



AgriServiceBC

AgriServiceBC: Islands Edition



Islands Region Contacts

We recently updated the Vancouver Island and Coast page on our Ministry of Agriculture website! Check out the webpage for regional marketing resources, producer associations and our Farmers' Institutes. You can also find links to broader topics such as [soil management resources](#), [nutrient management](#), and the most current [drought resources for agriculture producers in BC](#).

More Info

Upcoming Events

October 1-18th - [FarmFolk CityFolk](#) is presenting the 2023 [Vancouver Island Mobile Trailer Seed Cleaning Tour](#)! They'll be hitting the road on October 1st for seed cleaning all over Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. Join them at one of the public stops below:

- **Courtenay/Comox: October 5th** at Stellar Raven Farm 10-3pm
- **Denman Island: October 7th** at the Apple and Nut Festival 10-2pm
- **Salt Spring Island: October 9-12th** at The Root 8-5pm [Register on Eventbrite](#)

- **Galiano Island: October 14th** at the Stock Up Market 10-1pm
- **Pender Island: October 16th** at the Community Hall 10-2pm

with more details about **Duncan on October 18th** to be announced, visit [Vancouver Island Mobile Trailer Seed Cleaning Tour](#) for details!

October 3, 25, November 7, 23, December 5 - AgCulture training from [Do More Agriculture Foundation](#), online, 10am-2pm. Do you have trouble feeling understood by your therapist? AgCulture could be right for them- it's a literacy program designed for mental health/health professionals to build a stronger therapeutic relationships with rural clients. Sessions for AgCulture are offered frequently, along with wellness events geared for the farm community - learn more at [The Do More Ag](#) events page. Therapists can [Register on Eventbrite](#).

October 5- How to Design, Install and Maintain a Hedgerow (Part 1), 7-8pm online, hosted by [Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture](#). Join us with Kristen Miskelly from [Satinflower Nurseries](#) who will lead a two-part, online and on-farm workshop, discussing the importance of hedgerows. Topics will include how to site and design a hedgerow, choosing appropriate plants, installation, and maintenance considerations. Free! [Register on Eventbrite](#).

October 6- How to Design, Install and Maintain a Hedgerow (Part 2), In-person at [Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture](#), 9am-12pm. Join Kristen Miskelly from [Satinflower Nurseries](#) who will lead part two of this workshop on-farm, discussing the importance of hedgerows, discuss factors for hedgerow placement and design, and participate in building a hedgerow! [Registration to Part 1 is required to attend part 2](#).

October 6 - Veterinary Service survey closes! The [B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food](#) is collecting information to inform their understanding of the availability of veterinary services for food animal producers in different regions of the province. The survey will take about 10 to 12 minutes to complete and is open to all food animal producers in the province. Results will be analyzed and combined with other information (veterinarian interview, reports) and reported in aggregate to preserve anonymity. [A link to the survey can be found here](#).

October 7 - [Denman Island Apple & Nut Fest](#) 9:30-3pm at the Denman Activity Centre. Hosted by the [Denman Growers & Producers Alliance](#), this event will feature 100+ varieties on display, talks and workshops, and festive food. Free but bring cash to partake in the festivities!

October 10 - Part 2. Cut Your Losses: Managing Pests in Food Crops, 7- 8:30 pm on Zoom. Second part of a pest identification series with Linda Gilkeson, this talk will cover how to identify, prevent and manage common pests and other problems in vegetables and fruit using organic methods. Both workshops will be recorded and sent out after the Oct. 10th session, [to register visit this link](#). Presented by [Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust](#), suggested donation \$20.00.

October 21 - Cowichan Fleece & Fibre Festival, 10am-4pm at the Hub at Cowichan Station, 2375 Koksilah Road. The Cowichan Fleece & Fibre Fair is the oldest fair on Vancouver Island. A glorious gathering of all things fibre: hand-dyed yarn, hand-spun yarn, rovings, woven goods, fleece, knitted fashion, felting & oodles of fibre-lover's paraphernalia. Fun shopping, tasty lunch and plenty of camaraderie. Visit [Cowichan Station Area Association](#) for details.

October 24-25th - Free Drought Management Workshops, 4:30-8:30pm. Are you a livestock or forage producer that has been affected by drought in 2023? Are you looking for more information to help you make decisions for your farm or ranch on continuing beyond a drought season? These

sessions will focus on working with producers to utilize existing resources to plan and make business, forage management and herd health decisions related to their operations. Opportunities for one-on-one follow-up the next morning may be available as a one-on-one session, more details to be provided at the event. A light supper will be provided.

