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## **Investment Agriculture Foundation contributes \$1.45 million to new projects**

**November 9, 2010, Victoria, B.C.** – The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) will contribute up to \$1,450,561 toward 22 new projects to help the B.C. agri-food industry adapt, diversify and grow.

The list includes new projects contracted between May 1 and August 31, 2010. Funding for these projects is provided by IAF through programs it delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments. The projects include strategic plans, a variety of educational events, and research that will enable sectors to develop innovative solutions to emerging issues.

“IAF funds a wide variety of projects that are as diverse as the B.C. agriculture industry. From large-scale multi-year research projects to projects with a shorter timeframe or narrower scope, we can help sectors address their specific issues and opportunities,” says Stuart Wilson, IAF chair. “We encourage industry groups to talk to us about their priorities.”

### **CANADIAN AGRICULTURAL ADAPTATION PROGRAM**

Funding for the following projects is provided through Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada’s Canadian Agricultural Adaptation Program. CAAP is a five-year, \$163 million national program aimed at helping the sector adapt and remain competitive. The Foundation delivers CAAP in British Columbia and has been allocated \$6.2 million over the period 2009-2014.

#### **Abbotsford Growers Cooperative Union**

\$27,812

Market Development Assessment of Aseptic Processing of Raspberries (A0605)

The Abbotsford Growers Cooperative Union owns the only aseptic berry processing equipment in western Canada. Aseptic processing, which requires considerably less thermal stress than other processing techniques, could provide another value-added opportunity for the raspberry industry to remain competitive in the global market. This market assessment will include a survey of current and potential buyers, analysis of results and recommendations that will be shared with project participants and industry.

#### **Alberta Beef Producers**

\$10,359

Towards a Practical Test for *Campylobacter fetus* in Beef Cattle: Getting to the Bottom of Reproductive Failure in Cow-Calf Herds (W0139 / AB1058CO)

*Campylobacter fetus* can cause early abortions in cows, but at present, there is no reliable diagnostic test for this bacterium. Technological advances may allow more reliable diagnoses and the development of appropriate prevention, management and control recommendations. This project will evaluate and optimize a new field collection protocol and a practical test for *C. fetus* in beef bulls and pilot the use of the test in veterinary practices across western Canada.

<p><b>B.C. Landscape &amp; Nursery Association<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>Green Roof Plants: Elevated Research Platform Dual Track Research Project (A0602)</p> <p>Green roofs have proven beneficial in addressing climate change, energy efficiency, and other environmental concerns. This three-year research project will evaluate green roof technologies that support vegetation growth on rooftops, improve air and water quality, and reduce energy costs and will help the ornamental nursery sector gain access to this quickly expanding market.</p>	<p>\$108,172</p>
<p><b>B.C. Landscape &amp; Nursery Association<sup>2</sup></b></p> <p>Nursery Industry Adaptation to National Phytosanitary Certification Program to Minimize Risk of Importing Invasive Alien Species (A0606)</p> <p>The B.C. nursery industry was threatened in 2004 when a plant disease called <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> was found in several B.C. nurseries. In response, industry developed a program to minimize the threat of moving <i>P. ramorum</i> into B.C. This project will assist nursery growers to adopt the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's new Domestic Phytosanitary Certification Program, in order to move from a single-pest certification program to an overarching nursery certification program.</p>	<p>\$165,391</p>
<p><b>Federation of B.C. Woodlot Associations<sup>3</sup></b></p> <p>Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative: Phase II (S0012)</p> <p>This four-year strategic initiative will support opportunities for sustainable diversification options in niche agroforestry production and innovative conservation practices that are integrated with existing agricultural production systems. The strategic priorities of the initiative are focused on partnerships, demonstrating agroforestry practices, education and awareness, policy and regulation development and marketing.</p>	<p>\$421,000</p>
<p><b><u>SAFETY NET</u></b></p> <p>Funding for these projects is provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.</p>	
<p><b>B.C. Association of Abattoirs</b></p> <p>Strategic Plan for B.C. Abattoirs (A0613)</p> <p>The red meat and small-scale meat processing industry is undertaking a strategic planning process that will help the industry address current challenges, identify their goals and ensure that these goals are realized in a timely fashion for the sustainability of the sector.</p>	<p>\$33,008</p>
<p><b>B.C. Hazelnut Growers' Association</b></p> <p>Cultivar Trial of Eastern Filbert Blight Resistant Hazelnuts in the Fraser Valley (A0618)</p> <p>B.C. is the only Canadian province that grows hazelnuts commercially. In 2001, B.C.'s hazelnut trees were first identified as being infected with Eastern Filbert Blight. This five-year project will establish field trials of new cultivars that are resistant to the disease and share the results of the trial with growers, nurseries and agricultural researchers.</p>	<p>\$27,000</p>
<p><b>University of British Columbia, Dairy Education and Research Centre</b></p> <p>Evaluation and Validation of Heifer Rearing Practices on B.C. Dairy Farms (A0619)</p> <p>This project will evaluate dairy producers' current heifer rearing practices, in order to</p>	<p>\$12,500</p>

