

**Ministry of
Agriculture and Lands**

**2009/10 – 2011/12
SERVICE PLAN UPDATE**

September 2009



For more information on the British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands,
see Ministry Contact Information on Page 23 or contact:

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands:

PO BOX 9120
STN PROV GOVT
VICTORIA, BC
V8W 9B4

or visit our website at
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/al>

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Message from the Minister and Accountability Statement



As British Columbia's new Minister of Agriculture and Lands, I am pleased to present the *Ministry of Agriculture and Lands 2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan Update*. This plan outlines how we will continue to promote economic development, and environmental and social sustainability for the natural resource, agriculture and food sectors.

We will continue to deliver on our responsibility to create and maintain a regulatory framework for effective land administration and build partnerships to sell, restore or remediate lands in order to support a diverse economy in communities across the Province.

I believe there is opportunity to continue to build on our strong agricultural heritage and grow our diverse and unique agriculture and food products. The *British Columbia Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for B.C. Families*, released in 2008 as a result of province-wide public consultations, has been key to providing strategic direction for Ministry programming and has influenced government decision-making as it impacts agriculture in British Columbia. Even during these tough economic times, our Ministry will work with these sectors to encourage innovation and to seize opportunities such as showcasing B.C. and Canadian food products to the world at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games.

The Canada-B.C. *Growing Forward* agreement that was signed in March 2009 will deliver long-term profitability for B.C. farmers. This five-year \$553 million agreement will provide income stability and insurance against losses while at the same time helping farmers and producers build their business through innovation, commercialization and sustainability.

On June 18th the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and I announced our intention to transfer delivery of the AgriStability farm income stabilization program, one of four business risk management programs under *Growing Forward*, to the provincial government. The transfer, which will take place in the coming months, enables integration with Production Insurance by improving service, efficiency and timeliness of program delivery.

The ranching industry is facing tough economic challenges, as is much of the livestock sector. Ranching provides jobs and income for thousands of British Columbians. The new Ranching Task Force is co-chaired by the BC Cattlemen's Association president Roland Baumann and the recently appointed parliamentary secretary to the Ranching Task Force, Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson. We will work to ensure a strong, vibrant and sustainable industry in British Columbia for this generation, and future generations. We will also continue to support the B.C. hog industry to make strategic innovations to ensure the sector's long-term success.

As one of the leading provinces in Canada in bio-security, B.C. is well positioned for effective and efficient detection of animal diseases supported by B.C.'s Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Strategy. The strategy is further supported by the new Animal Health Centre, an accredited Containment Level Three Lab in Abbotsford.

In February 2009, Justice Hinkson of the B.C. Supreme Court ruled that finfish farms on the coast of B.C. fall under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal parliament. In response to the decision, the Ministry is working with the federal government on an orderly transition of responsibility regarding the management and regulation of the aquaculture industry.

In the year ahead, the Ministry will play a lead role in supporting our partners across government to create opportunities for a more coordinated and integrated policy framework that supports shared service delivery in regional operations, such as Front Counter BC and the Resource Management Coordination Project. This work will immediately focus on key policy areas that can help improve efficiency and enhance certainty to clients and the public.

We will continue to develop innovative partnerships that will support the revitalization of communities in B.C., expanding economic and social opportunities through the B.C. Brownfield strategy. Part of the strategy involves making funding available for private land owners and local governments to undertake early stage investigations on brownfield sites. On a select basis, the Province will provide assistance to communities and other landholders for this type of work.

I am committed to seeing this Ministry contribute to the priorities of government for the people of British Columbia. The *Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' 2009/10 – 2011/12 Service Plan Update* was prepared under my direction in accordance with the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*. I am accountable for the basis on which the plan has been prepared.