- **Courtenay, October 24:** [Register here](#)
- **Duncan, October 25:** [Register here](#)

If you are unable to attend an in-person workshop, planning is underway for virtual sessions later in the fall. Please watch for updates in the [AgriServiceBC newsletter](#), email agricultureextensionprogram@gov.bc.ca or call AgriService BC at 1-888-221-7141.

October 26 - The Good Food Gathering, 9am-2pm at the Gorge Pavilion, 1070 Tillicum Road in Victoria. Empowering community based solutions for growing equitable and sustainable regional food systems. The Gathering brings together a wide cross section of community organizations, government, educators, funders, land stewards, students, growers, harvesters, and makers to be inspired by local change making efforts working at the intersection of food and culture, affordability, justice, and environment. Visit www.goodfoodnetwork.info for details.

October 27 - Water Management Workshop presented by Ministry of Agriculture and Food in Courtenay, 9am-4:30pm, at Crown Isle. Join Ted van der Gulik for an in depth workshop covering agricultural water management topics from irrigation to drainage. Contact Thom.ODell@Gov.bc.ca for details and to register.

October 28 - Green Mulch & Polycultures: Interplanting for Soil Coverage & Biodiversity. Location: TBD, 1-4pm Join the [Sandown Centre](#) crew with Solara Goldwyn of [Hatchet & Seed](#) who will discuss the benefits of incorporating green mulch and polycultures into your farm operation. Topics will include plant species, planting methods, and considerations around efficiency and practicality, including dual-purpose plants that can generate revenue. [Register on Eventbrite](#).

November 1, 8, 15, 22 - How to Start Farming, an Introductory Course for the Farm Curious, presented by Young Agrarians. Find details at [Young Agrarians!](#)

November 5 - Building Resilience as a Farmer at Sandown Centre, 10am-1pm. Land access, low-income thresholds, physical and emotional demands of the profession and climate change stress all contribute to poor mental health and farmer burn-out. This seminar, led by Kareno Hawbolt and Kimi Hendess from Sweet Digz Farm, will facilitate an honest discussion around mental health and building resilience, as well as foster deeper connections and a support network within the local farming community. [Register on Eventbrite](#).

November 15 - Virtual Talk Ask Listen, 9am-1pm. [Do More Ag](#) is proud to provide a half day interactive workshop/webinar solely dedicated to those who are involved in agriculture. Knowing that knowledge is power and farming is unique, our goal for this workshop is threefold. [Register on Eventbrite](#).

November 16 - BroTalk, Breaking The Silence with Do More Agriculture, 11am- 12pm. A fireside chat where men in agriculture open up about their mental health experiences and what has helped them support themselves and others. [Register on Eventbrite](#).

November 18 - Plant Deficiencies, Diagnostics, and Targeted Amendments in a Regenerative Context, 10am-2pm at Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture. Join us as we learn how to

understand plant nutrient deficiencies with Shellie MacDonald through both soil-test analysis and through visual analysis of plant symptoms. Trouble-shooting and targeted amendments within a regenerative model will be discussed for main-season crops including tomatoes, brassicas, cucurbits, and lettuce. [Register on Eventbrite](#).

Looking for more events? There are often more events popping up than can be captured quarterly in this e-bulletin, especially through the fall. One way to catch them is to browse the websites for your local [Farmers Institute](#) or an [Island Producer Association](#). Our Ministry sponsored events are posted on the new [AgriService BC Facebook](#) page along with much more.

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 AgriService BC? Send your request to Megan.Halstead@gov.bc.ca.



