



BC FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK Quarterly Newsletter

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www.bcfwn.100mile.com



Bill C-474 receives support in Canada's House of Commons

Bill C-474 was introduced by NDP Agriculture Critic and MP for BC Southern Interior, Alex Antamenko. The Bill would support Canadian farmers by requiring "an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted of any new genetically engineered seed is permitted." For the first time, Parliament could take steps to protect farmers from the negative impacts of GM crops.

Bill C-474 was debated on March 17th in the House of Commons, and passed through a second reading in April when voted on by Members of Parliament.

The Bill now goes to the Agriculture Committee for study and amendments. House of Commons Agriculture hearings will begin in late May, early June. Visit the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network's (CBAN) website for more details, www.cban.ca/Take-Action/Act-Now, and find out how to take action!

By following the CBAN links, you can find out how your MP voted, and with just a couple clicks you can send an instant letter to your local MP.

See page 4 for Lorraine Jerema's letter to MP, Cathy McLeod.

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Letter from the President



Dear BCFWN Members,

I hope each and every one of you is enjoying our beautiful spring weather. I am sure the gardeners among you have been digging, potting and planting, the lure of seed catalogue pictures enticing you to plant one more row. This year I will be participating in a new event for me. A local growers group will be growing vegetables for sale to the local community. I am enjoying learning new things and trying out a new enterprise.

And as I become interested in locovore culture our current B.C. government has announced a proposal to use \$6,000,000.000.00 of our tax dollars to fund the Site "C" Dam Proposal on the Peace River so BC can export electricity to the United States. My mind of course goes to wondering how much wind or solar or geothermal or small hydro development 6 Billion dollars in our tax dollars would bring online, with much less damage to our valuable farm land.

On a more positive note, we, the executive, especially Mary Harris, have been busy organizing the 2010 Farm Tour and Seminar at Harrison Hot Springs this fall. I am looking forward to it. Hope to see you there.

— Loretta Simpson

THE BC FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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Aug. 25th, and Nov. 25th.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must be signed and include a phone number. Other submissions are gratefully received. BCFWN Newsletter reserves the right to edit for brevity and legality. Opinions expressed are those of the authors.

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“Our Farms, Our Future”



2010 BCFWN Seminar and AGM Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. October 22—24, 2010

This year's annual BCFWN Seminar and AGM will be held in the beautiful Village of Harrison Hot Springs, located in the Fraser Valley.

Mary Harris is working hard to make this another successful seminar, complete with the much anticipated Friday farm tour! We can expect to visit several different farms and attractions in the Harrison and Agassiz areas, including stops at Canadian Hazelnuts, the UBC experimental farm, a beef farm, a grain and flour mill, and possibly a stop to see artisan cheese making. Details to come!

The Saturday speakers line-up is still unconfirmed but we can look forward to hearing from an agrologist, a chicken expert, and a vet.

As always, there will be the silent auction. If you wish to donate a silent auction item, that would be appreciated. Anyone who wants a vendor table is welcome!

Please refer to the website www.bcfwn.100mile.com for updates and details once they come available. Also, watch for the fall issue of the BCFWN newsletter for a finalized weekend itinerary and registration information.



Agassiz Harrison Museum

To: Cathy McLeod
Re: Please Support Bill C-474, Support Canada's Farmers
Date: Monday 17 May 2010

Cc: Hon. Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food
Cc: Alex Atamanenko, NDP Agriculture Critic
Cc: Hon. Wayne Easter, Liberal Agriculture Critic
Cc: André Bellavance, Bloc Québécois Agriculture Critic

Dear Cathy McLeod, MP

I am writing to ask you to support Private Members Bill C-474 that will now be debated in the House of Commons Agriculture Committee.

The Bill would support Canadian farmers by requiring that "an analysis of potential harm to export markets be conducted before the sale of any new genetically engineered seed is permitted."

This Bill is really important because, as we know from experience, the introduction of new genetically engineered (GE) crops can cause economic hardship to farmers.

Farmers are at risk when GE crops are commercialized in Canada without also being first approved in our major export markets.

Flax farmers in Canada are now paying the price for this exact problem. Late last year, Canadian flax exports were discovered contaminated with a GE flax that is not approved in Europe or any of our other export markets.

Flax farmers actually foresaw that GE contamination or even the threat of contamination would close their export markets. This is why they took steps in 2001 to remove GE flax from the market. Despite this measure, flax farmers were not protected.

The GE flax contamination has created market uncertainty and depressed prices. Farmers are also paying for testing and cleanup and may be required to abandon their own farm-saved flax seed and buy certified seed instead. These costs are an unnecessary and preventable burden.

We cannot allow our export markets to close like this again. It is the government's responsibility to protect Canadian farmers from predictable problems caused by the introduction of new GE crops that have not yet been regulated in our export markets.

Cathy McLeod, please support Bill C-474 and protect Canada's farmers and our markets.

