British Columbian farmers and environmentalists share a common interest in maintaining a healthy and productive environment, but are often cast on opposite sides of issues.

The first ever Forum on Agriculture and the Environment challenged this thinking by bringing together leaders from agriculture, environmental organizations, government, First Nations and local communities to create understanding, and identify ways to work together to address the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture and the environment in BC.

Peter Bloome inspired many in the room with his keynote address on the successes and challenges of the Oregon Environmental Council, where environmentalists and agriculturists have been working to address issues of shared interest for the past 10 years. He encouraged participants to focus on what may be possible while pointing to the practical reality of the situation.

"Farmers may be traditional, but we get things done. We are the ones who are making changes because we always have to adapt to make a go of it," said Lee Hesketh. The Forum on Agriculture and the Environment was an excellent first step in creating a foundation of trust for future collaboration and partnership. Participants from across the spectrum recognized the value of creating this kind of opportunity.

"We don’t get enough of these opportunities to come together at the same table, and that’s one of the reasons that mistrust can occur," said John Werring from the David Suzuki Foundation. "Kudos to the agriculture sector for bringing these groups together."

Looking ahead, the challenge will be turning goodwill and relationships into constructive solutions for farmers, conservation groups, and the environment.

"There are some tough questions to address, but today we saw a shared desire to work together, and perception that our challenges are not insurmountable," says Reg Ens, general manager of the BC Agriculture Council. "Now it’s up to us to take a leadership role in engaging the general farm population."

The Forum on Agriculture and the Environment was a collaborative project between The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF), the BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), and the Agriculture Environment Programs Committee (AEPC).

Funding for the Forum on Agriculture and the Environment was provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture through the Agriculture Environment Initiative.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation was established in 1994. 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 DEVELOP SOLUTIONS AND SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES.**

Funding is available to help the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia enhance sustainability, competitiveness and profitability.

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

www.iafbc.ca
Dear Friends of the Foundation,

Helping industry transform ideas into solutions is what we focus on every day here at the Investment Agriculture Foundation. 2012 has been an exemplary year for demonstrating the value that IAF adds by facilitating industry-led projects and initiatives.

As an industry organization, our priority is to work collaboratively with our clients to advance agriculture in BC. We do this by investing in projects that enable you to respond to issues and seize opportunities, and we are continually striving to enhance our partnerships to build a competitive, profitable and sustainable agricultural community.

Here is a brief snapshot of some of the programs we've had the privilege of working on during the past year. We hope our partners will join us in celebrating what this collaboration has yielded.

Launched in 2011, the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program is nearing completion with a number of important results that will enhance profitability and competitiveness across agricultural sectors.

The Ranching Task Force Funding Initiative is another example of the Foundation's collaboration with the federal-provincial governments and industry. We are pleased to assist BC's cattle sector as they help create more value for beef produced in BC.

The Foundation has expanded its program administration portfolio by working with the provincial government to administer the BC Buy Local Program, which aims to increase the use of BC agrifoods in the domestic marketplace.

In collaboration with the BC Agriculture Council, IAF was honoured to host the first-ever Forum on Agriculture and the Environment in October. The event brought agricultural leaders and environmental conservation groups together to foster new relationships and facilitate a more collaborative approach to dealing with environmental issues and challenges.

Last June the IAF board toured the Prince George region, where directors and staff had a blast visiting various agricultural operations and connecting with local industry members. From learning about new opportunities for north-central livestock producers, to discovering the potential for bioenergy projects at the University of Northern British Columbia, to visiting the first aquaponics operation in northern BC, we had a fun and informative trip all around!

In addition to Prince George, we also hosted outreach sessions across the province to explore opportunities for enhancing our collaboration with industry groups, post-secondary institutions and government.

2012 also saw a number of changes to the Foundation. We said good-bye to directors Stuart Wilson, Bar Hayre, Derek Janzen, and welcomed Ken Bates, Dale Krahn and Rick Gagner. We also bid a fond farewell to our Senior Communications Officer, Sandra Tretick and welcomed Tamara Leigh. We extend our appreciation and thanks to each of them, and wish them the greatest success with all their new endeavours!

At IAF, we take great pride in what we do and are honoured to be serving agricultural interests. As a board, we are entrusted with providing stewardship over the investments that the federal and provincial governments make in funding programming.

2012 also has been a time of change for the industry, as adaptation councils across Canada learned that, after 16 years and thousands of valuable projects nationwide, the councils' role in the delivery of federal adaptation funding would not be renewed in 2014. While not the most promising of tidings, the news has served as a reminder to us of how truly fortunate we are. IAF is a significant contributor to investments in the future of agriculture in BC, and we will continue to fulfill this role.

