

PANDEMIC	Field days feeling the pinch of social distancing rules	7
ALR	Changes to land commission kick in this fall	11
BEEF	Short-term roller coaster for beef market	23



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Under one roof

Ag ministry to oversee abattoir inspections

by **TOM WALKER**

VICTORIA – The BC Ministry of Agriculture is taking over meat inspection in the province on December 1, consolidating oversight of the sector.

“Effective December 1, 2020, all slaughter activity licensed under the Meat Inspection Regulation for class A, B, D, and E meat slaughter licenses will now be regulated under the Ministry of Agriculture,” the province announced August 19.

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Creating community in abundance

Amir Niroumand and farm manager Melanie Buffel are creating an opportunity for city dwellers to experience planting, growing and harvesting food for themselves and others at a 40-acre community farm Niroumand has created in Agassiz. While it doesn't pretend to be commercial scale, the farm provides food to as many as 120 people in season. The story is on page 45. PHOTO / RONDA PAYNE

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Farms to retain tax status

by **PETER MITHAM**

VICTORIA – BC farmers won't have to worry about their properties losing farm class status on the 2021 tax roll.

The province announced July 29 that all properties the BC Assessment Authority currently classifies as farms would continue to hold that status for the coming year.

“Our government is committed to helping farmers maintain their farm classification for 2021 to ensure they can produce the

food people in BC rely on,” said Selina Robinson, provincial minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, whose portfolio includes BC Assessment.

The exemption does not apply to properties subject to a legal change, including a change in ownership or subdivision, according to the province, nor to any property with a change in use or where a lease is expiring.

New applications for farm class and retired farmer designations will be processed as usual.

Provincial regulations require that properties between 2 and 10 acres generate at least \$2,500 to be classed as farms by BC Assessment. Smaller properties must generate revenues of \$10,000 while larger properties must generate \$2,500 plus 5% of the actual value of the farm property in excess of 10 acres.

Property assessments are based on market value as of July 1 each year, though valuations are reviewed until

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