

Strategy	Actions Taken	AAC Input/Work Plan Items	Implementation Status
<p>1.1 Advocate to other levels of government for policies and regulations that support and stimulate productive stewardship of the agricultural land base.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate to BC Assessment for opportunities to better match tax rates with farmland production activities (e.g., higher BC Farm Tax Status minimum thresholds; changes to the application of the school tax on inactive farmland; a vacant crop tax), to help prevent land speculation.• Advocate to the ALC and AF for increased provincial resources to support enforcement of provincial regulations in the ALR, including the administration of the ALC Act.• Advocate to Federal and Provincial agencies to streamline processing requirements to obtain temporary farm workers and to construct temporary farmworker housing.• Advocate to Federal and Provincial agencies that any loss of farmland for infrastructure projects (e.g., rail, roads, other) must provide benefits to the wider agricultural community.	<p>The City submitted three resolutions to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) that call upon the Government of British Columbia to reform the farm property tax system in 2024. All three resolutions were also endorsed by the Lower Mainland Local Government Association in May 2024.</p> <p>The City submitted a resolution to the UBCM for increased provincial funding for agriculture.</p> <p>The City convened an inter-municipal Agricultural Round Table on Nov.27, 2024, to discuss common challenges and opportunities between Lower Mainland municipalities with large amounts of agricultural land.</p>	<p>The AAC reviewed and provided feedback on the 2024 UBCM resolutions.</p> <p>The AAC reviewed and provided feedback on the 2025 UBCM resolution.</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>2.1 Provide safe and reliable drainage infrastructure for farming. This includes advocacy to provincial and federal levels of government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate to Provincial and Federal government agencies to provide the City and the agricultural community with resources to improve drainage infrastructure, ditch cross sections, maintenance, and upgrades.	<p>The City, in partnership with a local farm, is piloting the use of benthic barrier in the drainage network to control parrot's feather (an invasive aquatic plant).</p> <p>Invasive Species Management Plan underway in 2025.</p> <p>Pump station upgrades in progress.</p>	<p>Member of the AAC volunteered private property location to trial benthic barrier treatment.</p> <p>AAC to review draft plan when available. (October/November 2025)</p> <p>AAC to receive update on pump station upgrades. (3Q2025)</p>	<p>In progress</p>

<p>2.2 Develop an agricultural water study to assess the capacity of the City’s drainage system to support irrigation water for agricultural activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Advocate to Provincial and Federal government agencies for opportunities for the City to be able to undertake measures to support irrigation for farmers. For example: managing water levels within the ditch system without becoming an irrigation district.• Advocate to the WLRS regarding the need to simplify, streamline, and hasten the water licensing program for agricultural users, as well as consider the feasibility of an Agricultural Water Reserve.• Seek clarity from the Province regarding how the various provincial water use regulations interact with one another and can be reasonably adhered to.• Conduct a city-wide water study that measures and estimates irrigation and other water needs for agriculture in a detailed and seasonal manner, now and into the future, under the lens of climate change and within the context of the current ditch drainage system. This should include an Agricultural Water Demand Model analysis to examine the current and future water needs of agricultural producers and processors, as well as specific consideration of the benefits, trade-offs and impacts of the City potentially becoming an irrigation district. This data analysis could be achieved in tandem with the Agricultural Water Reserve study.	<p>With the support of a \$100,000 grant from the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC, the City is undertaking a comprehensive study to assess the irrigation needs of the local agriculture sector and identify feasible irrigation sources.</p> <p>City to provide update to AAC on ditching program (April 2025).</p>	<p>Members of the AAC were requested to suggest potential test well-drilling locations to assess groundwater.</p> <p>AAC to review updated ditching program. (April 2025) AAC to receive update on drainage/irrigation study. (May 2025)</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>3.1 Promote agri-tourism and marketing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek alignment and collaboration with the Maple Ridge agricultural community to complete a review of the True North Fraser brand and determine opportunities to revive this collaborative marketing initiative.• Review the suitability of instigating initiatives that consider the amount and type of agri-tourism activities that are of interest to Pitt Meadows producers and aligned with the Economic Development Strategy. Opportunities may include: creating an online interactive food map, a self-guided farm circle tour, U-Picks, and others.• Ensure that at least one member of the AAC is cross-appointed to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.	<p>The City is exploring potential partnership opportunities to promote agri-tourism activities; have partnered with other municipalities for Destination BC funding to become a member of the Route 7 Co-op.</p> <p>Exploring the idea of a Blueberry Festival with the EDAC.</p>	<p>Met with member of the AAC's marketing representative to discuss potential marketing strategies.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