We will focus on adapting our suite of programs and exploring new opportunities to invest in.

As always, we remain committed and excited to building a prosperous and sustainable agriculture and agri-food industry in BC.

And finally, after six years as a director with IAF and the last one as chair, this is my final official message. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with so many people in various agricultural sectors throughout BC. Seeing agriculture from the Foundation's perspective gave me an insight that cannot be duplicated. There are countless dedicated people in agriculture and witnessing their valuable input offers reassurance that the industry will not only survive but continue to prosper. I am thankful for the experience.

On behalf of the directors,
Peter Levelton
Chair
Peter Donkers
Executive Director
From beef to blueberries, the British Columbia agriculture and food industry helps drive Canada’s economy, generating over $10 billion in sales, and $2.5 billion in exports. With the support of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Investment Agriculture Foundation helps this dynamic sector seize new opportunities and deal with emerging issues.

Looking ahead, the future is bright, with a growing global population demanding the safe, high-quality foods BC farmers and processors can deliver. Our Government will continue to work with the British Columbia agriculture and food sector to capture these exciting opportunities by opening new markets for our products and strengthening the Asia Pacific Gateway to get them there.

Along with the provinces and territories, we are investing $3 billion over five years under the new Growing Forward framework to deliver strategic initiatives to the industry here in BC and across Canada around competitiveness, innovation and market development.

Best wishes to IAF for a prosperous year ahead.

Hon. Gerry Ritz, PC, MP
Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food

The BC Government would like to thank the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) for another successful year of leadership for farmers across British Columbia. The agrifoods industry is a stable job-creator and is integral to our province’s economy and it is through our partnerships with organizations such as IAF that we can ensure our industry continues to grow.

For example, the IAF is assisting the provincial government’s efforts to increase local food consumption in British Columbia by administering $1.5 million in provincial government funding. The Province’s buy local program supports the promotion of BC foods and increases awareness of the social and economic benefits of eating fresh and local foods.

I know the foundation has been actively involved in the panel reviewing the applications and their expertise and professionalism is appreciated. This is an exciting time for our British Columbia agrifoods sector. In 2012, the BC Government launched BC Agrifoods: A strategy for Growth. This strategy – part of the BC Jobs Plan – builds on the growing trading relationship our province has established with existing partners as well as those with emerging markets. One of the key goals of the strategy is to advance the development of innovative products and processes, something I know the IAF is a champion of. With the support of groups like IAF, we aim to grow our industry from the current $10.5 billion to $14 billion – a year by 2017, and build on the 61,000 direct jobs the industry currently provides.

Best wishes to IAF and the board of directors. We look forward to working with you in 2013.

Norm Letnick
Minister of Agriculture

Dr. Thompson was recognized for his pioneering efforts in creating and developing the Centre, a contribution which has yielded significant advancements for dairy cattle science and practice in BC and beyond.

“It is very gratifying to be recognized for my efforts with the Centre,” remarks Dr. Thompson. “Taking the vision from concept to reality has been an incredible journey, and the rewards of witnessing dairy cattle practice improve in the province are ongoing.”

A self-sustaining operation that supports the development and adaptation of new technologies for the dairy industry, the Centre is not just unique to BC, but remains unparalleled on an international scale. The facilities are designed to support research and teaching in the areas of cattle reproduction, nutrition, housing, welfare, and nutrient and energy recovery from manure.

Beyond helping individual producers implement best practices on their farms, the work undertaken by Dr. Thompson and his colleagues helps inform industry standards. In fact, many of the recommendations in the Dairy Farmers and Canada National Code of Practice are based on this research.

The Centre is also a key resource for public education about the dairy industry, hosting thousands of visitors every year, including schools, community groups and individuals.

The 2012/2013 recipient of the Foundation’s award for innovation was Dr. Jim Thompson, Professor and Director of the UBC Dairy Education and Research Centre.

Dr. Thompson was recognized for his pioneering efforts in creating and developing the Centre, a contribution which has yielded significant advancements for dairy cattle science and practice in BC and beyond.

“It is very gratifying to be recognized for my efforts with the Centre,” remarks Dr. Thompson. “Taking the vision from concept to reality has been an incredible journey, and the rewards of witnessing dairy cattle practice improve in the province are ongoing.”

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The Centre is also a key resource for public education about the dairy industry, hosting thousands of visitors every year, including schools, community groups and individuals.
British Columbia is often credited with having the most diverse agricultural industry in all of Canada. We are lucky not only to have access to these farms – both large and small – that yield such a bountiful array of crops, but also to the quality of products grown by our producers and processors. Whether organic or conventional, fresh or processed, British Columbians are fortunate to live in such a bountiful province.

