provided through IAF’s Sustaining Fund. (A0632)



GREG NORTON ON THE AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE FUND

“I don’t think there’s been a commodity or a region in this province that hasn’t benefited somehow from a project that’s been supported by AEWf. We’ve provided seed money and watched it grow into partnerships and long-term solutions. All these projects have to mean something on the farm. Wildlife damage is huge. The BC Wildlife Federation’s outdoor passport program is about building a level of trust between hunters and landowners. In the Fraser Valley, bait crops are used to lure waterfowl away from commercial crops and Kestrel falcons are being looked at to control starlings in berry crops. In the Peace, the 3D fencing project was simple and very effective at reducing damage [to stored or stocked crops]. Pesticide reduction is another hot topic, especially in the Okanagan orchard and vineyard industries. Here in the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen, we have way more clear days now because of a project to switch from burning orchard waste to chipping it. Now we’re looking into recycling packaging waste in the nursery industry. It’s a big issue.”

Greg Norton
Okanagan Harvest, Oliver, BC
Chair, BC Agricultural Research & Development Corp.’s
Agricultural Environment Initiatives

Funding: up to \$2.5 million through the federal-provincial Agri-Food Futures Fund. (AF018)

BOARD INITIATIVES

High priority issues of a cross-sectoral or pan-agricultural nature do not always have an industry champion with the necessary resources to lead on a strategic initiative or project. In this case, the Foundation is sometimes asked to partner with industry or assume the lead on addressing issues of high priority. In 2011, these included value chain development and support for the Climate Action Initiative.

With the backing of industry, the board is also empowered to develop specialized programs to address specific priorities which fall within the Foundation’s mandate and funding principles. Examples of this type of activity include the ongoing Small Projects and Agricultural Area Planning programs and the Emerging Sectors Initiative.



Completed Crop Projects Primary Agriculture

FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
A0557	Blueberry Disease Management	BC Blueberry Council	\$91,068	ACAAF
A0563	Red Raspberries & Human Health	BC Raspberry Industry Development Council	\$21,280	ACAAF
A0573	Eco-Friendly Crop Rotations	Delta Farmers' Institute	\$120,000	ACAAF
A0588	Winter Harvest of Vegetables in the Creston Valley	College of the Rockies	\$55,000	Safety Net
AF002 - I0502	WIGA 2011 Viticulture & Enology Conference	Wine Islands Growers' Association	\$2,475	AFFF
AF004 -057	Hawthorn Agro-forestry Trials	West Kootenay Herb Growers' Cooperative	\$61,775	AFFF
SP163	Investigating New Harvest Technology for Use in the British Columbia Raspberry Industry	BC Raspberry Industry Development Council	\$7,353	CAAP
SP167	Strategic Plan for BC Grain Producers	BC Grain Producers' Association	\$3,750	Safety Net
W0083	Efficacy of Lysozyme in Controlling the Growth of Greenhouse Plant Pathogens	Neova Technologies Inc.	\$210,750	ACAAF
W0119 ON0480	Vitis Certification: A Case for Domestic Certification of Grapevine for Ontario	Grape Growers of Ontario	\$32,387	ACAAF

Completed Crop Projects Value Added/Processing

FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
A0547	Planning & Building Support for the BC Wine & Culinary Centre	BC Wine Institute	\$92,812	2010
A0605	Market Development Assessment of Aseptic Processing of Raspberries	Abbotsford Growers Cooperative Union	\$18,075	CAAP
A0623	Application of Vacuum Microwave Dehydration on New Products for Commercial Production	Haida Gwaii Local Food Processing Cooperative	\$18,540	CAAP

Funding Program Legend

2010	2010 Industry Opportunities Fund (BC Ministry of Agriculture)
ACAAF	Advancing Canadian Agriculture & Agri-Food (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada), former federal adaptation program
AFFF	Agri-Food Futures Fund, a federal/provincial trust
AQUA	Aquaculture Innovation Fund (BC Ministry of Agriculture)
CAAP	Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada)
CBCAIP	Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture through the Growing Forward Initiative)
CBCRTFFI	Canada-BC Ranching Task Force Funding Initiative (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture through the Agricultural Flexibility Fund)
LWTI	Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture)
PIB/ERP	Poultry Industry Biosecurity/Emergency Response Program (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture)
Safety Net	former federal/provincial Safety Nets framework
Sustaining Fund	IAF Sustaining Fund, income earned on investments



BC Value Chain Initiative

The end of 2011 marked the completion of the BC Value Chain Initiative under the Foundation’s guidance. Launched in 2010, the initiative was introduced in response to the challenges faced by those competing in commodity agriculture on a “lowest price” basis. An agri-food value chain is a partnership between producers, processors and marketers created to respond quickly to consumer demands and take advantage of their willingness to pay premium prices, with all the risks and rewards shared among the value chain partners.