Yours Sincerely,

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NEWS RELEASE

Minister Ritz Announces Appointment of Laurent Pellerin as Chairperson of Farm Products Council of Canada

OTTAWA, Ontario, May 18, 2010 – Today, Federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz announced the appointment of Laurent Pellerin as the new Chairperson of the Farm Products Council of Canada (FPCC).

"I am very pleased Mr. Pellerin has accepted this appointment to the Council," said Minister Ritz. "Over the course of many years leading producer organizations, most recently as President of the Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Mr. Pellerin has earned the respect of farmers. I look forward to working with Mr. Pellerin in his new role."

The FPCC plays a key role in Canada's supply management system for poultry and eggs. Created in 1972, the Council supervises the operations of the four national marketing agencies that manage the supply of Canadian chicken, turkey, eggs and broiler hatching eggs. These agencies establish and allocate production quota, promote products, raise funds through levies and license marketers. In addition, the Council supervises the operation of the Canadian Beef Cattle Research, Market Development and Promotion Agency. Until 2009, the FPCC was known as the National Farm Products Council.

The Chairperson of the FPCC, who reports to Parliament through the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, is accountable for managing and directing the Council's operation.

Mr. Pellerin's appointment is for a four-year term and is effective May 31, 2010.

To learn more about the FPCC, please visit www.fpcc-cpac.gc.ca.

For more information, media may contact:

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Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Gerry Ritz
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THE AGE OF HORSES

To tell the age of any horse
Inspect the lower jaw of course.
The six front teeth the tale will tell,
And every doubt and fear dispel.

Two middle "nippers" you behold
Before the colt is two weeks old,
Before eight weeks two more will come,
Eight months the "corners" cut the gum.

The outside grooves will disappear
From middle two in just one year.
In two years from the second pair,
In three the corners too are bare.

At two the middle "nippers" drop,
At three the second pair can't stop.
When four years old the third pair goes,
At five a full new set he shows.

The deep black spots will pass from view
At six years from the middle two,
The second pair at seven years,
At eight the spot each corner clears.

From middle "nippers" upper jaw
At nine the black spots will withdraw,
The second pair at ten are white,
Eleven finds the "corners" light.

As time goes on the horsemen know
the oval teeth three-sided grow.
Then longer get, project before
'Till twenty, when we know no more.

Author unknown. Courtesy of Chris Horn, 100 Mile House, B.C.



Chris and Helen have been ranching together for over 65 years. Helen is a 'Lifetime member' of the BCFWN.

BC Fairs - 100 Years And Growing?

On January 31, 1910 the Department of Agriculture organized "The Provincial Agricultural Fairs Association", today known as the British Columbia Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions (BCAAFE). From that date, the BCAAFFE has worked tirelessly promoting and marketing BC's agriculture industry.

The British Columbia Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions celebrates a milestone anniversary this year! The non-profit organization has successfully led the showcasing, promotion and celebration of BC's agriculture for 100 years!

The objective of the BCAAFFE is to educate the public about the importance of agriculture, where their food comes from, the health benefits of eating fresh local BC products with a healthy lifestyle and to promote the value agriculture adds to the economy of British Columbia.

Since 2008 BCAAFFE has been struggling to obtain funding for its programs from the BC Government. It was suggested the Association could find funding from other sources, however, with the extensive cut-backs, that is not the case and the Association has reached a critical point in securing the agricultural association's future.

Agricultural fairs across BC work with the BCAAFFE to promote local agriculture in their regions. The majority of these fairs are heritage community events, who not only showcase agriculture and bridge communities - they are agri-tourism destinations that stimulate their local economies. Agricultural fairs are community social building foundations; they play a special role in the personal development of youth through the promotion of 4-H Club programs, provide fundraising opportunities for many other non-profit and charitable organizations within their communities, as well, fairs create economic spinoffs to local businesses, merchants and artisans.

British Columbia has a long history of community fairs and exhibitions. Each fair has its own flavour, but all go a long way to help promote and educate the public about agriculture and the products that are produced in their region. How many people have a special memory of their first visit to a fair? BC's agricultural fairs welcomed over 1.5 million guests last year. The BC Association of Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions hope that number will grow, flourish and continue to promote for the betterment of all British Columbians.

—Courtesy of AgriDigest

To find a BC fair near you, visit:

<http://www.bcfairs.ca>

Click the Fair Schedule link for the 2010 fair schedule.



Support your local 4-H clubs!



NEWS RELEASE

May 28, 2010

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

B.C. INVESTS \$2M IN RANCHING, RESPONDS TO TASK FORCE

WILLIAMS LAKE – The Province is investing \$2 million in B.C.'s ranching industry with the potential to leverage up to \$3 million in federal funding to develop market opportunities and invest in research, Minister of Agriculture and Lands Steve Thomson announced today.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has participated in the Ranching Task Force, because it has proven to be a successful partnership," said Thomson. "The beef industry is an important economic contributor and is worth over \$250 million to B.C.'s economy. Over 4,000 ranches around the province provide jobs and income for thousands of British Columbians. Government's investment in the sector along with policy and regulatory reform will provide a competitive edge for our ranching communities."

