

Growing Tomorrow

April 2003 | Volume 3 | Issue 1

CARD Funding Extended

On January 20th, 2003, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lyle Vanclief announced the extension of the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) fund to the end of March 2004. "The extension of CARD is a reflection of its overwhelming success," said Lyle Vanclief. "To date, CARD has funded more than 4,800 projects across Canada and has played an important part in helping the sector thrive and prosper."

"This fifth year of CARD will continue to build on that success, and will allow us to determine the fund's

...continued page 2



Fruit maturity testing demonstration for Ambrosia growers in Summerland, BC.

Planting New Roots

Foundation to deliver Orchard Renovation Program

The range of programs managed by the Investment Agriculture Foundation continues to grow.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF) elected to wind up the Okanagan Valley Tree Fruit Authority (OVTFA) at the end of March and entered into a new trust agreement with the IAF to continue delivery of the Orchard Replant Program. The program is a highly important initiative to help farmers diversify their tree fruit varieties to meet market demand, and to increase yields and profitability.

Under the new agreement, in effect until March 31, 2006, the IAF will manage the \$18 million dollar fund

...continued page 2

and be responsible for program delivery. As such, the IAF welcomes 3 staff members from the former OVTFA who will now work with us to ensure a smooth transition.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation will fulfill all commitments made by MAFF to tree fruit growers, managing the distribution of \$18 million in federal and provincial funds over the next three years – with a target of 2,250 new acres replanted.

Allan Patton, Vice President, BC Tree Fruit Growers Association commented, "I am pleased the tree fruit industry is able to have this valuable program

INSIDE

2

Partnership Projects Provide Solutions

3

New Agreement for Aboriginal Agriculture

4

AgAware Gala Worth Growing About



**Investment
Agriculture
Foundation**
of British Columbia™

CARD Funding Extended *continued*

future direction while complementing the implementation of our national Agricultural Policy Framework programming,” added Vanclief. CARD’s six priorities, determined in consultation with industry, are research and innovation, human resource capacity-building, capturing market opportunities, environmental sustainability, food safety and quality, and rural development.

As in previous years, the CARD fund will operate under an annual \$60 million funding formula. \$35 million will be earmarked to support national initiatives that benefit the entire sector across the country while the remaining \$25 million will be distributed at the regional level through industry-led adaptation councils in each province and territory to fund regional projects.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF) – BC’s CARD council – has directed the delivery of \$7.55 million of regional adaptation funding under the past six years of CARD, and welcomes the new funding. Previous IAF initiatives to link market information back to producers; produce market research; demonstrate new technology; and improve production practices have assisted the British Columbia agri-food industry to respond to the opportunities and challenges presented by the global marketplace.

Further details on CARD and National Initiatives please visit www.agr.gc.ca/card-fcadr ■

Planting New Roots *continued*

continued. It’s important to the future of our industry and we look forward to working with IAF. Efficient delivery of the program and lasting benefits for growers is the goal.”

You may contact those staff members joining us from OVTFA at 1-800-665-5254 or through our web site: www.iafbc.ca ■



Orchard Renovation Program Staff.
From left to right: Linda Rodd,
Deb Gibbard, Lynn Simon

Environment Partnership Projects Find Solutions



Gustav Rogstrand, Master’s student, talking to farmers and others at a compost experiment site at the Vancouver City Landfill Site in Delta.

Kootenay and Peace River producers are protecting forage crops from grazing elk... a livestock management and water stewardship program is enhancing riparian areas... and fewer pesticides are being used at BC nurseries... These projects are all part of the Agriculture Environment Initiatives (AEI), launched in 2001 to help producer groups find solutions to wildlife and environment issues.

The AEI is managed by the BC Agriculture Council, through an industry led management committee, to help solve environmental and sustainability issues and create a stronger future for BC agriculture.

To date, 80 applications have been reviewed and 42 projects approved, totaling \$6.5 million. Seven projects have been completed. Project priorities include education and awareness, enhancing environmental practices, mitigating wildlife damage, research,

and area plans that support agriculture benefits in regional projects.

George Hamilton, Management Committee Chair, says the BC Agriculture Council welcomes the opportunity to actively participate in the process of finding solutions to some long standing issues and concerns. “We’re very happy with the response from producer groups and organizations to help find practical solutions to the environmental challenges we face in agriculture,” says Hamilton.

Agriculture Environment Initiatives funding includes AEI funding of \$12 million placed with IAF as part of the Agri-Food Future Fund; \$3 million committed by MAFF for AEPI wildlife damage compensation pilot projects; and \$990,000 in Agriculture Environment Sustainability Initiative funds from AAFC. ■

AEI helps Delta farmers find compost solutions

The Agriculture Environment Initiatives is helping farmers determine best management practices for on-farm storage and composting of poultry manure in the Fraser Delta area.

With funding of \$50,000 approved under the Agriculture Environment Sustainability Initiative (AESI), and a further \$81,000 over three years from the IAF, a stewardship pilot project is taking place at sites in Delta and Vancouver. The project is helping poultry farmers find cost-effective, environmentally friendly practices for disposal of poultry manure, and develop nutrient amendments to improve and sustain productivity on Delta lands.

The objective is to arrive at a compost production system that produces an organic soil amendment for use in conventional and organic crop production, and meets or exceeds standards for provincial agriculture waste management, national and international organic standards and federal standards for natural fertilizers and food safety.



