



# REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

## AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

**PAGE NO.**

**ACTION**

**AGENDA – May 2, 2019**

**Approve**

**Supplementary Agenda**

**Receive**

**MINUTES**

**2-5**

**Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes  
- April 4, 2019**

**Receive**

**REPORTS**

**6-7**

**Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
- Livestock Emergency Hay**

**Recommendation  
(Page 7)**

**8-9**

**Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
- 2019 Pilot with RDBN Fairgrounds for  
Emergency Response**

**Recommendation  
(Page 9)**

**10-34**

**Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
- 2019 Emergency and Livestock  
Preparedness Workshops Report**

**Receive**

**35-38**

**Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
- SheepFest 2019 Report**

**Receive**

**39-41**

**Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
- Haskap 3.0 Workshop Report**

**Receive**

**42-43**

**Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
- Agri-Food Business Planning Workshop  
Report**

**Receive**

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**ADJOURN**

**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO****AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**(Committee Of The Whole)****Thursday, April 4, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Parker

Directors Taylor Bachrach  
Mark Fisher  
Clint Lambert  
Linda McGuire  
Rob Newell  
Jerry Petersen  
Michael Riis-Christianson  
Kim Watt-Senner

Directors Absent Shane Brienen, District of Houston  
Dolores Funk, Village of Burns Lake  
Tom Greenaway, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)  
Brad Layton, Village of Telkwa  
Bev Playfair, District of Fort St. James  
Gerry Thiessen, District of Vanderhoof

Alternate Directors Darrell Hill, Village of Burns Lake  
Judy Greenaway, District of Fort St. James  
Bob Hughes, Electoral Area "C" (Fort St. James Rural)

Staff Cheryl Anderson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer/Manager of Administrative Services  
Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
John Illes, Chief Financial Officer  
Jason Llewellyn, Director of Planning and Protective Services  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

Others Margo Peill, Northwest Region Community Animator, Farm to School BC – Via teleconference 11:53 a.m. to 12:07 p.m.

Media Blair McBride, Lakes District News

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

**AGENDA & SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**Moved by Director Lambert  
Seconded by Director Newell**AG.2019-3-1**

"That the Agriculture Committee Agenda of April 4, 2019 be adopted; and further, that the Supplementary Agenda be dealt with at this meeting."

(All/Directors/Majority)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## **MINUTES**

Agriculture Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
-March 7, 2019

Moved by Director Lambert  
 Seconded by Director Watt-Senner

AG.2019-3-2

"That the Minutes of the Agriculture Committee Meeting of March 7, 2019 be received."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **DELEGATION**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF BC – Margo Peill, Northwest Region Community Animator, Farm to School BC – RE: Introduction to Farm to School BC Program – via teleconference**

Chair Parker welcomed Margo Peill, Northwest Region Community Animator, Farm to School BC, Public Health Association of BC.

Ms. Peill provided a PowerPoint Presentation.

#### **Introduction to F2SBC (Farm to School BC)**

- Vision and Mission
- Goals
- Farm to School BC
- Farm to School BC Reach
- Core Elements of Farm to School
  - Healthy Local Food
    - o Schools source and serve local foods in a variety of ways
- Hands-on learning
- School and Community Connectedness
- F2SBC Interest
- Northwest Regional Hub
- Farm to School Community Animator.

Ms. Peill noted that she is spreading awareness in regard to the Farm to School BC Program and is working to open conversation for collaboration, and to build capacity for the program.

Director Newell questioned if the program is delivered daily. Ms. Peill commented that each school participates at different levels of capacity. She noted that the long-term goal of the program is to achieve daily participation. Director Newell mentioned that daily delivery of a program such as Farm to School BC assists in eliminating economic disparity.

Director McGuire asked if the program was only distributed east to Houston. Currently the program is east to Houston with support provided to one or two schools in School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes). Ms. Peill mentioned that they are investigating starting a hub in Prince George. She also identified grant funding that will open in the fall for schools to apply to start programs or assist programs in operation.

Chair Parker spoke of the number of schools participating in the program. Ms. Peill noted that some schools were providing a program prior to the Farm to School BC program and she is currently determining the schools that have programs in place and where support can be provided and connecting schools that may wish to participate in the program.

Chair Parker thanked Ms. Peill for attending the meeting.

## **REPORTS**

Update on Funding Proposal for updating RDBN Agriculture Plan Moved by Director McGuire  
 Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-3-3

"That the Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors direct staff to request letters of support from the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Agrologist and Land Use Planner; and further, that the RDBN Agriculture Committee Chair provide a letter of support for the funding proposal to the Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF) for the RDBN Agriculture Plan Update 2019."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence Moved by Director McGuire  
 Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-3-4

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the following correspondence:

-Bulkley-Nechako/Fraser-Fort George Adaptation Strategies: Workshop #2 Summary  
 -the RDBN Letter to Business Risk Management Branch – 2018 Canada – British Columbia Wildfire Recovery Initiative – Tax Implications."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA**

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Public Health Association of BC – Farm to School BC Moved by Director Petersen  
 Seconded by Director Riis-Christianson

AG.2019-3-5

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the correspondence from Public Health Association of BC – Farm to School BC."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **INVITATION**

Join the Agri-Food Business Planning Workshop -April 15-16, 2019 – Smithers, BC Moved by Director Bachrach  
 Seconded by Alternate Director Greenaway

AG.2019-3-6

"That the Agriculture Committee receive the invitation titled "Join the Agri-Food Business Planning Workshop – April 15-16, 2019 – Smithers, B.C."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Alternate Director Greenaway  
Seconded by Director Lambert

AG.2019-3-7

"That the meeting be adjourned at 12:12 p.m."

(All/Directors/Majority)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Parker, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wendy Wainwright, Executive Assistant

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## **REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

### **Direction**

**TO:** Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee  
**FROM:** Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
**DATE:** April 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Livestock Emergency Hay

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to request direction from the RDBN Agriculture Committee on Livestock Emergency Hay and letters to Emergency Management BC, EMBC and the BC Ministry of Agriculture, BCMA.

#### **Background Information:**

The relocation of livestock in emergency situations has in the past had the 3<sup>rd</sup> party relocation facility being reimbursed after the event for feed and yardage. In 2018, the livestock reimbursement was \$4.50/day for beef animal unit (cow/calf, bull, steers, replacement heifers), \$1.50/day for sheep and goat and \$7.50/day per horse. Livestock relocated were ineligible for the RDBN Emergency Hay Program. The RDBN Emergency Hay Program was a 2-week emergency hay supply for producers who sheltered in place and livestock were fed winter hay supply or where animals were utilizing fall/winter pastures.

The BCMA in past has based emergency funding on producers having a one – two-year stockpile of feed. Due to drought and frost events, the majority of producers have a very limited extra supply of feed remaining after this winter. In the event of an emergency in 2019, many producers would be unable to assist in relocation of livestock as they do not have the feed. Relocation of livestock will be a challenge.

#### **Proposal**

The RDBN Agriculture Coordinator has been speaking with producers at Association meetings and Emergency Preparedness workshops and has heard that there is no extra feed. The RDBN Ag Coord is requesting that the RDBN Agriculture Committee and the RDBN Board of Directors approve that a letter be sent to EMBC and BCMA to reconsider the Emergency Hay Program.

Proposal is that due to feed shortage, in the event of an Emergency, the relocation of livestock will be a challenge as many producers will not have extra feed to take any animals. The RDBN Emergency Hay Program would be required to assist with the relocations. The EMBC Expense Authorization Forms are written for two-week periods. In 2019 event, a 3<sup>rd</sup> party relocation farm would utilize the RDBN Emergency Hay Program which would supply forage and only yardage would be reimbursed. Suggested yardage would be \$0.50 per cattle unit, \$.50 per horse, and \$0.25 per sheep/goat.