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<sup>1</sup> Project contracted April 2010

<sup>2</sup> Project contracted April 2010

<sup>3</sup> Project contracted February 2010

increase productivity and help maintain a high standard of animal care in B.C. Dairy producers will be surveyed regarding their calf and heifer growing practices and successful practices will be identified in relation to health and performance (including calving and dairy milk production of first-calf heifers).

**Bella Coola Valley Sustainable Agriculture Society** \$9,700

Bella Coola Valley Foodshed Development Project (A0627)

This project is intended to expand on previous mapping and agriculture capacity work by utilizing GIS mapping information, surveying private landowners and identifying Crown provincial lands that have high agricultural potential. The final deliverable will be a detailed map identifying parcels of land for commercial agricultural development.

**Regional District of Central Kootenay** \$45,000

Central Kootenay Sustainable Agriculture Area Plan (B0016.25)

The regional district would like to encourage and enhance agriculture activities in their region, where they believe there is likely more agricultural capacity than captured in the Agricultural Land Reserve. This agricultural area plan – which is expected to be completed in May 2011 – will include information about farming infrastructure, economics, agricultural contributions, development pressures and urban-rural fringe activities.

**City of Campbell River** \$37,000

Campbell River Agricultural Plan & Strategy (B0016.26)

Campbell River currently has little agricultural production and as part of the upgrade to their Official Community Plan, will create an agricultural area plan that will identify agricultural capacity and support increased production. This work will also complement current asset mapping for forestry, aquaculture and fisheries. The plan is expected to be completed in April 2011.

**University of Northern British Columbia** \$21,360

Evaluation of Local Government Agricultural Area Planning Program (B0027)

IAF created the Local Government Agricultural Area Planning Program in 1999 in recognition of the important role that local municipal governments play in shaping the agricultural community. IAF has contracted UNBC to review and evaluate the outcomes achieved from completed agricultural area plans, to determine to what extent the intended outcomes of the program were met and how the program might be improved.

**Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen’s Association** \$4,250

Temple Grandin Seminars in Northern B.C. (SP150)

Temple Grandin is considered a philosophical leader of both the animal welfare and autism advocacy movements. The Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association brought Grandin to northern B.C. in June to provide a three-day workshop series on animal care and welfare. The Prince George and Vanderhoof workshops were very well-attended.

**San Jose Cattle Company Ltd.** \$2,000

Cariboo Holistic Ranch Management Workshop (SP152)

This one-day workshop held at 100 Mile House on May 5, 2010 introduced the benefits of Holistic Ranch Management, based on the success of B-C Ranch of Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Participants learned how innovation and change to ranch operations can result in healthier land, more grass, more productive animals, more profit and less work, resulting in a better quality of life for farm families.

**LIVESTOCK WASTE TISSUE INITIATIVE**

Funding for this project is provided through the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative.

