

FARM STATUS

Reclassification sparks farm definition debate 7

FARM SALES

Driediger Farms property sells to Berryhill Foods 9

FARM SHUTDOWN

Mink breeders end court challenge 15



TerraLink

Seed
Plant Nutrition
Crop Protection
Supplies
Service

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

Rooted in your community®
since 1973

TerraLink

COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915



FEBRUARY 2026 | Vol. 112 No. 2

Hitting pause

Livestock traceability regs on hold

TOM WALKER

KAMLOOPS – The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has hit pause on amendments to traceability regulations under the Health of Animals Act.

"The CFIA will pause any publication of the regulations until the proposed changes are more widely understood and concerns are heard and taken into consideration," the agency announced January 10.

Originally expected to be published in the *Canada Gazette* this April final amendments have been postponed indefinitely in

Better communication ▶

50% COST SHARED UP TO \$140K FOR BC FARMS



Funding is competitive
and will close quickly—don't wait!

MORE INFO ON PAGE 3



Smoky notes

Tantalus Vineyard assistant vineyard manager Hernan Pugni, left, and vineyard manager Scott Woody give glasses of Pinot Noir the sniff test to determine the presence of smoke taint during a grape research update at UBC Okanagan earlier this winter. UBCO researchers are developing methods to address smoke taint in grapes and wine, a challenge BC growers may face with increasing forest fires. Story on page 25. MYRNA STARK LEADER

Big crop, low returns for cherries

DTOM WALKER

SUMMERLAND – The 2025 cherry season was one to remember, but mostly for the wrong reasons.

"It was massive," says Summerland cherry grower Deep Brar. "The largest we have ever had in the province."

The crop exceeded the previous record of 54.9 million pounds harvested in 2018 by a significant margin, according to growers.

There are a number of reasons for this. The

December 2022 freeze reduced the 2023 crop by some 30%, while a second extreme cold event in January 2024 froze buds so severely that only 10% survived.

Growers who were able to support their trees during the 2024 growing year were rewarded with an extensive bloom this spring.

"The trees really rebounded with a huge bloom," says Brar. "Many of those trees should have been summer-pruned and thinned. We ended up with a lot of small cherries [in 2025] that

are hard to sell."

Poor apple prices and stronger fresh cherry sales have led many BC fruit growers across the province to tap replant programs to expand plantings to more than 6,000 acres, up from 4,500 acres in 2019.

It takes three to four years for a new cherry tree to be in full production, but acreage planted even five or six years ago would not have given a full crop over the last two years.

Export markets fail ▶

POSTES CANADA
Postage paid
Publications Mail
40012122
CANADA
POST
Postage paid
Publications Mail
40012122
Postmaster, Please return
Undeliverable labels to:
Country Life in BC
36 Dale Road
Enderby, BC V4Y 4J6