The Foundation delivers a number of funding programs designed to help all horticultural sectors flourish and prosper. In 2012, 29 crop-related projects were approved for $1,449,845. 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 2012, the provincial government announced that IAF, in partnership with the BC Fruit Growers Association, would have the privilege of

(continued on page 5)
administering $2 million in funding over the next three years through the Orchard Replant Program. The funding will help BC’s tree fruit industry renew plantings of apple and other tree fruits to newer, more marketable varieties that are expected to improve grower returns. The program also includes a grafting and budding component which will assist growers to get new trees into production faster.

**MAKING HARD CIDER EASY IN THE OKANAGAN**

Vernon orchardists David and Melissa Dobernigg have big hopes for Okanagan’s apple industry, despite the struggles and dwindling profits experienced by many apple growers in recent years.

With funding through IAF, the Doberniggs led a study to determine the market potential for ciders. They conducted valuable market research and are sharing this information so other growers can more accurately determine feasibility and minimize risk for their own operations.

IAF is happy to report that the project has established that there is indeed demand for high quality craft ciders in the BC marketplace. Growers can now visit the Doberniggs’ website (http://thebxpress.com/) to access free, detailed information covering both the production side of cider-making and consumer preference for different cider varieties.

The project’s potential extends far beyond the Doberniggs’ backyard, however. The entrepreneurial couple believe that the development of a craft cider region is an opportunity for growers throughout the valley to not only add revenue streams to their business but also to utilize cull fruit normally discarded and reserve their best fruit for the fresh market.

Not only that, but according to Melissa Dobernigg, a craft cider region could significantly boost agri-tourism in the valley. “Craft cider is a big trend right now, especially just across the border,” Dobernigg explains. “This could really open the doors for agri-tourism and help growers attract people to the farm.”

So what’s next for the Doberniggs? Now that consumer demand has been confirmed, the couple along with other growers are proceeding with an on-farm cider project and are contemplating forming an industry-wide organization representing cider makers and cider variety growers.

According to Melissa, “There’s a real spirit of collaboration among cider enthusiasts, we’re all excited to see this unfold in the valley. There’s been a lot of uncertainty in the industry lately, but this will help us move forward with more confidence.”

Funding: $4,858 provided through the Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program.
LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & AQUACULTURE
+ VALUE ADDED

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 2012, 14 new projects were approved for funding of $870,228. Additionally, the strategic initiative for farm animal care has continued to work on enhancing animal handling practices in areas like transportation, and will be focusing on developing a sustainability plan in the upcoming year. (continued on page 7.)

APPROVED LIVESTOCK PROJECTS PRIMARY AGRICULTURE

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<td>A0719</td>
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**See Funding Program Legend on p.10**

6 2012 ANNUAL REPORT
“The BC Cattlemen’s Association has benefitted from the funds administered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation both large and small. The small projects funding has allowed us to quickly deliver on the ground workshops and projects that benefit our members. One of our most recent and very successful projects funded through IAF is the “Behind the Beef” consumer education and awareness program. The Foundation has helped this beef industry adapt and meet the needs of British Columbia’s Ranchers.”

Kevin Boon, General Manager
BC Cattlemen’s Association

Two years ago, the federal and provincial governments announced $6 million 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 2012, the management committee approved 17 projects totalling more than $2,317,072. 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 2012, 11 new projects were approved for a total of $151,746.

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. Upon completion of an on-farm biosecurity risk and mitigation consultation program for the non-regulated commercial poultry sector, the focus in 2012 evolved to establishing and launching a biosecurity program for these producers.

BEHIND THE BEEF MOVES CATTLE ISSUES FORWARD

When issues strike, it’s important to be prepared and have relationships in place that will allow you to get accurate information to the people who need it. In a year that has seen the public image of beef impacted by a massive E. coli recall and controversy surrounding “pink slime” in the United States, the project has allowed BC cattlemen to respond to consumer concerns face-to-face in their local grocery stores.

“Having our educators out in the stores providing accurate information for consumers showed that the beef industry wasn’t hiding or shying away from the issues,” says Kirsten Hollsted, program coordinator for Behind the Beef. Behind the Beef is a consumer education and research program started by the BC Cattlemen’s Association to improve consumer awareness and understanding of cattle ranching and the beef industry. The program hires beef educators and provides training on common consumer questions about how cattle are raised and how beef is processed, nutritional information, and advice on how to choose and prepare different cuts of beef.

