Additional Resources
The Strengthening Farming Program also has resources available on the following:

- Agricultural Advisory Committees (AAC)
- Agricultural Area Plans (AAPs)
- Agricultural/Urban Edge Planning
- Development Permit Areas for protection of farming
- Information for Subdivision Approving Officers, including the Subdivision Approving Officers’ Toolkit
- Information on farm practices complaints resolution

Program Publications

- The Countryside and You:
  - Understanding Farming
- Good Neighbour Farming:
  - A Strengthening Farming Program Overview
- Agriculture in Brief factsheets
- Guide to Edge Planning

Program Webpage

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-hand-and-environment/strengthening-farming

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B.C.’s Strengthening Farming Program

What is the Program?
The Strengthening Farming Program is an initiative of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture which supports fair resolution of land use conflicts and effective community planning for a sustainable agriculture and aquaculture industry in British Columbia. The program promotes strong working relationships between local and provincial government and the farming community and has two broad components:

- Farm Practices Protection; and
- Planning for Agriculture

Key Provincial Legislation
The legislative context for the Strengthening Farming program rests in B.C.’s Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act (FPPA) was enacted to protect a farmer’s right to farm within B.C.’s farming areas, provided they use “normal farm practices” and comply with other legislation listed in the Act.

Protection provided by the Act specifically relates to nuisances such as odour, noise, dust or other disturbances. The FPPA also provides a balanced approach to resolving concerns about farm operations for people living near farms.

The Farm Practices in B.C. Reference Guide includes more than 60 factsheets of farm practices available online.

Planning for Agriculture
Planning for Agriculture is broadly focused on developing strong working relationships between local governments, the farm community and the province to ensure that agriculture is given appropriate consideration in local government planning processes.

The Strengthening Farming Program supports local government agricultural planning through:

- Plan, Bylaw and Application Review
  Ministry staff are available to provide comments and advice regarding plans and bylaws and land use applications.
- Bylaw Standards
  Bylaw standards provide guidance for local governments when developing bylaws relating to agriculture. Most standards can be found in the Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas.
- Agriculture Advisory Committees (AACs)
  Strengthening Farming staff are available to attend AAC meetings on an ad hoc basis or sit on the committee on an ex-officio basis. The Ministry also provides training for AAC members through a bi-annual workshop.
- Agricultural Land Use Inventories
  Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUI) utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) to capture, store, analyze and display information to improve our understanding of agriculture and land use in farming areas. ALUI Reports from communities around the province are available online.