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## **Investment Agriculture Foundation Contributes \$920,000 to New Projects**

**February 28, 2011, Victoria, B.C.** – The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) will contribute up to \$920,867 toward 17 new projects to help the B.C. agri-food industry adapt, diversify and grow.

The list includes new projects contracted between September 1 and December 31, 2010. Funding for these projects is provided by IAF through programs it delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments. Projects include applied research, value-added initiatives, educational forums for producers, community agricultural planning and more.

“We invest in projects that help B.C.’s agriculture and agri-food industry respond to emerging issues and opportunities,” says Stuart Wilson, IAF chair. “Our funding can help your sector remain competitive and sustainable.”

### **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 Veterinary Clinic**

\$33,500

Development of a Serological Test for the Diagnosis of Johne’s Disease (A0615)

Johne’s disease is a chronic, progressive and eventually fatal intestinal disease affecting both beef and dairy cattle. However, the cattle industry does not currently have a rapid and reliable diagnostic test for this disease. This project will enable the development of an early-detection test that will help improve control programs in conjunction with other management practices.

#### **Haida Gwaii Local Food Processing Co-operative**

\$20,600

Application of Vacuum Microwave Dehydration on New Products for Commercial Production (A0623)

The Co-operative has been exploring the application of new drying technology – known as vacuum microwave dehydration (VMD) – for the purpose of processing wild mushrooms and have successfully achieved commercial production levels using wild chanterelle mushrooms. This project will enable the Co-operative to test several other B.C. products – such as herbs, seaweed, nettles, berries and cultivated vegetables – in their commercial VMD unit and position these new agri-food products to be market-ready.

\$10,000

**B.C. Raspberry Industry Development Council**

Investigating New Harvest Technology for Use in the British Columbia Raspberry Industry (SP163)

Raspberries in British Columbia have traditionally been hand-picked but recently machine harvesting has become more common. In November 2010, a group of industry members travelled to Chile to investigate innovative harvest technology that minimizes fruit damage during harvesting, and to determine if this technology can be adapted to B.C. raspberry production conditions.

**BC Egg Marketing Board**

\$30,000

Disposal of Spent Hens (W0136CO)

The cost of disposing of spent hens is a significant economic challenge for the poultry sector. Therefore, the sector is exploring the possibility of adopting new technology as an alternative to the current methods of disposal. This feasibility study will investigate whether a mobile processing unit (such as those currently used in Europe) is a viable solution, including potential market opportunities for the rendered product and ownership options.

**SAFETY NET**

Funding for these projects is provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.

**Misty Isles Economic Development Society**

\$44,709.30

Agriculture Strategic Plan for Haida Gwaii (A0610)

This project includes research to determine past and current levels of agricultural activity on Haida Gwaii, to identify potential opportunities for expanded agricultural production and processing, and to identify possible challenges to local agricultural growth. The background research will include mapping soil types and identifying areas to test possible crops. The resulting plan is intended to be implemented in conjunction with the Haida Gwaii Strategic Land Use Agreement.

**Canada's Outstanding Young Farmer Program**

\$21,305

Educational Components of the 2010 National Outstanding Young Farmers Conference (A0622)

In November, Victoria hosted the 2010 National Outstanding Young Farmers Conference. IAF funding supported the educational component of the conference, which was intended to encourage young farmers to innovate and apply new ideas. The forum focused on how to incorporate successful value chains into farm operations took place on November 26, with over 260 in attendance. A tour also took four busloads of conference participants to various farms and agri-businesses in the region.

**AR-PE Hooftrimming Limited**

\$34,613

BC Dairy Hoof Health Project (A0628)

Lameness in dairy cattle can cause reduced milk production and higher herd health costs and is associated with reproductive failure. This project addresses lameness in B.C. dairy cows by enabling hoof trimmers to collect lameness data and share information to improve management practices. Hoof trimmers were invited to a one-day workshop November 2010 to learn how to use a newly-developed standardized data collection unit called a Hoof Supervisor. The data will be added to a comprehensive B.C. dairy cow hoof health database, helping to guide future lameness research and dairy herd management techniques.

**Islands Trust** \$5,000

Denman Island Agriculture Planning Strategy - Phase I of Agricultural Plan (A0629)  
Nearly half of Denman Island is in the Agricultural Land Reserve. In order to support the socio-economic diversity of the community, agricultural planning is a priority for the Islands Trust. This project included the development of a land-use inventory and the identification of opportunities and barriers for agricultural development on the island. The report is available online at [www.islandstrust.ca](http://www.islandstrust.ca).

**B.C. Agriculture Council** \$74,767

B.C. Agriculture Climate Change Adaptation: Risk and Opportunity Assessment (A0630)  
This project will increase understanding of the potential impacts of climate change for the B.C. agriculture sector. It will identify risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities, practices that farmers currently use to manage weather variations, and gaps in information and resources currently available to support agricultural adaptation. The assessment will be guided by the perspective of agriculture organizations, producers and specialists, across five regions and a broad cross section of commodities.

**Okanagan Kootenay Cherry Growers Association** \$7,640.50

Export of Canadian Cherries to China: Pest Risk Assessment by Chinese Inspectors (SP158)  
The Chinese market is a potentially lucrative market for B.C. cherries; however, current phytosanitary restrictions present a challenge. The Association had the opportunity to host two field inspectors from China to validate B.C. pest management protocols in July 2010. An inspection by Chinese regulators helps add international credibility to the B.C. cherry sector and brings the cherry growers one step closer to being able to capture this market.

**B.C. Vegetable Marketing Commission** \$6,350

British Columbia Vegetable Roundtable (SP159)  
The purpose of this roundtable – held in October 2010 - was to bring together key participants in the B.C. vegetable sector under the common goal of enhancing sector competitiveness and sustainability and increasing the sales of B.C. grown vegetables. Topics for discussion at the facilitated session include increasing awareness of the challenges facing the B.C. vegetable sector and identifying value-added opportunities.

**B.C. Poultry Association** \$782.50

Infectious Laryngotracheitis Poultry Producer Seminar (SP160)  
Infectious Laryngotracheitis is a significant disease for Fraser Valley chicken, egg and broiler hatching egg producers. More than 100 producers attended a seminar in September 2010 with veterinarians and other industry experts that provided information on causes of the disease, management practices and current vaccinations.

#### **LIVESTOCK WASTE TISSUE INITIATIVE**

Funding for these projects is provided through the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative.

#### **Farm Animal Mass Carcass Disposal Tabletop Exercises**

Local governments across the province are working with the Justice Institute of B.C. to develop and facilitate a basic tabletop exercise on a mass carcass disposal event. The exercise will help increase awareness within the local livestock industry of the

community's mass carcass disposal preparedness and identify disposal plan improvements.

<b>District of Spallumcheen</b> (LWTI 050)	\$6,035
<b>Regional District of Nanaimo</b> (LWTI 051)	\$8,854
<b>Regional District of Central Kootenay</b> (LWTI 052)	\$8,546
<b>City of Chilliwack</b> (LWTI 053)	\$8,165

**OTHER PROGRAMMING**

Funding for this project is provided through various programs IAF delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments.

<b>Invasive Plant Council of B.C.</b>	\$600,000
Building Collaboration and Information for Invasive Plant Management in B.C. (SI003)	
These provincial funds will support a coordinated and collaborative approach to invasive plant management and education across B.C. This will be achieved through two pilot projects enabling regional weed committees to develop Invasive Plant Management Areas within their region; updating educational resources; and an Early Detection and Response Program to prevent the introduction of new highly invasive species.	
Funding: Invasive Plant Management Program	

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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