What started with 12 beef educators in the Lower Mainland, quickly expanded to 20-30 educators located across the province to meet the enthusiastic demand of retailers, fairs and community events. In the first year of operations, the Behind the Beef team has attended 864 events, eclipsing their original goal of 400 per year.

“Retailers were very supportive and picked it up quite quickly,” says Hollsted. “Openweeka came on board right away, and then we had other retailers, fairs and community events knocking on our door when they heard what we were doing.”

Beef educators visit grocery stores once a month, providing valuable information to staff and customers at the stores. As a result, they were already familiar faces at the local grocery store when the beef recall hit, and were able to get the facts out by providing lists of recalled products, and information on food safety practices. Their existing relationship with consumers and the public made them a trusted source for information about the beef industry.

“The majority of consumers felt more comfortable about the situation and felt they could still eat beef once they were given information,” says Hollsted. “Every link in the communication chain is important. If we can inform one person in the store, they will pass it on to others.”

In addition to the beef educators, Behind the Beef has developed supplemental materials including fact sheets and recipes, as well as behindthebeef.ca, a website where people can access information and ‘Ask an Expert’ if they have more involved questions about beef production. The project has not only helped the beef industry to get their message out, it has created an opportunity for them to listen and gather information about what consumers really want to know about beef production. The program is tracking consumer questions and feedback through their beef educators and their website, gathering valuable insights for the ranching industry as they turn good relationships with consumers into greater value for BC ranchers.

Funding: $825,158 allocated through the Canada-BC Ranching Task Force Funding Initiative, #10324
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 2012, 14 new projects were approved for a total of $1,756,080.

The Foundation often funds projects led by local governments where the intent is to make agriculture more viable or address urban/rural interface issues.

Helping BC food producers and processors increase the use of BC agrifoods in the domestic marketplace through the Buy Local Program is another Foundation priority that crosses multiple sectors.

Several broadly-based strategic initiatives continued through 2012, including those aimed at helping farmers markets, developing Agroforestry practices, supporting the organics and processing sectors, encouraging environmental practices, and more.

(continued on page 9)
2012 ushered in the third year of the Organic Sector Development Program Strategic Initiative, delivered by the Certified Organic Associations of BC. Many projects involve applied research on problems specific to organic vegetable production, while the most recent project addition is examining the barriers experienced by small-scale producers to organic certification.

In the zone where forestry and agriculture meet, ten projects were approved for funding. 2012 marked the completion of 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 strategic plan. As these initiatives are funded under the federal Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program, all projects must be completed by December 31, 2013.

FARMERS’ MARKET INITIATIVE ADVANCES SECTOR

To Elizabeth Quinn, farmers’ markets represent a vital link between producer and consumer. As the executive director of the BC Association of Farmers’ Markets (BCAFM), Quinn has witnessed the local food trend prompt a wave of popularity for farmers’ markets.

“While promising for business, this increased demand has proven difficult to meet with current production capacity, leaving many markets struggling to meet consumer demand,” Quinn explains. “Currently, there are over 70 markets needing more farm vendors to offer the variety of products that their customers want.”

Since 2007, IAF has been proud to support the BC Farmers’ Market Strategic Initiative through projects that help farmers’ markets rise to the opportunities presented and contribute to their long-term success and sustainability.

In 2012, a province-wide study of the economic and community benefits of farmers’ markets was undertaken, which assessed 33 BC markets through feedback collected from vendors, customers, and neighbouring businesses.

Participants such as Haney Farmers Market in Memorial Peace Park were discovered to be a significant player in the local economy, contributing nearly $1.6 million annually (in addition to $1.1 million spent by customers at local businesses on the day of the market).

According to Quinn and market managers like Eileen Dwillies, it is important to understand not only what these markets contribute but also how much they contribute to local neighbourhoods, cities, and towns.

“Although people know the market is a great place to buy fresh, local food, the results of this study help us communicate to others how valuable the farmers’ market is to our community,” Dwillies emphasizes.

In comparing the study to its 2006 predecessor, the results show that farmers’ markets in BC have grown significantly over the past six years, with total direct sales increasing from $46 to $113 million, and market economic contributions rising from $69 million in 2006 to $171 million in 2012.

For Quinn, the surge of popularity is not only gratifying but also promising now that the sector is better equipped to respond to the demand.

“We’re seeing new farmers enter the markets and then those markets finally have the variety they need to offer consumers each week, as well as other resources to help them manage and succeed,” Quinn observes. “Tremendous progress has been made through the initiative and we’re very excited to see the sector advancing.”

