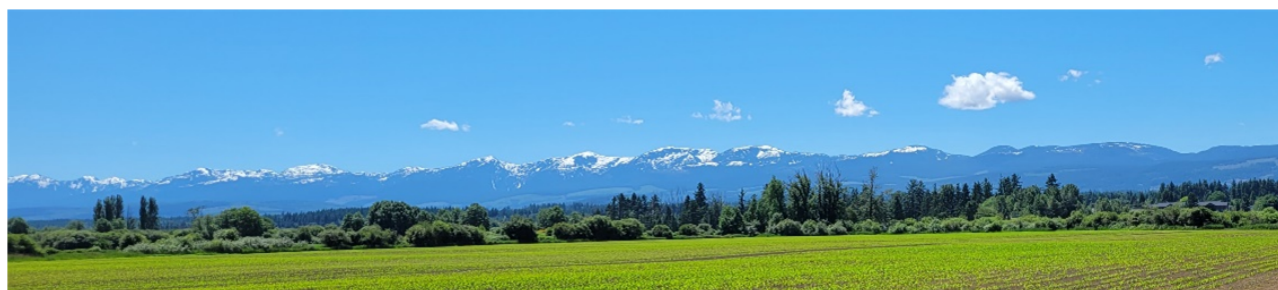




AgriServiceBC

AgriServiceBC: Islands Edition



Islands Region - Resources

Looking for Islands-specific agriculture information? Check out the Vancouver Island Regional webpage of AgriServiceBC for Industry contacts, local planning information, soil and nutrient management resources.

[More Info](#)

Upcoming Events

April 1-30 - The Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program (KTP) is open to applications! The cost-shared reimbursement program is intended to support B.C.'s agricultural producers and processors to innovate and adapt to changing environmental, production, and market conditions through practical, applied knowledge and skill development. This can include workshops, field days and more - [visit the KTP website for details!](#)

April 12 - Mid-Island Farmers' Institute AGM - At Grantham Hall, 6040 North Island Hwy., Merville - details to come, visit midislandfarmersinstitute.com

April 16 - South Island Farmers' Institute Gathering - Please join us to share ideas on how an institute could best represent the region, brainstorm workshops that would be of interest to the farming community and learn about other projects that are happening on the South Island - Saanich Fairgrounds, 1528 Stelly's Cross Road from 1 to 4pm. [Registration is on Eventbrite](#)

April 22 - [Comox Valley Farmers' Institute](#) Farm Equipment Auction will be held at the Comox Valley Exhibition, 4839 Headquarters Road, Courtenay. View items at theauctioneer.ca, preview starts at 11am, and auction starts at 1pm.

April 26 - Tender Tasty Turnips: growing Japanese turnips on the West Coast - Join Heather from Umi Nami Farm in a Zoom session to take a look at the diversity of Japanese turnip varieties, tips for growing a great crop and avoiding potential problems and ways to enjoy eating the bounty. 6-7pm. Presented by FarmFolk CityFolk - [Register here](#).

Spring 2023 - A project intake for Planning and Engineering or Technical Design BMP's will be opening as described on the [Beneficial Management Practices program webpage](#) - please check the website for updates. Eligible BMPs will focus on planning, technical assessments and engineering designs categories. We expect applications to open more broadly in Summer, 2023.

Early May - Look for the program guide and opening of the funding window for the [Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program](#).

May 4- June 1 - How to Start Farming Course - [Young Agrarians](#) is presenting this introductory course online- with presenters from across BC including the Islands. Visit [How to Start Farming](#) for registration and details.

May 5 - The 2023 WIGA Viticulture and Oenology Conference and Island Wines Showcase will be held at the [Cobble Hill Hall](#), 3550 Watson Ave., 8am-9pm. Early Bird Tickets are on sale now- \$75 for the conference and \$35 for the wine showcase, regular price will be \$90 for the conference and \$45 for the wine showcase. Visit the [Wine Islands Growers Association 2023 conference page](#) for details.

May 6 - Sandown Centre Plant Sale and Open House - Staff will be available to introduce themselves, answer any questions you may have about the Centre, and provide tours of the site- plus variety of plant starts and seedlings will be available for purchase - visit [Sandown Centre For Regenerative Agriculture](#) for details - 1810 Glamorgan Road, North Saanich, 10am-3pm.

