

# Growing Tomorrow

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## Stabilizing Farm Income

The new Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program is in place across Canada. With this highly dependable and predictable program, producers now have protection from both small and large declines in farm margins. CAIS offers protection, even in disaster situations.

CAIS replaces the previous Net Income Stabilization Accounts (NISA) and the Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP).

Program payments are shared between producers and government. When producers trigger withdrawals as a result of declines in

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Alternate Weed Control Trial – Bylands Nursery, Kelowna.

## Banding Together for Reducing Pesticide Use

Nursery associations from nine provinces, including BC, have joined together to mount Canada's first national Integrated Pest Management (IPM) research project.

The aim of the \$156,000 project is to increase adoption of IPM techniques and reduce the use of broad-spectrum chemical pesticides in commercial nurseries and urban landscaping across Canada. It marks the first time Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development (CARD) funding has

come from nine different provinces to support this national research project administered by the IAF.

"Nursery industry leaders understand the public and government want to see a decrease in the use of pesticides," said Harold Deenen, president of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA), a national organization representing 2,500 growers, landscapers and retailers. "Working together gives us greater focus, allowing us to make IPM a national priority."

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## Stabilizing Farm Income *continued*

farm income, they receive funds from their own program deposits and from government contributions.

The program targets government funds to the deepest losses: the larger the decline in farm income, the greater the proportion of the payment that will come from government.

To get access to CAIS protection, producers need to select their desired level of protection to make a deposit in a CAIS account at a participating financial institution. The size of a producer's deposit depends on the selected level of protection.

The deposit is not a payment to government. It belongs at all times to the producer, as does the interest that accrues, and it remains on deposit from year-to-year until it is used.

All funds remaining in NISA accounts, including producer deposits and government contributions, belong to producers, and are available for withdrawal now.

In British Columbia, the deadline for producers to select their level of protection and the deadline for making the accompanying deposit have been extended. For more information on these dates and the program call toll-free 1-866-367-8506, or visit [www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram](http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram). ■

## Banding Together *continued*

The research addresses key pesticide concerns and builds on regional strengths. A survey of IPM practices and pesticide use across Canada will be conducted, and the CNLA will work with researchers at academic institutions, provincial agriculture ministries, and private sector research agencies on a range of trials, including: alternative weed control options for containerized nursery production, advantages of mycorrhizal inoculation at the time of propagation, and controlling black vine weevil, European chafer and other insect pests.

Deenen said the project will allow the CNLA to tell its members "what strategies work best and have the least affect on the environment."

"The CNLA has shown great leadership in developing strong working alliances with all nine provincial industry associations for carrying out this project," said John Berry,



European Chafer Project, New Westminster.

Regional Director for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. "This collaborative approach to providing CARD funding for industry projects began in western Canada and is now a model for the Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food (ACAAF) program which replaces CARD." ■

## Helping Farmers Make Sound Environmental Choices

Environmental Farm Planning (EFP), a national program that offers incentives to producers to help them adopt sound stewardship practices, is coming to British Columbia.

A \$24-million agreement between the federal government and the Investment Agriculture Foundation was announced in late February.



Walter Goerzen, IAF Chair, and George Hamilton, BCAC Chair signing EFP agreement.

The BC Agriculture Council (BCAC) will deliver the program to producers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

"Environmental awareness and the adoption of on-farm environmental priorities will pay dividends for the benefit of all Canadians," said federal Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister, Bob Speller.

Environmental Farm Planning is a voluntary program. Producers who participate will attend an EFP workshop in their area, do an environmental risk assessment of their farm or ranch, develop a plan to mitigate any identified risks, and submit the plan for a confidential review by a BCAC-recognized planning advisor.

In BC, EFP services at the local level will be led by 'delivery groups.' These are

## Helping Farmers *continued*

organizations or groups selected by BCAC to co-ordinate program delivery to certain commodity groups, or to producers in a certain geographic area. Delivery groups will contract a recognized EFP planning advisor, who will assist producers at all stages.

Once a plan is approved, producers are eligible to apply for cost-shared incentives. There's a broad range of eligible categories, from increased manure storage and run-off containment systems to improved on-farm

pesticide storage and relocation of corrals away from riparian areas.

"Industry's leadership in the delivery of this program is a positive step forward for BC producers," said George Hamilton, BCAC Chair. "We fully expect that enhanced on-farm stewardship will lead to a higher standard of food safety for products grown in British Columbia."

For more information, visit the BCAC website at [www.bcac.bc.ca/efp\\_programs.htm](http://www.bcac.bc.ca/efp_programs.htm) ■

## Healthy News for Food and Beverage Processors



BC Food and Beverage Council meeting with Harvey Sasaki, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. Left to Right: Brad Buchanan, Harvey Sasaki, Pieter Vanderpol, Rick Grimm, Rick Pipes.

