

ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT – ROUND 1

PITT MEADOWS AGRICULTURAL PLAN UPDATE

July 2023

Developed by:



In association with



Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	I
LIST OF TABLES	II
LIST OF FIGURES	II
ACRONYMS	II
1.0 INTRODUCTION	1
2.0 ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK	2
2.1 Engagement Objectives	2
2.2 Engagement Values	2
2.3 Anticipated Engagement Outcomes	3
3.0 ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS	3
3.1 ᑭᓴᓐᑭᓐ (Katzie) First Nation	3
3.2 Agricultural Advisory Committee	3
3.3 Interviews	4
3.3 Open Houses	6
3.4 Surveys	8
4.0 NEXT STEPS – ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT	20
4.1 Presentation of Draft Plan to AAC and External Review	20
4.2 Online Feedback and Open Houses	20
4.3 Presentation to Staff and Council	20

List of Tables

Table 1 Engagement Activities for the Pitt Meadows Agricultural Plan Update	1
Table 2 Pitt Meadows AAC Members	3
Table 3 Issues and Opportunities mentioned during the interviews	4
Table 4 Activities anticipated for Round 2 of engagement	20

List of Figures

Figure 1 Interactive board at the Farmers' Market	6
Figure 2 Open house at Hopcott Farms store	6
Figure 3 Booth set-up at Pitt Meadows Day	7
Figure 4 Respondents' involvement in Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector	8
Figure 5 Length of time respondents have been involved in Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector	8
Figure 6 Agricultural activities respondents are involved in	9
Figure 7 Opportunities for growing the agriculture and agri-food sector in Pitt Meadows	10
Figure 8 Ways in which the City of Pitt Meadows can continue to be a supportive agriculture and agri-food sector partner	11
Figure 9 Agriculture and Agri-Food Respondents' support for collecting a fee from residential properties to develop a fund to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance on farmland	12
Figure 10 Relationship to the food system	14
Figure 11 Frequency of purchasing local foods	15
Figure 12 Actions for encouraging more local food purchases	15
Figure 13 Benefits of living near active farms	16
Figure 14 Percentage of respondents who use dikes adjacent to agricultural lands for recreation	16
Figure 15 Types of agricultural activities that are of interest to respondents	17
Figure 16 Community Member Respondents' support for collecting a fee from residential properties to develop a fund to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance on farmland	18
Figure 17 Ways in which the City of Pitt Meadows can continue to be a partner in the agriculture and agri-food sector	19

Acronyms

AAC	Agricultural Advisory Committee
AF	Ministry of Agriculture and Food
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
IAP2	International Association for Public Participation
KFN	ᑭᓴᓴᓴ (Katzie) First Nation

1.0 Introduction

An Agricultural Plan update is most effectively developed in relation to a thoughtful engagement strategy including all interested and affected individuals and organizations. Particularly at the early stages, farmer, community, and rights-holder engagement provides opportunities to:

- Gather information about their values and priorities with respect to agriculture, from different viewpoints and perspectives;
- Share with, and learn from, those involved about the issues and concerns around maintaining a viable, sustainable, and resilient farming community; and
- Establish consensus regarding the values and goals that will shape the goals and objectives of the Agricultural Plan.

Innovative, broad, and inclusive engagement will help to instil greater confidence in decision-making for Council, especially in regard to policy development. Residents, particularly those involved in the process, will have a greater understanding of how decisions are made at the local government level. Finally, innovative, broad, and inclusive engagement will produce a strategy that is more relevant and meaningful to a greater number of people and organizations.

The following section presents the Engagement Framework that was used to guide engagement and is followed by a summary of the engagement activities and results from the Agricultural Plan update. Table 1 presents the first round of engagement activities, the timeline, and status of completion. Anticipated activities for the second round of engagement are outlined in the final section of this report.

Table 1 Engagement Activities for the Pitt Meadows Agricultural Plan Update

Engagement Activity	Timeline	Status
Round 1 Engagement		
1. Interviews	May - June 2023	Complete
2. Agriculture and Agri-food Survey	Mid May – June 2023	Complete
3. Community Survey	Mid-May – June 2023	Complete
4. Pitt Meadows Day Event	June 3 rd , 2023	Complete
5. Farmers' Market Attendance	June 13 th , 2023	Complete
6. Agriculture and Agri-food Open House	June 15 th , 2023	Complete
7. Public Open House – Recreation Centre	June 22 nd , 2023	Complete
8. Creation of Engagement Results Infographic	July 2023	In progress

2.0 Engagement Framework

2.1 Engagement Objectives

Updating the Agricultural Plan (the Plan) involves comprehensive engagement with key players and interested and affected individuals and organizations who are impacted by, and involved in, the agriculture and food sector. Engagement activities aid the project team in understanding the local context, including assets, gaps, opportunities and challenges facing the sector and those within it. The consultant team follows a high standard related to engagement which is guided by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) engagement goals and spectrum. The following IAP2 goals guided the public engagement activities in Pitt Meadows:

- **Inform:** To provide balanced and objective information to assist the community in understanding the problems, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions facing agriculture and the food sector in Pitt Meadows; and
- **Consult:** To obtain feedback and input from the community on analysis, alternatives, and/or decision through the planning process.

2.2 Engagement Values

The project was guided by the Council-endorsed Civic Engagement Policy and Framework:

- **Consider all audiences.** Review who will be affected by the Plan, including farmers, residents, businesses, interest groups, rights-holders, and interested and affected individuals, and local organizations, and use engagement approaches that best meet their needs.
- **Open and honest.** Adhere to transparency in decision-making and a commitment to sharing information, data and other materials without undue process, particularly when information is readily available, to assist with establishing trust and credibility.
- **Informative.** Present information clearly, outlining the need and benefits of the project or process, as well as the considerations being reviewed, such as potential challenges, the implications for various decisions and the costs involved.
- **Linked to strategy.** Ensure messages include linkages to Strategic Plan and/or Official Community Plan to demonstrate purpose and provide context for why work is being done, as well as how it supports progress towards the goals and vision for the community.
- **Timely.** Engage residents and other interested and affected individuals and organizations early in processes and prior to key decision-making points.
- **Responsive and accessible.** Respond quickly to requests for information, presentations or other enquiries with relevant information to answer questions and address issues or concerns.
- **Proactive.** Inform the community early and in advance of requests for information – not waiting until the community demands updates – including more proactive communication on completed projects, success stories, plans for the future and achievements that benefit residents as well as consistent messaging related to the City’s role, services, and Strategic Plan.
- **Engaging.** Integrate community engagement with processes to improve community consultation, build relationships with residents and local organizations and support ongoing community engagement to promote meaningful conversations, highlight special projects, events and activities and create platforms for sharing ideas and concerns.

2.3 Anticipated Engagement Outcomes

The following are anticipated outcomes from engagement during the project's process:

- Work with City of Pitt Meadows staff and local media to notify the public on ways to become involved in the process and obtain media coverage by issuing press releases and social media content at key points in the process.
- Engage the agriculture and agri-food community in identifying existing food and agriculture assets, gaps, challenges, and opportunities.
- Identify champions who will support the planning process and the implementation of the Plan.
- Provide elected officials with a clear, rational set of recommendations for decision-making.
- Gain support and acceptance across Pitt Meadows for the Plan and its implementation.