The RDBN Emergency Hay Program for livestock producers who sheltered in place would be initiated after one month in an emergency. The RDBN would be responsible for the RDBN Emergency Hay Program with two contractors, through an EMBC Expense Authorization Form. Two contractors to allow break from EOC and also allow verification of farms.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**“That the RDBN Agriculture Committee recommend that the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Board of Directors support the proposal for change of the Emergency Hay Program to support feed shortage and relocation of livestock in event of an emergency in 2019.”**



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

### Memorandum

**TO:** Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee  
**FROM:** Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
**DATE:** April 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** 2019 Pilot with RDBN Fairgrounds for Emergency Response

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#### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Agriculture Committee regarding the proposed 2019 pilot with RDBN Fairgrounds for Emergency Response.

#### Background Information:

During the 2017 wildfires, the Prince George Exhibition grounds housed relocated livestock for an extended period of time and through consultation with the BC Ministry of Agriculture, BCMA, Emergency Management BC, EMBC, approved an Expense Authorization to restore the fairgrounds. Based on the 2017 fairground support, the Eagle Creek Fairgrounds were granted a fairground restoration Expense Authorization for the 2018 wildfires.

The RDBN Agriculture Coordinator worked with the Eagle Creek Fairgrounds to approve expenses and disallow other requests. The RDBN Agriculture Coordinator is concerned about the lack of pre- event records and expenditures beyond restoration into renovation. A clear inventory and facility records need to be established prior to emergency usage of fairgrounds and before and after photos to assess damage to ensure that EMBC is only covering eligible restoration expenses.

#### Proposal

The RDBN Agriculture Coordinator will be meeting with fairground representatives and volunteers in May 2019 to review lessons learned from 2018. The pilot Fairground manual will be presented. The manual will cover the following:

- Inventory record – portable panels, gates, etc.
- Pens – photos pre and post event
- General facility photos
- Pre-event list of how many specific types of livestock can be housed
- Volunteers – job descriptions, at least 2 in charge, volunteer rules, etc.
- In-coming livestock procedures – record of date in/out, # of animals, Form 3, Commercial need to contact EOC for EAF funding, feeding schedule, own feed, etc.
- Fairground feed – do you have a hay source, how much hay should be fed, type of hay received, if hay source low how many days before out to contact EOC about possible EAF for fairground feed, etc.
- Dog Policy – Liability, do you have dogs on residence on fairgrounds



- Fairground cleaning – volunteer/paid, equipment needs, cost of machine, hours recorded, costs per hour,
- Ineligible expenses

The manual will be put together with pages that can be photocopied and placed in a fairgrounds emergency management binder.

The goal of this pilot of working with fairgrounds through emergency with this manual is to ultimately share the manual with EMBC to establish some standards for utilizing fairgrounds for emergencies throughout the province.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**“That the Agriculture Committee approve the 2019 Pilot with RDBN Fairgrounds for Emergency Response.”**



## **REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

### **Memorandum**

**TO:** Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee  
**FROM:** Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
**DATE:** April 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** 2019 Emergency and Livestock Preparedness Workshops Report

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#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to report on the 2019 Emergency and Livestock Preparedness Workshops. Eleven workshops were held throughout the region and the RDBN Agriculture Coordinator paired with BC Wildfire Service, BCWS staff to deliver the workshops.

There was a participant package for the Livestock presentations which included guide to completing a farm plan, how to build an emergency tube, FireSmart manual and a guide to burning for farmers and ranchers. These packages were handed out at 10 workshops plus at a Beef Producer workshop and Carrots to Cattle. More packages will be handed out at Emergency events over the month of May. For the Granisle presentation, Emergency Management BC brochure on personal preparedness and pet preparedness were given out to participants.

For the eleven workshops, had a total of 146 participants, paired with 11 BCWS staff and distributed 200 livestock packages. Majority of participants were beef producers, but had sheep, goat, horse, poultry, dairy and hobby farmers as well.

Promoted the workshops through social media, bought newspaper ads and had print flyers distributed. Review of number of participants and the amount of money spent on advertising, would not use newspaper ads for future events.

Overall received positive feedback about the information shared. FireSmarting and Livestock Preparedness had equal rating with participants and happy to get positive comments on buddy farms, farm maps/Emergency tubes. Some comments are "Want to get all neighbours together and use this to prepare our neighbourhood." And "I feel I know where to turn now to get the information I need to prepare."

Had producers giving feedback on emergency concerns for relocation feeds costs, potential relocation like feedlots info shared and found a few livestock haulers.

Granisle already had received a FireSmart presentation so did a quick review of FireSmart. There was no livestock so focus was on Pet & Personal Preparedness with materials from Emergency Management BC. The print flyer that Granisle sent out was how most found out about the event.

The Granisle presentation, BCWS presentation and Livestock Preparedness presentation are attached.

**Costs**

Facility - \$1,341.67 for the 11 meetings with 4 facilities free.

Promotion - \$3,105.20

RDBN workshop budget utilized for facility, promotion, workshop materials costs.


I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**Receive the 2019 Emergency and Livestock Preparedness Workshops report.**


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**2019  
Emergency & Livestock  
Preparedness**


**Livestock & Farm**

Debbie Evans, P. Ag  
RDBN Agriculture Coordinator


Google BC Min. of Ag  
Emergency Management

**5**



Emergency Management Guides help you prepare for and minimize the impact of threats to your home and small farm, as well as protect your family, employees and livestock.

**Emergency Management site**



**BC Premises ID**

**Emergency Management**

*Purpose is to save lives, preserve the environment and protect property and the economy*

Comprised of four independent components

- Prevention and Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Emergency Response
- Disaster Recovery



**Prevention and Mitigation**  
Insurance and Risk Management

- ❖ Insurance plays an important role in protecting you from disasters such as floods & wildfires
- ❖ Commercial Insurance, private insurance is generally available to cover livestock losses from emergencies such as losses due to livestock injuries or mortalities, temporary livestock relocation, and infrastructure losses (barns and equipment)
- ❖ The Insurance Bureau of Canada can help farmers find available coverage for business losses through private insurance programs.

If your farm meets certain requirements which include but are not limited to farm classification under B.C. Assessment Regulations, you might be eligible for Federal/Provincial Risk Management Programs

### Emergency Preparedness

- ❖ Preparedness refers to the readiness to respond to an emergency through measures taken prior to an event.
- ❖ Included identifying numerous groups from the public sector that may assist in the response such as
  - Fire Department
  - Police Department
  - Local Government i.e. municipalities and regional district in BC
  - BC Ministry of Agriculture
  - Emergency Management BC
  - BC Ministry of Environment
  - Canadian Food Inspection Agency

### Emergency Response

Emergencies are typically managed from the ground up, initially relying on citizens and the private sector until their capacities are exceeded, after which local and provincial authorities are involved until they are overcome at which point Federal government becomes involved.



### Key Messages:

1. Farmers are ultimately responsible for taking action to protect livestock and employees under their care and control.
2. Preparation of a Farm Emergency Plan shows due diligence on the part of the farmer.
3. Farmers must ensure they have appropriate insurance coverage for their buildings, equipment and crops.
4. Family members and employees should be made aware of the Farm Emergency Plan so they can respond appropriately during any emergency.
5. The farmer's first point of contact during an emergency should be the Emergency Services of the RDBN.



The evacuation process for people consists of three phases:

- **Evacuation Alert:** Be ready to leave on short notice. If you leave before or during this alert, it's called a voluntary evacuation. The Alert phase is the best time to relocate livestock, when roads are not needed to move people safely.
- **Evacuation Order:** You are at risk. Leave the area immediately. Local police or RCMP will enforce evacuation orders.
- **Evacuation Order or Alert Rescinded:** All is currently safe. You can return home. Stay tuned for other possible evacuation orders or alerts.

### Evacuation Orders

- The RCMP will deliver formal paperwork showing the Evacuation Order Area.
- The paperwork will identify the location of the Reception Centre closest to your location.
- Evacuees are asked to register at the Reception Centre. Emergency Social Support (ESS) services will be made available. This may include accommodation, food, and other expenses and support services.



