



## MEDIA RELEASE



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### **B.C. Farmers Get Funding Boost for Environmental Management Practices**

**VICTORIA, British Columbia – August 15, 2008** – The British Columbia Agriculture Council (BCAC) and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of British Columbia (IAF) are pleased to advise that an additional \$2.5 million has been made available for the implementation of Beneficial Management Practices (BMP) in B.C. This will complement existing funding under the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) Program and the National Farm Stewardship Program (NFSP), joint federal-provincial programs under the Agricultural Policy Framework.

IAF approved the additional funding following submissions and representation by the BCAC. As a result, the BCAC can re-open applications for BMPs for implementation of EFPs, ensuring continuity and momentum in current program delivery.

According to IAF chair Stuart Wilson, "This is a significant commitment on the part of the Foundation to ensure that the B.C. Agriculture Council has the necessary resources to deliver a high quality, much sought after program."

"The B.C. Agriculture Council is very pleased to receive the support of the Investment Agriculture Foundation in providing this additional funding," said Garnet Etsell, Chair of the BCAC Board of Directors. "It will maintain the positive momentum for environmental farm planning and will allow us to manage the program fully and effectively through the transition to Growing Forward. I have been very encouraged by producer engagement in the planning process and we appreciate the continued support of all of our program partners in the delivery of this important program."

The National Farm Stewardship Program provides assistance to producers in implementing Beneficial Management Practices identified in their EFP. Applications for funding can only be made once producers have successfully completed an EFP. Projects must be completed by December 31, 2008 and claims for project expenses must be received by January 31, 2009 in order to receive full payment.

Today's announcement tops up previous funding provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, and brings total funding available for BMP support to more than \$5.5 million in British Columbia.

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*Funding provided by:*



The B.C. Agriculture Council provides leadership in representing, promoting, and advocating the collective interests of all agricultural producers in the province. For more information about the programs and services of the BCAC, please visit [www.bcac.bc.ca](http://www.bcac.bc.ca).

The IAF is a not-for-profit organization that manages and distributes federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects to benefit the agriculture and agri-food industries in B.C. To learn more about the Investment Agriculture Foundation and the funding programs it administers, please visit [www.iafbc.com](http://www.iafbc.com).

Backgrounder attached.

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*Funding provided by:*

Canada



## Backgrounder

For more information on the Canada – British Columbia Environmental Farm Plan Program, operators may contact one of the following representatives:

BC Cattlemen's Association  
Peter Spencer  
250-764-0376

BC Fruit Growers Association  
Don Magnusson  
250-717-6948

Landscape, Nursery, Floriculture and Greenhouse Vegetable  
Hedy Dyck  
604-574-7772

BC Milk Producers' Association  
Dave Melnychuk  
604-812-3276

BC Potato and Vegetable Growers Association  
Jyl Singh  
604-807-5659

BC Poultry Association  
Allen James  
604-795-7656

Certified Organic Associations of BC  
Paddy Doherty  
250-747-3287

Island Farmer's Alliance  
Peter Versteegen  
250-743-2243

Those whose operation falls outside these categories may contact:

B.C Agriculture Research Development Corporation  
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Abbotsford BC V2T 1W5  
Tel: 604-854-4483  
Toll free: 1-866-522-3447