Honourable Steve Thomson
Minister of Agriculture and Lands
September 1, 2009

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Early Morning in Fraser Valley fields

Purpose of the Ministry

The mandate of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands is to enable economic and social development and environmental sustainability for the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors, supporting them in delivering safe, healthy and high-quality food and to manage Crown land in an innovative manner that contributes to the goals of government. This mandate supports the major changes in direction taken since 2001. Crown land policy, agriculture, aquaculture and food policies, programs and services of the Ministry have shifted from primarily a revenue and economic outlook to one that incorporates economic, environmental and social objectives, which is known as triple bottom line reporting.

The legal and regulatory environment that guides the work of the Ministry includes 47 statutes which relate wholly or primarily to the Ministry and a further 101 regulations relating to the Ministry. A complete list of legislation for which the Ministry is responsible is available at www.leg.bc.ca/PROCS/allacts/al.htm.

The Ministry provides guidance for Crown land management by maintaining a land-use and allocation policy framework for the Province. The Ministry provides leadership in the management of contaminated sites on Crown land and facilitates the redevelopment of brownfields¹ on both Crown and private land. The Ministry is also responsible for managing and resolving complex, high value land disposition proposals involving multiple government agencies and parties.

The agriculture and food sectors are managed using an array of collaborative federal-provincial-territorial agreements. The most comprehensive agreement related to the agriculture and food sectors to date, *Growing Forward*, is the next generation of national agri-food policy framework. *Growing Forward* enables industry and government to focus on building a competitive and innovative sector by proactively managing risks and ensuring the sector contributes to society's priorities.

The Ministry provides insurance products for crop producers to protect against weather-related losses, providing over \$400 million in insurance coverage.

¹Brownfields are defined as abandoned, vacant, derelict or underutilized commercial or industrial properties where past actions have resulted in actual or perceived contamination and where there is an active potential for redevelopment.

New and existing strategies of the Ministry support the *British Columbia Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for B.C. Families*. The plan is a roadmap to sustain and facilitate the growth and diversification of the industry, while further increasing public awareness, understanding and support for the agriculture sector. The *B.C. Agriculture Plan* priorities have been integrated into Ministry strategic planning and are an integral part of our business.

The Ministry provides leadership and technical support to partner ministries and coordinates the planning and administration of invasive plant programs on Crown land to detect, eradicate and contain invasive plants.

The Ministry also relies on inter-agency partnerships such as those with the Agricultural Land Commission and the B.C. Farm Industry Review Board. The Commission is an administrative tribunal responsible for administering the Agricultural Land Reserve, a provincial land-use zone that recognizes agriculture as a priority use. The Commission operates independently but derives funding through the Ministry. The Farm Industry Review Board is a statutory appeal body with additional responsibilities for the general supervision of commodity boards and commissions in addition to administering the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*.

The Ministry, in partnership with the B.C. Agriculture Council, B.C. Food Processors Association and other stakeholders, enables the agriculture sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan program. Programs like this enable farmers and ranchers to adopt beneficial management practices such as nutrient management through an incentive program made available through federal-provincial funding agreements.

The Ministry works closely with other provincial agencies, such as the Integrated Land Management Bureau and the ministries of Forests and Range, Environment, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Healthy Living and Sport, to fulfill its mandate. The mandates of these agencies connect in key areas such as climate change, food safety and quality, support for local food, land and resource use, commitments to First Nations, invasive plant and pest management, environmental issues and promotion of B.C. agriculture products.

The Ministry relies on partnerships with various levels of government, First Nations, industry, government committees and non-government organizations in terms of funding, collaboration and service delivery to implement Ministry strategies. The Ministry works with these partners to improve the sectors' capacity to act strategically and promote its own interests. As an example, the Ministry provided support and background information to the Farm Assessment Review Panel for review of the farm status assessment policy which is of a beneficial interest to the agriculture sector.

Strategic Context

Global Economy and Competition: B.C.'s economic circumstances are being affected by a prolonged U.S. recession, continued turmoil in global financial markets, slower global demand for B.C. products, commodity market volatility and ongoing moderation of domestic demand in B.C.

