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POLICY

Greenhouse growers face new levy burden



Farmers urged to prepare for emergencies

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AUGUST 2025 | Vol. 111 No. 7

# Hatching egg supplies tight

#### **HPAI** to blame

#### **PETER MITHAM**

ABBOTSFORD - Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) continues to cast a long shadow over the poultry sector, with broiler producers facing an uphill battle returning to full production.

Broiler operations in BC were producing 93% of their allocations under the national supply management arrangement in A-195, an eight-week production period ended May 30, and undermarketing provisions in place since February 9 remain.

"My own farm was 30% to 40% under-placed," says Brad Driediger, of Windberry Farms

BC broiler producers ▶



#### Peek-a-boo

Wine grape vines that survived the killing freeze of January 2024 are showing signs of recovery. At Black Swift Vineyards in West Kelowna, the crew Was busy in July thinning the canopy to ensure plenty of sunlight reaches this year's grape crop. MYRNA STARK LEADER

In fac

- Langley
- Chilliwack
- Williams Lake
- Kamloops

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## Farm losses driven by depreciation

#### **PETER MITHAM**

ABBOTSFORD - BC farm incomes reached record levels last year, according to Statistics Canada, but so did expenses.

BC farms reported farmgate revenue topping \$5 billion in 2024, up 3% from a year earlier and 31% above 2020.

But expenses rose even faster, totalling \$4.85 billion, up 8% from a year earlier and 41% above 2020.

This resulted in net cash income down more than half versus a year earlier to less than \$169 million, where it was during the financial crisis of 2007-08.

"Post-pandemic, we entered that high interest rate, inflationary environment," says BC Agriculture Council president Jen Woike, an egg farmer on Vancouver Island. "Add that to the climate events that BC had to deal with - flood, heat dome, wildfires, all one on top of another – and it was really a recipe for anyone trying to run a business in

The cash crunch led to a sharp increase in depreciation charges to offset taxes thanks, in part, to federal tax provisions designed to encourage investment and grow

Beginning in 2019, a new federal incentive allowed businesses to immediately write off the full cost of machinery and equipment used in production and manufacturing. Similar provisions also applied to

Depreciation >



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