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# COUNTRY Life in BC

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September 2016 • Vol. 102 No. 9

## Province, industry unite over on-farm weddings

Third cut on the way



The setting sun casts a golden glow over this hay field and wheel line in Enderby. It's been a tricky season for hay farmers. See story on page 11. (Chris Coers photo)

Farmers, local government looking for more clarity

by DAVID SCHMIDT

DELTA – Agritourism operators will again be allowed to host a limited number of weddings on their farms provided a number of conditions are met.

BC Minister of Agriculture Norm Letnick went to Emma Lea Farms in Delta, August 2, to announce a new regulation clarifying what agritourism activities will be allowed in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

Letnick said the new rules are a result of two years of consultations with industry and local government. Both were looking for more clarity as to what constitutes acceptable agritourism activities after the

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## Ministers set priorities for policy framework

by DAVID SCHMIDT

CALGARY – Canada's federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture took a first stab at creating the next agricultural policy framework (NPF) at their annual meeting in Calgary in late July.

BC Minister of Agriculture (BCMA) Norm Letnick called it a "good meeting," saying the ministers talked a lot about social licence and the new policy framework.

"I pushed for more money in the framework so we can continue to support innovation and business risk management (BRM) programming," he said.

Ministers agreed BRM programming needs to be improved.

"All ministers have been sent back to look at BRM," federal Minister of Agriculture & Agri-Food Lawrence MacAulay told a media teleconference following the meeting.

"There has been a drop in enrollment and we need to find out why," he said. "We wish to address the difficulty of payout."

BC seems to be following the national trend. Figures provided by the BCMA show there were 2,559 AgriStability policies in BC in 2013, but that dropped to 2,443 policies for 2014 and just 2,216 policies for 2015. The number of AgriStability policies for 2016 is not yet available.

Enrollment in AgriInsurance is also declining although not as much as AgriStability. In 2013 and 2014, 2,118 and 2,119 AgriInsurance

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