

From: Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako <economic.development@rdbn.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, November 28, 2025 12:42 PM
Subject: RDBN Growing Opportunities e-Newsletter - November 2025

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November 2025 - Issue 31

Agriculture Coordinator Update

To be honest, it is hard to believe that December is almost here. This fall we have been busy working on the completion of two major projects. The Livestock Services project (now titled Voices to Ventures: Livestock Processing from the Ground Up) is in the final reporting and engagement stage. In addition to the report, Toolkit resources will be available on a Making Agriculture Sustainable in the Hazeltons (MASH) owned website call Meat-U-Here. The Toolkit resources will be both useful and available to everyone within the RDBN.

In addition the Community Irrigation Systems: A User's Guide for the Vanderhoof Area report has been finalized and will be available soon.

Looking forward, there are plans in the works for a Non-Profit workshop that focuses on organizational health, continued collaboration with the Northwest Invasive Plant Council, new Growing Opportunities podcast episodes, and an update to the RDBN Food & Agriculture Strategy. Stay tuned!

In December:

Emergency Preparedness - Vanderhoof on December 2, and Smithers on December 3 (see below for details). [Register here!](#)

The Nechako Valley Food Network would like to talk about a Regional Food Hub! Meetings will be held in Vanderhoof on Dec 1, Fraser Lake on Dec 4, and virtually on Dec 8. [Register here!](#)

Producer Emergency Awareness Sessions

Emergency events that impact agriculture have become bigger and more frequent in recent years. BC Agriculture Council is currently leading a 3-year project to increase the support available during these emergency events.

The BCAC project has 3 main components. The first, developing an emergency response plan for BCAC itself, is already completed and ready for use. The second component is developing tools for Local Authorities so their Emergency Operation Centres are better able to support farmers and ranchers during emergencies. These tools to support agriculture are being rolled out to Local Authorities as they are developed. The final component is bringing information and resources directly to farmers and ranchers so that they can prepare for the next emergency.

The survival and recovery of farms and ranches during and after emergencies often depends on the planning and actions taken before emergencies occur. The producer information sessions help farmers and ranchers determine the next step in their emergency planning and where to find resources that can help. BCAC and AgSafe BC are delivering these sessions jointly to make it as convenient and informative as possible for producers.



These sessions help you:

- Build a farm-specific emergency plan
- Understand B.C.'s emergency response framework
- Use tools like the Access Pass System and Premises ID
- Understand the role of your local Emergency Operations Centre and how to connect with them

REGISTER HERE:



bcac.ca/emergency-planning

REGISTER NOW FOR A SESSION IN:

- **Vanderhoof (Nechako Senior Friendship Centre)** – December 2nd at 7 pm
- **Smithers (The Old Church)** – December 3rd at 7 pm



Agriculture Water Infrastructure Funding

Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC has opened Producer Project funding (Stream 1) through the Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program - Deadline for Applications is December 18, 2025

Water for various crop species has been a focal topic of discussion for the last few years due to ongoing drought conditions throughout the region. This funding opportunity is aimed at the following project types (as taken directly from the IAF website, please see more information by clicking link below):

1. **Rehabilitation and upgrades of (regulated and unregulated) agricultural dams and reservoirs** to meet regulatory requirements.
2. **Improvement, expansion or new construction of dugouts and related storage infrastructure** for irrigation water and livestock watering including rangeland.
3. **New construction of other water storage infrastructure.**

4. **Improvement, expansion or new construction of off-farm conversion of conveyance ditches to pipelines** where savings of 30 to 50% can be achieved.
5. **Improvement, expansion or new construction of water delivery systems to the farm gate** from off-farm storage infrastructure and licensed intakes on streams.

Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program - Stream 1

Unleash Your Inner Researcher!

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.

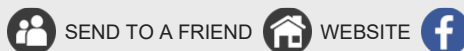
Ready to Participate?

Complete our pre-research survey:
<https://forms.gle/pV3HHfjpDBgbyP2JA>
or contact us at info@bcforagecouncil.com



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

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