May 6, July 22, Sept 9 - Vancouver Island True Potato Workshop Series - Join Scott Harris at Lohbrunner Farm for an informative and hands-on workshop series on all things potato breeding and true potato seed! Sessions will be held from 9am-12pm at [Lohbrunner Farm](#) in Langford, cost is on a sliding scale, visit [FarmFolk CityFolk](#) for details and registration.

Do you have an agriculture event taking place on Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands or Powell River that you would like highlighted in the Islands Edition of AgriServiceBC? Send your request to Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca

This is your e-Bulletin!

This newsletter is a regionalized version of the AgriService BC e-Bulletin, prepared by the Regional Agrologists representing the Islands and Powell River. Please feel free to suggest agricultural content and events! You can reach us through [AgriService BC](#), at 1-888-221-7141 or AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca. If you're not already subscribed, please click the link below to sign up for these periodic emails with highlights of agricultural news from around Vancouver Island and surrounding islands. Please also forward this newsletter freely around to your farmer community networks!

Subscribe to Islands Edition!



Event recap - Farmers Connect in Merville!

The snow didn't faze a hundred or so farmers and farm-curious folks who turned out for the [Mid-Island Farmers' Institute's](#) Farmer Connect conference in Merville each afternoon on February 24-25. The afternoon session schedule allowed for folks to do farm chores or sell at the farmers market and still attend.

New, experienced and aspiring producers gathered to make new acquaintances, renew old ones and listen to some great speakers on a wide variety of topics. From seed-saving to tools and farm hacks, small scale meat to business planning, this was a remarkably diverse event, supported in part by the [Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program](#).

Funding for this event has been provided in part by the governments of Canada and British Columbia under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



Farmers' Institute news

As many in our agricultural communities know, [Farmers' Institutes \(FIs\)](#) are organizations devoted to supporting agriculture in BC communities. Established under the Farmers and Women's Institutes Act, and regulated by the [Farmers and Women's Institute Act Regulations](#), Farmers' Institutes provide a forum for communication and education, and an organization to share equipment and bulk supplies purchases for BC farming communities.

FIs are served by Districts that help coordinate activities and communication with the Province. District A includes the FIs from Vancouver and Gulf Islands, Powell River and the Sunshine Coast. About 15 people attended the District A AGM March 5th either via Zoom or in person in Nanoose Bay. In addition to the usual 'housekeeping' of elections and financial reports, a couple of interesting and useful discussions took place:

- Dr. Jenny Horn, Agriculture Development coordinator for Vancouver Island University provided an update on a new course offering this coming fall – Fundamentals of Soil Stewardship.
- In addition, VIU is developing courses on Agroecology and on growing seed as a value-added crop, and other food and agriculture topics.
- Delegates were interested in improving communication with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.
- Water licensing and insurance for farms were hot topics.

For those interested in learning more about Farmers' Institutes in the region, you can find [Find a Farmers' Institute near you](#) on the BC Farmers' Institutes webpage.

There is also an upcoming event to propose a new [FI for the South Island at the Saanich Fairgrounds, Sun, 16 Apr 2023 at 1:00 PM - to learn more click the link](#) to visit the registration page, or if you're not able to attend, email the South Island Regional Agrologist, at megan.halstead@gov.bc.ca for information.



Wild birds are the main source of Avian Influenza Virus (AIV)