These factors heighten the need for the Ministry to support sustainable economic development in the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors and to manage Crown and natural resources strategically. The Province's agriculture and seafood industries compete in international markets where competitors with similar or lower cost

structures enjoy greater economies of scale and create downward pressures on food commodity prices. Domestic policy and high levels of subsidy in other jurisdictions have a direct impact on the ability of many B.C. producers to compete. The diversity and relatively small size of the B.C. sector are advantages in a world where increasingly sophisticated consumers will support a growing number of niche market opportunities.



Canola Field in Peace River Regional District

Efficient Allocation of Staffing Resources: Managing staffing costs has always been one of the prime considerations in maintaining overall government affordability, and since 2001 this government has been diligent in reviewing staff spending each year. This is particularly true in these current economic times. All governments are in the similar position of having to balance spending and service levels against revenues that have declined over the past year in this extraordinary fiscal climate. Staffing costs can be managed through removal of unfilled positions, retirements, staff efficiencies gained through coordination and collaboration across government, administrative program changes and, if necessary, a reduction in the staffing budget. In the 2010/11 budget, we will be managing staffing costs in the context of the current economic climate, examining all opportunities to continue to reduce these costs where possible. In the 2009/10 budget every effort has been made to preserve high staffing levels for frontline services. In future years, government will continue to review its staffing budget to ensure those resources are allocated prudently, efficiently and towards government's key priorities.

Balancing Environmental Concern and Values with Economic Viability: Climate change poses a range of opportunities and challenges to agriculture, aquaculture and Crown land management in such areas as water management, crop damage, changes in production patterns and composition, as well as interaction and diversity of plant, animal and aquatic species, populations and ranges. Scientific evidence continues to mount that climate change has intensified more than expected, reinforcing the need for strategic efforts in these areas. There is a high level of public concern about the environment (and, increasingly, animal welfare issues in livestock farming operations). Industry growth must be managed in an environmentally sustainable and socially acceptable way. With the greatest density of

livestock in Canada found in the Fraser Valley, opportunities exist to work with industry to reduce emissions through pilot projects such as anaerobic digestion². The growing demand for green energy and green alternatives also creates new opportunities for products such as bio-fuels and locally produced agricultural products, which support environmental objectives and reduction of greenhouse gases.

Intergovernmental Coordination: On February 9, 2009 the B.C. Supreme Court found that finfish farms on the coast of B.C. are a fishery that falls under the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal parliament. The Ministry is leading the provincial work with the federal government to clarify changes in responsibility regarding the management and regulation of the industry, and in determining how to implement these changes.

Resource Management Coordination: Over the last number of years, the natural resource sector agencies have been exploring better ways of working together to deliver programs and services to the public. In order to sustain key programs and services during the current economic environment and to prepare for the anticipated demographic changes to the labour force, government will be doing more to integrate, collaborate, and coordinate resources across agencies. In the year ahead, the natural resource sector agencies will increase shared service delivery in regional operations, expanding on existing coordination initiatives such as Front Counter BC and the Resource Management Coordination Project. This work at the regional level will be supported as the Ministry leads cross-agency efforts to create a more coordinated and integrated policy framework across the resource agencies. This work will immediately identify key policy areas that can help improve efficiency and enhance certainty to clients and the public.

A Focus on Health and Buying Locally: Awareness is growing regarding the benefits of healthier lifestyles and supporting locally produced food which is leading to changes in eating habits and consumer preferences. This is creating significant niche market opportunities for fresh, nutritious local food products. The increased demand for locally produced products and the opportunity to visit the places where these products are grown also creates a tremendous opportunity for the sector.

Urban/Agriculture Interactions: A large portion of B.C.'s most productive farmland is in close proximity to urban development and other sectors of the economy. Odour, noise and dust concerns, competing demands for existing water resources, growing concern over air quality and emissions, as well as the growing pressures from other sectors to make alternate use of agricultural lands can affect the overall viability of the agriculture sector. At the same time, the growing success of farmers' markets and other direct farm marketing initiatives is recognized as an opportunity to strengthen the connection between those who produce our food and those that consume it.