3.0 Engagement Activities and Results

3.1 ǵícáý (Katzie) First Nation

The Agricultural Plan presents opportunities for the City of Pitt Meadows to collaborate with the ǵícáý (Katzie) First Nation (KFN) on projects and initiatives that support traditional food and medicine practices, economic development opportunities. The City of Pitt Meadows extended communication with the KFN regarding the Agricultural Plan update and the consulting team held space for input from KFN members, staff, Chief and Council. To date, there has been no formal or informal response from the KFN regarding the Agricultural Plan. However, the City and the consulting team will continue to make efforts to provide opportunities for communication and collaboration. The City of Pitt Meadows can develop an Agricultural Plan that prioritizes working with the KFN to develop policies and actions that may assist in supporting traditional practices, ensuring food sovereignty and agricultural economic opportunities.

3.2 Agricultural Advisory Committee

Members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) were key in the engagement process. City of Pitt Meadows staff provided an update regarding the Agricultural Plan at the February and May 2023 AAC meetings and individual members were contacted and invited to participate in interviews regarding the Plan. AAC members were also asked to identify other interested and affected individuals that may be amenable to being interviewed. The AAC is made up of representatives in the Pitt Meadows agriculture sector as presented in Table 2.

Table 2 Pitt Meadows AAC Members

Member Name	Role
Dan Kosicki	Meadows Landscape Supply
Hank Bitter	Cranberry farmer
Jag Parmar	Blueberry Farmer

Joe Bachmann	Dairy Farmer
Lynn Kemper	Cranberry Farmer
Sandy Howkins	Specimen Tree Nursery
Philip Robinson	Cranberry Farmer
Teressa Vader	Hobby Farmer
Travis Hopcott	Beef and Cranberry Farmer
William Jack	Hay Farmer
Wayne Wisselink	Dairy Farmer
Mike Manion	Council Liaison
Bob Meachen	Council Liaison

3.3 Interviews

One-on-one phone interviews with targeted individuals in the agriculture and agri-food sector were conducted to gather critical information and insights for the Plan. The questions sought to develop an understanding of the following core elements:

- Identify key issues and challenges for the local agriculture sector
- Uncover any gaps in policy, regulations and/or support from the City of Pitt Meadows
- What, with respect to the agriculture sector, is working well in Pitt Meadows
- How the local government can support the sector

To date, a total of 7 interviews have been conducted.

The interview results were aggregated and separated into key themes that arose. Table 3 provides a summary of the issues and opportunities that were mentioned by at least one interviewee.

Note: some topics were mentioned more than once by a single interviewee, which is why the number of mentions may exceed the total number of interviews.

Table 3 Issues and Opportunities mentioned during the interviews

Issue/Challenge	Number of Times Mentioned
Diking and drainage	9
Regulations	8
Wildlife/invasive species/pests	5
Traffic and roads	5
Land prices	5
Urban development	4

Under-utilized agricultural lands	4
Edge issues: urban/rural complaints	3
Labour	2
Opportunity	Number of Times Mentioned
Collaboration	7
Farmers Market enhancements	6
Agri-tourism	3
Proximity to large markets	3
Agri-tech	3
Enhanced road signage	2
Local food processing	2

Examples of comments from interviews include:

- Difficult to attract local farms to the farmers market.
- Cost of land is making it impossible to expand operations – it is out of proportion to what can be achieved through farming.
- Concerns about drainage and diking system being managed to accommodate salmon – if salmon are introduced, this has implications for farmers (required setbacks, irrigation restrictions, etc.).
- Would like to see vertical farming sector expand, but not on viable farmland so that land remains available for soil-based agriculture.
- More processing facilities and cold/freezer storage within the industrial areas would improve the viability of farm businesses.
- Animal rights activists are resulting in farmers feeling more anxious about opening their doors to the public.
- Traffic along Dewdney Trunk Road is getting dangerous for farm vehicles.
- It is difficult to find young people who want to work on farms – need to rely on foreign labour.
- Sloughs need to be more regularly cleaned as there are a lot of invasive species.
- With new subdivisions being built around farmland, there is more foot traffic, bikers, hikers, and speeding vehicles.
- Use of ditches are as important for drainage as they are for irrigation.

3.3 Open Houses

Four opportunities for the public to provide feedback on the project took place during Round 1 of engagement:

- June 3 at Pitt Meadows Day
- June 13 at the Pitt Meadows Farmers' Market
- June 15 at Hopcott Farms Store
- June 22 at the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre

These open houses served as the main conduit in seeking ideas from the local community on how to strengthen farming and local community food security. They were also used to gather information to inform the Plan's vision and key themes, issues, gaps, and opportunities within the context of the City's agri-food sector. At each event, a City of Pitt Meadows staff member was present, and a member of the consulting team was present at the Farmers' Market on June 13 and at Hopcott Farms Store on June 15.

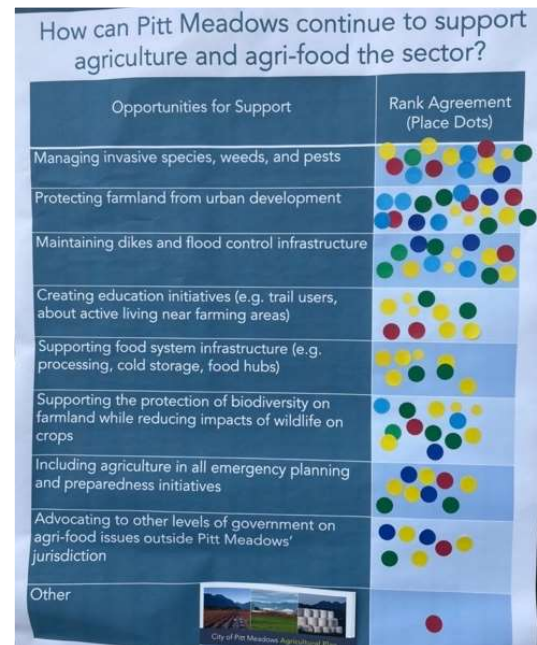


Figure 1 Interactive board at the Farmers' Market

At all events, a booth was set up with information boards about the project and several boards were interactive, where the public could place stickers if they agreed with statements presented (Figure 1). Feedback from the public was also obtained through discussion with the staff member/consultant and the public was encouraged to fill out the online survey.



Figure 2 Open house at Hopcott Farms store

The following feedback and key themes were received during the open houses:

- The top three agriculture and agri-food sector strengths in the community are:
 1. Support for local food
 2. Good soil and growing conditions
 3. Historic farm knowledge and multi-generational farm families

- The top three challenges facing Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector are:
 1. Urban growth pressures
 2. Climate change and natural hazards
 3. Labour and farm worker housing
- Additional challenges identified included:
 - High land values
 - Conflicts between agriculture and surrounding non-farm uses
 - Increasing costs of inputs
 - Fuel and transportation
 - Bureaucracy / regulations

The public ranked the opportunities for Pitt Meadows to continue supporting the agriculture and agri-food sector, as follows:

1. Protecting farmland from urban development
2. Maintaining dikes and flood control infrastructure
3. Managing invasive species, weeds, and pests
4. Supporting the protection of biodiversity on farmland while reducing impacts of wildlife on crops
5. Creating education initiatives (e.g., trail users, about living or recreating near active farmland)
6. Including agriculture in all emergency planning and preparedness initiatives
7. Supporting food system infrastructure (e.g., processing, cold storage, food hubs)
8. Advocating to other levels of government on agri-food issues outside of Pitt Meadows' jurisdiction



Figure 3 Booth set-up at Pitt Meadows Day

3.4 Surveys

3.4.1 Agriculture and Agri-food Survey Results

A survey was developed to target those involved in the local agriculture and agri-food sector, such as farmers, food processors, retailers, and organizations. The objective of the survey was to obtain feedback on which issues are relevant and/or emerging. The survey questions were framed under the context of actions which are within the City’s jurisdiction. The survey was distributed online through the “Have Your Say” platform and was promoted through a mailout of postcards to producers. Links to the survey were also disseminated through local social media, websites, and newspapers. The survey was open from May 29 to June 29, 2023.