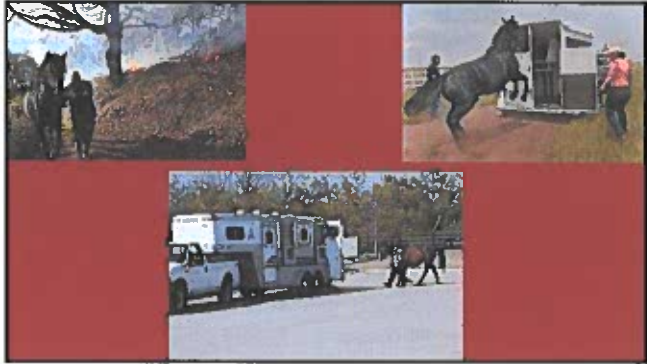
### Emergency Response

*Shelter in Place*

*Livestock Relocation*



### BUDDY FARM



Recovery steps following a disaster to your farm may include the following:

- Examining animals closely; contact your veterinary if you observe injuries or signs of illness
- Surveying damage to barns and other structures; assess stability and safety
- Returning animals only after the threat has passed, and safety has been assured



Feed and water are a big part in livestock disaster recovery.

In addition to the health and nutrient aspects of appropriate feed and water, livestock can become very selective if their feed and water do not smell and taste familiar.

### Mitigation in Recovery



Recovery after an emergency is an excellent opportunity to consider measures to mitigate against future disasters.

#### Part A: Before an Emergency

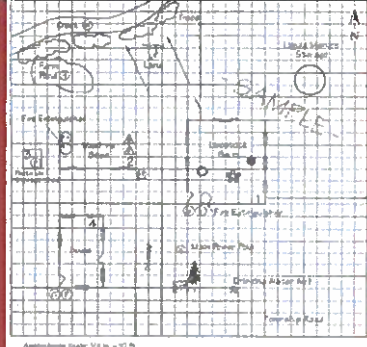
1. Wildfire Threat
2. Farm Information
3. Range Tenure Information
4. Emergency Contacts



### 5. Agriculture Operation Maps

- Existing Maps: If you have participated in Environment Farm Plan you may already have a map of your farm and operation, which you can add to your Emergency Plan.
- Obtain a Map: You may be able to obtain a map of your farm acreage from your local government office or from a provincial agency.

### Sample Farm Map




Approximate Scale: 1/4 in. = 100 ft.

- Property boundaries (owned/leased)
- Structures (i.e. house, sheds, storage buildings and yards, barns, etc.)
- Roads and farm access points, railway
- Watercourses (ponds, streams, wetland with food boundaries)
- Utility lines and shut-off points (i.e. electric, pipelines, oil or gas, water)
- Water Wells
- High risk areas (fuel storage, pesticide storage, manure storage)
- Safety and response equipment (fire extinguishers, spilland response kit)
- Slope of land
- North Arrow
- Scale

### WHAT TO PUT/REVIEW ON YOUR MAP

Hazard Mitigation (i.e. Drain ponds that could cause flooding and keep them below critical levels)

Farm Security (i.e. have a fence around the property, security gates at all access points, motion lights around the yard/buildings)




### 6. Livestock Inventory

List the animal types and numbers and a range for livestock numbers that vary throughout the year.


Place in an attached list of animals by name, gender, and registration number.

How would you identify your animals in case of emergency?

### 7. Livestock Location During Wildfire Season



### 8. Vehicles and Response Equipment/Resources



### 9. Water Sources

### 10. Risk Reduction

#### 10-1 Reduce Combustible Materials

Hazard Risks (i.e. Trash piles and burial sites are kept tidy or moved to where they present no hazard. Toxic chemicals, such as pesticides and herbicides, are stored in secured areas.)

#### 10-2 Use Fire Resistant Materials

#### 10-3 Plan for Sprinkler Protection

### 11. Risk Reduction – Range-Level Assets



**12 Insurance**

Insurance is important! In general, federal and provincial disaster management programs will only cover perils for which private coverage cannot be obtained.

**13 Backup Power**

Some actions may be required before an emergency to ensure backup power supply can keep critical equipment working in a prolonged power outage.



**Emergency Tube**



**General Farm Emergency Planning**

**Do you have the following?**

- Information on hazards affecting the farm
- Know the warning signals for my area and stay alert for emergency broadcasts  
*10 Information Sources in an Emergency from your workbook, page 8*
- Stockpiled supplies for protection
- Identified protected areas
- Made a safe environment for my animals
- Prepared family and employees
- List of contacts that may be able to assist in an emergency

Part B: During a Wildfire

14. Information Sources

<https://www.rdbn.bc.ca>

**15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection**



Option 1:  
Shelter livestock  
in barn.

**15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection**




Option 2:  
Move livestock to  
on-farm  
outdoor location



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### 15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection





**Option 3:**  
Relocate livestock off the farm

During emergencies, the primary responsibility for livestock protection lies with the individual producer and if they have the ability to relocate livestock themselves, they are encouraged to do so.

### 15. Decision Guide for Livestock Protection


Option 4 - Open gates and/or cut fences to free the animals IF SAFE TO DO SO

20. Checklist to Create a Fire Break  
*If time allows!*

21. Checklist to Deploy Sprinklers

*The Office of the Fire Commissioner recommends a wetting time of two hours prior to fire reaching the property for the full saturation and effectiveness. Turn on sprinklers only as necessary to conserve water for fire suppression.*




22. Checklist for Operating Backup Generator

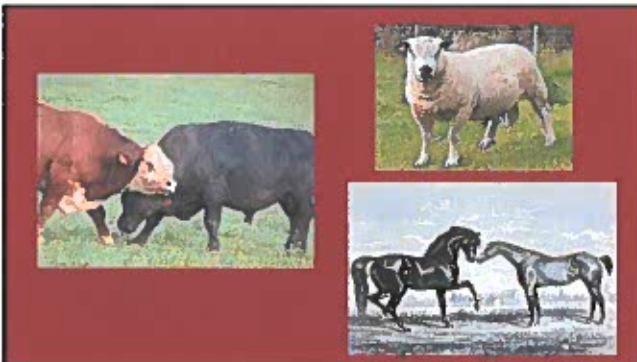
### 23. Checklist for Personal Evacuation

In addition to a Grab 'n Go Kit make sure you have the following:

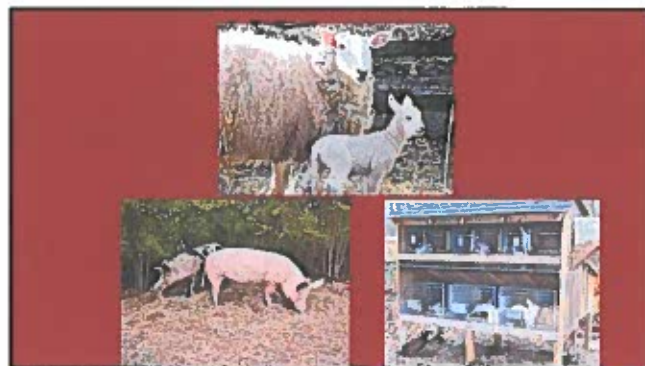
- ❖ Identification that includes a photo and address, such as a driver's licence.
- ❖ A copy of the Farm Emergency Plan, including the livestock inventory.
- ❖ Premises ID Number, if applicable.



