



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investment Agriculture Foundation Announces New Executive

June 12, 2006 – Victoria, B.C. The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. is pleased to announce its new chair and executive. The board of directors selected Bert Miles to serve as chair, Jens Larsen as vice-chair, Garnet Berge as treasurer and Gary Sandberg as secretary.

Bert Miles lives in the lower mainland and is one of two directors representing the post farm gate sector. He is general manager of Burnaby Lake Greenhouses based in Surrey. Miles has extensive senior management experience in farming and post-farm gate sectors. He also has experience as an executive member and chair of Surrey Metro Savings Credit Union, now Coast Capital Savings, and as an executive member of the Credit Union Central of B.C.

Jens Larsen resides near Merritt and represents the cattle sector. Born and raised on a farm in Denmark, he has agriculture in his blood. In addition to the family farm, Larsen worked on farms and ranches in Australia, California and Alberta before settling in B.C. in 1978. He acquired the Dot Ranch near Merritt in 1995. The family-run cattle ranch is also home to horses and hay production. Larsen is a currently a director of his local stock association and he has served as a director of the B.C. Cattlemen's Association.

Garnet Berge hails from Dawson Creek and represents the grain, forage and oilseed sector. He operates a third generation family farm – Berge Farms Ltd. – near Dawson Creek. Berge is past president and current director of both the B.C. Grain Producers Association and the Peace River Soil Conservation Association and he serves as chair of the B.C. Grain Industry Development Council. He has served as director of the South Peace Grain Cleaning Co-op, the Canola Council of Canada and the Canadian Canola Growers Association. He was inducted into the Soil Conservation Council Hall of Fame in 1998.

Gary Sandberg lives in Chilliwack and represents livestock industries other than dairy, cattle and poultry. In addition to owning Three Stirrups Stables, Sandberg holds a PhD in food science and is currently the head of the food technology program at BCIT with an adjunct professorship at UBC. Sandberg sits on the boards of the Western Canada Functional Food and Nutraceuticals Network and Enwave Corporation, and is a member of the Horse Council of B.C.

Funding provided by:

Incoming chair, Bert Miles, identified two major challenges facing the Foundation's board in the coming months.

"We need to find innovative ways to invest in BC's agriculture industry," says Miles. "Net farm income is declining which makes it even harder for industry groups to raise cash to match the IAF contributions to projects.

"We also have to fulfil the objectives set out in the five key recommendations of the Focus on the Future," adds Miles. This study – jointly commissioned by the Foundation, the BC Agriculture Council and the BC Food Processors Association – is available online (www.iafbc.ca/current.initiative.htm).

The Investment Agriculture Foundation's board consists of 13 industry-appointed directors responsible for administering the various programs entrusted to the Foundation. Directors are appointed by industry for two-year terms. Two ex-officio, non-voting directors represent Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

The Investment Agriculture Foundation is a non-profit organization responsible for the distribution of federal and provincial funds toward innovative projects benefiting the agri-food industry in B.C.

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Funding provided by:

Canada



Investment Agriculture Foundation's Board of Directors

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- Garnet Berge – Grains, Oilseeds and Forage
- William Cheuk – Horticulture: Greenhouse, Floriculture and Nursery
- Tony DiMaria – Horticulture: Tree Fruits
- Bar Hayre – Horticulture: Berries, Field Vegetables and Mushrooms
- Deborah Henderson – Farm Supply Sector
- Cornelius Hertgers – Dairy
- Derek Janzen – Poultry
- Jens Larsen – Cattle
- Gerry McClintock – Community Agriculture
- Bob McCoubrey – Emerging Sectors
- Bert Miles – Post Farm Gate
- Gary Sandberg – Other Livestock
- Stuart Wilson – Post Farm Gate

Two ex-officio, non-voting directors represent Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

- John Berry – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Harvey Sasaki – B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

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