



IAF NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAF RELEASES 2021/2022 FARMLAND ADVANTAGE IMPACT REPORT

February 8, 2023 – Victoria, BC: The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) is pleased to announce that the 2021/2022 Farmland Advantage Impact Report is now available. This report provides an overview of the FLA program, the results achieved during the 2021/2022 fiscal year, and provides an outlook for future growth of the FLA program.

The 2021/2022 program year was foundational for the Farmland Advantage Program. In early 2021, IAF assumed full responsibility for the development and delivery of the FLA program so that it could expand from a pilot scale program into a larger, provincewide program. Several realms of program development took place over the year under the following categories: structure & process, planning advisor development, partnerships, and funding.

In 2021/2022, the FLA program focused on four agricultural regions: Vancouver Island, South Coast, Thompson/ Okanagan/ Nicola, and the Kootenays. The majority of FLA's sites were in these regions, but at least one site was in the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast region as well. As the program expands, further research into additional high opportunity sites throughout BC will be conducted.

The program had a participation success rate of 94% with 50 candidates being approached to participate in the program, and 47 accepting. A total of 19 ranchers participated in grassland habitat enhancement and wildlife risk reduction projects in the Kootenays, South Okanagan and South Cariboo. A total of 28 farmers participated in riparian ecosystem restoration and enhancement projects in the South Coast, East Kootenays and South Vancouver Island.

Quotes:

Dave Zehnder, Senior Program Advisor, Farmland Advantage

"It has been so exciting to see the success of the FLA program after years of research and development. The results show how willing farmers and ranchers in BC are to be an active part of solving many of the issues that face BC today. Cleaner water, safer communities, and healthy wildlife populations with thriving farms... what's not to like?"

Jack DeWit, Chair, IAF Board of Directors

“I would like to thank everyone involved with IAF’s Farmland Advantage program. This report demonstrates the impact of Farmland Advantage’s collaborative, research-based method, and IAF’s partnerships with the agricultural community. “

2021/2022 Funding:

Farmland Advantage is an Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) Program. Funding for the program during the 2021/2022 fiscal year came from BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food; Environment and Climate Change Canada; the BC Healthy Watersheds Initiative, which in 2021/2022 was delivered by the Real Estate Foundation of BC with funding from the Province of British Columbia; Renewal Partners; and Kootenay Connect.

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