First Nations Engagement: The Province has made a commitment to strengthen its relationship with First Nations and to close the social and economic gaps that exist between First Nations and other British Columbians. This is an opportunity for the Ministry to work effectively with First Nations to use Crown land and agricultural resources to leverage outcomes benefiting Aboriginal People and all British Columbians, and align with broader government objectives.

² Anaerobic digesters capture methane and convert it to green energy. This energy can be used to generate electricity or heat, but the significant benefit is the destruction of these methane gases.

Revitalizing Communities and Reducing Pressures on Greenspace: The Ministry is working to amend policy, regulatory and tax environments to more fully encourage redevelopment of some brownfields, and to increase awareness of the opportunities available in relation to these sites. The Ministry is building on the success of the Crown contaminated sites program, going beyond remediation of sites based on risk to human health and the environment, to facilitate the redevelopment of underutilized sites on both Crown and non-Crown land through the B.C. Brownfield Renewal Strategy. A key challenge in the coming year will be to coordinate efforts across government to reduce risk and uncertainty in brownfield redevelopment and create a more streamlined approvals environment for brownfield projects.

Strategic Crown Land Dispositions: In many B.C. communities, Crown land represents the best available source of land for community economic growth and diversification. Major Crown land sales and transfers are increasingly being evaluated based on their ability to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits. Ministry expertise in resolving complex land dispositions can be used to support government objectives and meet community needs.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Performance Measures

The Ministry's service plan is organized around its three long-term goals:

- Agriculture, food sectors and land-use contribute positively to the economic well-being of the Province;
- World-leading environmental stewardship in Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food sector practices; and
- Community and social well-being is enhanced by Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food practices.

This Service Plan Update includes a change in performance measures as explained on page 18.

Goal 1: Agriculture, food sectors and land-use contribute positively to the economic well-being of the Province

Objective 1.1: Strategic growth of the agriculture and food sectors

The Ministry promotes sector profitability and self-reliance through programs and services that improve market access, foster innovation and efficiency across the value chain and provide farmers with the tools they need to sustain their businesses in the face of environmental and market risk.

Strategies

- Promote, deliver and improve national risk management programs and services.
- Facilitate industry transformation to new market opportunities through investment in innovation, promotion and market development.
- Promote agricultural activities in First Nations communities for consideration in their overall economic development strategies.
- Support the Ranching Task Force to identify policies, regulations and legislation that adversely affect the competitive position of the B.C. cattle industry, identify the most immediate non-regulatory industry priorities and recommend actions to be taken by industry and government ensuring a profitable self-sustaining industry.



Farmer's Market

Performance Measure 1: Ratio of Ministry expenditures on investment versus income stabilization

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
Ratio of Ministry expenditures on investment versus income stabilization.	47:53	50:50	55:45	55:45

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands.

Discussion

This indicator compares Ministry investment in the agriculture sector versus expenditures that support income stabilization. Investing in innovation and the development of new market opportunities is critical to the transformation and future success of the sector in British Columbia.

While it remains a core priority of the Ministry to provide a comprehensive suite of business risk management programs for the sector, continued industry reliance on income stabilization programs will not achieve the goal of strategic growth. The Ministry is in a transition period in which we have adopted a strategy to make a gradual shift towards increased investment while maintaining sufficient funding to support the industry to manage uncontrollable losses due to adverse weather, risks to animal health and/or trade barriers.

Objective 1.2 Brownfield sites are restored to achieve economic, social and environmental benefits



Restored brownfield, False Creek, Vancouver

The Ministry has a responsibility to facilitate restoration of brownfields on both Crown and private land and to return these valuable land resources to productive use. The B.C. Brownfield Renewal Strategy will increase brownfield redevelopment across the Province. The strategy aims to streamline processes, reduce risk and uncertainty, and increase understanding of redevelopment opportunities for local governments, land owners and other stakeholders.