AIV is shed in wild birds feces

PROTECT YOUR FLOCK

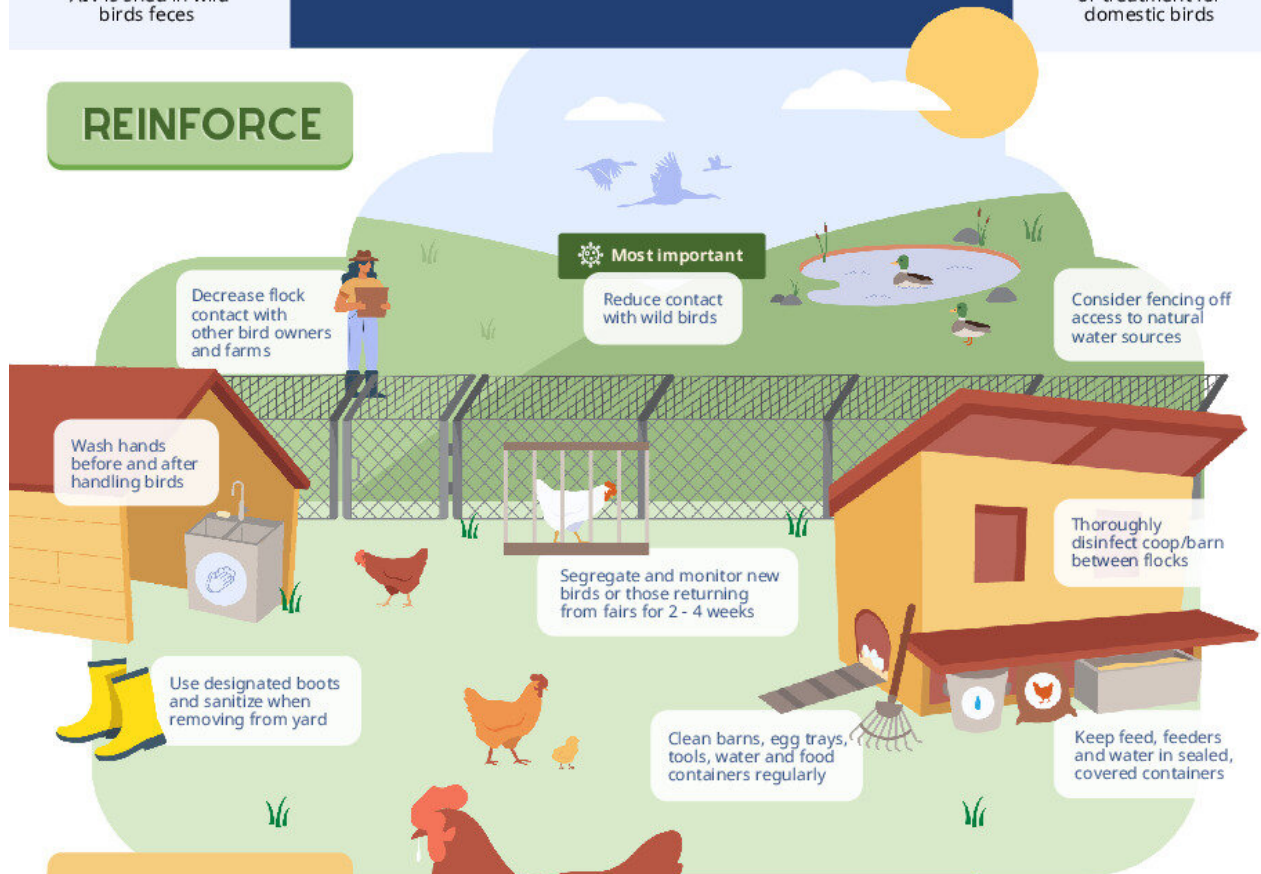
AVIAN INFLUENZA



The virus can persist in the environment for a long time

There is no vaccination or treatment for domestic birds

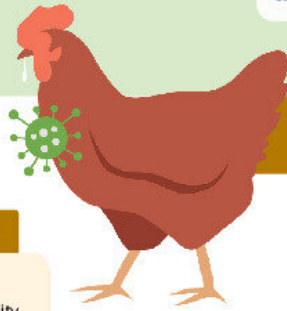
REINFORCE



RECOGNIZE

Most Important

Sudden, unexplained increase in flock mortality



Other symptoms include:

- Nasal discharge
- Drop in egg production
- Diarrhea
- Lack of appetite
- Decreased energy and movement
- Swelling of head, neck, and eyes
- Coughing, gasping, sneezing

REPORT

Most Important

- Contact your district CFIA Veterinarian
- Submit to Animal Health Centre
- Report dead wild birds to Wild Bird Mortality Line



Ministry of Agriculture and Food



To learn more:



Set up Premises ID



Visit our website <https://qr.codes.pro/ZnkkZv>

Want to see webinars that could support your business? Visit our [AgriService B.C. Past Webinars library](#) to view recorded webinars.



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