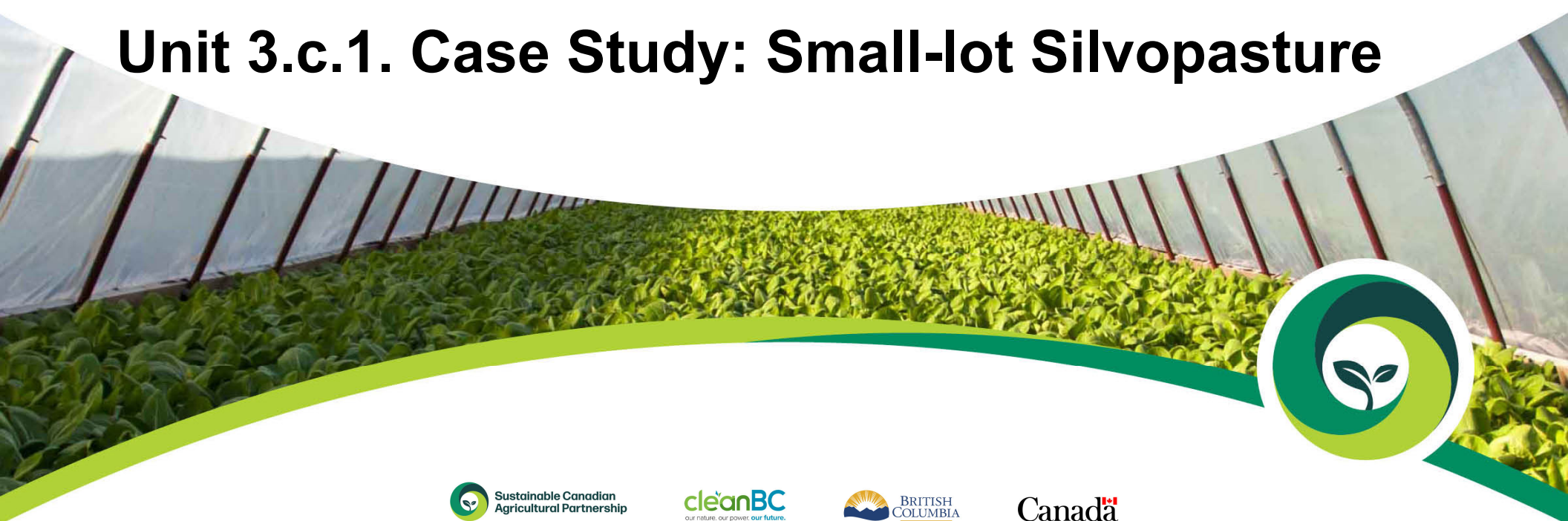


# Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership

Competitive. Innovative. Resilient.

## Silvopasture In British Columbia Information Series

### Unit 3.c.1. Case Study: Small-lot Silvopasture



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# Silvopasture in BC Information Series Content Guide



## Core Units

0. Series Overview

1. Introduction

2. Science Behind SP

3.1. SP BMPs - part 1

3.2. SP BMPs - part 2

4. SP Planning

## Case Studies

2.c.1 Production Synergies:  
Kootenay Tree Farms

2.c.2 Riparian Silvopasture:  
Silver Hills Ranch

**3.c.1 Small-lot SP: Just  
Another Weed Patch Farm**

3.c.2 Mature Forest to SP:  
Indian Gardens Ranch

4.c.1 Planning on Crown Land:  
SP Pilot Project

4.c.2 Adaptive Management at  
Aveley Ranch

## Supplemental Units

1.s. History of SP in BC

2.s.1. Light & Microclimate

2.s.2. Hydrology

3.s. Managing Damage

## **Unit 3.c. Case Study: Small-lot Silvopasture**



### **Goal**

Gain a deeper understanding of silvopasture planning, implementation and management through British Columbia case studies.

### **Suggested Prerequisites**

Modules 3.1 and 3.2: Silvopasture BMPs.

### **Content**

Just Another Weed Patch Farm - small lot silvopasture;

# Small Lot Silvopasture

## From Hayfield to Nut Orchard

Using silvopasture as a transitional production strategy.

Demonstration headed by Sonja Zupanec and Jeff Rietkerk (Just Another Weed Patch Farm) and funded by the BC Agroforestry Industry Development Initiative (2003-2013).




## Landscape Considerations



### **Just Another Weed Patch Farm, Gabriola Island**

Transforming a 2-acre hayfield to a nut orchard with pasture-raised poultry.

- 
- Old hayfield generating limited cash-flow.
  - Farm borders nature reserve.
  - Transition to more intensive agriculture.
  - Improved aesthetics.

## Establishing the Orchard

The gulf islands have one of the most favorable climates in BC for nut crops.

This grove was planted to a mixture of:

- Blight resistant filbert (*Corylus* sp.)
- Chinese chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)
- English walnut (*Juglans regia*)
- Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*)
- Japanese Heartnut (*Juglans ailantifolia*)
- Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)



## Silvopasture Trials



- Initial plan was to pasture sheep in dormant season and laying hens the remainder of the year.
- Extra time needed to monitor sheep use.
- Poultry, by virtue of size, had no significant negative impacts on the trees.

# Silvopasture Benefits

## Poultry Benefits to Trees

- Reduce competition from forages.
- Deposit and 'scratch in' nutrients.
- Speed decomposition of organic matter.
- Consume insect pests and weed seeds.



## Tree Benefits to Poultry

- Meet certification requirements.
- Reduce disease transmission.
- Animal welfare.

# Questions and Discussion