Throughout the year, the Foundation offered group sessions and coaching services free of charge to assist groups interested in getting started. Groups who have been helped under the initiative include cattle ranchers in the Cariboo and on Vancouver Island, sheep producers, First Nations’ farmers and processors, members of the SPCA Certified program, and vegetable growers and farmers in the Bella Coola Valley.

The sessions were designed to meet the needs of the group and were allowed to cover anything from basic orientation, organizational structure and governance to action planning and product testing.

Alyssa Bell Stoneman, supervisor of the SPCA Certified Food Labelling program, attended two different sessions with participating farmers. According to Stoneman, who continues to collaborate with farmers to develop their value chains, the sessions “enabled a diverse group of people to share ideas, successes and challenges as they work through the development of individual and group value chains.”

As a partner in the Canadian Value Chain Network, the Foundation also spent the past year working to raise awareness of the benefits of value chains, offer training and encourage value chain development. Workshops were also offered on product development and how to approach retailers.

Funding for the BC Value Chain Initiative was provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework. **(B0025)**

Small Projects Program

The Small Projects Program provides an expedited process for industry groups to access up to \$10,000 for projects valued at \$30,000 or less. Six new projects were approved in 2011.

A recent policy change was made to clarify funding for producer education events. These may be eligible if they deal with an urgent issue that requires immediate attention, such as a regulatory change or a pest or disease management issue, but recurring events are not. The demonstration of new practices may also qualify, as will small applied research projects and market research for a sector.

Funding can be provided through any of the programs the Foundation delivers and is based on eligibility, demonstrated need and industry support. With no set intake deadlines, applications can be submitted at any time, but clients are encouraged to apply at least 30 days before a project starts.

The Small Projects Program makes up to \$10,000 in funding available for eligible projects through the various programs delivered by the Foundation.

Completed Livestock Projects Primary Agriculture				
FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
A0574	Evaluation of Electric Space Charge System to Biological Particulate Matter in & outside Broiler Barns	BC Sustainable Poultry Farming Group	\$76,994	ACAAF
AIPO05	On-Farm Audit & Compliance Programme	BC Chicken Marketing Board	\$18,000	PIB/ERP
LWTI 029	UBCM Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Planning Program	Union of BC Municipalities	\$383,318	LWTI
LWTI 039	Feasibility Study for the Gasification of Poultry Litter & Animal Carcass Tissue	Ausenco Sandwell	\$215,793	LWTI
LWTI 040C	Peace River Mass Carcass Disposal Phase II Pilot Project: Service Agreement C	Peace River Regional District	\$9,175	LWTI
LWTI 049	Coldstream Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	District of Coldstream	\$5,482	LWTI
LWTI 050	Spallumcheen Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	District of Spallumcheen	\$5,482	LWTI
LWTI 051	Nanaimo Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	Regional District of Nanaimo	\$8,041	LWTI
LWTI 052	Regional District of Central Kootenay Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	Regional District of Central Kootenay	\$7,763	LWTI
LWTI 053	Chilliwack Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercise	City of Chilliwack	\$7,418	LWTI
LWTI 055	Compost Berm	Rainer Farms	\$2,720	LWTI
LWTI 063	Develop the Regional District of East Kootenay's Farmed Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Emergency Plan	Regional District of East Kootenay	\$10,924	LWTI
SI002	Phase I of the Namgis Land-Based Recirculating Salmon Aquaculture Pilot project	SOS Marine Conservation Foundation	\$25,000	AQUA
SP166	Inaugural Equine Education Conference	Horse Council of BC	\$8,864	Safety Net
W0125	Apis mellifera: Proteomics for Innate reSistance	University of British Columbia	\$96,682	ACAAF
W0136	Disposal of Spent Hens	BC Egg Marketing Board	\$30,000	CAAP

Completed Livestock Projects Value Added/Processing				
FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
LWTI 046	Non-SRM Slaughter Waste Composting Facility	Spa Hills Farm Ltd.	\$206,603	LWTI

