

<b>POULTRY</b>	FIRB poised to set live BC chicken prices – again	9
<b>ALR</b>	Local governments can't undermine ALR rules	13
<b>IRRIGATION</b>	When the right thing turns out to be wrong	22



**QS**  
Quality Seeds West  
**COVER CROP  
TIME IS HERE!**  
1-888-770-7333  
Quality Seeds ... where quality counts!

# COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915 OCTOBER 2018 | Vol. 104 No. 10



## Sheep thrills

**Phil Copping demonstrated his skill at shearing sheep during the Interior Provincial Exhibition in Armstrong this summer. Copping has 25 years of shearing experience and his demonstrations were a nice sidebar to a full range of agricultural displays and competition at the fair. More IPE photos are on pages 36-37.**

LINDSAY BARTKO PHOTO

## Farm employers on edge

Changes to foreign worker program creating uncertainty

by PETER MITHAM

ABBOTSFORD – Another round of changes to the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program has farm employers on edge after the hassles of obtaining workers for the 2018 season.

Come 2019, workers from Mexico will have to provide biometric identification prior to arrival while employers face new housing standards against a backdrop of an ongoing review of the standards themselves.

The concern was palpable at an all-day workshop the BC Agriculture Council organized in Abbotsford on September 21 to help growers understand what lies ahead. Biometrics and housing dominated the concerns expressed by the approximately 50 growers and 30 government and farm sector representatives in the room.

“God help us with the biometrics,”

See LABOUR on next page >

Growing more with less water



**DIESEL & PTO PUMPS  
PVC & ALUMINUM PIPE  
IRRIGATION REELS  
DRIP IRRIGATION  
CENTRE PIVOTS**

1.888.675.7999

**WaterTec**  
IRRIGATION LTD  
watertecna.com

## Right-to-farm case upheld

by TOM WALKER

KELOWNA – The BC Farm Industry Review Board has upheld the right of cherry growers to use machines to dry their fruit.

The decision responded to complaints two Coldstream property owners filed against Coral Beach Farms Ltd. for the noise created by equipment used at the farm's nearby orchard between 2016 and 2018.

The complaints challenged whether the use of frost fans, turbo spray fans and

helicopters were in accordance with normal farm practices.

In a decision released this summer, FIRB chair John Les and board members Daphne Stancil and Al Sakalauskas determined the farm was acting within its rights under the province's Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act. The decision also noted Coral Beach had undertaken reasonable steps to be a good neighbour.

“The panel concludes that Coral Beach has taken reasonable steps that a

neighbourly farmer would normally employ in the circumstances, and continues to do so to ameliorate the impacts of its operation on its neighbours,” states the decision.

The panel noted agriculture can “often be intensive and disruptive” adding the Right to Farm Act was designed to protect farms like Coral Beach as long as they follow normal farm practices. Coral Beach, they concluded, has.

See FARM on next page >

POSTES  
CANADA  
Port payé  
Post-Publications  
40012122

CANADA  
POST  
Postage paid  
Publications Mail  
40012122

Postmaster: Please return  
undeliverable labels to:  
Country Life in BC  
36 Dale Road  
Enderby, BC V0E 1V4

Vol. 104 No. 10