
NEWS RELEASE

B.C. Farmers and Ranchers Connect with Government in Victoria

VICTORIA – October 29, 2019: British Columbia farmers, ranchers and industry leaders are in Victoria today to connect with government for the annual Ag Day in Victoria. Ag Day's main objective is to connect key sector representatives with government to increase awareness around the positive impacts agriculture has on B.C.'s economy and speak to specific challenges.

Organized by BC Agriculture Council (BCAC), Ag Day is a series of scheduled meetings between B.C. farmers and ranchers, Cabinet Ministers, MLAs, and senior government officials and other key stakeholders such as B.C.'s Agriculture Land Commission (ALC).

"We've learned that 89% of B.C. residents care about the accessibility of healthy, affordable food", said Stan Vander Waal, BCAC president. "We are here today working with legislators from both sides of the house to ensure that government policies and regulations help farmers produce the healthy safe food that consumers are looking for."

Key messages focus on effective land use policies and advocating for safe environments for farming families, their employees and livestock. Farmers and ranchers, including aquaculture are asking for strengthened legislation and protective measures to provide a safe home and workplace for B.C. farm and ranch families.

"B.C. farmers and ranchers are pleased to hear the commitment made by Minister Popham, along with ministers Eby and Farnworth to the safety of farm families and the security of British Columbia's food system." said Stan Vander Waal. "We are looking forward to working with government to further address this concern."

Ag Day began with an evening reception on Monday, followed by meetings with government on Tuesday.

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BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) is the only provincial-wide general farm organization representing the farmers and ranchers of British Columbia. BCAC proudly serves nearly 30 commodity associations who in turn generate 96% of the farm gate sales in B.C.