Other accomplishments achieved during the past five years of the initiative include the production of a Best Practices Guide to help municipalities establish, support and sustain a vibrant and successful farmers’ market, as well as a series of manager and board governance training workshops and manuals, a sector research and development project, and the MarketSafe training program, an award-winning food safety program designed for farmers’ markets.

Funding: $219,000 allocated through former federal adaptation programming.

"IAF’s contribution to the farmers’ market sector has been huge. We now understand the economic benefits of farmers’ markets, how municipalities can help them thrive, who the farmers are who sell at markets, how to support them to build capacity to be more successful and more."

Elizabeth Quinn, Executive Director
BC Association of Farmers’ Markets
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. (continued on page 11)

### COMPLETED CROP PROJECTS PRIMARY AGRICULTURE

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<tr>
<th>FILE NO.</th>
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<td>A0579</td>
<td>Baldy Valley Pasteurization Demonstration Trials</td>
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<td>A0586</td>
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<td>Investigation of Godronia (Fusicoccum) Canker on highbush Blueberry in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia</td>
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<td>A0598</td>
<td>Nursery Industry Adaptation to National Phytosanitary Certification Program to Minimize Risk of Importing Invasive Alien Species</td>
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<td>Development &amp; Commercialization of Novel Pesticides &amp; Bactericides for Horticultural Crop Disease Management: A Priority-based Approach</td>
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### COMPLETED PAN AGRICULTURE PROJECTS

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<td>A0631</td>
<td>Benchmarking Annual Digestion Feasibility Across BC’s Agricultural &amp; Food Sector</td>
<td>BC Agriculture Research &amp; Development Corp.</td>
<td>$85,495.86</td>
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<td>A0644</td>
<td>Building the Foundation Against Invasive Plants</td>
<td>Invasive Species Council of BC</td>
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<td>A0632</td>
<td>Islands Agriculture Show Pilot Project</td>
<td>Cowichan Valley Regional District</td>
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<td>A0633</td>
<td>Victoria Public Market Needs Assessment &amp; Governance Model</td>
<td>Victoria Downtown Public Market Society</td>
<td>$100,000.00</td>
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<td>A0634</td>
<td>Agriculture Development Plan, Districts 110/02 and 110/76</td>
<td>Lower Kootenay Indian Band</td>
<td>$4,900.00</td>
<td>AFFF</td>
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“The support that we received from the Investment Agriculture Foundation enabled us to move forward with the Delta Agriculture Plan in a timely way and to be able to engage a consultant that had the right agricultural expertise and understanding of the agriculture community. We also benefited from the experience that IAF has gained working through the agriculture area plan process with other municipalities.”

Lisa King, Planner, Corporation of Delta

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.

### 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 and lasting up to one year. 13 new projects were approved in 2012, totaling a commitment of almost $90,000.

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.

### 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.

Since then, 15 new projects — ranging from apiculture and goats to small lot agriculture and bioproduents — were approved for almost $400,000 in funding.

The Emerging Sectors Initiative provides funding to eligible projects through the federal-provincial Agri-Food Futures Fund and other programs delivered by the Foundation.
ENSURING A Viable FUTURE FOR AGRICULTURE IN DELTA

Farming has a rich history in Delta, and has long been a driver in the community’s economy. Today, farming is still a significant activity in the area, but farmers are challenged by competing demands for use of the land, loss of processing capacity and the need for infrastructure improvements.

In 2010, the Corporation of Delta commissioned the development of an Agricultural Plan to support agriculture and integrate the sector more closely with the community by supporting the implementation of agricultural policies contained in the municipality’s Official Community Plan (OCP). With financial support through IAF and the guidance of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, Delta worked through a two-year process of research and consultation with industry and the public to develop a plan that would help achieve their goal to create “a place where the business of farming can prosper while contributing to the community’s ecological attributes and social, cultural and economic well-being.”

The plan, adopted in October 2011, identifies 29 highest-priority recommended actions to address four key areas. The strategy also addresses areas and recommends partners to work together in dealing with some of the broader challenges that are beyond the scope of farmers.

In the first year of implementation, the Agriculture Plan has already resulted in a new bylaw limiting soil disposal and removal on farmland, and a pilot project on potential climate change adaptation strategies for agriculture.

“This plan provides a framework for farmers, government, industry and the community to work together to protect and enhance agriculture in Delta with a strong emphasis on maintaining the economic viability of farming,” said Mayor Lois E. Jackson. “I am very pleased with the input received while creating the plan and look forward to continued work towards the plan’s implementation.”

Funding: $30,000 provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.