**Make an Emergency Plan NOW!**

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WILDFIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE

- 1) Review of the 2018 wildfire season
- 2) Wildfire Response
- 3) Open Burning
- 4) Role of FireSmart

BRITISH COLUMBIA



Hectares Burned

2017 - 1.22 million hectares - 1,347 wildfires

2018 - 1.34 million hectares – 2,068 wildfires

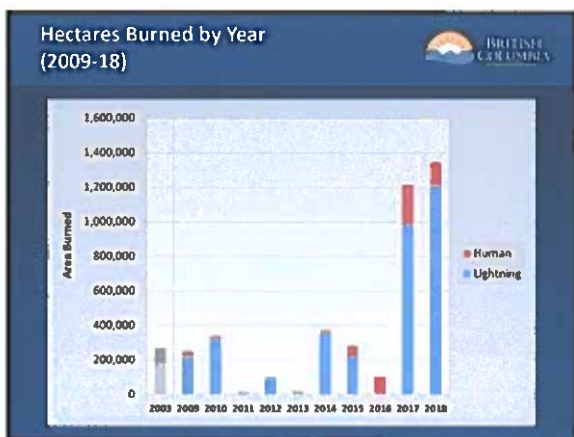
BRITISH COLUMBIA

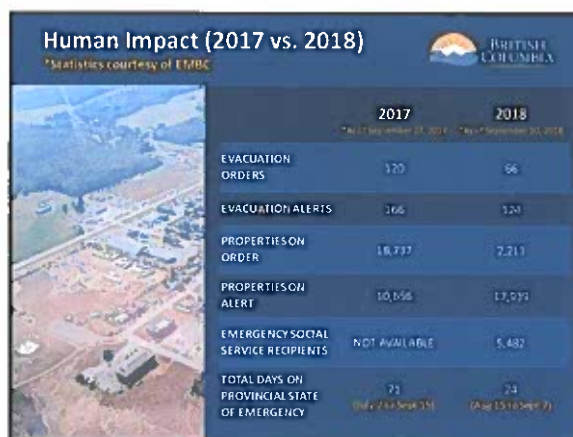
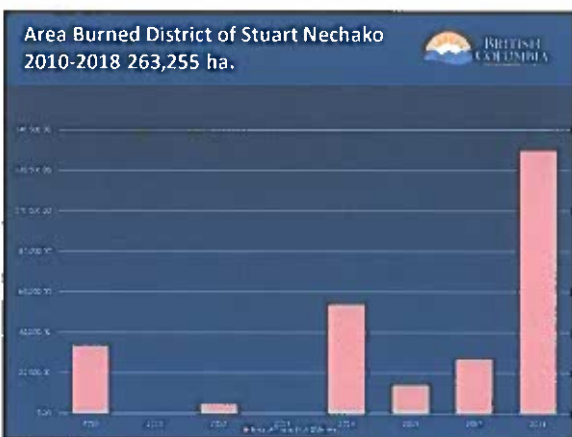
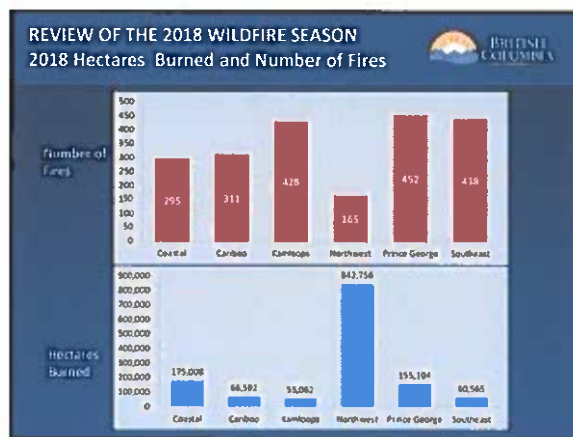
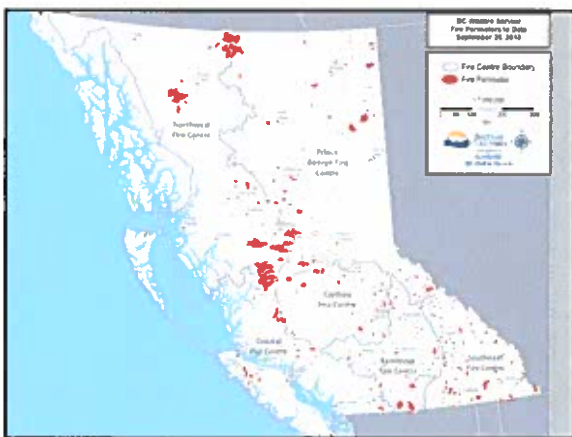
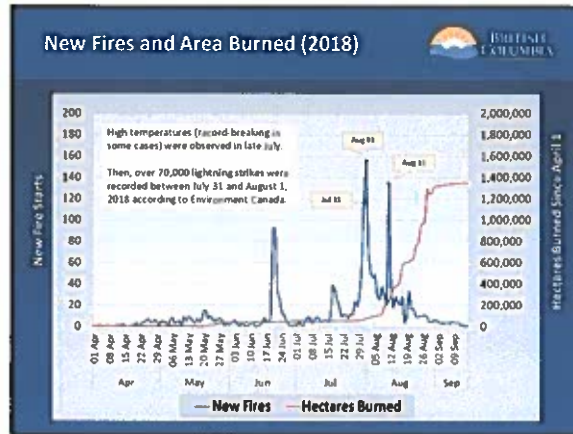
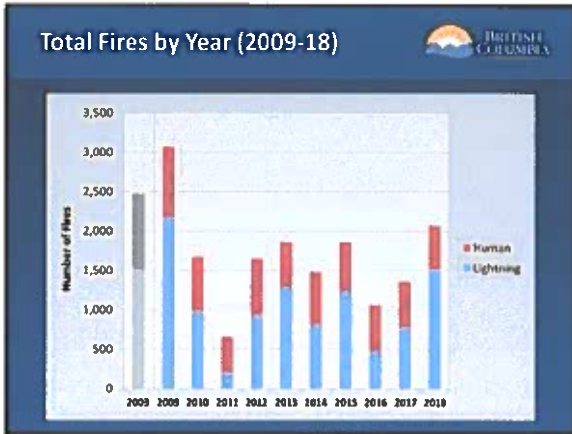
Wildfire Suppression Costs

Total cost 2017 - \$649.6 million

Total cost 2018 - \$465.9 million

BRITISH COLUMBIA







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**WILDFIRE RESPONSE** 



**WILDFIRE RESPONSE**  
**Vanderhoof /Fort St James Zone** 


Vanderhoof Office  
 3 full time staff  
 4 Wildfire Assistants (8 month)  
 1 Office Assistant (8 month)  
 1 + 20 person Unit Crew  
 4 + 4 person Initial Attack Crews



**WILDFIRE RESPONSE – Challenges** 


- Increasing development in the forest interface
- Increasing forest fuels
- Forest health – Mountain pine beetle, Spruce beetle




**WILDFIRE RESPONSE - RSWAP** 


**Resource Strategic Wildfire Allocation Protocol**


- Government multi-agency group
- Determine provincial priorities for response
- 4 main priorities
  1. Human Life and Safety
  2. Property
  3. High Environmental Values
  4. Resource Values

**WILDFIRE RESPONSE - RSWAP** 

- Implemented when there are more fires than resources available
- Ensures consistent prioritization of fires within BC
- The right resources going to the right fire
- Some local flexibility allowed within a priority




**OPEN BURNING** 




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### OPEN BURNING



- legal obligations when using fire in, or within, one kilometre of forest land or grassland
- Campfires, backyard burning, industrial burning




### OPEN BURNING




#### Open Burning Practices for Farmers and Ranchers




### Open Burning



For more information on open burning go to "Fire Bans and Restrictions" link at:

[www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)



### THE ROLE OF FIRESMART




FireSmart is a brand owned by FireSmart Canada that provides tools and guidance on how to undertake and implement community based wildfire prevention and mitigation initiatives



### SEVEN FIRESMART DISCIPLINES



- 1) Education
- 2) Emergency planning
- 3) Interagency co-operation
- 4) Cross-training
- 5) Fuels management
- 6) Legislation & planning
- 7) Development considerations



### FIRESMART




**FireSmart is about living with and managing for wildfire on our landscapes**

- FireSmart is the Canadian standard recognized by all provinces and territories.
- FireSmart methods have been demonstrated time and time again to reduce the risk of losses, under even the most extreme fire conditions



### 5. THE CASE FOR FIRESMART


The findings from the **Horse River wildfire** (Fort McMurray) in 2016 suggest that the use of FireSmart principles was one of the main reasons why some houses survived.



\*Photo credit: Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo


### THE ROLE OF FIRESMART

**Wildfire Risk Reduction is a Shared Responsibility**



### HOME IGNITION ZONES

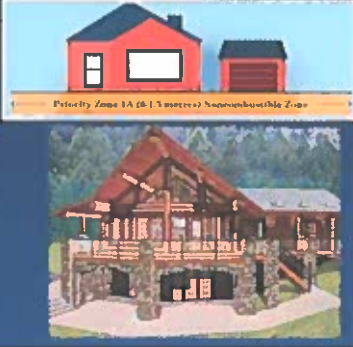
Work with your neighbors to set overlapping priority zones!



