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# COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915 

JULY 2024 | Vol. 110 No. 7



## Liquidgold

A well-maintained irrigation system makes for well-maintained orchards, as Lake Country orchardist Bruce Naka demonstrates during the Lake Country Farmers Institute social at the Alfred family's 99 Rows Venue and Vineyard on June 5. "This high-density orchard is about 40 years old," said Naka, "and it shows that if you install a good irrigation system and maintain it, it lasts." Water is anything but a dry topic for farmers, many of whom are facing a third year of drought despite a reprieve this spring as cool weather brought gentle rains to the southern half of the province. | MYRNA STARK LEADER

## Disaster fund denied

### Feds refuse long-awaited financial support

**KATE AYERS**

ABBOTSFORD – Ottawa has denied millions in funding to the three municipalities hit hardest by the 2021 atmospheric rivers.

Abbotsford, Merritt and Princeton received written notice at the end of May that their applications to the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund were rejected due to a lack of information.

The application packages each totalled more than 500 pages, leaving the mayors

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## BC Milk halts deductions

**PETER MITHAM**

BURNABY – The BC Milk Marketing Board will not resume deductions from producer returns to fund Dairy Innovation West (DIW) following a request from the BC Farm Industry Review Board.

BC FIRB directed BC Milk on May 22 to cease any participation in funding arrangements for DIW, given its status as a regulator rather than a shareholder in DIW.

BC Milk told BC FIRB in February it had made two payments totalling

\$310,335.45 funded by transportation levies BC Milk deducts from producer returns.

The deduction amounted to 23 cents per hectolitre, a small amount in itself, but significant as producers continue to wrestle with tight margins. The deductions were set to resume this month.

BC's share in DIW are held by the Dairy Industry Development Council, which anted \$1.5 million this spring to cover BC's portion of \$8 million in costs not covered by the project's \$70 million construction loan from Farm

Credit Canada.

There was no update at press time how BC would cover its remaining share of the \$8 million (a sum of approximately \$1 million).

"[DIDC] is working with fellow shareholders on solutions to ensure the project is a success," a statement to *Country Life in BC* says.

BC FIRB says it is in discussions with BC Milk regarding its activities with respect to DIW and the larger transformation initiative underway within the Western Milk Pool.

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Vol. 110 No. 7

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