With more than 1,100 firms of various sizes grouped around 130 commodities, the BC Food and Beverage Processing Industry is one of Canada's most diverse sectors. However, that very diversity has also hindered the industry from coming together and addressing common concerns that would allow it to become more competitive.

But the BC sector is now poised for future growth through a new five-year strategic plan, which follows extensive work done by an industry-appointed steering committee. "What's been missing is a unified strategy and market focus that encourages us to

work together as an industry and open up new opportunities for our individual businesses," said Gay Hahn, CEO of Vancouver based Avalon Dairy Ltd. and Co-Chair of the new Council.

Under sponsorship of the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) and the federal and provincial government, the committee engaged a team of consultants and conducted a research project that included a comprehensive survey of BC processors. From the research, a strategic

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## New ACAAF Funding Program

The federal government has unveiled a new five-year, \$255-million funding program to expand the agriculture and agri-food industry's capacity to respond to issues, seize new opportunities and plan for the future.

The Advancing Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food program (ACAAF) builds upon and replaces the Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development fund. The new program was developed after consultations with industry and CARD regional councils on the need for a long-term, funded program.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Bob Speller said, "ACAAF will further encourage the sector to map out future agriculture and agri-food policy directions."

The new ACAAF program will continue CARD's innovative, cooperative approach to funding national, multi-regional and regional projects using industry-led councils. ACAAF is built on three pillars: Pillar I supports projects that test or pilot approaches and solutions to emerging issues. Pillar II supports projects that capture market opportunities by advancing research results. Pillar III supports projects aimed at gathering, analyzing and sharing information to advance the sector.

ACAAF is also recognizing the success of western CARD initiatives by establishing 'collective outcome' projects that will encourage industry associations at the national and regional level to work together and benefit from joint projects.

"We're pleased with the open and comprehensive approach used in consulting with Adaptation Councils and industry to create this new program," said Walt Goerzen, Investment Agriculture Foundation Chair. "Establishing industry councils as the delivery agent for agriculture and food sector development funding was a bold move. The Foundation will continue in this role for implementing the new ACAAF program." ■

## Healthy News *continued*

plan and broad-based organization to implement it – the new BC Food and Beverage Processors Council – were created.

The strategy has four goals, backed by an energetic first-year work plan. To enhance the competitive position of BC processors, a series of HACCP food safety and ‘access to capital’ workshops are planned. To assist in building BC’s reputation in health and lifestyle product markets, a new market trends bulletin will be developed. And to help build working relationships with retailers and producers, an industry-wide value-chain forum is on the schedule.

Finally, to achieve the goal of enhancing communications and coordination in the sector, the new strategy will be aggressively promoted. This includes working with other industry organizations on

strategic initiatives in support of the strategy, and ongoing participation with the Food Processor Alliance of Canada.

Funding for strategy implementation is on a 50:50 basis between the IAF and industry with funding coming from the the Agri-Food Futures Fund.

“A growing and innovative processing sector is key to a stronger future for BC agriculture,” said IAF Director Bert Miles. “Thanks to the strong leadership of steering committee members in preparing a comprehensive strategy, the Foundation has approved \$1.5 million for this initiative.”

For more information on the initiative and eligible projects, visit [www.iafbc.ca/food.bev/](http://www.iafbc.ca/food.bev/) ■

## Foundation Directors Re-appointed

On April 27, our Members Group reviewed appointments for six Director positions on the IAFBC Board. All current Directors were re-appointed for a two-year term: Cattle – **Jens Larsen**, Poultry – **Walter Siemens**, Grains and Oilseeds – **Garnet Berge**, Post Farm Gate – **Walter Goerzen**, Horticulture Berries and Vegetables – **Rhonda Driediger**, Post Farm Gate – **Bert Miles**.

## 2004 Application Deadlines

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit proposals well in advance of the following deadlines.

May 28 • September 3 • October 1 • November 12, 2004.

## Overview of Projects Funded

The Foundation is a non-profit organization that invests funds to help the agri-food industry adapt, diversify and grow.

Summary of total funding committed by the Foundation to December 31, 2003.

Canadian Adaptation and Rural Development	\$8.423 Million	Orchard Renovation Program	\$16.977 Million
Agri-Food Futures Fund	\$12.558 Million	<i>For a detailed listing of approved projects please check out the foundation website <a href="http://www.iafbc.ca/project.listing.htm">www.iafbc.ca/project.listing.htm</a></i>	
Safety Net Companion Program	\$8.356 Million		

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

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