### ZONE 1a – 0 to 1.5 metres

The most critical zone (0 to 1.5 metres from the home)  
This is the non-combustible zone


- Should be free from all materials that could easily ignite from a wildfire
- Clear vegetation and use materials such as gravel, brick or concrete adjacent to home



Priority Zone 1A (0-1.5 metres) Noncombustible Zone

### ZONE 1a – 0 to 1.5 metres

Avoid woody shrubs, trees or tree branches in this zone



### RECOMMENDED HOME ROOFING MATERIALS



The roof is the most **VULNERABLE** component of your home. Sparks and burning embers from a wildfire can travel long distances and quickly ignite flammable roofing material.

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### HOME BUILDING CONSIDERATIONS

- Always ensure roofs and gutters are clear of combustible material
- Enclose area under deck or other structures
- Regularly maintain areas where debris can accumulate

### HOME BUILDING CONSIDERATIONS

Inspect your home for any vulnerabilities to embers

15 centimetres

Ground

Screened Vent

Ridge Vent

Slate Vent

Always ensure vents and eaves are screened in or enclosed, and siding is free of gaps

### RECOMMENDED HOME SIDING MATERIALS

- Fibre cement siding**
  - Aside from the roof, the structural component most vulnerable to wildfire is siding material.
- Stucco siding**
  - Vinyl siding can melt when exposed to high temperatures, allowing fire to reach the interior of the building.
- Brick siding**
  - Fibre cement board panels, stucco, brick and poured concrete offer superior fire resistance.

### ZONE 1 – 1.5 - 10 metres

Create landscape that cannot easily transmit fire to the home

- Avoid flammable plants such as Cedar, Juniper, Pine, tall grass and Spruce
- Keep wood piles, trailers, storage sheds and other combustible structures out of this zone
- Avoid planting coniferous trees (cones and needles) in this zone, since they are highly flammable
- Keep lawns mowed

### ZONE 2 – 10 to 30 metre Fuel Management Zone

10 to 30 m from home

Fuel Management is the identification, planning, and treatment of hazardous wildland fuels in forested areas

- Reduces fire intensity and the potential for crown fire initiation and spread, and spotting
- Increases firefighter safety and suppression success

### ZONE 2 – 10 to 30 metre Fuel Management Zone

How? By managing:

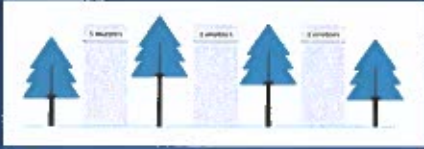
- Surface fuels
- Ladder fuels
- Crown fuels



### ZONE 2 – 10 to 30 metre

**10 to 30 m from home**

- Space coniferous trees to 3 metres of horizontal space between tree canopies
- Prune remaining coniferous trees to remove all branches to a height of 2 metres above the ground
- Regularly clean up fallen branches, dry grasses and needles from the ground to eliminate the potential surface fuels




### ZONE 3 – 30 to 100 metre

**30 to 100 m from home**

Create an environment that will not support high intensity crown fires

- Focus on fuel reduction and conversion (to deciduous or more fire resilient coniferous species)
- Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and other flammable vegetation



### FIRESMART PRIORITY ZONES

#### Wildfire structure survival statistics

90% survival if:

- 0-10m vegetation is managed
- Non-combustible roof



Work with your neighbours in any overlapping priority areas!

### BECOME A RECOGNIZED FIRESMART COMMUNITY

Neighbourhoods, subdivisions and small towns can earn FireSmart recognition status by creating dedicated local FireSmart Boards and by implementing FireSmart principles tailored to specific community needs.

Working with your neighbours can increase your neighbourhood's resiliency to wildfires.

More information:  
[www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)



### FIRESMART

#### Why should I care?

- During the fire season, British Columbians may be evacuated from their communities and homes may be destroyed.
- Living in or adjacent to a forested area means that you and your community eventually will have to contend with the threat of a wildfire.

Your best protection is **PREVENTION**



### WILDFIRE PREVENTION



Wildfire prevention begins **BEFORE** the fire occurs and in our own backyards.

**FireSmart is a shared responsibility**

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### FIRESMART RESOURCES




FireSmart  
Becoming a  
Recognized  
FireSmart  
Community

FireSmart  
Canada  
Community  
Recognition

FireSmart  
Guide to  
Landscaping

FireSmart  
Protecting your  
Community  
from Wildfire

Bookmark with  
QR Coding to  
Link you to  
FireSmart  
Manuals

Available from FireSmart Canada  
Also may be acquired from the BC Wildfire Service, subject to availability

### FIRESMART RESOURCES




FireSmart your property  
Protect your property from wildfire

FireSmart Poster

FireSmart Homeowner's Manual

Presentation material

Available at:  
<https://firesmartbc.ca/>


### FIRESMART RESOURCES





It's time to get FireSmart about wildfires in BC

<https://firesmartbc.ca/>

### WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



- Community Resiliency Initiative Program (CRIP)
- Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC)



### WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - CRIP



- Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRIP) was established in 2018 to broaden the accessibility of funding and help reduce existing funding gaps
- 50 million committed over three years
- Focus on reducing the risk and impact of wildfire on communities



### WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - CRIP



Eligible funding activities include:


- FireSmart education
- Wildfire prevention and preparedness and emergency planning
- Cross-training
- FireSmart activities for Private land (incl. \$500 grant)
- Interagency and cross jurisdictional planning
- Fuel Management (municipal and crown land)



**WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - FESBC**

The Forest Enhancement Society of BC's (FESBC) purpose is to advocate for and advance the environmental and resource stewardship of British Columbia's forest by:

- preventing and mitigating the impact of wildfires;
- improving damaged or low value forests;
- improving habitat for wildlife;
- supporting the use of fibre from damaged and low value forests, and
- treating forests to improve the management of greenhouse gases.




**Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia**

**WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES - FESBC**

- FESBC funds projects for wildfire risk reduction planning, fuel management prescriptions and operational treatments.
- Eligible applicants include: local governments & First Nations, forest licensees (including area based tenure holders), conservation groups, and provincial government agencies.


Please visit [www.fesbc.ca](http://www.fesbc.ca) for more details.



**WILDFIRE RISK REDUCTION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

*Wildfire Community Preparedness Day*


*May 4, 2019*




**TOGETHER WE ARE PREPARED**

**Questions?**



**CONTACT INFORMATION**

<b>Dan Goff</b> Wildfire Technician BC Wildfire Service Van Jam Fire Zone 250-567-6468		<b>Mike Pritchard</b> Wildfire Officer BC Wildfire Service Van Jam Fire Zone 250-567-6393
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RDBN EMERGENCY & LIVESTOCK PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS



## PERSONAL & PET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Debbie Evans P. Ag.**  
RDBN Agriculture Coordinator

- **Preparing Your Property**
- **Household Preparedness Checklist**
- **Prepare for Your Pets**
- **Guide to Emergency**
- **Wildfire Community Preparedness Day**

### Preparing Your Property



**TREES**  
Coniferous trees are highly flammable. Deciduous trees are much less flammable.

**SURFACE FUELS**  
Punk, leaves, twigs, wood chips and dried grasses are surface fuels.

**STRUCTURES**  
Building materials include wood shakes, wood or vinyl siding, wooden fences all attach to homes.

**EMBERS & SPARKS**  
HEAT

**WOOD SHAKES, TWIGS, LEAVES**

**STRUCTURES**

**FENCES**

**FIRE + FUEL = WHY HOMES BURN**

### Preparing Your Property




**SPARKS/EMBERS**  
This is the burning debris that can be thrown up to two kilometres ahead of a wildfire. Sparks and embers can ignite materials on or near your home, causing severe damage.

**EXTREME HEAT**  
Radiant heat from a wildfire can melt asphalt, warp your house and even break windows. Extreme heat can come from flames within 30 metres of your home.