Characteristics of the Respondents

The agriculture and agri-food survey received 48 responses, with approximately 88% being owners or workers on a farm (Figure 4). Others were involved with agri-food related organizations or were leasing land to farmers. The majority of respondents have been involved in the agriculture and agri-foods sector for over 20 years (Figure 5).

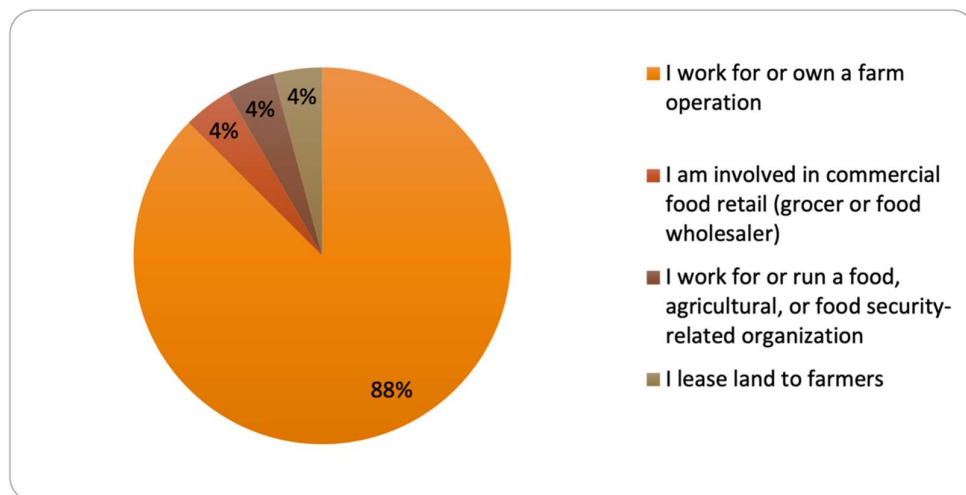


Figure 4 Respondents' involvement in Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector

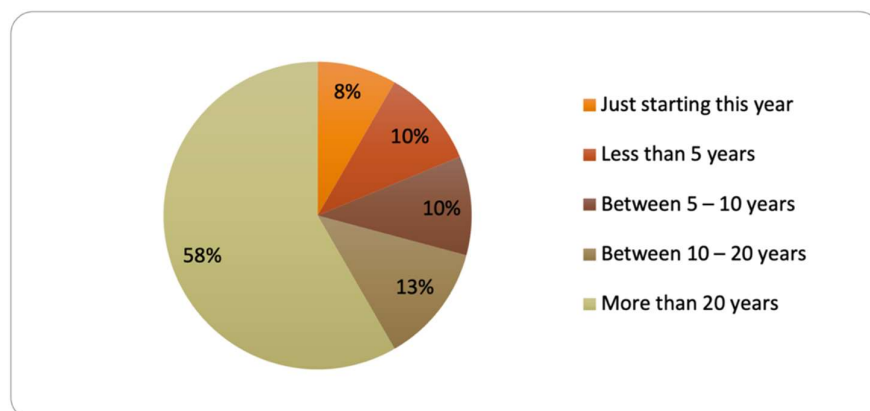


Figure 5 Length of time respondents have been involved in Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector

Producers who responded to the survey are involved in a wide diversity of agricultural activities, with hay and forage and blueberries being the most common (Figure 6). Fruit trees, micro greens and silage for dairy cows were some activities included in “other”.

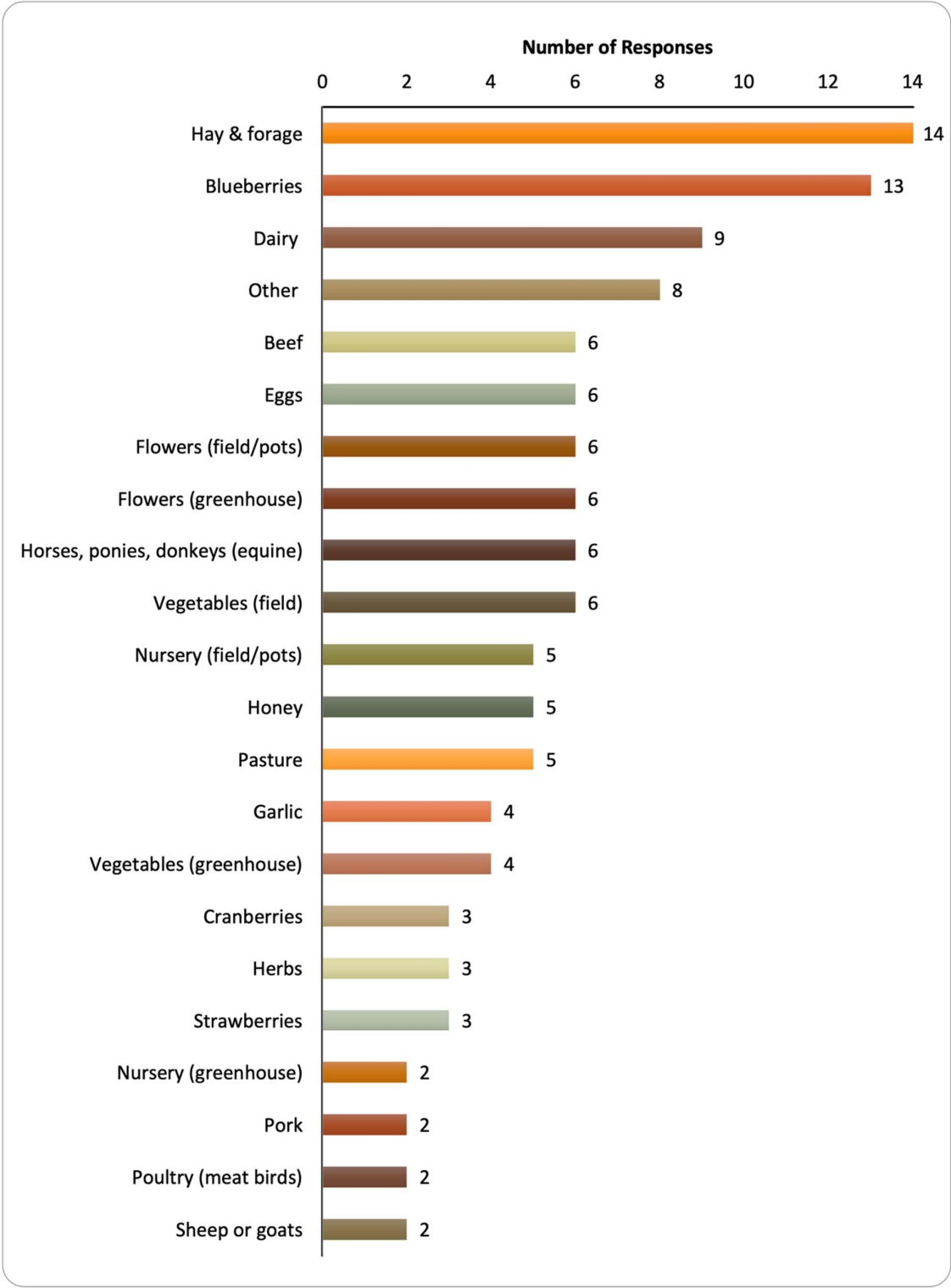


Figure 6 Agricultural activities respondents are involved in

Opportunities for sector growth and support

The top three opportunities for growing the agriculture and agri-food sector identified in Pitt Meadows were (Figure 7):

1. Greater awareness amongst the public about opportunities to support the local sector;
2. Support for business continuity; and
3. Reinforcing supply chains and ensure key inputs can be accessed.

