

From: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako <economic.development@rdbn.bc.ca>
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To:
Subject: RDBN Growing Opportunities e-Newsletter - October 2025

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October 2025 - Issue 30

Agriculture Coordinator Update

Fall is here! Despite the rain, the [BC Drought Information Portal](#) is showing that our region is still drier than normal, with Level 2 drought conditions for much of the Lakes and Nechako areas.

Our collaboration with Making Agriculture Sustainable in the Hazeltons (MASH) to do an overall ecosystem analysis for livestock services and develop a Toolkit for people in the industry is progressing well. We will be presenting at a Food Summit taking place in Prince George entitled Northern Harvest: Seeding Sustainable Futures Through Food and Collaboration.

The RDBN Community Irrigation System project is in the report-writing phase and is about two-thirds complete. The project end-date is December 31.

Please Note:

The increased movement of migratory birds has prompted the [BC Poultry Association](#) to move to [Red Biosecurity Status](#) for poultry farms throughout the province. This applies to all licensed poultry operations.

Unlicensed operations should also increase their farm biosecurity and flock health awareness.

Low Volume Water Use Streamlined Authorization Survey

The Province of BC has made a survey available to collect public input on a proposal to allow groundwater users that need less than 2 cubic metres a day to be able to do so without a water license or use approval. More information can be found [here](#).



Examples taken from the webpage of non-domestic water use that is approximately the same volume as 2 cubic metres (approximately 528 US gallons) are:

- water consumption for 40 head of cattle or horses per day, or
- daily water use for 10 camp workers.

The Low Volume Water Use Streamlined Authorization Process survey closes **October 17**, and can be found [here](#).

Northwest Invasive Plant Council Update



November 13th, 2025
Prince George

Presentations on
Integrated Pest Management
and more to come!

Invasive plant species are a concern throughout the region - the RDBN is one of the many funders of the Northwest Invasive Plant Council (NWIPC). The NWIPC has a Field Coordinator who oversees invasive species management throughout the region on both government and private land.

A few updates:

- Want to learn all about local invasive plants? Check out the new NWIPC website (button below),
- The deadline for submitting your request for a rebate from the Landowner Invasive Plant Removal Rebate Program is **November 15, 2025**. More details and the application can be found [here](#).

- The NWIPC Annual General Meeting will be held in Prince George on **November 13, 2025**.

NWIPC *New* Website

Climate-resilient Annual Crop Trials

Crop producers wanted!

The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Industrial Forest Service Ltd. (Prince George) are seeking producers interested in growing the following crops in small demonstration plots on their farm: sweet corn, camelina, dryland squash, faba beans, and teff grain. Trials would begin in the 2026 growing season.

The demonstration trial plots would be 0.1 - 0.2 acres per crop, for a total area of 0.5 - 1.0 acre.

Please contact info@bcforagecouncil.com for more information. There is a pre-research survey [here](#).

Seeking Farm Partners:

Crop Demonstrations for Climate Elasticity.

2026-2027 growing seasons

Industrial Forestry Service Ltd., in partnership with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, is conducting collaborative research to evaluate climate-resilient annual horticultural crops. We are seeking farm partners from the North Cariboo, Omineca, and Skeena regions.

Importance

- Evaluate crops adapted to hotter, drier conditions
- Complimentary water management strategies for climate resilience
- Assess economic viability of alternative crops
- Demonstrate proof of concept: longer growing season, more heat units, more crop choice possibilities

Growing small plots: 0.1-0.2 acres per crop (0.5-1 acre total)



Sweet Corn



Camelina



Dryland Squash



Faba Beans



Teff Grain

Participant Benefits

This research provides essential agricultural services including input cost coverage, technical support throughout growing seasons, access to comprehensive data analysis, and extension opportunities. Participants will gain valuable insights into climate-resilient farming practices while contributing to regional agricultural adaptation strategies.

Ready to Participate?

Complete our pre-research survey:
<https://forms.gle/pV3HHfjpDBgbyPZJA>
 or contact us at info@bcforagecouncil.com



Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership



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Please let us know what you'd like to see in the next Growing Opportunities eNewsletter!

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