**DIRECT FLAMES**  
As wildfires spread toward homes, they ignite other flammable objects in their path. Branches in this path, especially close to your home, can help reduce this threat.

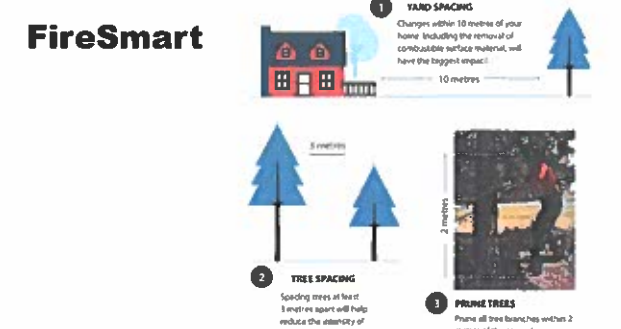
### FireSmart

HOW FIRESMART TREATMENTS INFLUENCE WILDFIRE SPREAD



Reduce the amount of fuel  
Remove ladder fuels  
Reduce the amount of fuel

### FireSmart



**1 YARD SPACING**  
Changes within 10 metres of your home. Including the removal of combustible surface materials, will have the biggest impact!

10 metres

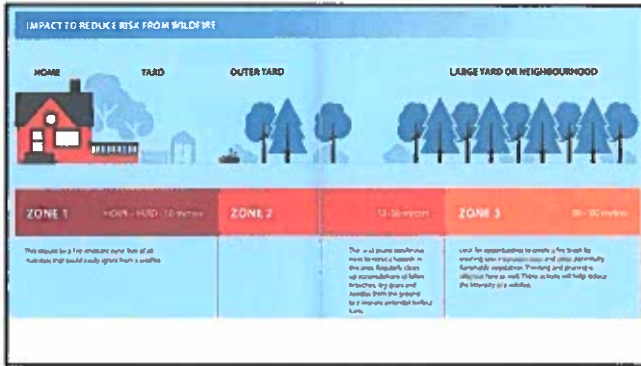
**2 TREE SPACING**  
Spacing trees at least 3 metres apart will help reduce the intensity of a wildfire.

3 metres

**3 PRUNE TREES**  
Prune all tree branches within 2 metres of the ground.

2 metres

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**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**

**1 - Roof**

- Fire-resistant or fire-retardant roofing.
- Class A, B or C rated roofing.
- Options include metal, asphalt, clay & composite rubber tiles.
- Refer to manufacturer's guidelines to maintain the fire resistance of your roofing.
- Regularly clean your roof of combustible materials.
- AVOID WOOD SHAKE SHINGLES!**

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**

**2 - Chimney**

A Spark arrestor on your chimney will reduce the chance of sparks and embers escaping and starting fires.

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**

**3 - Gutters**

- Regularly remove debris since sparks and embers can easily ignite these dry materials.
- Consider screening your gutters with metal mesh to reduce the amount of debris that can accumulate.

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**

**4 - Eaves & Vents**

- Vents can be an opening for sparks & embers.
- Screen vents with 3 mm wire mesh.
- Open eaves create a surface that can be affected by embers and direct heat.
- Properly fitted soffits and fascia help reduce the risk of embers & heat reaching the wooden rafters of your home.


**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**

**5 - Siding**

- Stucco, metal siding, brick/concrete and fibre cement siding offer superior fire resistance.
- Logs and heavy timbers are still reasonably effective.
- Untreated wood and vinyl siding offer very little protection against wildfire.

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**


**6 - Windows**



Tempered, thermal (double-paned) windows are recommended.  
Single-pane windows provide little resistance to from an advancing wildfire.

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**


**7 - Doors**



All doors into your home should be fire rated and have a good seal.  
This is also true for your garage doors as well.

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**


**8 - Decks**



Embers and sparks can collect under these spaces.  
Enclose these areas.  
Sheath in the bases of the decks, balconies and houses with fire-resistant material to reduce the risk of sparks and embers igniting your home.


**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**

**9 - Other**



Attachments to your home.  
**Fence Lines**  
Wooden fences/boardwalks create a direct path from the fire to your home.  
Separate your fence from your home with a metal gate.  
Remember to cut grass along your fence line.  
**Sheds/Outbuildings**  
If these are within 10 metres give them the same FireSmart considerations as your home.  
Also consider where you store combustible lawn furniture and deck storage boxes to your home.

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**



Remove debris that is easily ignited by sparks and embers.

**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard - 10 metres**

**Fire-Resistant Plants**

Plants to Avoid

Mowed Lawn

Avoid Bark Mulch & Pine Needles

Firewood Piles

Burns Barrels and Fire Pits

On-Site Fire Tools

Power Lines




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**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard – 10 metres**

**TREES TO PLANT**

Deciduous (leafy) trees are resistant to wildfire and include:

- Poplar
- Birch
- Aspen
- Cottonwood
- Maple
- Alder
- Ash
- Cherry




**Zone 1**  
**Home / Yard – 10 metres**

**TREES TO AVOID**

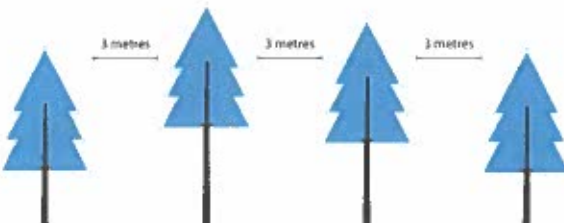
Coniferous trees, with cones and needles, are highly flammable and should not be within 10 metres of your home.

- Spruce
- Fir
- Pine
- Cedar

If these trees ignite within 10 metres of your home, the direct flames and intense heat can cause damage or even ignite your home.



**Zone 2**  
**Yard – 10 - 30 metres**

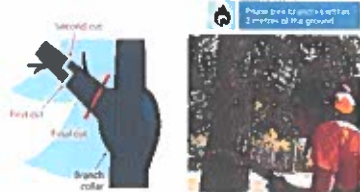


**Zone 2**  
**Yard – 10 - 30 metres**


**Tree Pruning**

**When to Prune**


**How to Prune**



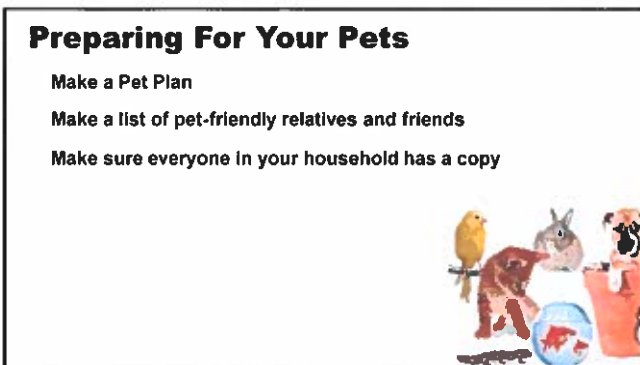
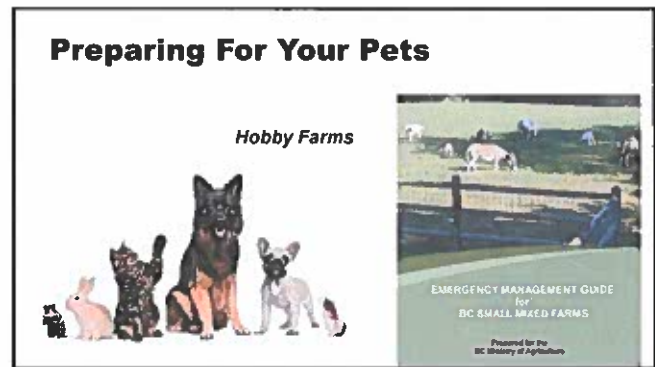
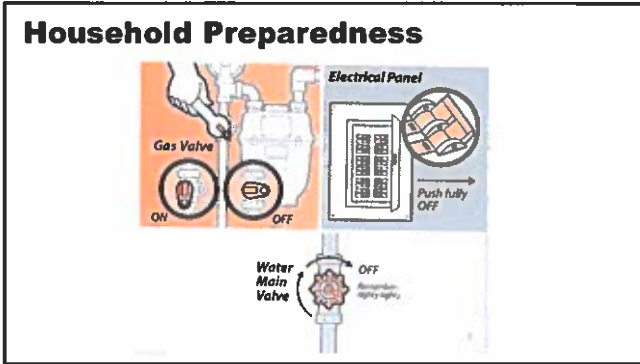
**Zone 3**  
**Large Yards – 30 - 100 metres**



**Household Preparedness**



1. Identify the risks for your region.
2. Make an emergency phone list with at least one out-of-area contact.
3. Pick a meeting spot if you're separated from family members.
4. Assign someone to collect you at airport, from school or daycare if you can't.
5. Identify where official sources you'll get information from.
6. Learn how to turn off utilities.
7. Store enough emergency water for your family.
8. Store enough emergency food for three days to one week.
9. Inventory any special needs, such as medical equipment. It will make sure a proper supply is on hand.
10. Secure your space.
11. Create grab and go bags.