Strategies

- Apply strategic public investments to encourage the redevelopment of idle sites.
- Build capacity and awareness of redevelopment tools and opportunities to enhance information about brownfields.
- Lead by example through the creation of partnerships to enable the redevelopment of key Crown brownfield sites.
- Provide funding for investigation of non-Crown brownfield sites through the B.C. Brownfield Renewal Funding Program.

Performance Measure 2: Number of Crown brownfields made available for partnerships with First Nations, private sector and local governments

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
Number of Crown brownfields made available for partnerships with First Nations, private sector and local governments ^{1,2}	8	10	12	14

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

¹ The Province provides partnership opportunities through such means as a public procurement process or settlement with First Nations.

² Numbers are cumulative. The 2008/09 forecast was exceeded; therefore cumulative targets for future years have been increased compared to the 2009/10-2011/12 Service Plan published in February 2009.

Discussion

Underutilized Crown brownfields present opportunities for revitalization to generate positive economic, social and environmental benefits. The number of Crown brownfield sites that are made available for partnership with First Nations, the private sector and local governments will indicate initial progress towards our objective of restoring brownfields to achieve triple bottom line benefits.

Objective 1.3: Crown land decisions and dispositions to support community needs and provincial priorities

Allocation decisions and administration of Crown land are guided by a framework of legislation, policy, guidelines and tenure requirements. The Ministry develops, maintains and supports implementation of this framework for the allocation of Crown Land to ensure that it is responsive to the changing needs and demands of communities, First Nations, industry and the Province's broader strategic objectives. The Ministry also manages and resolves complex, high value land dispositions to advance government priorities and provide broad public benefits.

Strategies

- Collaboratively work with local governments, First Nations and other key stakeholders to identify sustainable development opportunities to generate economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- Leverage Crown land dispositions to promote investment and development.
- Improve Crown land allocation policy and business processes to better serve clients.
- Develop effective legislation, policy and analysis of Crown land resources to enhance its contribution to the economic, environmental and social well-being of British Columbia.



Unsurveyed Crown land Rhine Ridge, Tahtsa Lake, B.C.

Goal 2: World-leading environmental stewardship in Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food practices

Objective 2.1: Effective management of environmental risks in agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors

The Ministry supports the agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors to proactively address environmental risks and the impacts of climate change.

Strategies

- Support programs and activities to identify and address critical agricultural environmental issues and adoption of best management practices.
- Promote sustainable best management approaches for invasive plants to protect biodiversity and reduce environmental degradation.
- Manage licensing, compliance and the orderly transition of activities in the aquaculture sector to ensure operators are accountable for implementing environmentally sustainable practices.
- Support local governments, as well as the agriculture, food and aquaculture sectors to prepare for and recover from environmental disasters.



Ministry inspection staff monitoring aquaculture operation on the West Coast

Performance Measure 3: Percentage of industry operators in compliance with finfish aquaculture licensing and regulatory requirements

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
Percentage of industry operators in compliance with finfish aquaculture licensing and regulatory requirements	99.25% ¹	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and Ministry of Environment joint report: *Regulatory Compliance of British Columbia’s Marine Finfish Aquaculture Facilities Annual Report*.

¹ Based on 2008 calendar year inspection cycle

Discussion

The intent of licensing and regulatory requirements is to ensure that finfish aquaculture operators are demonstrating accountability in implementing environmentally sustainable practices, which includes the prevention of finfish escapes from containment nets into the environment. This measure provides an indication of the industry-wide compliance with the Province’s aquaculture licensing and regulatory requirements based on a calendar year inspection cycle. Inspectors assess compliance with 90-100 factors dependent on type of farm. The forecast and targets take into consideration the data reported in the *Regulatory Compliance of British Columbia’s Marine Finfish Aquaculture Facilities Annual Report*.

Objective 2.2: Contamination caused by the historic use of land is managed to minimize risks to human health & the environment

The Ministry has lead responsibility for fostering a provincial approach to protect the public through remediation of contaminated sites that are the responsibility of the Province, and that pose a risk to human health and the environment. The risk-based approach considers potential health and environmental impacts and the potential benefits associated with the future use of remediated lands.