Investing in local food processing, and exploring agri-tech opportunities were also of interest. Those who responded “other” include opportunities such as: educating the public about labour/careers in agriculture, ensuring farmland is in production, and enabling on-farm housing to facilitate farm succession.

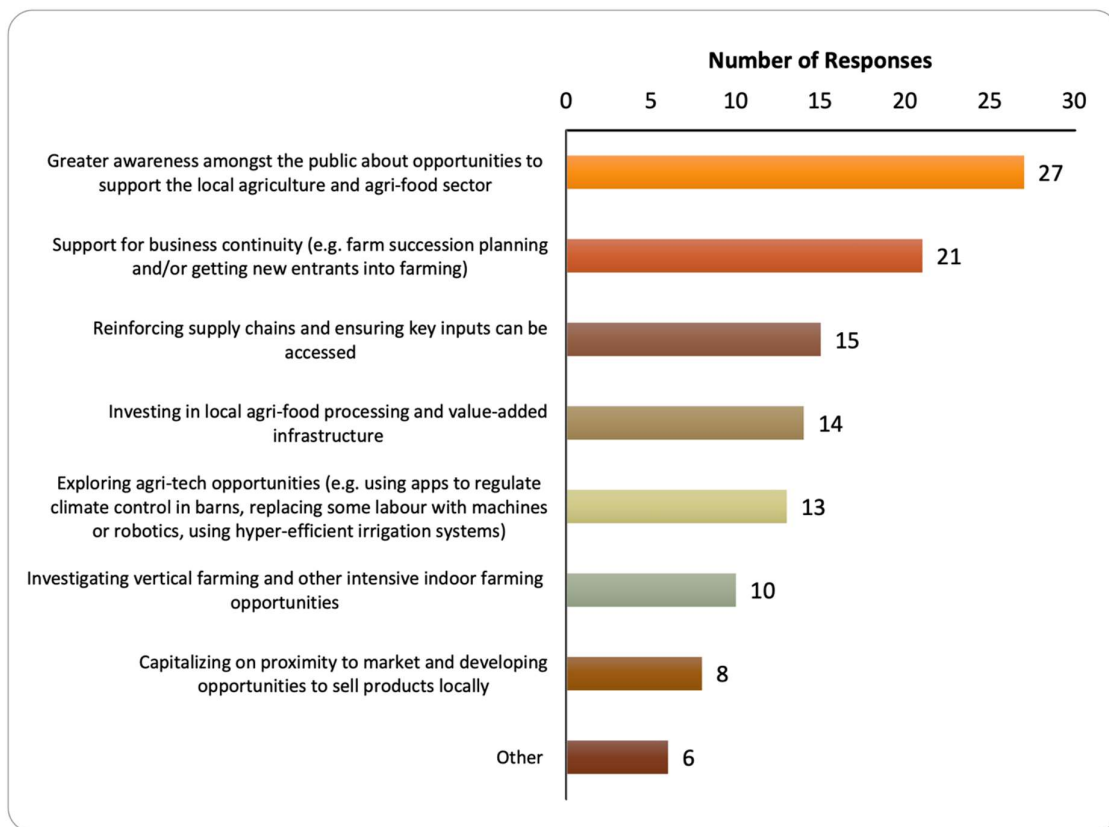


Figure 7 Opportunities for growing the agriculture and agri-food sector in Pitt Meadows

The three most important activities identified for the City of Pitt Meadows to support the agriculture and agri-food sector are (Figure 8):

1. Maintaining dikes and flood control infrastructure, facilitating the use of ditch water for irrigation;
2. Implementing policies and bylaws to protect farmland for farming (e.g., restricting size of homes on ALR lands, reducing truck storage); and
3. Providing more information about living near active farming areas (e.g., minimizing conflicts between recreational/trail users and farming areas).

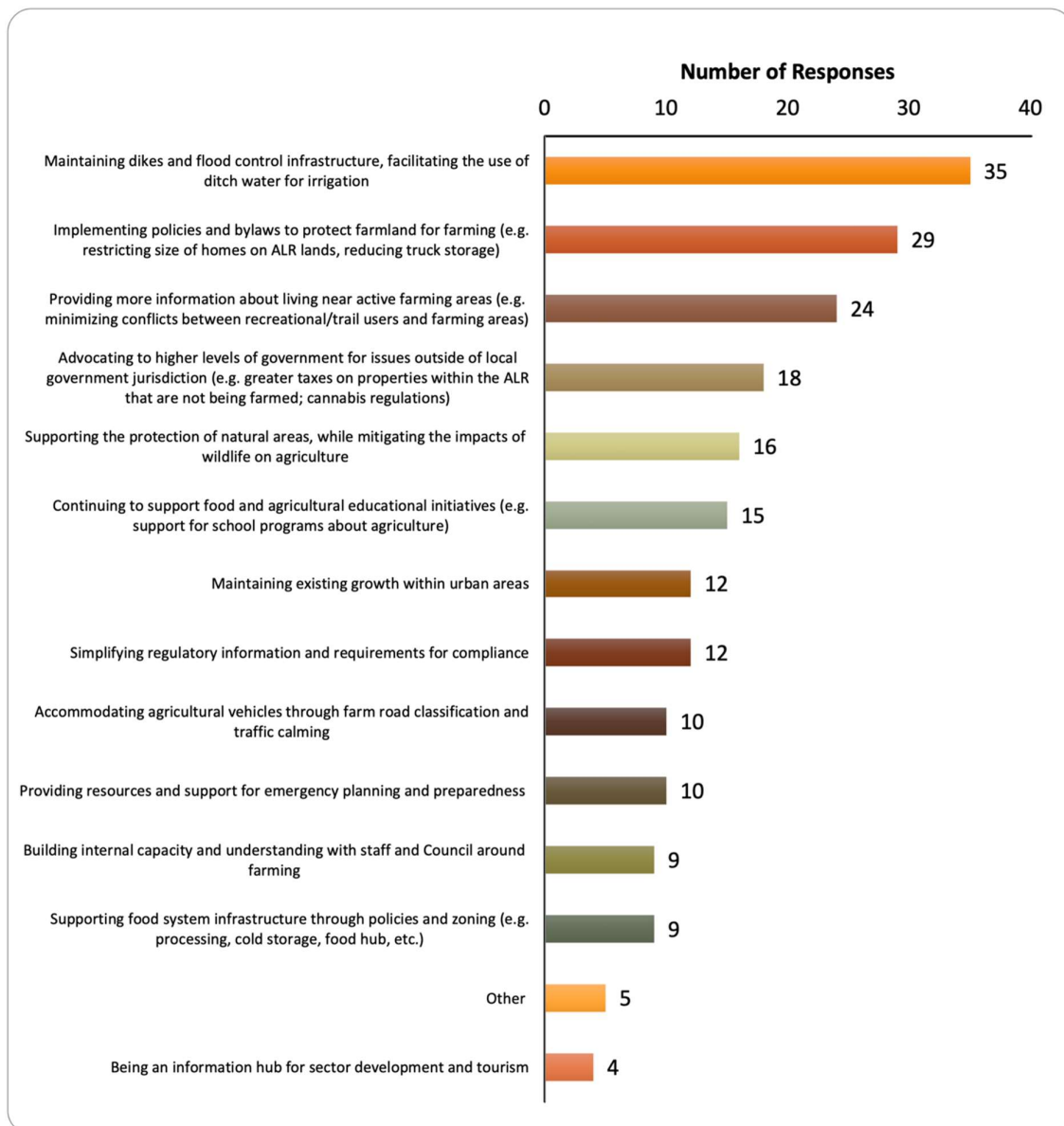


Figure 8 Ways in which the City of Pitt Meadows can continue to be a supportive agriculture and agri-food sector partner

The top three responses for how the public can support the sector were:

1. Buying food directly from farmers;
2. Respecting agricultural vehicles on the roadways; and
3. Respecting farms while and while using trails adjacent to farmland.