### Preparing For Your Pets

Pack for your Pets



### Preparing For Your Pets

Pack for your Pets



### Preparing For Your Pets

Pack for your Pets



### Preparing For Your Pets

Pack for your Pets



### Preparing For Your Pets

Talk to your Neighbours



### Preparing For Your Pets

Be in the Know



### Guide to Emergency

The evacuation process for people consists of three phases:

- **Evacuation Alert:** Be ready to leave on short notice. If you leave before or during this alert, it's called a voluntary evacuation. The Alert phase is the best time to relocate livestock, when roads are not needed to move people safely.
- **Evacuation Order:** You are at risk. Leave the area immediately. Local police or RCMP will enforce evacuation orders.
- **Evacuation Order or Alert Rescinded:** All is currently safe. You can return home. Stay tuned for other possible evacuation orders or alerts.

### Guide to Emergency

#### Evacuation Orders

- The RCMP will deliver formal paperwork showing the Evacuation Order Area.
- The paperwork will identify the location of the Reception Centre closest to your location.
- Evacuees are asked to register at the Reception Centre. Emergency Social Support (ESS) services will be made available. This may include accommodation, food, and other expenses and support services.

### Wildfire Community Preparedness Day





## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO

### Memorandum

**TO:** Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee  
**FROM:** Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
**DATE:** April 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** SheepFest 2019 Report

---

#### Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide information to the Agriculture Committee regarding SheepFest 2019.

SheepFest 2019 was held on Saturday March 9<sup>th</sup> and had forty people register for the event. There were three speakers and participants' feedback was that all speakers gave informative presentations.

Dr. Lisa Surber, LM Livestock Services from Newell South Dakota specializes in Beef and Sheep Production and Wool Education and Classification Services. Dr. Surber started off the day with Wool Nuts and Bolts which covered wool science and quality, contamination of wool, factors influencing wool price, wool production responsibility and wool marketing. In the afternoon, Dr. Surber spoke about wool processing, top making, shrink treatments and end uses. The wool is graded by microns with fine micron wool being in the highest demand for knit wool clothing for active and leisure wear, sportswear and some military clothing. She also reviewed alternative uses of wool which are:

- Insulation packaging "WoolCool"
- Wool insulation – blow in or batting
- Solid Wool – a wool and bioresin that is molded in various uses, e.g. Tables & chairs.
- Wool pellets for gardening
- Twool which is wool twine for gardening
- Wool dryer balls
- Wool surf boards
- Road side reclamation

Most breeds in the RDBN have microns that are coarser with wool end uses that could be used for the above list or sweaters, upholstery, fiberfill and carpets. Canadian wool is marketed to six countries – China, India, Bulgaria, USA, Egypt and Czechoslovakia with China being the major export destination in 2018 for all wool types. RDBN producers can drop off their collect wool to Vanderhoof Livestock Co-op which is a pick-up location for a larger volume of wool. With lower prices for coarser wool, there is a need to create local uses of wool.

Dr. Glenna McGregor, DVM, BC Ministry of Agriculture is a Veterinary Pathologist who presented on herd health. Dr. McGregor covered how biosecurity is part of sheep farming routine to keep disease off farms, controlling diseases that may be on farms, and preventing

disease from spreading. Dr. McGregor did an overview of flock health, covering infectious diseases, bacterial disease, and parasites. She also reviewed general flock health and disease management which had many questions from the audience. Dr. McGregor works at the provincial vet lab and she gave the pricing of the services they offer for disease diagnostics. Producers also received an extensive resource manual "Keeping Flocks Healthy – Sheep and Goats."

The third speaker was Hani Gasser who runs the Robson Valley Sheep Company in McBride, BC. Before moving to McBride, Hani had a sheep dairy and cheese making business in Chase, BC. Hani overviewed Swiss cheese making techniques and answered questions on making sheep cheese. Hani also share marketing tips and market potential for sheep cheese. Currently there is no sheep cheese being produced in BC and a market is available for sheep cheese production. One of the workshop attendees is currently researching starting a sheep cheese dairy in the RDBN.

Sheep producers made comments on the workshop evaluation about wanting more marketing workshops for the sheep industry. The BC Livestock Cooperative in Vanderhoof will be hosting a sheep sale in early September 2019. A group of producers will be assisting the with establishment of a sale and hopefully will evolve into a spring and fall annual sheep sales in Vanderhoof.

On Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Surber met with eighteen producers at the Burns Lake Library. Some producers supplied bags of wool and Dr. Surber did an assessment of the wool pointing out wool length and strength, showing wool breakage due to stress of animals (lambing, wildfire movement, etc.). She did a presentation of Adding Value to Wool, which is alternative of ways to sell wool. With direct marketing you can sell just the fiber or you can add varying degrees of value. For spinners and wavers, raw fleece sales are very common with marketable breeds wool. Can add value by washing, selling locks for arts & crafts, doll hair if have long wool breeds. If wash, carded and twisted up to hold fibers together in a sort of rope is called roving sales and this versatile product can be used primarily for felting and also for stuffings, spinning and more.

Coarse wool can be used for Batting sales to be used to fill pillows and blankets. The coarse wool batting can also be felted and producers can make felted crafts to market. There are companies which will spin the wool for a cost and minimal volumes are required to process and this spun wool can be used for woven fabrics and hand knit sales. The quality of wool is key in directly marketing wool or wool products and best wool comes from well-cared for sheep.

Dr. Surber presented Sheep Winter Feeding Management as proper ewe nutrition during pregnancy is essential to optimize productivity. Feed costs are the largest single cost of maintaining ewes. She presented an overview of the sheep management calendar; dry period with maintenance and flushing, early/mid pregnancy (the first 100 days), late pregnancy (last 50 days), early lactation and growing out of lambs. Feed costs of 70% of the feed required to produce a weaned lamb is consumed by the ewe. Dr. Surber reviewed the consequences of

poor nutrition during pregnancy, the nutritional impacts on lamb survival, mineral supplementation and sheep feeding strategies.

### Outcomes

Participants of SheepFest 2019 were supportive of forming a sheep producer association here in the NorthWest. This could be a new branch of the BC Sheep Federation. More work has to be done and the RDBN Ag Coordinator and the BC Ministry of Agriculture Smithers Regional Agrolgist are both willing to assist.

A group needs to form to assist Decody Corbiere at the Vanderhoof BC Livestock Coop to host a sheep sale in early September. A few producers have expressed interest and the RDBN Ag Coordinator will be meeting with Decody in May/June to move this initiative forward.

Potential increase in direct-sales of wool products from ideas presented at SheepFest 2019. Overall total sheep sales could be achieved with a marketing workshop and establishing more sheep products for direct-sales.

Potential of a sheep cheese dairy in the Vanderhoof area. The RDBN Ag Coordinator will assist with business planning resources to this producer.

Potential to increase farming of cattle and small ruminants, such as sheep to improve the use of forages and cut down on the expense of mowing and spraying weeds in pasture. Some mixed farms run sheep to increase productivity and profitability of the farm.

