

# GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

Bulkley-Nechako Agriculture Update



April 2025 - Issue 26

## Agriculture Coordinator Update

It's almost the end of April, and there is quite a bit happening throughout the region. One of the highlights is that Ione Smith (Upland Consulting) and Bruce Naka (Sound Water Advise) are coming to Vanderhoof from April 30 to May 2 to speak with producers about irrigation (please see poster below for details).

We are at the beginning of the growing season, and taking the good with the bad, it's time to think about invasive plant species management again. The Northwest Invasive Plant Council is launching a new [website](#) soon. The Council also has a new Executive Director, Michelle Miller. Mike Pangman is the NWIPC Field Coordinator. If you have invasive species on your property, please consider the 50:50 Landowner Rebate Program.

## RDBN Water Assessment & Irrigation Study

Would you like to talk about irrigation?



Ione Smith from Upland Consulting & Bruce Naka from Sound Water Advise

will be in the Vanderhoof Area working on an agriculture water assessment and irrigation project for the RDBN.

They are available for on-farm visits to discuss water challenges and irrigation from

**April 30 to May 2, 2025.**

Contact Ione by phone or text at **778-999-2149** to arrange a farm visit.

There will also be an open-house information session at **Beans Coffee Shop**

**(2465 Burrard St.)**  
**on Wednesday, April 30**  
**from 7:00-8:30 pm.**

No RSVP required.



The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Water Assessment and Irrigation Study taking place in Vanderhoof is underway. Ione Smith, Upland Agricultural Consulting Ltd., and Bruce Naka, Sound Water Advise, are coming to Vanderhoof from April 30 to May 2 to connect with producers.

There are two opportunities to share information with Ione and Bruce. The first is to contact Ione and arrange for her and Bruce to come to your farm or ranch. They are hoping to learn more about irrigation challenges and opportunities.

The second opportunity is to come to an open house at Beans Coffee Shop on Wednesday, April 30 between 7:00pm and 8:30pm.

Meet the Upland Agricultural Consulting Team

# Small Flock Health Workshops and Avian Influenza

It's spring, which means migratory bird species are moving through our area. This Ministry of Agriculture [webpage](#) describes the symptoms to watch for in your poultry flocks and has links to information about increasing biosecurity on your farm. At present the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus found in dairy cattle in the U.S. has not been detected in Canada.<sup>1</sup>

According to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, there is no evidence that the avian influenza virus is transmitted through the consumption of cooked chicken or eggs.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [CFIA Highly pathogenic avian influenza \(HPAI\) in cattle](#)

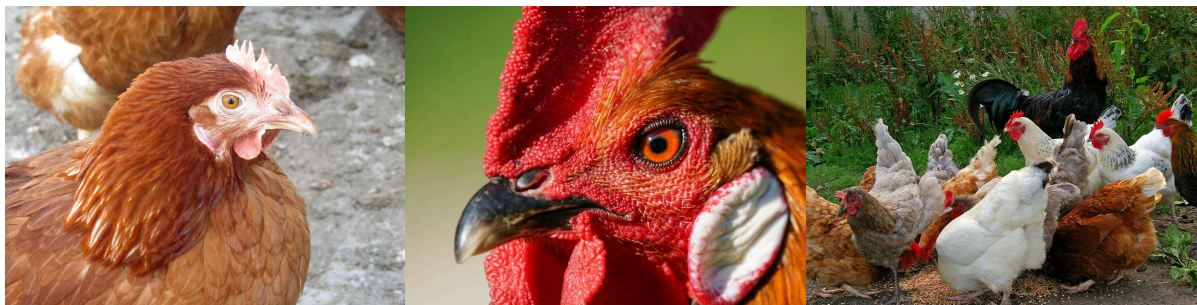
<sup>2</sup> [CFIA Avian Influenza/ Latest Bird Flu Situation](#)

The BC Poultry Health Network is hosting a series of Small Flock Poultry Health Workshops throughout the region in May.

**Smithers** - May 5 (5:30pm-9:30pm)

**Vanderhoof** - May 7 (5:00pm-10:00pm)

Small Flock Poultry  
Health Workshop



## AgriStability Deadline - April 30, 2025

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada offers an AgriStability Program as part of their suite of Business Risk Management Programs funded through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership agreement with the province of B.C.

Applying to the AgriStability Program



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

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