Support for agricultural stewardship

Over half (52%) of agricultural survey respondents indicated that they would support the collection of an annual fee from residential properties to develop a fund to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance on farmland (Figure 9). Approximately 32% would not support a fee. Of the 16% who responded “other” some indicated that ecosystem restoration should not be at the expense of producing food, and others responded that they would need more information on how the money would be spent, to ensure it was spent effectively.

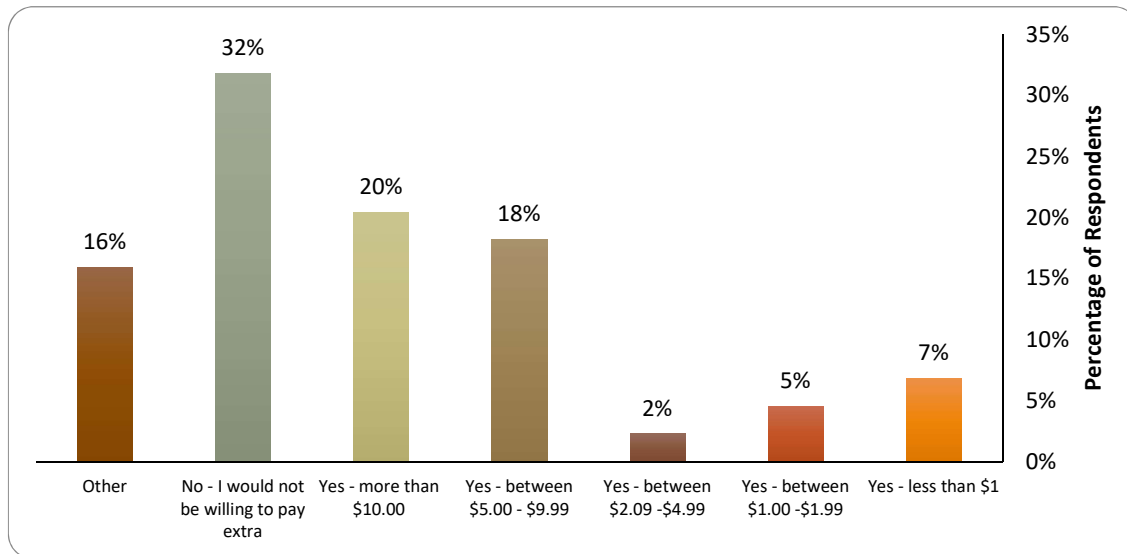


Figure 9 Agriculture and Agri-Food Respondents' support for collecting a fee from residential properties to develop a fund to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance on farmland

Important topics for a successful Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector

An open-ended question was asked of the respondents about what the most important topics are related to Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector. The following topics were mentioned most often from the 34 responses received for this question:

1. **Protection and preservation of farmland:** Many comments expressed concerns about preserving farmland and preventing urban encroachment or industrial/commercial development on agricultural land. There is a desire to maintain the agricultural nature of the community and ensure that the land is used for farming and food production.
2. **Regulatory challenges:** Concerns were raised about the challenges faced by local farmers, including increasing government regulations, bylaws, and permitting. There is a call for less bureaucracy and more support for farmers, particularly in terms of succession planning and ensuring the viability and profitability of farming for future generations.
3. **Traffic and infrastructure:** Some comments mentioned the need for improved infrastructure, such as control of ditch levels for drainage and irrigation, as well as addressing traffic issues and ensuring the safety of farm vehicles on the roads.

4. **Local food production and food security:** Several comments emphasized the importance of locally sustainable food production and the need to support local farmers to ensure local food security. There is a desire for accessible markets, such as farmers' markets and local grocery stores that sell local products.
5. **Local economy and job creation:** The creation of local jobs and supporting the local economy through initiatives like farm-to-table programs and encouraging the growth of local businesses are mentioned as important issues.
6. **Environmental conservation and biodiversity:** Preservation of biodiversity and the natural environment is mentioned, highlighting the importance of protecting the land, wetlands, and maintaining a healthy living environment for workers.

Future of Pitt Meadows' agriculture and agri-food sector

There were 34 answers to the question "In your ideal world, what does agriculture in Pitt Meadows look like in 10 years – what might it add to the richness and resilience of the community?" The ideas brought forth most often included:

1. Protecting and preserving farmland;
2. Economic viability and support for farmers;
3. Local food production, accessibility and food security;
4. Improved transportation and infrastructure;
5. Environmental sustainability; and
6. Community engagement and awareness of the sector.

Other Comments

Other comments received from the agriculture and agri-food survey included the following:

Road Safety and Infrastructure

- Install more signs to raise awareness and promote respectful behavior towards farm vehicles on the road.
- Review road safety measures for farm vehicles, particularly in areas experiencing increased commuter and truck traffic.
- Support improvements to flood gates and pump stations to manage water levels in ditches during droughts and heavy rainfall.

ALR and Farmland Protection

- Maintain the integrity of the ALR and oppose the development of housing and commercial properties on fertile land.
- Advocate for higher farm tax thresholds and stricter enforcement of ALR rules.
- Oppose the removal of land from the ALR and the construction of large houses on farmland.
- Address the need for easier housing options for farm families.

Use of Farmland

- Concerns about the negative impact of the cannabis industry on farmland and the need to prevent non-agricultural operations on prime agricultural land.

- Encourage estate properties on ALR land to be used for farming purposes (e.g. can lease out land to farmers) and discourage the construction of large homes or storage of recreational vehicles.
- Seek community input and address concerns regarding unused farmland, waste and plastic container cleanup, and the protection of land for farming.
- Prioritize food production.
- Recognize the potential opportunities for crop variety and the importance of the horticulture industry.
- Support the development of financial incentives and options to encourage the use of unused farmland.

3.4.2 Community Survey Results

A survey was developed for the public to gauge interest and levels of support for local agriculture, identify areas of urban/rural tension, and canvas questions regarding community food security. The survey was distributed online through the “Have Your Say” platform and was promoted through local social media, websites and newspapers. The survey was open from May 29 to June 29, 2023.

The community survey received 75 responses. Approximately 60% of the respondents were female and around half (48%) were between the ages of 30-50.

Attitudes around and engagement with the local food system

Community respondents indicated that they buy local products at the farmers market, grocery stores, and directly from producers. It is common for people to cook and garden (Figure 10). Over 60% of respondents indicated that they purchase local food often, or on a weekly basis (Figure 11).

