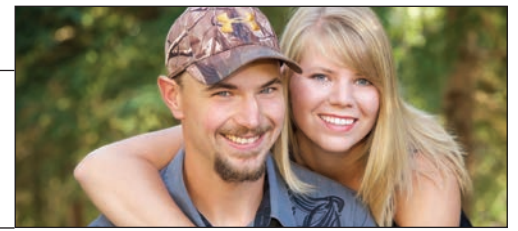


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COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

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Breaking point

Cumulative effect of disasters hits hard

PETER MITHAM & TOM WALKER

WEST KELOWNA – The worst wildfire season in BC's history has upped the ante for several sectors, which are being pushed to the breaking point by successive disasters.

Cattle continued to move to market in record numbers in August, with the flare-up of several fires at mid-month prompting BC Livestock Co-op to schedule a special sale August 22 in Kamloops to receive cattle intended for market from producers under evacuation orders.

"Last week we had 1,100 animals and at Tuesday's sale (August 22), another 220," says BC Livestock Co-op marketing specialist Darrell Comazzetto.

Wildfires ▶



Summer lovin'

Sheep flock to Amanda Forrest at Forrest Farm in Salmo, who with her husband Ewan has launched BC's first and only licensed sheep milk processor. The couple's Forrest Farm Sheep and Goat Cheese Creamery is a small-scale processor that sees big opportunities to contribute to their community. Read the Forrests' story on page 31. *FORREST FARM*

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International exports climb

PETER MITHAM

VICTORIA – Rising exports of BC agri-food producers are set for a further boost with the launch of the new BC Agriculture and Food Export Program.

BC Statistics reports that exports of agriculture and food products other than fish totalled \$4.6 billion last year, a 24% increase from 2021.

The gains were broad-based, with meat products being alone in seeing a decline.

But a new program

launched August 28 with funding under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) promises to assist with export market development.

The project is one of the first launched as part of the new five-year funding framework, which succeeded the Canadian Agricultural Partnership on April 1.

The cost-shared BC Agriculture and Food Export Program is administered by accounting firm MNP LLP and will support a range of

marketing efforts focused on regions outside of BC. Producers will receive up to 50% of project costs while industry associations will receive up to 70%.

Producers, processors and cooperatives are eligible to receive up to \$50,000 a year, while industry associations are eligible for up to \$75,000 a year.

Eligible activities include participation in interprovincial/international tradeshows, food fairs, and

Export potential ▶

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