### Financial Summary

#### Expenses:

Workshop facilities	\$350.00
Presenters travel, hotel, speaking fees	\$5,057.73
Workshop supplies	\$469.79
Meals & refreshment breaks	\$1,206.98
Advertising & promotion	<u>\$2,222.19</u>
TOTAL	\$9,306.69

#### Income:

Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers Limited	\$500.00
Strategic Outreach Initiative, BC Min of Ag and Canadian Agricultural Partnership	
Knowledge Transfer Program	\$4,555.73
SheepFest 2019 Registrations	\$1,000.00
RDBN	<u>\$3,250.96</u>
TOTAL	\$9,306.69

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**Receive the SheepFest 2019 report.**



## **REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**

### **Memorandum**

**TO:** Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee  
**FROM:** Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
**DATE:** April 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Haskap 3.0 Workshop Report

---

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a report of the Haskap 3.0 Workshop which the RDBN Agriculture Coordinator attended. The workshop was held on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> in Salmon Arm BC. About one hundred producers attended the workshop including some producers from the RDBN.

#### **Background**

Haskap is a Japanese name for a fruit meaning “berry of long life and good vision”. Haskap are also known as Edible Blue Honeysuckle or Honeyberry. Origins of Haskap are in Japan and Honeyberry in Russia and Kuni Islands. The name “Haskap” was chosen as the brand name that have been applied to new varieties bred by the Fruit Program at the University of Saskatchewan. Haskaps are often mistaken as a fruit like blueberries and cranberries, when in fact it is more like a tomato and is related to the Snowberry and Elderberry.

The Haskap has unique taste, colour and texture. The taste has been described as tart/sweet and juicy, like a raspberry. Haskap berries grown on bushes that grow 5 – 7 feet tall over 5 – 7 years. It is one of the first fruit crops to set and ripen in the growing season and commercial harvesting occurs in the last weeks of June and into July depending on the geographical region.

#### **Report of Workshop**

The workshop began with Good Agricultural Practices which stressed that food safety begins at the farm. Then participants had two presentations from companies capable of moving the haskap into a commercial industry. Dr. Raj Jampala from Agriforest Bio-Technologies Ltd, in Kelowna spoke on their services of production of high-quality tissue cultures of haskaps. The tissue culture is grown until plants are ready to be shipped for transplanting. Dr. Askish Dave from FloraMaxx Technologies Ltd. of Kelowna, presented about his commercial plant biotechnology company that specializes in the production of starter plants for horticulture and nursery industries using innovative plant culture technologies.

The next presenter was Dr. Eric Gerbrandt, Sky Blue Horticulture. Dr. Gerbrandt is a professor, researcher and consultant and he obtained his doctorate with Dr. Bob Bass, at the University of Saskatchewan in Haskap trials. Dr. Gerbrandt spoke on the varieties from Japan, Kuni Islands and Russia, with Kuni Island and Russian varieties suitable for northern climates and Japanese

varieties for southern BC climate. The origin of the plant plays into the flowering and pollinators, bees, out of hibernation to pollinate the flowers for a fruit set.

For Haskaps to move from a niche market to a commercial market, Dr. Gerbrandt pointed out that Haskap is a new industry with a lack of information, unavailability of growing and management production guides and a lack of field experimentation. Different varieties have different tastes and different yields and just because it is a haskap does not mean it has a value. What is the market for the varieties and what determines profitability? What harvest method to achieve quality for market? A grower should track bluing of the berry, wait 3 – 5 days and for fresh market, do not want berries to “bleed”. If juicy, might wait to ripen longer, but berry is softer. A market still has to be developed and Haskap has not reached general population recognition. To move market to a blueberry status means commercialization and dollars invested into branding.

Dr. Gerbrandt also covered pests and disease, bush pruning, fertilization and bee populations needed for pollination. He also showed his own trestles system, like grapes, which trained his bushes to grow upright and has no branches close to the ground. His growing technique is done for over-the-top harvesting, like a raspberry harvester.

The last presentation of the day was Dr. Vasantha Rupasingha, Professor and Chair, University of Dalhousie. He is a Professor in Functional Foods and Nutraceuticals. Freeze-dried, powdered Haskap is being studied as a biological component in our diets to reduce the risk of cardiovascular, neurodegenerative disorders, and certain cancers. He is also studying post-harvest biology, novel and improved value-added processing of Haskaps. Such value-added, included juice, jam, dried berries, ice cream, Haskap beer, Haskap liqueurs and more.

The workshop wrapped up with a question and answer session. Questions like freezing, and losses of the Haskap antioxidants, mulching and weeds, pressing the fruit and many more. Participants heard that to develop the Haskap industry, producers much work together.

### **Outcomes**

Haskap 3.0 Workshop offered a lot of information and outlined the gaps that still need to be filled to move the Haskap industry from niche markets to commercialization.

Niche markets are the viable options for growers in the RDBN. Haskaps from Smithers are being utilized in distilling Haskap liqueurs. Fresh market needs promoting but berries have a short 4-day shelf-life, so secondary processing is a better option.

Two Haskap producers from Burns Lake contacted the RDBN Ag Coordinator. They and their partners participated in the Agri-Food Business Planning Workshop, April 15 – 16 in Smithers. Ag Coordinator working with these two growers and a third grower in Vanderhoof to encourage them to work together and establish a secondary process with the assistance from Community Futures and possibly NDIT.



If a secondary processing procedure is established in the RDBN, with a strong marketing plan, there is potential of expansion of the production of Haskaps in the region.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**(All/Directors/Majority)**

**Receipt of the Haskap 3.0 Workshop report.**



**REGIONAL DISTRICT OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO**  
**Memorandum**

**TO:** Chair Parker and Agriculture Committee  
**FROM:** Debbie Evans, Agriculture Coordinator  
**DATE:** April 23, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Agri-Food Business Planning Workshop Report

---

**Purpose**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a report of the Agri-Food Business Planning Workshop. The workshop was held in Smithers on April 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> and there were fifteen producers enrolled. The workshop was presented by Greg McLaren, Farm/Food/Drink Inc. and Sylvia Chong, Foundtree. The participants represented value-added food producers who were either already in business or exploring business options.

The two-day workshop covered eight business planning modules. Each module covered learning objectives which were:

- 1) The Business Planning Process which introduced the topic of business planning within the agricultural and food context. Participants learned the requirements for a complete business plan, organization of information to develop a business plan and how to create a business plan that is appropriate for the food business.
- 2) The Market Access & Analysis Process which covers elements of marketing research and planning. Participants learned the requirements for a complete market assessment and analysis, how to organize information for developing a market assessment and how to create a market assessment appropriate for their food business.
- 3) The Product Development Process which utilizes elements of market knowledge, creativity, applied sciences and finances. Facilitators presented the product development process, how to define the attributes of a product, qualitatively & quantitatively and how to provide a Specification Document detail the finished product.
- 4) The Financial Planning Process where the requirements for a complete financial plan was covered. Also reviewed how to organize the information and which elements are appropriate for a food business financial plan.
- 5) Quality Management Process which utilizes elements of applied science, regulatory knowledge, operations and finances. Participants were presented the four Cs of quality assurance, what quality management process should be for a food business and how to create Product Specifications Document detailing the food product attributes.

- 6) The Labelling & Packaging Process where participants learned more about labelling and packaging process, defining the functions of the process and how to create Label and Packaging Information Document for a food product.
- 7) The Production Economics Process which borrows from the foundational elements of operations, finance and logistics. Facilitators outlined the production economic process, how to define the components included in the costs of production and how to use the costs of production to define and optimize the production economics.
- 8) The Logistics Process which uses foundational elements of operations, finance and quality assurance to ensure sustainability through profitability and sound business practices. The participants were introduced to the logistics process, what components should be included and specific components to optimize the logistics process.

The workshop is being hosted throughout the province. The location of Smithers has participants from Burns Lake, Topley, Quick, Telkwa and Smithers. There are other producers in the region who have plans for food processing. If RDBN Agriculture Coordinator could pre-register at least fifteen participants from Burns Lake to the East, would consider hosting an event in Vanderhoof.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.

**RECOMMENDATION:****(All/Directors/Majority)**

**"That the RDBN Agriculture Committee receive the Agri-Food Business Planning Workshop report."**