

DISASTER

DISEASE

CROPS

Senate report highlights the need for flood plans


More farms test positive for avian influenza

New apple varieties may improve profits

7

9

15





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Ottawa dishes trade funds

Dairy sector benefits most

PETER MITHAM

ABBOTSFORD – The federal government has announced long-awaited compensation for supply managed groups impacted by market access granted when the Canada-US-Mexico free trade agreement (CUSMA) that replaced the North American Free Trade Agreement in 2020.

A total of \$1.7 billion will be paid to farmers and processors of supply-managed products, according to federal agriculture minister Marie-Claude Bibeau, speaking at a Quebec dairy

See CASH on next page ↗



I spy ...

Scott Walsh, the assistant vineyard manager at Tantalus Vineyards in Kelowna, was one of a hardy team of ice wine grape harvesters who started picking at 5 am on November 10 when temperatures were colder than the -8°C requirement for ice wine. MYRNA STARK LEADER



From WaterTec

www.watertecna.com

New money for fruit growers

PETER MITHAM

KELOWNA – Training is the top priority for the province with a new round of funding intended to help stabilize and renew the province’s tree fruit industry.

An infusion of \$2.5 million announced November 17 will support the development of a tree fruit certificate program at Okanagan College and establish an extension service helping 250 growers annually improve fruit quality, increase production and enhance

their farm businesses.

"We are working directly with the industry, family farms and businesses to ensure they succeed into the future, and putting BC's apple growers in the best position to increase their efficiency, production and profitability," BC agriculture minister Lana Popham said in a statement.

A portion of the funds will also flow to the long-running Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program, which earlier this year benefitted from a \$375,000 investment in the BC Decision

Aid System, as well as marketing initiatives.

The ministry did not provide a breakdown of how the new funds would be allocated. The funding will run through March 31, 2024.

The new certificate program at Okanagan College could launch next fall.

"Our teams are moving forward to design the program and get it implemented now that it has been announced," says Kevin

See TREE on next page ↗

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