Strategies

- Identification, investigation and remediation of sites that are the responsibility of the Province to protect human health and the environment.
- Work with other ministries to deliver reliable, relevant, accurate and transparent reports on contaminated sites management.
- Provide leadership in the development of a centre of expertise and best practices for the risk ranking and prioritization of contaminated sites.

Performance Measure 4: Number of program sites for which remediation is underway/completed

Performance Measure	2008/09 Actual	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
Number of program sites for which remediation is underway/completed ¹	67 underway/ completed	72 ²	77 ²	82 ²

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

¹ These program sites fall into one of five categories:

Remediated: Crown sites where clean-up activities are completed.

Priority: Crown sites that have been identified for current action based on site investigation and confirmed risk to human health and the environment.

Candidate: Crown sites on which initial investigation has begun to determine the extent of risk.

Monitor: Crown sites where preliminary investigation has been completed and monitoring is required, and possibly additional testing in different field conditions to determine the extent of risk.

Other: Sites that are being managed by the Province to fulfill obligations established under legal agreements, regulatory orders or other commitments.

² Numbers are cumulative. Targets revised to reflect program focus for priority clean-up on sites.

Discussion

All contaminated sites identified by the Province are prioritized based on potential risks to human health and the environment. This indicator provides a measure of progress in remediating these program sites. Remediation, as defined by the *Environmental Management Act*, includes site investigations in addition to clean-up activities and the preceding investigation work. As site remediation can be a multi-year exercise, all numbers contained in this measure are cumulative.

Objective 2.3: Sustainable agriculture management and Crown land administration practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and assist successful adaptation to climate change

The Ministry supports the efforts of industry in developing innovative products, tools and processes to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions by promoting research and identification of effective climate action strategies.

Strategies

- Support initiatives to reduce and capture methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions from agriculture and other activities on Crown lands.
- Encourage sector behavioural change to facilitate improvement of environmental practice.
- Work with the agricultural sector to develop alternative green energy opportunities.
- Investigate opportunities for carbon sequestration and adaptation initiatives in agriculture and on Crown land.

- Cooperate with development of the Pacific Carbon Trust and the Western Climate Initiative for opportunities for agriculture to achieve provincial objectives.
- Support improvements in the efficiency of water use by the agriculture sector.

Goal 3: Community and social well-being is enhanced by Crown land administration, agriculture, aquaculture and food practices



Urban development alongside agriculture region, Abbotsford, B.C.

Objective 3.1: Promote a positive urban/agriculture relationship to facilitate sustainable growth for farms while enhancing the overall quality of life for British Columbians

Agriculture and aquaculture activity occur within communities and depend on good relations with local government and community members. In 1931, Canada's farm population made up 33 per cent of the total population. As of 2006, Canada's farm population significantly decreased to 2.14 per cent of the total population.

B.C.'s farm population has gone from 1.85 per cent to 1.45 per cent (1996 to 2006) of the total B.C.³ population. While preservation of agricultural land in British Columbia is overseen by the Agricultural Land Commission, the Ministry builds on this mandate and aims to create a positive urban/agriculture environment to ensure local government and the public value the contributions of agriculture.

Strategies

- Promote a positive regulatory climate with local government to support the sector across British Columbia.
- Build a greater understanding of agriculture's contribution to the community through proactive communication strategies.

³ These are approximate numbers derived from Statistics Canada Census Data. The calculation uses total number of farms multiplied by the average number of residents per farm (3 residents). This number is expressed as a percentage of the total population for both the Province of B.C. and Canada.

Performance Measure 5

Discussion

The *British Columbia Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for B.C. Families* was released in February 2008, and set out an implementation plan for 2008-2011 to sustain and facilitate the growth and diversification of the industry. The Ministry will no longer complete an annual public survey for Performance Measure 5. Current efforts are focused on implementing the strategic direction of the Agriculture Plan in partnership with other levels of government, sector based agencies and producers. This performance measure is no longer an appropriate indicator of program outcome, which is focused on local government.

