

## IAF NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### IAF RELEASES 2022/23 FARMLAND ADVANTAGE IMPACT REPORT

**August 10, 2023 – Victoria, BC:** The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) is pleased to announce the 2022/23 Farmland Advantage (FLA) Impact Report is now available. This report provides an overview of IAF's Farmland Advantage program, the results achieved during the year, and provides an outlook for future growth of the program.

The year was one of growth for the program. In 2022, FLA expanded to begin a wildfire risk reduction pilot project, funded by the Government of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests, BC Wildfire Service. The pilot project is focused on reducing wildfire risk and increasing community resiliency to wildfires across British Columbia. At the end of this pilot, the FLA team hopes to have increased the resiliency of landscapes within the treatment areas.

In 2022/23, the FLA program focused on areas within several regions including Vancouver Island, South Coast, Okanagan, Cariboo, Thompson-Okanagan-Nicola, and the Kootenays. As the program expands, further research into additional high opportunity sites throughout BC will be conducted.

The program had a participation success rate of 96% with 79 farmers/ranchers being approached to participate in the program and 76 participating.



#### Quotes:

**Jack DeWit, Chair, IAF Board of Directors**

"Farmland Advantage is one of the only Payment for Ecosystems programs in North America. This program is an excellent example of IAF identifying needs within the BC agriculture sector and finding a programming solution."

**Dave Zehnder, Senior Program Advisor, Farmland Advantage**

"It's an honour to be a part of the Farmland Advantage team. We have made real progress across the province this year – expanding into the wildfire risk reduction space could make a real impact for those areas in future years."

### 2022/23 Funding:

Farmland Advantage is an Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) Program. Funding for the program during the 2022/2023 fiscal year came from BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food; the Healthy Watersheds Initiative, which is funded by the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy; the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Forests; Environment and Climate Change Canada; the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP), a \$3 billion five-year (2018-2023), investment by federal, provincial, and territorial (FPT) governments; Renewal Partners; and Kootenay Connect.

### About Farmland Advantage:

FLA is a BC-based Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) program that provides financial compensation to farmers and ranchers to protect and enhance ecosystem services, restore riparian areas, enhance native grassland ecosystems, protect Species at Risk (SAR), and contribute to wildfire risk reduction on lands under their stewardship.

FLA identifies sensitive ecosystems and high stewardship opportunity areas on agricultural lands and works with producers and Indigenous communities to restore, maintain, and enhance ecosystem services. Ecosystem services are the beneficial natural processes arising from healthy ecosystems, such as purification of water and air, pollination of plants, improvement to soil health, nutrient cycling, soil carbon sequestration, flood control, and climate regulation, among many others.

For more information about Farmland Advantage: [www.farmlandadvantage.ca](http://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](http://www.iafbc.ca)

---

For more information, media may contact:

IAF Communications

[communications@iafbc.ca](mailto:communications@iafbc.ca)