

Additional Resources

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

- Agricultural Area Plans (AAPs)
- Agricultural/Urban Edge Planning
- Development Permit Areas for protection of farming
- Information for Subdivision Approving Officers including the [Guide for Approving Officers](#)
- Information on farm practices complaints resolution

Program Publications

- [The Countryside and You](#)
- [Guide to Edge Planning](#)
- [Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas](#)
- [BC Agriculture Statistics](#)

More Information

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming>



Strengthening Farming Program



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AgriServiceBC



Ministry of Agriculture



B.C.'s Strengthening Farming Program

What is the Program?

The Strengthening Farming Program is an initiative of the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture that 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 governments and farming and ranching communities 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* and portions of the *Local Government Act* and the *Land Title Act*. The legislation compliments the *Agricultural Land Commission Act (ALC Act)* and staff from the Ministry and the ALC work closely together to support farming in British Columbia.



Farm Practices Protection

The *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act (FPPA)* protects 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.

Strengthening Farming Program staff support the protection of farm practices in B.C. by providing informal conflict resolution services for farm practice concerns, supporting the B.C. Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) where required as knowledgeable persons during formal farm practices complaint hearings, and by developing and updating the Ministry's Farm Practices in B.C. Reference Guide. This [Reference Guide](#) includes more than 60 factsheets on farm practices available online.

Planning for Agriculture

Planning for Agriculture is focused on developing strong working relationships between local governments, farming and ranching communities and the Province to ensure that agriculture is supported 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.
- **Minister's Bylaw Standards**
Bylaw standards provide guidance for local governments when developing bylaws relating to agriculture. Standards can be found in the [Guide to Edge Planning](#) and the [Guide for Bylaw Development in Farming Areas](#).
- **Agricultural Advisory Committees (AAC)**
Ministry staff are available to support AACs throughout the province. The Ministry provides training for AAC members at bi-annual workshops.
- **Agricultural Land Use Inventories (ALUI)**
ALUIs utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) technology to improve understanding of agriculture and land use in farming areas. [ALUI reports](#) are available online.