Objective 3.2: Animal, fish, plant and human health are safeguarded

The Ministry focuses on services and initiatives that support British Columbia in continuing to effectively manage food safety, plant, livestock and fish health risks throughout the value chain contributing to positive public health and to maintaining consumer confidence.

Strategies

- Implement and deliver comprehensive, provincial level programs for animal, fish and plant health that manage the risks of disease and invasive species and support public health and national programs.
- Maintain high standard of service for processing plant and animal diagnostic and surveillance samples to monitor and mitigate risks.
- Enable agriculture, aquaculture and food sectors to contribute to government's priority for healthy British Columbians and capitalize on new market opportunities.
- Support the health of British Columbians by increasing awareness and adoption of food safety programs and practices.
- Continue to work with government and industry groups to identify and implement traceability and bio-security strategies that will reduce the risk of foreign animal disease incursions and outbreaks.



Examining pepper leaves for pest damage in the Ministry's Plant Diagnostic Laboratory in Abbotsford, B.C.

Performance Measure 6: Percentage of operators in compliance with fish health management plans

Performance Measure	2008/09 Forecast	2009/10 Target	2010/11 Target	2011/12 Target
Percentage of operators in compliance with fish health management plans	100%	100%	100%	100%

Data Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Discussion

All finfish aquaculture farms are required to have an approved fish health management plan in place as a condition of their license. The plan outlines the procedures that finfish operators must use at their facilities to reduce the risk of disease-causing organisms. Plans include key standard operating procedures for bio-security and reporting of fish health events. The Ministry undertakes random quarterly audits of all finfish farms to ensure compliance with each fish health management plan. In 2008, the Ministry released its third annual fish health report; no other fish farming jurisdiction in North America has ever provided such a comprehensive public report.

Resource Summary Table

In Fiscal 2009/10, responsibility for the Integrated Land Management Bureau was transferred to the Minister of Forests and Range and entries related to the Bureau have been deleted from this version.

Full Time Equivalents (FTE) numbers for each Ministry are currently being reviewed across government and therefore are not reported in this Service Plan Update. FTE's are routinely reported in the Public Accounts and more detailed information will now be publicly reported in a new Annual Report on the Corporate HR Plan, released each fall. For more information, see the Budget and Fiscal Plan documentation.

Core Business Area	2008/09 Restated Estimates ¹	2009/10 Estimates	2010/11 Plan	2011/12 Plan
Operating Expenses (\$000)				
Agriculture Development	12,604	11,008	10,956	10,798
Strategic Industry Development	47,915	38,767	36,540	36,331
Crown Land Administration	32,375	11,724	16,140	16,065
BC Farm Industry Review Board	1,122	1,021	1,020	1,012
Executive and Support Services	19,531	20,114	19,396	19,237
Sub Total	113,547	82,634	84,052	83,443
Agricultural Land Commission	2,435	2,276	2,266	2,241
Crown Land Special Account	84,720	126,090	57,270	57,270
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500
TOTAL	212,202	222,500	155,088	154,454

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

Ministry Capital Expenditures (Consolidated Revenue Fund) (\$000)				
Agriculture Development	1,122	0	0	0
Strategic Industry Development	747	0	0	0
Crown Land Administration	240	0	0	0
BC Farm Industry Review Board	2	0	0	0
Executive and Support Services	89	220	0	0
Sub Total	2,200	220	0	0
Agricultural Land Commission	5	0	0	0
Crown Land Special Account	0	0	0	0
Production Insurance Special Account (Net)	0	0	0	0
Total	2,205	220	0	0

Other Financing Transactions (\$000)				
By Core Business (and Purpose)				
<i>Agriculture Credit Act - Receipts</i>	350	200	50	49
Crown Land Special Account - Receipts	70	75	70	70
Crown Land Administration Disbursements ²	(8,250)	(8,250)	(8,250)	(8,250)
Net Cash Source (Requirements)	(7,830)	(7,975)	(8,130)	(8,131)
Total Receipts	420	275	120	119
Total Disbursements	(8,250)	(8,250)	(8,250)	(8,250)
Total Net Cash Source (Requirements)	(7,830)	(7,975)	(8,130)	(8,131)

¹ These amounts have been restated, for comparative purposes only, to be consistent with the presentation of the 2009/10 *Estimates*, Schedule A of the 2009/10 *Estimates* presents a detailed reconciliation.

