

Growing Tomorrow

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Strengthening the link between Agriculture and the Environment

The agriculture industry's commitment to environmentally responsible production was demonstrated at a recent farm tour with Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief in the Fraser Valley.

The federal minister was in town for the official opening of AAFC's new facilities at the Pacific Agri-food Research centre at Agassiz. The research centre, one of the five original Agriculture experiment farms in Canada, continues its dedication to improving the agriculture sector across Canada through science and innovation.

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Vaccinations, Unplugged

Needle free vaccines are the way of the future

The development of vaccines for animals and humans is one of the hallmarks of advances in world health and commerce. Today, producers the world over rely on dairy and beef cattle immunization against disease to ensure and supply quality product for human consumption.

And now, another great advance is around the corner. Researchers at the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO), in Saskatoon, are developing needle-free vaccine delivery systems. The goal is to improve vaccine effectiveness, to make disease treatment easier and to reduce producer losses from disease. "We are improving the well-being of both our producers

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Agriculture and the Environment *continued*



Left to right: Grant Kowalenko of PARC Agassiz, Minister Lyle Vanclief and Bernie Vander Meulen, manager of Corner's Pride Farm.

Staff at the centre were joined by more than 100 industry representatives, local citizenry, politicians and other well-wishers to share in the occasion.

Prior to the opening ceremonies, Minister Vanclief visited the Corner's Pride Farm in Rosedale, one of the many farms involved in an Agriculture Environmental Stewardship Initiative (AESI) and supported by IAF as the trustee. These projects are aimed at reducing environmental impacts of agriculture and are supported by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, and involving industry partners. These partners are looking at ways to improve sustainability and lessen the impact of intensive livestock production through methods such as relay cropping and reduced tillage and manure application.

Achieving sustainability through collaborative projects such as these is very much in keeping with the thrust of the Agriculture Policy framework. Agreed to in principle in June 2001 by Canada's federal, provincial and territorial agriculture ministers, and signed off by most provinces in 2002, the Framework focuses on food safety and quality, business risk management, renewal, environment and science and innovation to advance the lasting viability and success of agriculture in Canada. ■

Vaccinations, Unplugged *continued*

With traditional needle vaccines, the vaccine may be less effective in certain areas of the body and can cause damage at injection sites, reducing meat quality in the surrounding area.

VIDO is currently looking at three "needle-free" delivery systems. One is the Biojector, a device that delivers the vaccine in a laser-like stream directly through the skin. Another method is a vaccine that is poured onto the skin and combined with micro-needles that help absorption and cause minimal tissue damage. However, "the best solution may be oral vaccines," stresses Dr. Babiuk. "With the oral delivery systems, the vaccine can simply be included in the water, feed or vaccine mineral block."

Oral vaccines may be available in three to five years. ■

Baby Boomers Love to Garden

New export opportunities for BC's Nursery Industry



Left to right: Doug Justice, Curator of Collections - UBC Botanical Gardens; Dal Brickenden, President - PlantCo; and Gary Kenwood, Chair - IAFBC.

Through a royalty agreement, the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia has provided \$50,000 in funding to assist in corporate planning for the newly formed private company, "PlantCo" whose goal is to commercialize ornamental plant material from the University of British Columbia Botanical Gardens. Started as an initiative of The BC Landscape & Nursery Association (BCLNA), equity in PlantCo is held by management, a dozen BC Growers and the BCLNA.

Reflecting current trends of an aging population and rising interest in

gardening, "the opportunities are amazing," according to Fred Halldorson, BCLNA President. "The United States represents enormous potential for Canadian landscaping and nursery products," says Halldorson.

PlantCo's President, Dal Brickenden pointed out, "In the near term, enhanced collection efforts will see a doubling and re-doubling of royalties on plants bred or proven at UBC. However, the real impact of the program will only be felt in 5 to 10 years when both new plants and new marketing concepts are brought to bear."

Gary Kenwood, Chair of the Investment Agriculture Foundation says, "PlantCo is a model of the successful approaches agriculture is using to adapt, diversify and grow. This is an exciting union between academia, industry associations, private sector leaders and investors with the expertise to make a significant impact and bring some exciting new products to market." ■

Welcome

Four new industry leaders join our board

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia is pleased to welcome four new board members. New blood is always good for an organization and we think that these individuals represent renewal at the board level and even greater representation for the industry as a whole. Ray Nickel, Chair of the IAF Members Group and Vice-Chair of BCAC endorses the recent appointments to the board. "I am pleased with the continuing high calibre of Directors being appointed to IAF. The depth of experience from across the agri-food sector is a real asset in decision-making," said Mr. Nickel.