From left to right: Orlando Schmidt with Art Bomke and Wayne Temple at site of compost trial of poultry waste and yard waste from the City of Vancouver land fill site.

Preliminary results indicate that the conventional practice of having un-composted manure sitting directly on fields is an inadequate environmental practice, and that by increasing management efforts, farmers can meet established organic standards utilizing surplus poultry manure and unwanted urban yard waste.

Funding partners include the Vancouver Foundation, City of Vancouver and the University of British Columbia. ■

AEI Builds Fences in the Peace

Peace River agriculture producers turned to the AEI for help with the growing number of elk that devour forage crops, resulting in annual losses to farms of up to 20%. The solution? Stack yard fencing to protect hay crops from elk and deer.



Irmi Critcher and Allan Blair in fenced stack yard in Peace River region near Dawson Creek.

AEI funding of up to \$500,000 over three years provides these producers with \$3 per foot of fence, representing about one-third of the construction cost. Some 119 applications have been approved, totaling \$342,000.

The project administrators, Peace River Regional District, formed a broad-based wildlife committee that includes agricultural producers, electoral area directors, provincial government ministries, Ducks Unlimited, BC Federation of Naturalists and Sportsmen's clubs. Issues are looked at from many perspectives, accommodating a range of community interests.

"We're grateful AEI funds allow us to address the wildlife damage issue, and that so many groups in the Peace River community have come together to find a solution," says Irmi Critcher of Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer of the BC Grain Producers Association. ■

New Agreement for Aboriginal Agriculture

The Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC (IAF) and the First Nations Agricultural Lending Association (FNALA) have signed a \$500,000 funding agreement for the Aboriginal Agriculture Initiative.

Aboriginal agriculture is one of the IAF's emerging sector funding priorities through the management of the Agri-Food Futures Fund.

The agreement essentially provides a stimulus for First Nations bands to put their land into agricultural production for long-term sustainability. The initiative is focused on increasing First Nations awareness and involvement in agriculture. The FNALA is implementing a strategic plan that was developed by a steering committee that included diverse representation from aboriginal communities and associations.

Overall, the initiative will help to develop the under-utilized potential of First Nations agricultural land and also increase the participation of aboriginal youth and women in agriculture and food processing.

Archie Deneault, Chair of the Aboriginal Agriculture Steering Committee explains why the initiative is so important to First Nations communities: "We have a huge amount of land sitting idle and a substantial workforce. Our communities have lands and water but our people need assistance in planting and growing crops. What's more, forty percent of our population is youth or children. So agriculture could provide a great future for many of them." ■

AgAware Gala Worth Crowing About



Provincial Winner "Best in BC Open Farm Competition" Aldor Acres
From left to right: Gail Macadam, Bob Macadam, Leanna Anderson, Mark Anderson, Albert Anderson, Dorothy Anderson, Brian Anderson and Erin Anderson. A true family affair!

From ushering cows out the door at 4 pm to welcoming guests at 6 pm – such was the scene as organizers prepared for AgAware BC's Agriculture Industry Gala – held at the Abbotsford TRADEX Centre Feb. 21 during the fifth annual Pacific Agriculture Show.

Gala organizers selected Abbotsford as host to say thanks to the farming community for their support of AgAware, BC's industry-run agriculture awareness program managed by the BC Agriculture Council and funded by IAF. They were rewarded with a sellout crowd, excellent corporate

sponsorships, and successful live and silent auctions that raised dollars in support of AgAware and the BC Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions promotional activities.

"The gala represents a new direction for AgAware, a chance for members and supporters from the agriculture community to get together for an evening of celebration, networking and fundraising," says Bruce Bakker, Chair of the AgAware Steering Committee. "The response was simply fantastic and we'll be doing it again. We are continuing to create a positive public image for our industry through AgAware and the Gala is now an important component of this strategy."

The gala, attended by over 400 people, incorporated the 3rd annual Golden Rooster Awards, honouring British Columbians who have helped to spark the public's interest in agriculture.

Along with the ceremonies, attendees were treated to an exclusively BC products dinner featuring pork, turkey, bison, salmon, vegetables, blueberries, mushrooms, goat milk cheeses, potatoes, fruit, raspberries and apples. ■

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. **May 2, May 23, Sept 5 and Oct 31.**

Overview of Projects Funded

Projects approved in the period January 1, 2003 to April 30, 2003

Project proposals approved	13
The Foundation contribution	\$318,483
Total value of projects	\$1,595,055

Summary of total projects approved by the Foundation to April 30, 2003

Letters of Intent received	172
Applications received	399
Number of projects approved	270

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

Total Funding Commitment	\$13,934,924
Total Value of Projects Approved	\$48,529,444

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

BOARD MEMBERS

L. Gary Kenwood
Chair, Vancouver

Garnet Berge
Dawson Creek

Ben Doerksen
Abbotsford

Rhonda Driediger
Langley

Fred Gartrell
Summerland

Walter Goerzen
Chilliwack

Deborah Henderson
Vancouver

Cornelis Hertgers
Agassiz

Jens Larsen
Merritt

Bob McCoubrey
Lake Country

H.A. (Bert) Miles
Coquitlam

Walter Siemens
Abbotsford

Roma Tingle
Prince George

Ex Officio

John Berry
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Harvey Sasaki
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

CONTACT INFO

Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia

Tel (250) 356-1662
Fax (250) 953-5162
www.iafbc.ca