² Crown Land Administration - Other Financing Transactions include the disbursements related to expenses incurred in this fiscal year for development of land for future sale or tenure.

Ministry Contact Information

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands:

P.O. Box 9120 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria B.C., V8W 9B4
Ph.: (250) 387-5121

Crown Land Administration Division:

P.O. Box 9120 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria B.C., V8W 9B4
Ph.: (250) 356-3076, Fax (250) 356-7279

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands - Regional Offices:

Abbotsford

1767 Angus Campbell Road., V3G 2M3
Ph.: (604) 556-3001
Fax: (604) 556-3030

Courtenay

2500 Cliffe Avenue, V9N 5M6
Ph.: (250) 897-7540
Fax: (250) 334-1410

Cranbrook

205 Industrial Road, V1C 7G5
Ph.: (250) 489-8507
Fax: (250) 489-8506

Creston

1243 Northwest Boulevard, V0B 1G6
Ph.: (250) 402-6429
Fax: (250) 402-6497

Dawson Creek

4th Floor 1201 103rd Avenue, V1G 4J2
Ph.: (250) 784-2601
Fax: (250) 784-2299

Duncan

5785 Duncan Street, V9L 5G2
Ph.: (250) 746-1210
Fax: (250) 746-1292

Fort St. John

10043 – 100th Street, V1J 3Y5

Ph.: (250) 787-3240

Fax: (250) 787-3299

Kamloops

162 Oriole Road, V2C 4N7

Ph: (250) 371-6050

Fax: (250) 828-4631

Kelowna

Room 200 – 1690 Powick Road, V1X 7G5

Ph.: (250) 861-7211

Fax: (250) 861-7490

Oliver

9971 – 350th Avenue, V0H 1T0

Ph: (250) 498-5250

Fax: (250) 498-4952

Prince George

815 – 299 Victoria Street, V2L 5B8

Ph.: (250) 565-7200

Fax: (250) 565-7213

Smithers

3rd Floor-3726 Alfred Avenue, V0J 2N0

Ph.: (250) 847-7247

Fax: (250) 847-7556

Surrey (Crown Land Opportunities)

Suite 200-10428-153rd Street, V3R 1E1

Ph.: (604)-586-4400

Fax: (604)-586-2900

Surrey (Crown Contaminated Sites)

2nd Floor, 10470-152nd Street, V3R 0Y3

Ph.: (604)-582-5309

Fax: (604)-584-9751

Vernon

4607 – 23rd Street, V1T 4K7

Ph: (250) 260-3000

Fax: (250) 549-5488

Williams Lake

300 – 640 Borland Street, V2G 4T1

Ph.: (250) 398-4500

Fax: (250) 398-4688

Agricultural Land Commission

133—4940 Canada Way, Burnaby B.C., V5G 4K6

Ph: (604) 660-7000

Fax: (604) 660-7033

Email: ALCBurnaby@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca

Internet: www.alc.gov.bc.ca

BC Farm Industry Review Board

PO Box 9129 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria B.C., V8W 9B5

Ph: (250) 356-8945

Fax: (250) 356-5131

Email: firb@gov.bc.ca

Internet: <http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca/>

For more information about the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, including full contact information, visit our website at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/al/>

For more information about the *British Columbia Agriculture Plan: Growing a Healthy Future for B.C. Families*, visit the website at: http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/Agriculture_Plan/