We are pleased to introduce and welcome the following members to our board:



H.A. (Bert) Miles, CMA, of Coquitlam, BC
(Post Farm Gate Sector)
Bert is General Manager of

Burnaby Lake Greenhouses and has extensive senior management experience in food processing and beverage distributions firms. "The main reason for my involvement with the IAF is the desire to play a supportive roll as BC agriculture adjusts to the new realities of the domestic and global marketplace. I am also interested in helping the public better understand the scope, technology and importance of BC agriculture in our everyday life and to the economy."



Walter Siemens of Abbotsford, BC
(Poultry and Egg Sector)
Walter is a second generation egg

producer and serves as Second Vice-chair with the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency. "I feel it is a privilege and honor to serve on the Foundation. The IAF has similar goals and a vision that I share — which is to promote the Agriculture Industry by supporting research and development projects as a way to invest in the future of Agri-industries in BC."

Garnet Berge of Dawson Creek, BC
(Grains, Oilseeds and Forage Sector)
Garnet is a Director of the BC Grain Producers



Association and is a 3rd generation grain farmer. "Being from the northeast, I will be able to help the board evaluate and better understand proposals coming from this area of the province. I think the IAF does a great job and I'm looking forward to joining the board," said Mr. Berge.

Jens Larsen of Merritt, BC
(Beef Sector)



Jens is a Director of the BC Cattlemen's Association and has worked on farms and ranches in Denmark, Australia, California and Alberta, before acquiring his own ranch near Merritt. "I am interested in all of agriculture and look forward to bringing my experience in working with BC cattlemen and in agriculture in other places to the decision making of the Foundation."

We invite readers to learn more about our directors by visiting our web site at www.iafbc.ca ■

Safer Food Processing On-Line

IAF funds a new course geared for processing workers



Food Safety is a topical subject and a growing concern on Canadian's minds. That's why the Investment Agriculture Foundation is getting behind a new course, delivered via the Internet, that's designed to improve food safety at the processing level.

Until now, most publically available food safety education has been targeted at the food service industry, such as restaurants and hotels. However, processing plants are key in the chain of food safety and handling — yet no course existed to meet this area of need. What's more, food safety at the processing level has unique challenges due to the volume of food being handled — so a customized course is of great value to the industry, and ultimately, to consumers.

"Food Safety for the Plant Worker" is a 10 hour course, developed by the BC Institute of Technology (BCIT), with \$7,830 or 34% in funding from the Investment Agriculture Foundation. Anne McCannel, Food Technology instructor at BCIT says what distinguishes this course is its accessibility.

Safer Processing *continued*

“Plant workers, many of whom are shift workers, can start the on-line course anytime and complete the required hours at their leisure. It doesn’t matter where in the province they live,” says McCannel.

Internet course delivery is an innovative and increasingly important model for learning of all kinds – and the advantages go beyond accessibility. For example, “Food Safety for the Plant Worker” can be listened to via streaming audio.

The course also uses streaming graphics to demonstrate key concepts, such as illustrations showing how rapidly bacteria grows and why preventing bacterial contamination is key to preventing food borne disease.

Increasing safety and food quality increases the marketability of BC food products in Canada and around the world. The IAF sees this course as an important development for the industry. ■



Anne McCannel discussing Microbiology with students.

2003 Application Deadlines

The following dates have been established to provide an effective administrative process for proposals going to the Foundation’s Board for consideration. **Jan 3, Jan 31, Feb 28, Mar 28, May 2, May 23, Sept 5 and Oct 31.**

Overview of Projects Funded

Projects approved in the period June 1, 2002 to August 15, 2002

Project proposals approved	6
The Foundation contribution	\$385,660
Total value of projects	\$808,235

Summary of total projects approved by the Foundation to August 15, 2002

Letters of Intent received	160
Applications received	376
Number of projects approved	254

For a detailed listing of approved projects please check out our web site www.iafbc.ca.

Total Funding Commitment	\$ 13,194,168
Total Value of Projects Approved	\$ 45,455,793

Funding for the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia is provided by:

BOARD MEMBERS

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