The
Do More
Agriculture
Foundation



AgSafe





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

AIV is shed in wild birds feces

PROTECT YOUR FLOCK

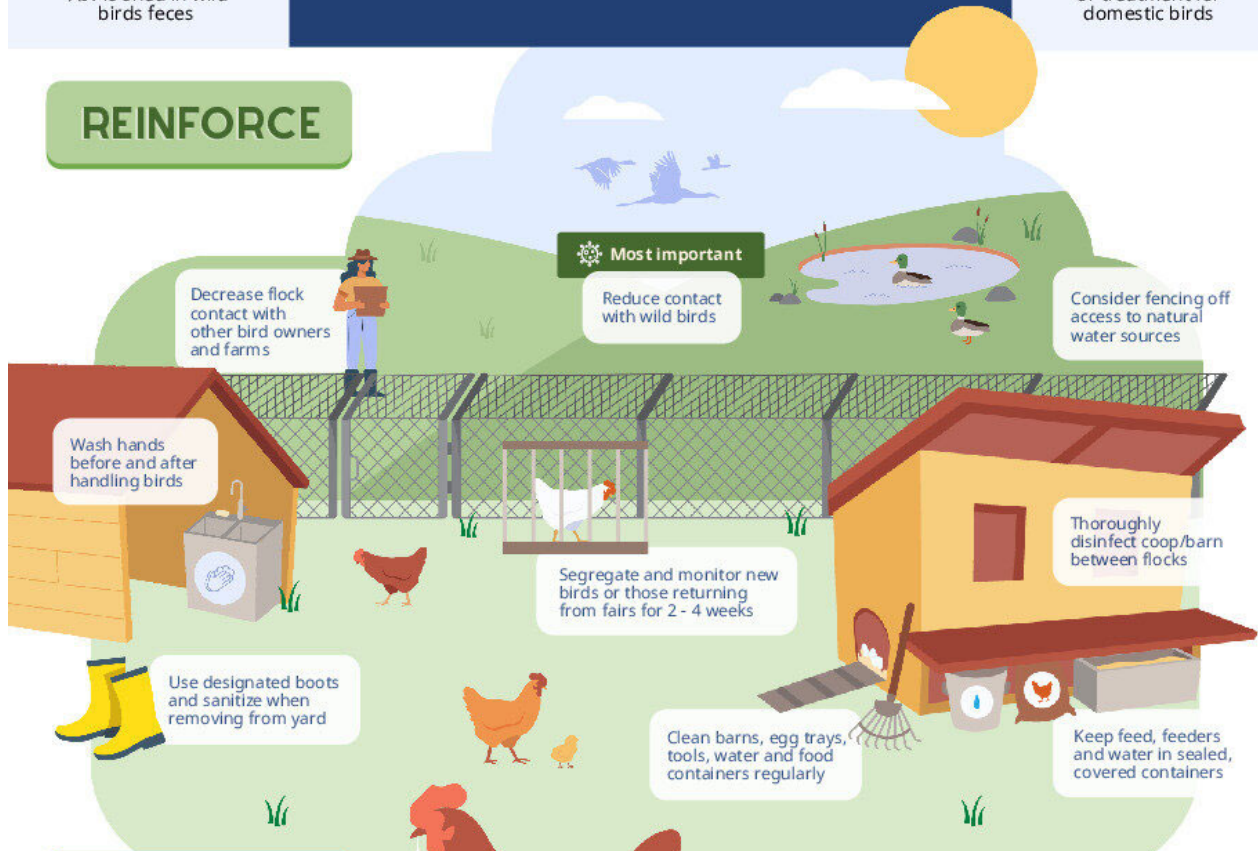
AVIAN INFLUENZA



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



To learn more:



Set up Premises ID



Visit our website <https://qrcodes.pro/ZnkkZv>



The BC Sheep Federation AGM came to the Island!

Last month, the [Inter Island Sheep Breeders Association \(IISBA\)](#) hosted the [BC Sheep Federation](#) AGM in Coombs. The keystone of the 3 day event titled 'Rejuvenating the Sheep Industry' was a series of presentations and discussion groups from renowned livestock nutritionist and grazing specialist [Woody Lane, PhD.](#) from Oregon.

Dr. Lane's presentations covered minerals and vitamins, how to feed sheep, and grazing principles and tools, and each talk was followed by a 'Meet the Speaker' session.

Local veterinarian Dr. Tyler Stitt of [Winchelsea Veterinary Services](#) spoke about sheep health and demonstrated condition scoring, and former BC wildlife veterinarian Dr. Helen Schwantje spoke about [Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae](#) and demonstrated testing procedures. Ministry Livestock Specialist Lori Vickers attended with Regional Agrologist Megan Halstead to present on relevant programs and services and meet with producers.

The event also included a tradeshow, silent auction, sheep handling demonstration, fleece preparation demonstration and two producer panels. A fabulous banquet supper featuring Island lamb on Saturday allowed for plenty of networking, and all in all, the tone of the event surely lived up to it's name.

The event was partially funded by the [Knowledge and Technology Transfer Program](#). Funding for the Knowledge and Technology Transfer program is provided by the governments of Canada and British Columbia through the [Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership](#), a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



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Have a question about agriculture or agrifood?

Contact AgriService BC

Phone: 1-888-221-7141

Email: 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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