



LEADING THE WAY TOGETHER

AG DAY 2021



BC AGRICULTURE COUNCIL (BCAC)

is the only provincial-wide general farm organization representing the farmers and ranchers of British Columbia. BCAC proudly serves 27 commodity associations who in turn generate 96% of farm gate sales in B.C.



FOOD SECURITY

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying public concerns about food security, governments and the public have started to re-evaluate the way they see and value agriculture. We saw how quickly our food system could be disrupted and what vulnerabilities existed in our food supply chain (e.g., limited labour working in the fields, closures and reductions in the capacity of food-system supporting operations).

Such disruptions highlighted the importance of investing in the Sector to ensure access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for British Columbians. The B.C. government's current mandates identify several strategies that could offer resources to help combat food insecurity – specifically, two key recommendations are:

- **To include an agriculture water security strategy or agriculture water prioritization during the development of the watershed security strategy, and**
- **To improve farm worker housing standards by implementing a new mid-season inspection to ensure worker safety and employment retention.**





WATER SECURITY

Hotter, dryer summers are only going to mean that producers will rely more heavily on irrigation – not precipitation - to water crops. Progress on this issue is time-sensitive. Farmers are already impacted by irrigation curtailment and for farmers and ranchers, next to land, the most critical resource is water.

If food security is truly a high priority for this government, then we must wonder why equal efforts to secure water for our producers have not been made?

The government's *Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy* identifies the creation of a watershed security strategy. Within that strategy, government could ensure that water security for agricultural purposes is prioritized, and that consultation and input is solicited from industry during its development.

LABOUR SECURITY

To secure a strong food supply, farms and ranches need a stable workforce. BCAC is actively working on several solutions to improve the availability of farmworkers and continually improve working and living conditions.

The provincial government has direct oversight on worker housing. Implementing a mid-season housing inspection will improve the safety and quality of worker housing. The purpose of this inspection is to encourage both the employer and employees to properly maintain the housing in the condition that it was originally approved.

BC Agriculture Council is available and willing to offer our time and resources to help implement the inspection process should you wish to proceed.



OUR MEMBERSHIP

REPRESENTING 96% OF B.C. FARM GATE SALES

B.C. Blueberry Council

B.C. Broiler Hatching Egg
Producers' Association

B.C. Cattlemen's Association

B.C. Cherry Association

B.C. Chicken Growers' Association

B.C. Cranberry Growers' Association

B.C. Dairy Association

B.C. Egg Producers' Association

B.C. Fruit Growers' Association

B.C. Grain Producers' Association

B.C. Grapegrowers' Association

B.C. Greenhouse Growers' Association

B.C. Honey Producers' Association

B.C. Landscape & Nursery Association

B.C. Pork Producers' Association

B.C. Potato & Vegetable Growers' Association

B.C. Poultry Association

B.C. Strawberry Growers' Association

B.C. Turkey Association

BC Wine Grape Council

Organic BC

Fraser Valley Cole Crop Growers' Association

Fraser Valley Pea and Bush Bean Growers' Association

Horse Council British Columbia

Peace Region Forage Seed Association

Raspberry Industry Development Council

United Flower Growers' Co-Op



BCAC

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