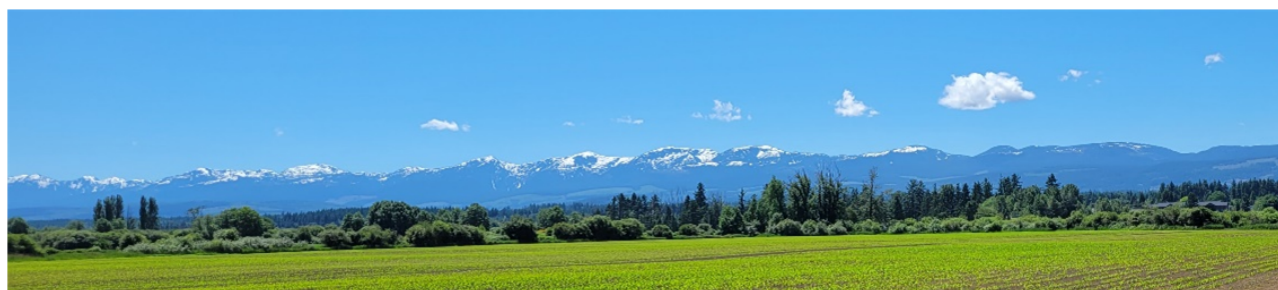




# AgriServiceBC

## 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](#)



# ISLANDS Vancouver Island, BC AGRICULTURE SHOW

FEBRUARY 3-4, 2023 • COWICHAN EXHIBITION • [WWW.IASHOW.CA](http://WWW.IASHOW.CA)



## This year's theme for the Islands Agriculture Show is 'Growing Stability in Uncertain Times'.

Visit the IAS website for registration and program information!

[Islands Ag Show website](#)

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### Upcoming events

#### **Risk Management Workshops for BC Meat Producers!**

Producers in B.C. are invited to register to one of the following workshops. Gain knowledge, tools and resources to make better business decisions, share best practices and lessons learned with other producers, and begin to create a comprehensive risk management plan tailored to your farm. To register for one of these free workshops, [click here!](#) Brought to you by [Farm Management Canada](#) and the [Small-Scale Meat Producers Association](#).

WORKSHOP 1 - Beef Producers Only:

**January 10th and 17th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PST**

\*Producers must attend both sessions to complete the workshop

WORKSHOP 2 - All Meat Producers:

**January 11th and 18th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PST**

\*Producers must attend both sessions to complete the workshop

WORKSHOP 3 - All Meat Producers:

**January 13th and 20th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. PST**

\*Producers must attend both sessions to complete the workshop

#### **January 12- March 23 Young Agrarians Business Bootcamp**

[Registration is now open](#) for the the next round of Young Agrarians Business Bootcamp. The Business Bootcamp is an eleven-week program, packed full of content and activities that will guide you through writing your farm business plan. Registration in the course includes access to a 40 page printable workbook, over 35 video tutorials, a curated list of more than 80 of our favourite business planning resources, and 20+ hours of virtual support and instruction, all broken down into easily digestible weekly modules. Each week will include pre-recorded videos, a worksheet, and a 2-hour online session. \$250-\$350 registration fee.

#### **January 14, 10:00 - 14:00 - Saanich Seedy Saturday**

The event will take place at the main indoor pavilion at the Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP), 505 Quayle Rd., Saanich, BC. Access from West Saanich Rd. at Beaver Rd. and from Interurban Rd. at Quayle Rd. For this and other Seedy Saturday event listings, visit the [Seedy Saturday events page](#) by Seeds of Diversity.

#### **January 16 - Applications open for the BC Climate Agri-Solutions Fund (BCCAF)!**

The application window will be open January 16 to February 16. BCCAF supports farmers in adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs) that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases

in the areas of nitrogen management, cover cropping, and rotational grazing. [Visit the website for more details and for applications.](#)

**January 21 - Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide ban comes into effect.**

Similar to the temporary ban started in July 2021, the new regulation will continue to exclude farms from the ban as essential services, however there are some requirements. Find out more about [how this affects farmers in this guide.](#)

**February 3rd-4th - The Islands Agriculture Show**

Your primary agriculture tradeshow and conference for Vancouver Island and surrounding areas! The show is held at the Cowichan Exhibition Park, and this years' theme is "Growing Stability in Uncertain Times." The conference program includes workshops on a variety of topics with that theme along with the tradeshow. [Program and registration details will be on the website.](#)