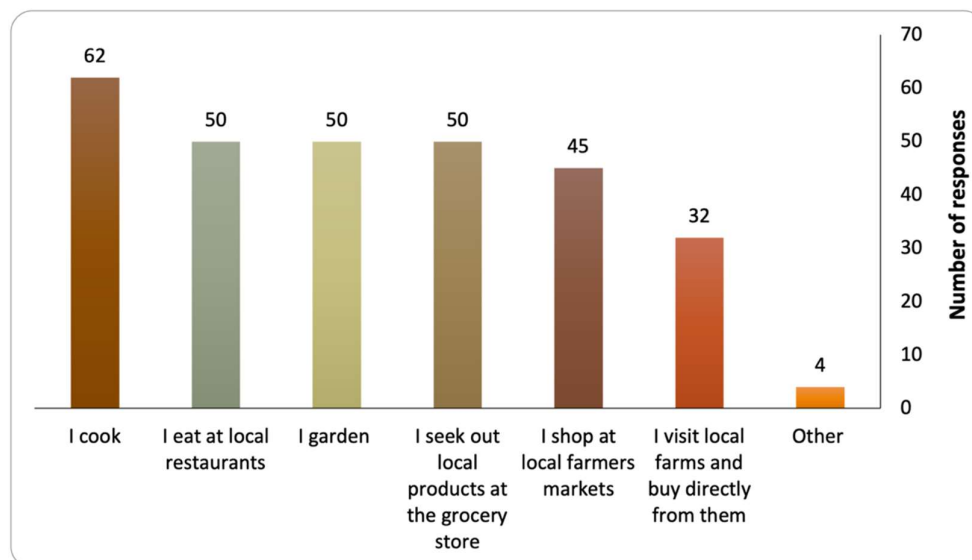


Figure 10 Relationship to the food system

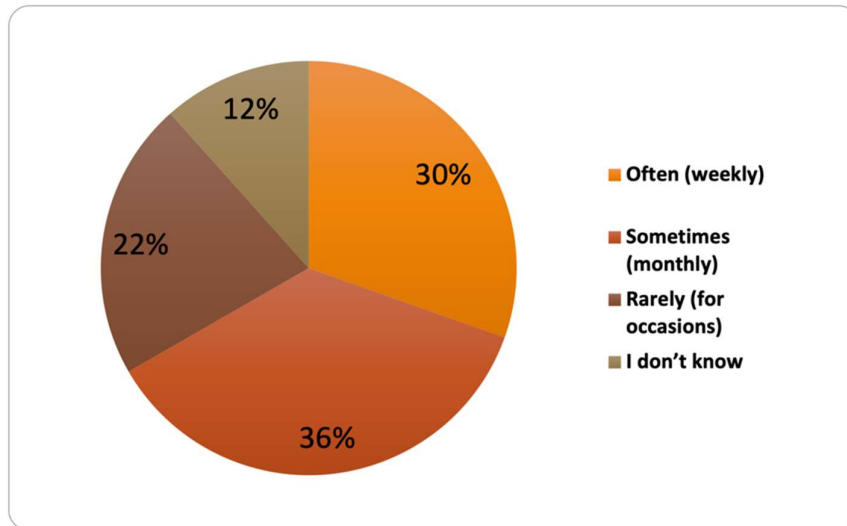


Figure 11 Frequency of purchasing local foods

Respondents indicated that they would be encouraged to purchase local more often if local foods were more convenient to purchase, more affordable and if there were more processed local foods available (Figure 12). The public would find the following information useful in encouraging more local food purchases:

1. Resources about finding local foods (e.g., maps);
2. Information about the farms and farmers producing foods; and
3. Information about the health and environmental benefits of local food products.

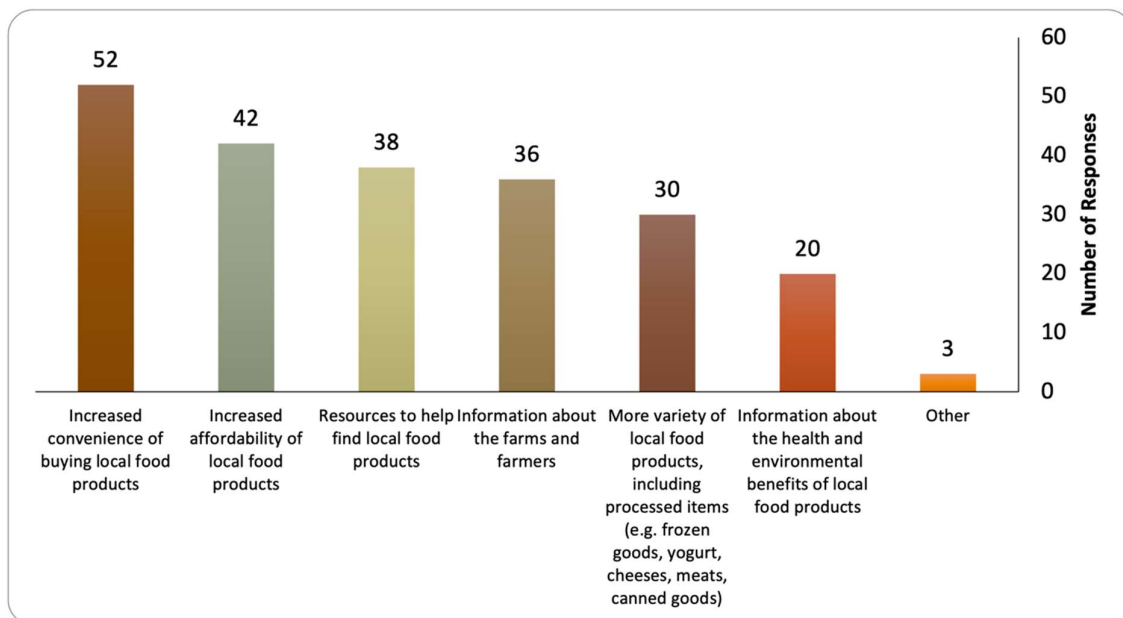


Figure 12 Actions for encouraging more local food purchases

Benefits and drawbacks of living near active farms

Respondents see value in living near active farms. Top benefits respondents see from active farming in Pitt Meadows include access to fresh produce, agriculture’s contribution to the local economy, the connection to nature and views, and community food security (Figure 13). Some of those who responded “other” indicated that farming areas have lower populations and there is less crime. In addition, a high number of survey respondents (88%) say they use the recreational dikes located adjacent to agricultural areas for activities such as biking, walking, or running (Figure 14).

