



TerraLink

Seed
Plant Nutrition
Crop Protection
Supplies
Service

www.tlhort.com
1-800-661-4559

Rooted in your community®
since 1973

TerraLink

The logo for "Country Life in BC" features a stylized sun with rays in shades of blue and orange, and a green leaf. Below the sun is a black and white graphic of a field or road.

COUNTRY
LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915

JANUARY 2026 | Vol. 112 No. 1



Winter blues

Blueberries don't like wet feet, and these young plants on Sumas Prairie were knee-deep as the Nooksack River overflowed its banks and headed north, reaching Hwy 1 and the offices of the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food in December. Producers pulled together, and hope governments will do the same to deliver critical flood mitigation infrastructure. GRACE KENNEDY

Sumas floods again

Farmers call for action

GRACE KENNEDY

ABBOTSFORD – Here we go again.

Those were the words that went through Corry Spitters' mind when he saw weather warnings and evacuation alerts begin to pop up for Sumas Prairie on Wednesday, December 10.

The situation was eerily similar to the massive flooding that occurred in November 2021, when floodwaters rushed over the border from the Nooksack River and settled over the former Sumas Lake for days. Hundreds of

Sumas farmers evacuate ►

The logo for Delta Water Products & Irrigation features a stylized blue and green 'D' shape.

DELTA
WATER PRODUCTS & IRRIGATION

A photograph of several small green seedlings growing in a black plastic nursery bed.

Visit us at the

PAC AG SHOW

Booth #346

January 22-24, 2026
Tradex Exhibition Centre
Abbotsford, BC

deltawaterproducts.com

Biosecurity holds line against HPAI

PETER MITHAM

ABBOTSFORD – Despite ongoing detections of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in sediment samples from the Lower Mainland, the province's agriculture ministry says flooding on Sumas Prairie in December did not increase the risk of infection in local poultry barns.

"Our provincial vet has reported that there's no increase in avian influenza that seems to be connected with this flood event," BC agriculture minister Lana

Popham told *Country Life in BC* during a press conference on December 12.

Six barns were flooded with the loss of an estimated 175,000 birds, according to the BC Chicken Marketing Board, but no surge in HPAI was reported as of December 19.

"All the existing guidance applies; farms should still be following the same biosecurity whenever possible," the ministry's emergency management director Jeremy Oaten added, noting that provincial staff were working "very closely"

with industry and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to mitigate additional risks to Fraser Valley flocks as a series of storms rolled across the region in the two weeks before Christmas.

"CFIA has been wonderful to deal with during the flood. They've got rules that they have to follow," says Woody Siemens, executive director of BC Chicken. "We're still practicing full biosecurity wherever possible. Farmers are doing an excellent job

Uptick among backyard flocks

POSTES
CANADA
Port payé
Post-Publications
40012122

The Canada Post logo, featuring a stylized red maple leaf.

CANADA
POST
Postage paid
Publications Mail
40012122

Vol. 112 No. 1

Postmaster, Please return
Undeliverable labels to:
Country Life in BC
36 Dale Road
Enderby, BC V4Y 4J6