Completed Pan Agriculture Projects				
FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
A0622	Educational Components of the 2010 National Outstanding Young Farmers Conference	Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program	\$21,305	Safety Net
A0627	Bella Coola Valley Foodshed Development Project	Bella Coola Valley Sustainable Agriculture Society	\$9,600	Safety Net
A0632	Phase II: BC Farm Energy Assessment Pilot Project	BC Agriculture Council	\$34,629 \$23,300	CAAP Sustaining Fund
AF002 - I0495	Feasibility of a Governance Model for a Not-for-Profit Farmers' Markets Society	Comox Valley Farmers' Markets Association	\$6,035	AFFF
AF002 - I0499	Farmer 2 Farmer Exchange Project	Capital Region Food & Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable	\$5,000	AFFF
AF014 - A119	Organizational Infrastructure Development for BC Agri-Food Innovation & Commercialization Hub	BC Food Processors' Association	\$117,291	AFFF
SP145	Pilot Project for the Small Farm Operators "Knowledge Network"	FARM Community Council	\$5,350	Safety Net
W0127	Biology & Management of Invasive Species Hoary Alyssum (Berteroa incanna)	University of British Columbia	\$32,100	ACAAF

Emerging Sectors Initiative

In 2010, the Foundation established the Emerging Sectors Initiative to work with groups and individuals attempting to expand the frontiers of agriculture into new areas. Interest has been high, with many clients approaching the Foundation for the first time. Ten new projects – ranging from apiculture and goats to small lot agriculture and bioproducts – were approved for \$303,754 in funding.

Partway through 2011, the Foundation started receiving applications for the new Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program and a good number of “emerging sectors” inquiries and projects were referred to that program. Whether through Agri-Innovation or other programs and initiatives, the Foundation will continue to support innovation and adaptation projects for emerging agricultural opportunities.

The Emerging Sector Initiative provides funding to eligible projects through the federal-provincial Agri-Food Futures Fund and other programs delivered by the Foundation.

Agricultural Area Planning Program

The Agricultural Area Planning Program provides funding to bring local governments and the agricultural community together to develop a local, shared vision for the future of agriculture and improve the viability of farming in municipalities and regional districts around British Columbia.

Since 1999, 30 projects aimed at creating or updating agricultural area plans have been approved for funding including two new ones in 2011.

The Alberni Valley, Campbell River, Central Kootenays, Central Saanich, Cowichan Valley, Maple Ridge, North Saanich and West Kelowna completed projects in 2011, bringing to 23 the number of plans completed with funding support through the Foundation. Agricultural strategies were completed for Abbotsford, Haida Gwaii, Denman Island and the Township of Langley.

New projects are funded through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework. (B0016)

ADVANCING AGRICULTURE IN WEST KELOWNA

Since West Kelowna was incorporated as BC’s newest municipality in 2007, agriculture has been a hot topic within the community. A key economic driver and a central component of the community’s identity, agriculture in the area is varied and includes tree fruit production, horticultural plant nurseries, pasture and viticulture, as well as a noteworthy wine production industry. The preservation of the district’s agricultural heritage was specifically identified as a key priority in the 2010 Official Community Plan.

Despite the collective pride in its agricultural heritage, West Kelowna faces a number of challenges, including an aging farming population with limited succession planning, urban/rural conflicts, and commercial development pressures.

With funding from IAF, the district has been able to develop an Agricultural Area Plan to complement the Official Community Plan in managing these challenges. The development of the plan included extensive consultation with agricultural stakeholders and community members to provide input and propose policy direction. In addition to establishing an agricultural inventory within the new district boundaries, the plan outlines West Kelowna’s agricultural priorities and proposes a number of recommendations to protect agriculture, increase sustainability and broaden community awareness of farming practices.

The plan was officially adopted by the district in August 2011 and implementation is now underway, with the Agricultural Advisory Committee currently considering bylaw amendments and policy recommendations. West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater is excited to see the plan unfolding, praising it as “a comprehensive and very complete plan to support and enhance agriculture in the community.”

Funding: \$36,497 was provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework. (B0016.27)



Our Board of Directors (2011-2012)

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Region: Fraser Valley*

John Berry
Represents: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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- Sandra Tretick
Senior Communications Officer
- Sarah Rostami
Communications Officer

Approved Agricultural Area Plans & Related Projects

FILE NO.	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT LEAD	IAF'S SHARE	FUNDING PROGRAM *
A0655	Regional District of East Kootenay Agricultural Plan: Phase I	Regional District of East Kootenay	\$20,000	Safety Net
A0675	–	–	–	– 2
B0016.30	Regional District of Nanaimo Agricultural Area Plan	Regional District of Nanaimo	\$40,000	Safety Net
B0016.31	Denman Island Agriculture Area Plan	Islands Trust	\$16,100	Safety Net

[1] Project approved in 2010; [2] Legal agreement pending; [3] Project approved but later withdrawn or cancelled by applicant; * See Funding Program legend on p.11



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