<p>3.2 Explore opportunities for increasing agricultural processing within the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review other municipal Food Hub Feasibility Assessments and consider developing one for Pitt Meadows, and/or lending support for a North Fraser Food Hub initiative to move forward.• Meet with berry producers to discuss opportunities. This could involve:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Convening members of the berry sector to develop a road map towards long-term viability of berry production in Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge with the objective of identifying specific gaps in processing and storage resources.-Exploring the needs versus existing capacity for berry processing and storage infrastructure in the community, considering international and domestic market opportunities for the fresh and frozen berries.-Conducting a site suitability analysis to encourage new facilities and infrastructure for food processing, distribution and storage to be developed within Pitt Meadows, with priority to business parks and mixed-employment areas.-Conducting a co-operative governance feasibility assessment for the Pitt Meadows and Maple Ridge berry sector. The assessment would provide recommendations on the benefits and/or drawbacks of instigating a co-operative model for investing in processing, storage, and marketing.	<p>The City requested Darren Stott of Greenchain Consulting to provide presentation on increasing processing for smaller scale food producers on October 10, 2024.</p> <p>City attended RidgeMeadows Food Security Forum on Nov.14, 2024; AAC was invited to attend as well.</p>	<p>AAC received presentation and reviewed historical food hub reports for Pitt Meadows (sent out 2013 feasibility reports to AAC on Oct.17, 2024).</p>	<p>In progress</p>
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<p>4.1 Engage with producers to create a shared understanding of how farms can become more resilient to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that the agriculture and agri-food sector is included during the development of local climate change planning initiatives and strategies. This could include identifying climate change hazards, risks, impacts, mitigation, and adaptation measures specific to the agriculture and agri-food sectors and devoting a specific section to agriculture within a future Climate Action Plan.• Support the adoption of regenerative agricultural practices and agritech (the use of technology to optimize production, profitability, or environmental sustainability) to sequester carbon and offset emissions (may include improving soil health by cover cropping, low-impact harvesting, composting, anaerobic digestion, heat capture, methane capture, etc.).• Provide educational resources on funding available for increasing on-farm water storage capacity to help manage drought seasons and potential changes in crops that are more resilient to climate change.• Encourage fuel switching and electrification to reduce emissions from the agricultural sector (could be promoted through grant-funded demonstration projects).• Work with industry and farmers to develop practices and techniques to help the agricultural sector be a part of the climate change solution, while improving productivity for the long-term.	<p>The City has promoted provincial workshops related to drought response and water licensing. The City is currently developing a Climate Action Strategy (CAS).</p> <p>City had BCWLRS attend AAC meeting in February 2024 to review water licencing process.</p>	<p>AAC to review draft CAS when it's available. (April/May 2025)</p> <p>Potential for pilot project?</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>4.2 Ensure agriculture is considered in emergency preparedness and planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work with the farming community to identify emergency preparedness opportunities in the agricultural areas. This could include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Reviewing and collaborating with the AAC to include a producer perspective when updating the local emergency response plans.-Reviewing and updating the emergency plan for livestock in Pitt Meadows, including registration with the BC Premises ID program and consideration of local livestock producer needs and trailer capacity in the event of an evacuation.-Promoting the use of “buddy farm” systems particularly for larger farms such as dairy operations, so that producers are paired up to assist one another during emergencies.-Explore training opportunities for emergency response.-Discussing how to measure and account for the needs of seasonal farmworkers and their safety during an emergency.	<p>City requested Ministry of Agriculture Emergency Management Response to present to the AAC on June 27, 2024. Also had presentation from City Emergency Program Manager on the City's Emergency Operation Centre. Forwarded Livestock Evacuation Plan to Emergency Program Manager for review.</p> <p>City staff and member of AAC and local resident attended BCAC Agriculture Coordinator training session on October 21, 2024.</p>	<p>Future Agriculture Coordinator training to be offered in the fall of 2025.</p> <p>Emergency Program Manager to meet up with AAC members for input on evacuation plan.</p>	<p>In progress</p>

