



Investment Agriculture Foundation Contributes \$600,000 to New Projects

June 23, 2011, Victoria, B.C. – The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) will contribute up to \$605,965 toward 19 new projects to help the B.C. agri-food industry adapt, diversify and grow.

The list includes new projects contracted between January 1 and April 30, 2011. Funding for these projects is provided by IAF through programs it delivers on behalf of the federal and provincial governments. Projects include research into disease management, market development and energy efficiency; strategic planning and agricultural area plans; crop management resources for producers; educational events; and emergency planning.

“These projects will enable the industry to respond to emerging issues with innovative solutions and seize new opportunities to be more competitive and sustainable,” says Stuart Wilson, IAF chair. “We encourage industry groups to talk to us about their priorities, so we can identify how we can best help.”

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.

BC Association of Cattle Feeders¹

\$19,845

Optimizing Finished Cattle in British Columbia (A0624)

This project will be comparing four different feeding regimes, finishing 60 cattle at two different ages (as calves and as yearlings), comparing for temperament differences, economics, meat quality, and antimicrobial effects. The research results will help evaluate opportunities for BC ranchers to adapt various feeding and slaughter management strategies.

BC Agriculture Council

\$36,520

Phase II: BC Farm Energy Assessment Pilot Project (A0632)

For producers, energy remains a significant input cost. Increasing on-farm energy efficiency provides the potential for cost-savings, as well as greenhouse gas emission reductions. The first phase of the BC Farm Energy Assessment Pilot – involving a number of partners including FortisBC (formerly Terasen Gas) and BC Hydro – enabled the development of an Excel-based assessment tool and the collection of key energy efficiency opportunities for a number of sectors. Further work is needed to ensure that a broader range of farm types can apply the tool and that sufficient data is collected for benchmarking. This second phase will provide information on region and commodity-specific farm energy and fuel issues.

¹ Project contracted December 2010

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| <p>BC Association of Cattle Feeders²</p> <p>Market and Logistics Research for Two Regional Beef Value Chains in BC (A0633)</p> <p>This project will undertake research into developing local beef value chains in the Cariboo, Fraser Valley and Okanagan regions. The research will investigate the critical attributes – such as demand for various cuts and the level of quality – of locally raised and processed beef for chefs, specialty retail, catering and food services buyers in these regions. The research will also help determine consumers’ willingness to pay a quality premium and provide information to indicate the resulting price points and margins for producers, processors and distributors in the value chain.</p> | <p>\$83,937</p> |
| <p>Agricultural Research and Development Corporation</p> <p>Benchmarking Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Across BC's Agriculture and Agri-Food Sector (A0637)</p> <p>Adding an anaerobic digestion system to a livestock or food processing operation can improve the operation's economic viability and environmental sustainability. This one-year project will determine the economic, logistic and technical feasibility of installing anaerobic digestion systems at five agricultural sites in BC. It will provide five benchmarks for other livestock producers in evaluating the potential for installing this technology. It will also help BC Hydro establish Feed-in-Tariff prices for electricity generated at these facilities that result in suitable return-on-investment.</p> | <p>\$86,000</p> |
| <p>BC Bee Breeders’ Association</p> <p>Duncan Stock Assessment Yard (A0646 ES)</p> <p>This project responds to the challenges in adapting bee stock to different climates and the decreased effectiveness of miticides in fighting pests. Past and ongoing research identified certain bee stocks that are more resistant to varroa mites; now continuous local assessment and breeding are necessary to keep improving the survivability of stock. The goal of the Duncan Stock Assessment Yard is to test stock in a new environment and provide training for BC bee breeders to effectively assess and breed resistant stock. Resistant queens produced by the project will also be disseminated throughout the bee breeding community in other regions.</p> | <p>\$11,500</p> |
| <p><u>SAFETY NET</u></p> <p>Funding for these projects is provided through the former federal-provincial Safety Nets framework.</p> | |
| <p>BC Wine Grape Council</p> <p>BC Sustainable Winegrowing Program: Wineries and Online Tools (A0636)</p> <p>This is a multi-phase project that provides growers and winemakers with BC-specific resources for improving their environmental practices. A component of the program includes an online self-assessment and database for wine production and hospitality services. These tools will enable growers and wineries to assess their environmental practices and integrate more sustainable practices into their operations.</p> | <p>\$28,240</p> |
| <p>Pacific Field Corn Association</p> <p>Advanced Forage Management: A Sustainable Guide for Temperate Areas (A0642)</p> <p>This project will develop a forage management book for use by farmers. It will contain articles relevant to forage production including how grasses grow; nutrient, weed and grazing management; forage quality; and climate and environmental effects. This resource will help forage producers make better decisions with respect to management and environmental concerns, by providing them with the latest information on producing forage in a sustainable manner.</p> | <p>\$29,000</p> |

