

WATER	Kamloops decommissions farm irrigation system	7
ALR	Cowichan Bay project set to swamp farmland	11
FORAGE	Paradigm shift required for intensive grazing	23



Quality Seeds West
Forage Seed
 1-800-661-4559
 Produced by & available at **TerraLink**

COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915

JULY 2023 | Vol. 109 No. 7



Pick of the crop

Jesse Johnston-Hill of First Light Farm in Revelstoke harvests produce for sale at farmers markets and donation to the local food bank, which in turn crowdfunds community donations that help defray the farm's production costs. The model is community-supported agriculture at its best, part of how the farm sees itself operating in community. Read more on page 29. *BRUNO LONG*

Water blitz in FV

US farmers want BC action on *E. coli*

PETER MITHAM

LANGLEY – Provincial staff have staged a "compliance blitz" targeting Fraser Valley farms following US complaints over high *E. coli* counts in water flowing south.

US testing in December and early January detected fecal coliform counts in the tens of thousands where Langley's Pepin Brook enters Whatcom County.

An acceptable fecal coliform count is 100 units per 100 ml.

"When you're getting 10,

Washington farmers ▶

WaterTec
 IRRIGATION
 The name farmers trust
 watertecna.com
 888-675-7999 877-591-4790

Berries feel the heat

RONDA PAYNE

ALDERGROVE – A blast of summer-like weather in early May has BC strawberry growers in a jam.

The heat ripened strawberries about two weeks earlier than expected and pushed all varieties to harvest at the same time, causing a labour crunch for picking.

"It came on two weeks sooner than estimated because of that fantastically unbelievable May," says Alf Krause of Krause Berry Farms and Estate Winery in

Aldergrove, who describes it as "the shortest season ever."

"Nobody was ready, so the market was soft, but it came on like gangbusters," he says.

Rhonda Driediger of Driediger Farms in Langley says the size and quality of berries was good up until the rain began, essentially ending the June-bearing and first harvest of day-neutral berries.

Yields were down for both growers, with Krause noting that some growers saw less than two-thirds of their usual crop. Others saw just half.

Krause says the fruit was

nice, but smaller in size than usual and the volume was definitely "light."

"It's not a great year," adds Driediger. "I haven't done the calculations yet, but it's down."

Statistics Canada reports BC harvested 1,466 tons of fresh-market strawberries last year. The season's initial crop will be followed by a second pick of day-neutral berries later this summer.

"We have a new field we'll be picking in about two weeks," says Driediger. "Then

Warm weather ▶

POSTES CANADA
 POSTAGE PAID
 PUBLICATIONS MAIL
 40012122

CANADA POST
 Postage paid
 Publications Mail
 40012122

Vol. 109 No. 7

Postmaster, Please return undeliverable labels to:
 Country Life in BC
 36 Dale Road
 Enderby, BC V0E 1V4