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MARCH 2021 | Vol. 107 No. 3



A wee bit of green

Even though sales are slower during the winter months, Doug Haggerty keeps growing sprouts at his Oliver farm. He sells them and fresh multi-coloured carrots to high-end restaurants and delivers to Kelowna once a week. His business is called Fester's Peppers. MYRNA STARK LEADER

Province to make Premises ID law

Most producers are on board, but some have concerns

by BARBARA JOHNSTONE GRIMMER

VICTORIA – Mandatory premises identification will become law early next year, requiring the registration of all properties where livestock and poultry may be present.

In a statement February 5, the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries announced that it's moving forward with a new premises identification regulation under the BC Animal Health Act.

According to the policy

See PREMISES on next page ↗

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No extension for groundwater

by PETER MITHAM

VICTORIA – Owners of existing non-domestic wells shouldn't count on any further extensions of the province's deadline for registering their wells and applying for a groundwater licence free of charge. "It is unlikely to change at this point," says Maria Nguyen of FrontCounter BC. The province originally set a deadline of March 1, 2019, three years after the new registration and licensing provisions of the Water

Sustainability Act took effect. Shortly before the deadline, however, the province extended the waiver on the application fee to March 1, 2022. Well owners now have until February 28, 2022 to register their wells and obtain a licence without paying fees. However, rents are owing on all water used since February 29, 2016, when registration was first required. Speaking at the Pacific Agriculture Show on January 28, Nguyen encouraged producers to apply by the

2022 deadline, noting that filing an application is critical to determining a user's priority even if a licence isn't granted until several months later. Applications help the province anticipate the number of existing users and demand on the province's water resources as applications for new wells continue to arrive. Nguyen pointed applicants seeking more information about their specific wells to [<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/gwells/>].



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