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All in the family

Corne, left, and Paul Moerman of Sunnyside Produce Ltd. grew up in the greenhouse operation their fathers own in Delta and Surrey. As the family's succession plan kicks in, the cousins are taking on more responsibility for day-to-day operations. Myrna Stark Leader spoke to them about what they've brought to the business and their expansion plans in her story starting on page 27. PHOTO / RONDA PAYNE

BC Beef set to launch

Project aims to boost returns to cattle producers

by TOM WALKER

WESTWOLD – A made-in-BC beef brand is finally within sight after five years of work on the part of ranchers.

"We will be signing a lease for October 1 with the KML federal processing plant just west of Falkland, and at that point we will have control of the plant to go in and start processing," says Kevin Boon, general manager of the BC Cattlemen's Association.

Boon is a key member of the industry steering committee that has been working on the project, which aims to put more cash in the pockets of BC producers by processing and selling beef

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Peace leads farmland sales

by PETER MITHAM

DAWSON CREEK – Sales of BC farm properties fell 11% in the first six months of 2020 versus a year earlier, according to provincial property transfer data.

A total of 632 properties changed hands, with the Peace region being the most active. Northeastern BC saw 116 properties sell during the first half of the year, or 18% of the provincial total for the period.

The Fraser Valley and Metro Vancouver were the second

and third most active regions, with 77 and 70 deals, respectively.

Deals in the Peace region were driven both by locals and to a lesser degree buyers from Alberta for whom the property offered good value compared to tracts of similar size in their home province.

"They come up here and get a bit more land for a lot less money," says Blaine Nicholson, managing broker and owner of Re/Max Dawson Creek.

Two land auctions by Ritchie Bros. have also

attracted interest in the region, he adds.

With more than 40 years' experience in the region, however, he said activity has seemed stable While provincial data indicates a 13% increase in transactions over last year, Nicholson says it's felt like a normal year.

Similarly, Alan Johnson, a vice-president with Colliers International in Vancouver, says demand in the Lower Mainland seems moderate. Sales in the first half of this

See STABLE on next page ➔

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