<p>4.3 Explore opportunities to encourage or incentivize the restoration and/or maintenance of ecological services on farmland to mitigate climate change impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet with Metro Vancouver staff to discuss a possible regional approach to PES, using financial incentives for the protection, improvement, and/or enhancement of ecological services on farmland (such as the initiation of a conservation fund or environmental levy).• Support opportunities for addressing waterfowl, beavers and other wildlife impacts on crop yields, such as communication and planning efforts between producers and local groups such as Delta Farmland and Wildlife Trust (DFWT), Birds Canada, Ducks Unlimited, and the Federal Environment and Climate Change Canada’s Canadian Wildlife Service. As a first step, invite DFWT to provide resources to the agricultural community for managing wildlife conflicts on farmland.	<p>The City is engaging in region-wide discussions and planning initiatives about opportunities to maintain and restore ecological services on farmland.</p> <p>Delta Farmland & Wildlife Trust presented to the AAC on September 2023, on a number of stewardship programs throughout the region. Metro Vancouver is also exploring a program for payment for ecosystem services provided on agricultural lands.</p>	<p>AAC to review Metro Van program when it becomes available.</p> <p>Potential for pilot project (with properties identified through survey)?</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>1.2 Update the OCP and Zoning Bylaw to support and strengthen agriculture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include, highlight, and strengthen policy statements and bylaws to discourage non-farm uses in the ALR particularly around issues such as non-agricultural vehicle parking and soil deposit and removal.• Combine multiple agricultural zones for ease of use and clarity around different uses, minimum parcel sizes, and densities.• Prepare Zoning Bylaw updates for Council to consider for farm home plate maximums that are aligned with (or more restrictive than) AF home plate guidelines, including maximum lot line setbacks for residential uses in the ALR.• Ensure consistency in terminology across the Zoning Bylaw, OCP, and other local government planning documents for definitions that are also used in provincial policies and regulations. (Examples include: agriculture, farm operation, intensive farming, watercourse, agri-tech, vertical farming, and processing zones.)• Review best practices on agricultural buildings as outlined by the ALC and other municipalities, such as the City of Richmond, and consider updating Pitt Meadows policies to align with these best practices.	<p>City staff presented proposed revisions to the Zoning Bylaw to simplify regulations and make them consistent with ALC regulations to the AAC in February 2025.</p>	<p>AAC received information and provided input; to review information further as it becomes available.</p> <p>(September/October 2025)</p>	<p>In progress</p>

<p>3.3 Support farm operators and labourers in mental health and well-being, networking, and succession planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide resources for mental health support for farmers on the City website.• Work with the agricultural sector to consider reviving the Pitt Meadows Farmers Institute, possibly in conjunction with the Maple Ridge agricultural community. The structure of this group would allow for producers to connect to one another as through a supportive community group, and the group could play an advocacy role to various levels of government.• Work with organizations, such as the Young Agrarians, to facilitate land-linking and succession planning for those who have farmland but are not farming, or those that are planning to wind down their farming career, with those who are wanting to start farming. This may include advocating to the federal government for changes to the capital gains tax policy regarding flexibility in the sale of farm assets to extended family members.	<p>The Ridge-Meadows Farmers Institute has recently been re-initiated, which will help farmers to connect with one another, and could support advocacy to various levels of government.</p> <p>Applied for funding for community workshop through the DoMore Ag Foundation in 2024, but not successful.</p> <p>Attended virtual session and offered location for viewing on Jun 26-27th, 2024 (Talk Ask Listen webinar for Small Farms) to the AAC and other local municipalities.</p> <p>Applied for funding for community workshop through the DoMore Ag Foundation for 2025. Awaiting approval.</p>	<p>AAC and Ridge-Meadows Farmers Instituture cross-over potential for funding requests/advocacy efforts.</p> <p>AAC/Farmers Institute to receive presentation on succession planning? (September/October/November 2025)</p> <p>AAC/Farmers Institute to receive information on mental health? (November 2025)</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>4.4 Control invasive species and noxious plants and pests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop an Invasive Species Management Plan, which will involve:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Collaborating with ᑭᓴᓐᓴᓐ (Katzie) First Nation to explore potential areas and species to prioritize.-Providing resources to rural residents about managing and disposing of invasive species, including the provincially-mandated removal of noxious weeds.-Developing and/or distributing educational materials regarding ditch maintenance, shading opportunities, and other best practices.• Provide invasive/noxious species etiquette signage along the trails in agricultural areas.• Actively manage and remove invasive species on City-owned lands.• Provide resources to producers on disposing of invasive species on their farms.	<p>Invasive Species Management Plan is underway.</p> <p>Had CFIA come to the AAC on April 25, 2024, to present on the Japanese Beetle.</p>	<p>AAC to review draft plan when available. (September/October 2025)</p> <p>Reach out to green waste facilities for JB training?</p>	<p>In progress</p>