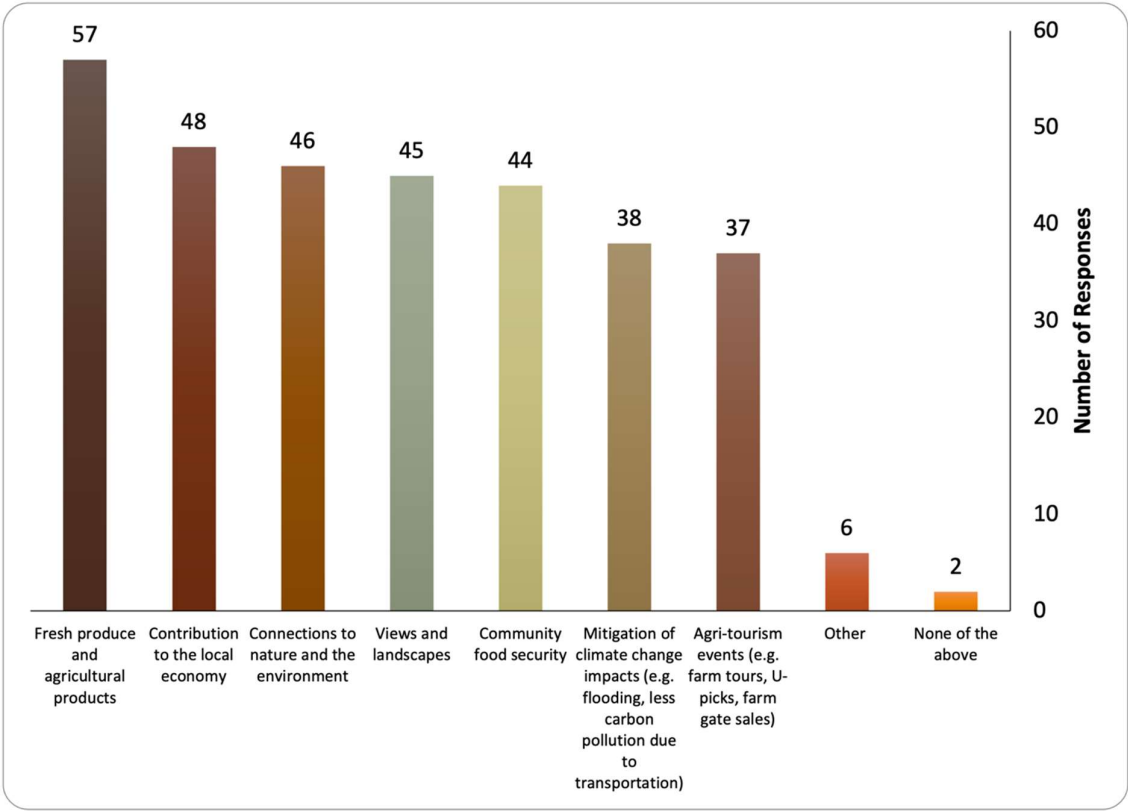


Figure 13 Benefits of living near active farms

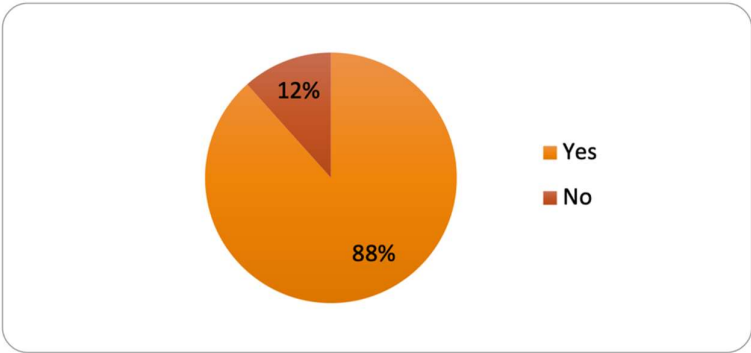


Figure 14 Percentage of respondents who use dikes adjacent to agricultural lands for recreation

Pitt Meadows’ residents are interested in engaging with the agriculture and agri-food sector in a variety of ways (Figure 15). The top activities are:

- 1. Purchasing foods directly from the farm or though u-pick;
- 2. Visiting a local winery, brewery, cidery or other farm-based drinking establishment; and
- 3. Attending farm tours.

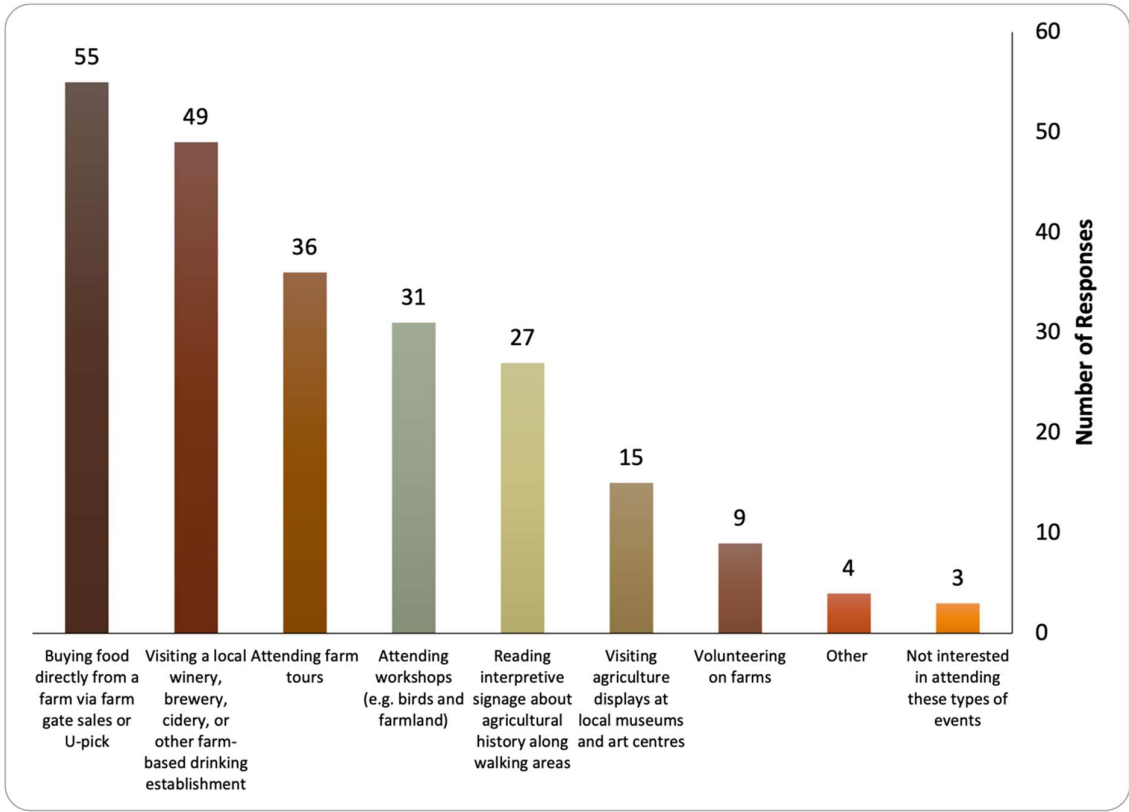


Figure 15 Types of agricultural activities that are of interest to respondents

Over 80% of respondents experience no negative impacts of living near farmland. The other 20% indicated they experience some negative impacts including: spraying of crops, odour, noise, increase in industrial use of the landscape, and farm vehicles on the road.

Support for agricultural stewardship

The majority of respondents (71%) would be willing to pay a fee from residential properties to develop a fund to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance on farmland (Figure 16). Nearly half (48%) would be willing to pay over \$5.00/year towards this fund. This indicates residents understand the agricultural land is currently and can be stewarded to protect habitat and support ecosystem services, and that these benefits contribute to their quality of life (Figure 13). Those who responded “other” indicated that they would need more information on how the money would be spent, to ensure it was spent effectively, and to ensure the primary use of farmland is for food production.

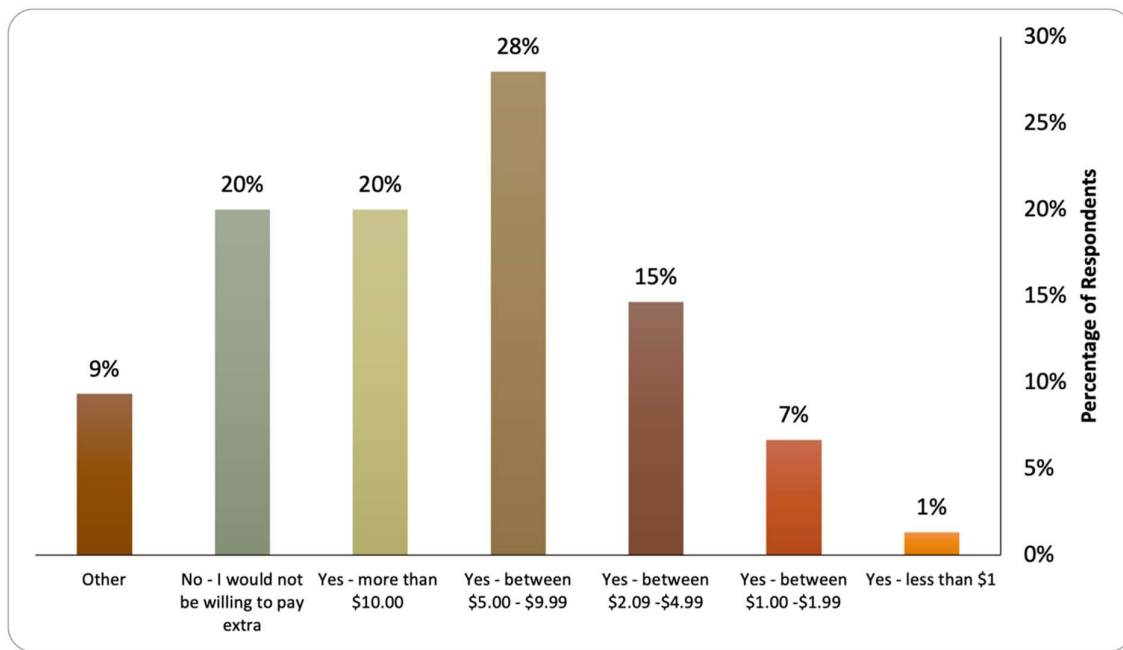


Figure 16 Community Member Respondents' support for collecting a fee from residential properties to develop a fund to support ecosystem restoration and maintenance on farmland

