

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ECCC RENEWS SUPPORT FOR FLA'S WORK IN BC'S GRASSLANDS

January 30, 2023 – Victoria, BC:

Farmland Advantage (FLA) is pleased to announce that the Government of Canada, through Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), will continue to provide funding for Farmland Advantage until March 2025.

“Protecting nature has never been more important than it is right now as Canada commits to protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030. Partnerships with the agricultural community are essential to the conservation and protection of habitat for species at risk. The Government of Canada is pleased to support Farmland Advantage through the Priority Places program. Through collaboration, we can protect nature and fight biodiversity loss in British Columbia and across Canada,” says the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

ECCC has committed \$445,000 in funding, under the Species at Risk Partnerships on Agricultural Lands (SARPAL) and Priority Places Programs. Support from ECCC is focused on habitat enhancement and conservation on farmland for the benefits of species at risk.

“We are pleased ECCC has decided to continue their support for IAF’s Farmland Advantage,” says IAF Board of Director Chair Jack DeWit. “FLA is doing important work on BC grasslands, and we are pleased to be able to work collaboratively with the federal government to continue enhancement work on these critical habitats.”

ECCC began their support of Farmland Advantage in 2020, when they funded FLA to complete a pilot project focusing on grasslands in BC. Through this work Farmland Advantage has protected over 160 acres of grasslands to date.

Work being completed on grasslands is focused on habitat enhancement and conservation on farmland for the benefit of species at risk. FLA provides farmers with a modest incentive payment in exchange for improving or maintaining ecological services on their farm. Farms with critical habitat within the Dry Interior Priority Place are invited to participate, and then FLA monitors and measures the ecological value of the habitat enhancement over time.

About Farmland Advantage:

Farmland Advantage is a research and development program that works with farmers to protect and conserve critical, natural lands, streams, and habitats in British Columbia. Farmland Advantage helps

farmers identify the natural values on their land that can be protected and enhanced; and develops recommendations and plans to preserve them.

Farmland Advantage takes a regional approach to address environmental and climate concerns. Using site selection methodology that is unique to an area's specific challenges (e.g., wildfire, drought, or flooding), Farmland Advantage targets farms that have the potential to improve the health of the ecosystem in the immediate and surrounding areas.

For more information about Farmland Advantage: www.farmlandadvantage.ca

IAF is a non-profit organization that delivers programs to support a thriving agriculture and agri-food sector in British Columbia.

With 25+ years of experience, IAF is recognized as the leading provider of high-quality and cost-effective program delivery services for the agriculture and agri-food sector in BC; having delivered more than \$250 million to industry on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

www.iafbc.ca

For more information, media may contact:

IAF Communications

communications@iafbc.ca