**Ausenco Sandwell** \$208,820

Feasibility Study for the Gasification of Poultry Litter and Animal Carcass Tissue (LWTI 039)  
The project will investigate the economic and operational feasibility of gasifying poultry litter, spent hens and specified risk material. The main goal of the project will be to turn waste management problems into renewable energy production and net environmental benefits.

**B.C. Salmon Farmers' Association** \$7,079

Salmon Farmers' Mass Mortality Disposal Workshop (LWTI 042)  
The B.C. Salmon Farmers Association is developing an industry-wide management plan for viral diseases, which will include a contingency plan to respond to possible future disease events that may result in mass mortalities. The development of this plan included workshop in June in Campbell River where mass mortality disposal experts from agricultural and other sectors were able to discuss viable options for the salmon farming industry.

**Peace River Regional District** \$50,000

Peace River Mass Carcass Disposal: Phase II Pilot Project (LWTI 040)  
The Peace River Regional District has the most weight of livestock compared to all other local governments in B.C. The regional district previously completed an emergency plan for disposal of farmed animal carcasses. This one-year pilot project will help develop the regional district's capacity for emergency carcass disposal by determining suitable landfill sites using GIS mapping and obtaining permits for the selected sites.

**Spa Hills Farm Inc.** \$189,750

Non-SRM Slaughter Waste Composting Facility (LWTI 046)  
The abattoir industry in B.C. is facing unprecedented waste disposal costs as a result of tightening specified risk material regulations. It has become a business imperative for the industry to utilize lower-cost alternative waste management options. This project will involve building and operating a composting facility for non-SRM waste from three slaughter plants in the Kamloops - Salmon Arm area, which are expected to benefit through lower waste disposal costs. The facility will meet the Ministry of Environment Organic Matter Recycling Regulation and is expected to be operational by year's end.

**OTHER PROGRAMMING**

Funding for these projects are provided through various programs IAF delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

**B.C. 4-H Provincial Council** \$10,000

Food for Thought (SP156)  
The Food for Thought program is a new initiative for B.C. 4-H that gives members ages 14 and 15 from across British Columbia the opportunity to discover B.C. agriculture and food products. The program includes tours of the Fraser Valley and hands on experience relative to current rural agricultural issues. This year's event was held in Langley from

July 12-16, 2010.

Funding: former federal adaptation programming.

**Eaglet Lake Farmers' Institute**

\$1,360

Eastline Agricultural Business Directory (SP153)

The Eaglet Lake Farmers' Institute – located east of Prince George – has created an agricultural business directory of service providers and agriculture-based home businesses. The purpose of the directory is to increase the profile of agri-businesses in the region, link service providers and producers with customers and encourage growth in the small rural communities in the region.

Funding: provincial 2010 Opportunities Fund.

**SOS Marine Conservation Foundation**

\$25,000

'Namgis Land-based Recirculating Salmon Aquaculture Pilot: Phase I (SI002)

This pilot project aims to demonstrate the technological and commercial viability of producing salmon in a land-based, closed-containment, recirculating aquaculture facility. The small-scale demonstration facility – located in 'Namgis First Nation territory near Port McNeill – will be used to optimise the design of future large-scale commercial facilities.

Funding: provincial Aquaculture Innovation Fund.

**University of Victoria**

\$34,000

Genomics in Salmon and Lice (GiLS) (SI001)

This three-year research project will examine the host-parasite relationship between salmon and sea lice at the genetic level. Using genetic information, researchers will identify markers to assess populations and origins of sea lice on the west coast and develop new vaccines.

Funding: provincial Aquaculture Innovation Fund.

IAF is an industry-led not-for-profit that strategically invests federal and provincial funds in support of innovative projects that benefit the agriculture and agri-food industry in B.C. For more information on IAF and the programs it delivers, visit [www.iafbc.ca](http://www.iafbc.ca).

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For more information on any of these projects, media may contact the organization leading the project or:

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