Attitudes towards the City of Pitt Meadows as a sector partner

Respondents support a range of activities for the City of Pitt Meadows to continue being a partner in the agriculture and agri-food sector (Figure 17). The three most important activities identified were:

1. Implementing policies and bylaws to protect farmland for farming (e.g., restricting size of homes on ALR lands, reducing truck storage);
2. Maintaining dikes and flood control infrastructure, facilitating the use of ditch water for irrigation; and
3. Supporting the protection of natural areas, while mitigating the impacts of wildlife on agriculture.

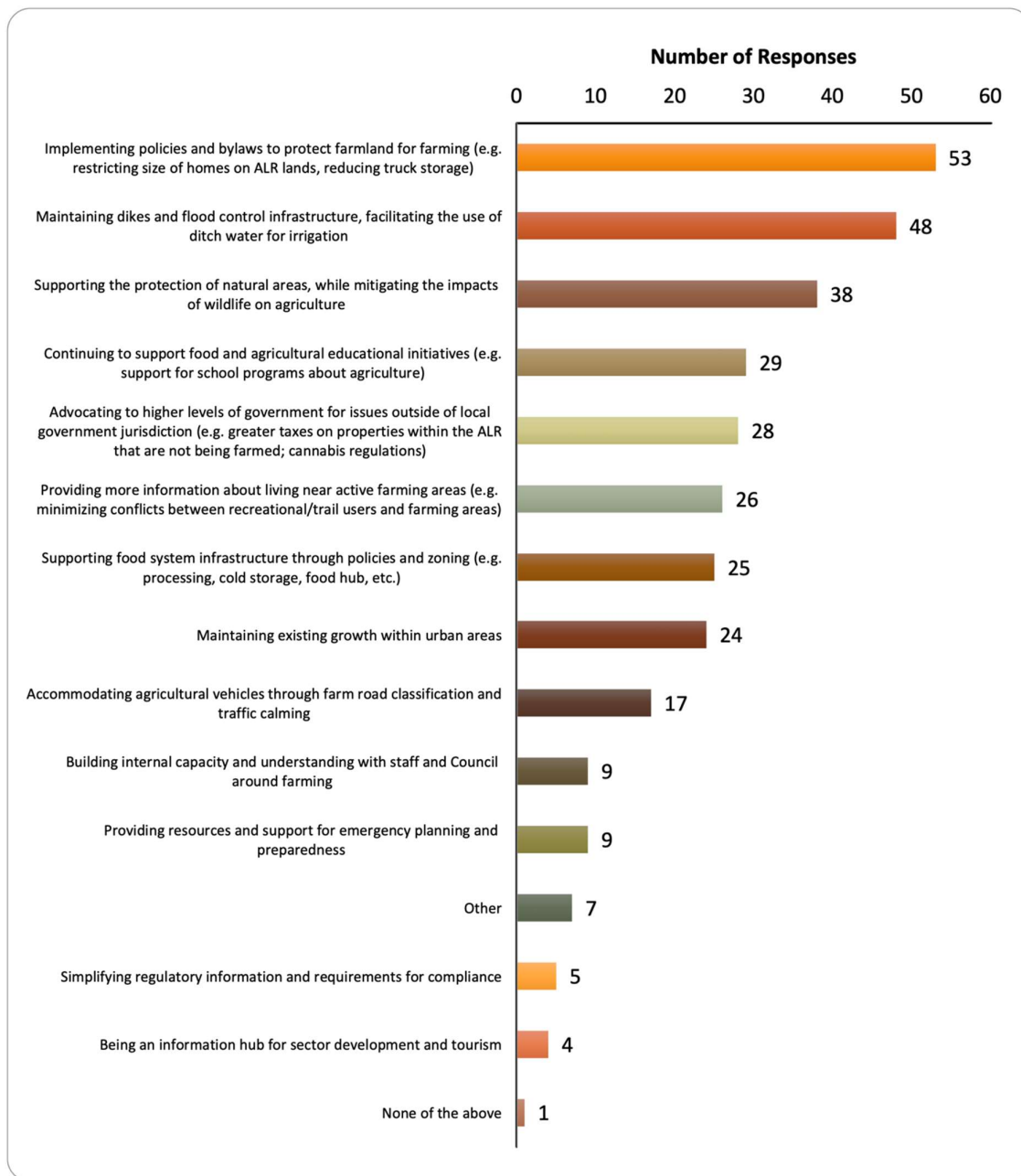


Figure 17 Ways in which the City of Pitt Meadows can continue to be a partner in the agriculture and agri-food sector

Future of Pitt Meadows agriculture in 10 years

There were 53 answers to the question “In your ideal world, what does agriculture in Pitt Meadows look like in 10 years – what might it add to the richness and resilience of the community?” More than half of the respondents (59%) want to ensure that farmland is protected (i.e., not converted to industrial or residential uses) and used to its full potential for food production. Over a third of respondents (35%) want to see an increase in the availability and diversity of local food in 10 years, with local food being accessible at the farm gate, and clearly identified in grocery stores. Other comments included the continued use of recreation on the dikes and ensuring agricultural practices steward the environment and contribute to climate change mitigate.

4.0 Next Steps – Round 2 Engagement

The results of the Round 1 of engagement, along with the background research and policy analysis, will inform the development of the draft Agricultural Plan Update document. The draft update will be completed by the end of the summer, after which Round 2 of engagement will begin. Table 4 outlines the engagement activities that will occur during the Round 2 of engagement from September to December 2023.

Table 4 Activities anticipated for Round 2 of engagement

Round 2 Engagement	Timeline
1. Presentation of Draft Plan to AAC and External Review	Late Sept- Oct 2023
2. Online Feedback and Open House	October 2023
3. Draft Plan Presentation to Staff and Council	Late October – November 2023
4. Creation of Agricultural Plan Infographic	Early December 2023
5. Presentation of Final Agricultural Plan Update	Early December 2023

4.1 Presentation of Draft Plan to AAC and External Review

The draft Agricultural Plan will be presented to the AAC for comment at a meeting in the fall of 2023. At this point in the project timeline, the consultants recommend also submitting the draft Plan to the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC), Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF), and other organizations for external review.

4.2 Online Feedback and Open Houses

Input from the local farming community, rights-holders, and general public about the draft Agriculture Plan Update will be gathered through an online feedback process. The draft Plan may be posted through “Have Your Say” with an opportunity for the public to provide feedback through submission of an online comment form. This secondary forum for feedback will ensure that as many voices are heard, regardless of their ability to attend in-person events.

The open house will be geared towards presenting the draft Agricultural Plan Update to interested and affected individuals and gather feedback to be incorporated into a final draft of the Plan.

4.3 Presentation to Staff and Council

The consultants will present the draft Agricultural Plan Update to staff. Additionally, the consultants will support Pitt Meadows staff in preparing to present the draft Plan to Council. The feedback from these presentations will guide the development of the final draft of the Agricultural Plan Update.