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# COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915

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Over 250 school children from five local schools attended an education day at Hutley Acres Farm in Spallumcheen on June 7 to learn about dairy farming, how chickens are raised, milk an imitation cow and even pet a real cow. The event preceded the fifth annual Breakfast on the Farm where close to 900 people enjoyed breakfast, farm tours and activities. [JACKIE PEARASE PHOTO]

## Province blinks on ALR

### Small-lot farmers fight back

by PETER MITHAM

VICTORIA—Growing criticism of the province's efforts to tighten protection of the province's Agricultural Land Reserve is prompting the province to backtrack on some of the new regulations.

A late-night bulletin the BC Ministry of Agriculture posted on June 18 indicates that rules governing second homes in the ALR would allow a grandfathering period.

"As the Province has continued to work on regulations to support Bill 52, the BC government has been listening to local governments and people

See DETAILS on next page ↗

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## Berry grower hit with fines

by PETER MITHAM

PITT MEADOWS—May was not kind to Golden Eagle Group, the province's largest berry farmer with approximately 5,000 acres of blueberries and cranberries in Pitt Meadows.

The company, owned by the Aquilini family of Vancouver, was fined \$53,690 in October 2018 regarding a "high risk of serious injury or death" to workers. The bus had several mechanical problems, primarily relating to

the braking system. However, other issues were also identified relating to the air bag system, headlights and rear battery.

Golden Eagle appealed the fine, but a review by WorkSafeBC upheld the penalty.

The safety of vehicles used to transport workers has been a priority since the death of three workers in a crash near Abbotsford in March 2007. An inter-agency committee was formed in December 2007 by the provincial ministries of labour, transportation and

agriculture as well as WorkSafeBC and the BC Agriculture Council to address vehicle safety.

In 2018, WorkSafeBC inspected 121 vehicles and issued 175 orders. Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement inspected 133 vehicles and 20 failed to pass muster. The previous year, WorkSafeBC inspected 128 vehicles and issued 131 orders. CVSE inspected 111 vehicles and 24 failed to pass.

WorkSafeBC's decision

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