² Project contracted December 2010

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| City of Kamloops | \$25,000 |
| Kamloops Agricultural Area Plan (B0016.23) | |
| The City of Kamloops is preparing a Sustainable Agriculture Plan in response to substantial growth pressure. The plan will identify agricultural land and opportunities, as well as guide appropriate land use decisions. The project will also include a background report that will direct the development of the plan. | |
| Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen | \$15,000 |
| Agricultural Area Plan for Electoral Area A (Town of Osoyoos) of the Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (B0016.29) | |
| This project consists of the creation of a plan to protect the agricultural land base and encourage agricultural enterprise in the regional district. The plan, developed through public consultations, will emphasize land-based strategies and the local government's authority to implement the recommendations. | |
| Horse Council of BC | \$10,000 |
| Inaugural Equine Education Conference (SP166) | |
| The Horse Council of BC's recently completed Equine Industry Report indicated a desire amongst industry members for quality education. The council's Equine Industry Education Conference – held in Kelowna, January 22-23 – brought together 277 horse professionals and enthusiasts for learning and networking opportunities. The seminars covered topics such as legal and insurance issues, horse care, breeding best practices, recreational land use and business management. | |
| BC Grain Producers' Association | \$3,750 |
| Strategic Plan for BC Grain Producers (SP167) | |
| As a variety of factors that influence the grain sector change, a strategic vision is necessary to promote the ongoing success of the industry and make better use of financial resources. The objective of this project is to develop a strategic plan that identifies opportunities for the B.C. grain sector and helps guide future activities towards those goals. | |
| <u>LIVESTOCK WASTE TISSUE INITIATIVE</u> | |
| Funding for these projects is provided through the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock Waste Tissue Initiative. | |
| Rainer Farms | \$2,760 |
| Compost Berm (LWTI 055) | |
| Rainer Farms received funding through the B.C. Specified Risk Material Management Program to build a slaughter waste compost facility. This project enables Rainer Farms to build a storage area that meets the Ministry of Environment's structural requirements for storing finished compost. | |
| Smart Risk Control, Inc. | \$129,696 |
| FADES Planning Phase VI (LWTI 056) | |
| This project comprises a series of activities designed to advance and support the 2011 BC Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support (FADES) Plan. The activities will include developing Area Command for FADES, preparing a 24/7 emergency contact list, holding training sessions with the BC Cattlemen's Association, and upgrading the FADES Plan for 2011. | |

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 to simulate a mass carcass disposal event. These exercises will help increase awareness within the local livestock industry of the community's mass carcass disposal preparedness and identify disposal plan improvements.

Cariboo Regional District (LWTI 054) \$9,302

Regional District of Fraser Fort George (LWTI 057) \$12,503

AGRI-FOOD FUTURES FUND

Funding for these projects is provided through the federal-provincial Agri-Food Futures Fund.

Cayoose Creek St'at'imc \$62,911.64

Split Rock Sekw'el'was Wild Plant Nursery (A0647 ES)

Cayoose Creek Indian Band and the Lillooet Naturalist Society established a small wild plant nursery in 2008, based on a joint restoration project. The nursery now has the potential to become a commercial operation. This project includes the creation of a business and marketing plan and will enable the band to build capacity in nursery management, restoration services and value-added products by taking over the operation of the nursery.

Comox Valley Farmers' Markets Society \$7,000

Feasibility of a Governance Model for a Not-for-Profit Farmers' Markets Society (AF002 I0495)

The Comox Valley has a highly successful farmers' market and is now seeking a new location that will accommodate the growth that this success has brought. This project will help anticipate and plan for the challenges associated with the transition to the new facility and develop governance and management processes that meet the needs of all the project partners.

Capital Region Food and Agriculture Initiatives Roundtable \$5,000

Farmer 2 Farmer Exchange Project (AF002 I0499)

This forum provided an opportunity for farmers in the Capital Regional District to share their experience and knowledge on food production and processing, new innovations and successful business practices, as well as proactively and constructively tackle core challenges facing the sector. The forum took place on March 16 in Saanich with 90 local industry members in attendance.

ADVANCING CANADIAN AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD

Funding for this project was provided through former federal adaptation funding.

Cowichan Valley Regional District \$28,000

Cowichan Valley Regional District Agricultural Area Plan (B0016.16)

This plan for the Cowichan Valley will focus on encouraging agricultural activity both within and outside the Agricultural Land Reserve, helping the agriculture industry compete with other uses for a limited land base, identifying farm practices that allow the industry to flourish and offering recommendations for future planning.

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.

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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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