Thomson made the announcement at the B.C. Cattlemen's Association annual general meeting. The Province is responding to recommendations made by the Ranching Task Force by addressing regulatory issues, implementing changes that improve access to water and forage for livestock, and responding to concerns around waste disposal, meat regulations and the Agriculture Land Reserve.

"This new funding is appreciated and comes at a critical time for the industry," said Roland Baumann, president of the B.C. Cattlemen's Association. "The

Ranching Task Force has been an effective tool for ranchers as it has helped raise the profile of ranching among government and given us the opportunity to begin critical conversations with several ministries that have an impact on our industry."

The \$2 million in new funding will help the cattle industry strategically invest in market development opportunities both domestically and internationally. An investment in research will support our industry to develop markets based on B.C. attributes and ensure our sector remains competitive globally. The ministry will also continue the \$9.347 million Beef Cattle Industry Development Fund that was due to terminate in 2014. The ministry will extend this fund in perpetuity.

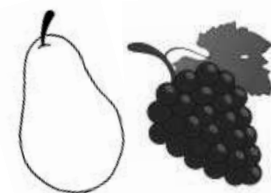
"Our ranching industry has shown its resilience and fierce independence through a worldwide recession, a BSE scare and the impact of a stronger Canadian dollar," said Terry Lake, MLA for Kamloops-North Thompson and parliamentary secretary to the Ranching Task Force. "We owe a special thanks to the task force members for giving us a clear strategy for building a stronger ranching industry."

The Ranching Task Force was announced in May 2009 to identify key issues and opportunities facing the ranching industry in B.C., and to make recommendations to ensure a strong, vibrant and sustainable industry for future generations. The task force was co-chaired by Lake and Baumann.

Recipe Corner

B.C. Pear and Grape Jam

- 2 cups (500 ml) fresh BC grapes (concord type)
- 3 cups (750 ml) fresh BC pears (about 5)
- 6 cups (1.5 L) sugar
- 1- 57 g package fruit pectin crystals

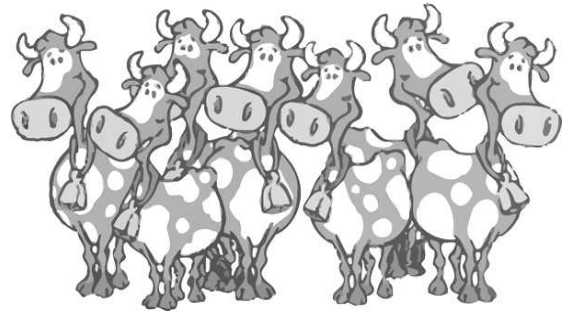


Wash grapes. Separate skin from pulp. Add half a cup (125 ml) water to pulp and simmer covered until tender (about 5 minutes). Remove seeds by sieving. Peel and core pears. Chop or crush thoroughly grape skins and pears. Mix pectin, prepared grapes and pears in pan. Place over high heat and stir until mixture comes to a hard boil. Immediately stir in sugar. Bring to a full, rolling boil that cannot be stirred down. Boil hard, stirring constantly for 1 minute. Remove from heat. Skim off foam with a metal spoon. Ladle into sterilized jam jars.

Per tablespoon: 117 calories(490 kJ), 30.4 g carbohydrate(99%), 0 g protein, 0 g fat.
This jam is fat free and suitable for heart smart diets.

Cattlebelles' Corner

Interlakes Cattlebelles Inspire Tomorrow's Gardeners Today



—Sherry Stewart

The Interlakes Cattlebelle's continued their project this year of going around to several of our local elementary schools, bringing with them Rubbermaid bins filled with potting soil and packets containing thousands of seeds. How exciting for the kids! The idea is to inspire tomorrow's food producers by showing them the excitement of planting a seed in fertile soil and watching it grow. So few kids, even in our area, really know where their food comes from (NOT a grocery store!) and how it looks while it is still growing in the soil. One major concern on the part of folks who are interested in buying most of their food locally is what if eating locally becomes a major interest? In this day and age, who is there who will be inspired to have a life long career growing food for others? The Cattlebelles' hope is to inspire tomorrow's local food growers.

This spring, AJ Dwyer, Karen Greenwood, Helen Horn, Lorraine Jerema, Pat Lytton and Fay Nickel, were the Cattlebelles' who helped close to 400 kids plant seeds. In various combinations, these women went to the Bridge Lake School, the Horse Lake School, and the Canim Lake School. Both vegetable and flower seeds were planted. The younger children were given individual pots in which to plant their seeds, while the older ones were also given the big Rubbermaid bins. "The behavior of all the youngsters was excellent," Helen Horn says, "And the little ones were especially excited."

Happy Spring, Happy Summer everyone!

