

<b>PAS</b>	Ag show attracts near-record attendance	9
<b>FRUIT</b>	Labour remains a priority for fruit growers	11
<b>ORGANIC</b>	Going green boosts credibility for ranch	23



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# COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915 MARCH 2019 | Vol. 105 No. 3

## Ten-year plan

Province rolls out new ag waste regs across BC beginning in Hullcar

by DAVID SCHMIDT

ABBOTSFORD – It took a decade to develop the new Agricultural Waste Control Regulation and it will take another decade to fully implement it.

The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (BCMoe) released the new Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management

See NUTRIENT on next page ↪



Simon Answerth has big plans for his small vegetable farm on leased land in Kelowna. The sole graduate of a farm incubator program, he's already selling to local restaurants and farmers markets. His story is on page 47. MYRNA STARK LEADER PHOTO

## Province boosts ag spending

by PETER MITHAM

VICTORIA – Agriculture received a \$5 million boost in the province's annual budget on February 19.

While the budget speech finance minister Carole James delivered mentioned "agriculture" just once, the detailed budget estimates held the good news.

The biggest boosts are in store for agriculture science and policy, as well as business development. The two areas will each receive an extra 7% in the coming year, or an

additional \$1.2 million and \$3.3 million, respectively.

Business development funding supports not only market development programs such as Buy BC but risk management initiatives and regional emergency management programs. Business development also includes "addressing environmental risks to and from the sector," an important consideration as the new Code of Practice for Agricultural Environment Management takes effect.

The Agricultural Land

Commission will see its budget increase 6%, by \$289,000, for a total of nearly \$4.9 million.

All told, the province anticipates \$98.2 million worth of agriculture spending in the coming fiscal year, which begins April 1. This amounts to the largest budget ever for the ministry.

The budget also hands businesses a tax break on purchases of new equipment and machinery. BC farmers were expected to spend \$283 million on machinery and equipment last year.

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