**February 4, 10:00 - 15:30 - Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday**

"Seeding the Future" is the theme of the 19th Annual [Qualicum Beach Seedy Saturday](#) event. Featuring a large hall full of seed vendors, plant vendors, and other participants; in addition to other vendors and exhibits outside. QBSS is a very popular, well attended event and is among the first "seedy saturday" events in the country. Other activities include the ever popular Seed Swap, door prizes and two 50/50 draws, expert gardening advice from Master Gardeners and the Seedy Cafe to keep you nourished. There will also be a Town of Qualicum Beach truck on site to collect unwanted pesticides and herbicides. Admission by donation. Contact: [info@qbseedysaturday.ca](mailto:info@qbseedysaturday.ca) / 250 752-2186

**Do you have an agriculture event or meeting taking place on Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands or Powell River** that you would like highlighted in the Islands Edition of AgriService BC? Send your ideas and requests to [Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca).



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## Forage Trials Field Day event report

33 producers enjoyed having a chance to meet each other or re-connect at a field day and presentation held at Porter's Dairy Farm in Chemainus on November 30th. The field day was to report on results from a two-year Climate Change Adaptation Program demonstration project of alternative (non-corn) annual silage crops conducted on several Vancouver Island farms.

The purpose of the research is to learn how different cereal, grass, and legume mixes perform on Vancouver Island and how to incorporate these into farm operations. This knowledge could help cattle and dairy producers find annual silage blends to grow in marginal low-lying fields or in soils that are too wet for perennial forage crops, and enable them to cultivate this under-used land. Producers also learned about the growth habits and nutritional values of alternative silage varieties and may inform transitioning from or rotating with these crops that may have less water and fertilizer demands than corn.

The crops trialed were whole crops of barley, field peas, red clover and Oats, forage peas, and Italian ryegrass. Further research and workshops on growing, feeding, and improving the nutrition of these types of annual forage blends could be useful, as many of this cohort of producers either are interested and already trying alternatives or could use more information (and others trying it first). Further discussion of this topic is planned for the [Islands Agriculture Show](#) in February.

The field day was presented by Graeme Fowler who has been coordinating the project, and attended by Bejay Mills, the Regional Agrologist for Mid-Island. BC Dairy Association helped fund the project and Industry Partners included Pacific Forage and Top Shelf Feeds.

Funding for The Climate Change Adaptation Program has been provided by the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

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## Are you looking for land or mentorship?

### Two community driven incubator farm opportunities are available on the South Island!

- Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture in North Saanich is launching applications for [Farmpreneur Program 2023](#).
- [Haliburton Community Organic Farm Society](#) has two plots available starting in 2023, visit their site or read this [Young Agrarians blog post](#) for more details.

For more land opportunities, visit the [Young Agrarians U-Map](#), or contact the Vancouver Island Land Matcher through the [BC Land Matcher Program](#).

### Mentorship, learning and networking leads:

- The Farm Resilience Mentorship ([FaRM](#)) Program has [farmer networks](#) for learning and sharing on 3 regenerative agriculture topics: cover cropping, nitrogen management and grazing systems.
- BC Forage Council also has an [advanced grazing mentorship program](#).
- For Indigenous learners, Tea Creek Training offers agricultural apprenticeship for beginners with [Indigenous Agriculture 1](#), and advanced learners through [Indigenous Agriculture 2](#).
- Last but not least, Farmers' Institutes are the original farmer networking organizations- find a [BC Farmers' Institute](#) near you!

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## This is YOUR Newsletter!

This is a regional version of the AgriService BC e-Bulletin, prepared by the Regional Agrologists representing the Islands region. Regional Agrologists are the front line contact staff for the Ministry to provide extension support for farmers. You can reach us through AgriService BC, at 1-888-221-7141 or [AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca).

If you know which of us represents your area, here are our email addresses:

- North Island - [Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Thom.ODell@gov.bc.ca)
- Central Island - [Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bejay.Mills@gov.bc.ca)
- South Island - [Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca)

**If you have agricultural content ideas, local events or meetings please let us know!** 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 the Islands Edition

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



## Subscribe to AgriService BC News



Ministry of  
Agriculture  
and Food

**Do you want to grow your farm or food business?**

**Contact AgriService BC**

Phone: 1-888-221-7141

Email: [AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca)

**Contact us!**

AgriService BC connects farmers, food processors and new entrants to agricultural services, programs and information that can help them succeed.



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