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# COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915 DECEMBER 2020 | Vol. 106 No. 12

## Abattoirs eye pandemic funding

Recovery money could help relieve processing bottleneck

by **BARBARA JOHNSTONE GRIMMER**

VICTORIA – A sudden influx of funding from the \$90 million provincial Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program resulted in the submission of several abattoir applications to the rural economic recovery stream in October. CERIP is providing fully funded provincial grants to support economic resilience, tourism, heritage and urban

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## Water fight

A \$14 million upgrade of the Noble Creek Irrigation System in Kamloops has been shelved after property owners like Jon Peachey took exception to the plan. The city would pay \$2.8 million of the project, leaving \$11.2 million to be paid by the 47 property owners in the service area. The proposal would have left Peachey on the hook, he figures, for just under \$2.6 million. The story is on page 7. PHOTO / MURRAY MITCHELL

*Merry Christmas*

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## Turkey sales strengthen

by **PETER MITHAM**

ABBOTSFORD – A shift to home consumption as a result of COVID-19 appears to have favoured turkey growers, who hope the trend will continue through the Christmas season. Public health restrictions on private gatherings mean smaller dinners but BC Turkey Marketing Board general manager Michel Benoit says Thanksgiving sales point to a steady consumer appetite. “Storage stocks of whole bird are down significantly

(32%) compared to last year,” he says, noting that smaller sizes saw the greatest movement. “We still feel that there are a lot of turkey products that are suitable for smaller gatherings. We have also heard some consumers say that they will purchase the same size bird they always do and just happily have more leftovers.” The outlook for broiler producers is more complicated. While chicken remains the most popular meat in Canada, with nearly

1.3 billion kilograms consumed in 2019, COVID-19 has made allocating production to commercial farms across the country a difficult proposition. “COVID-19 has been a real challenge when it comes to setting allocations,” BC Chicken Marketing Board executive director Bill Vanderspek told growers at their fall meeting October 28. The initial phase of the pandemic saw the

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