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North Okanagan 4-H Beef Club member Leah Mitchell, 15, is ready to lead her steer project into her showmanship class at the Okanagan 4-H Stock Show in Armstrong, July 6. This year's beef division hosted seven clubs and 46 members. More photos on page 36. LINDSAY BARTKO PHOTO

New regs rolled out for pot growers

Soil-based systems favoured within ALR

by PETER MITHAM

VICTORIA – Recreational cannabis will be legal come October 17, but the fight over where to grow the budding crop is rolling into high gear.

While the province considers cannabis an agricultural crop and a legitimate use of farmland, an order-in-council signed July 13 states that cannabis production is only a legitimate farm use within the Agricultural Land Reserve “if produced outdoors in a field or inside a structure (a) that has a base consisting entirely of soil, or (b) that was, before the date on which this section came into force,

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Egg farm decommissioned

by PETER MITHAM

ABBOTSFORD – Provincial animal welfare officers plan to recommend charges against an Abbotsford egg farm following undercover video released by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

The video, shot at the farm in April, shows hens caged with dead birds and others half-buried in manure. BC SPCA, which polices animal cruelty on behalf of the province, says the video evidence points to the birds

having experienced distress consistent with cruelty to animals.

“We’ll absolutely be recommending charges in this particular case,” said Marcie Moriarty, chief prevention and enforcement officer with the BC SPCA.

First, however, the association needs to know who was responsible.

The farm in question is run by Jaedel Enterprises (1978) Ltd., owned by the Friesen Group of Abbotsford, a major egg producer and supplier of grain and poultry to farms

across Western Canada plus a dozen US states. Moriarty said an investigation was ongoing when someone at the farm supplied the video to PETA, but complicating the investigation is the presence Elite Farm Services Ltd. of Chilliwack, a chicken catching operation contracted to clear barns at the end of each production cycle.

Elite was the subject of an investigation last summer after Mercy for Animals released footage showing

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