<p>5.1 Improve public understanding and knowledge of agriculture and food systems in Pitt Meadows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promote awareness and support for agriculture and local foods by: -Encouraging urban residents and businesses to understand and appreciate local agriculture. This could include signage and/or videos about littering regulations on trails adjacent to farmland; the need to keep dogs leashed to prevent harassment of livestock (or providing support to fencing off trails); the Right to Farm Act; and the need to reduce speeds along rural roads to respect farm equipment.-Developing signage to be placed along agricultural fields to identify crops being produced and along local trails and greenways in order to reduce conflicts between trail users and agricultural operations.• Explore product branding and identification for local products at retail outlets to inform consumers.• Provide informational resources to existing residents in the rural areas of Pitt Meadows to convey the value and importance of agriculture in their community and how to be a good neighbour to agricultural operations. This could include developing a map of local farm-gate sales, providing profiles of local farmers on the Pitt Meadows agriculture webpage through videos, and hosting farm tours for the public.• Explore incentives to encourage farmers to create aesthetically-pleasing operations. This could include enhancements or decorations to farm buildings, placement of heritage farming equipment, edge plantings, or artistic displays.	<p>Had presentation from FarmFolk CityFolk on opportunities for collaboration, on November 14, 2024.</p> <p>Media updates on agricultural items (ongoing).</p>	<p>AAC received presentation on sustainable food systems. Potential for collaboration?</p>	<p>In progress</p>
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<p>5.2 Support food system literacy throughout the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess food assets in the community with a view of improving the overall state of community food security levels and identifying recommendations for reducing household food insecurity.• Explore opportunities to develop relationships and learning opportunities among School District 42, post-secondary institutions, and the agricultural community. This could involve assisting schools with obtaining Farm-to-School BC and Agriculture in the Classroom grants through letters of recommendation, or an indication of matching or in-kind support. This could be done with a revived Pitt Meadows Farmers Institute and may include advocacy to expand on agricultural curriculum.• Identify potential sites for new/expanded community gardens for growing food within the urban environment.• Be receptive to any renewed community interests in keeping urban hens, while balancing the agricultural community’s concerns regarding their role in spreading Avian Flu. Monitor permitted uses in non-agricultural zones to allow “urban agriculture” as a permitted use in non-agriculture zones such as Rural Residential (RR). Use best practices from other jurisdictions to inform bylaw development on urban agriculture.• Integrate Pitt Meadows food and agriculture into existing community events (e.g., local catering, information booth, handouts, quick surveys, guest speakers) at events like Pitt Meadows Day, and add an agricultural lens to other holiday events.	<p>Working on educational signage along the dikes with Transport Canada.</p>	<p>AAC to provide content for signage. (April/May/June 2025)</p> <p>Invite Ag in the Classroom for presentation?</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>1.3 Maintain and update Development Permit Area 5 (Farmland Protection).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor the newly adopted Development Permit Area (DPA) #5 (for the Protection of Farming) to determine if entire properties abutting the ALR boundary should be designated as part of the DPA, rather than the current setback within them, in order to provide more solid protections for agriculture in the long-term.	<p>Monitoring to determine if entire properties abutting the ALR boundary should be designated as part of the DPA, rather than the current setback, in order to provide more protection in the long-term.</p>	<p>To be reviewed by the AAC once observations/data can be summarized.</p>	<p>Not started</p>

<p>2.3 Plan for future development and improvements of rural roads with consideration for needs of agricultural users and to reduce conflicts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Measure and monitor the effects of commuters and population growth on rural traffic congestion.• Advocate for traffic improvements and supporting projects that divert traffic away from rural areas.• Advocate to TransLink to update the Transport 2050 Plan to acknowledge and better manage the impacts of commuter/increased population traffic around agricultural lands.• Improve safety of rural roads by increasing signage to communicate safe shared road use, vehicle priority, speed limits (specifically on Old Dewdney Trunk Road) and parking restrictions.• Engage with the agricultural community to understand the needs of agricultural users in order to prioritize best management practices for rural roads.	<p>City has installed additional signage in rural areas for yielding to farm equipment. Reviewing Ag survey information for potential problem areas.</p> <p>City will be reviewing the Subdivision and Development Services Bylaw for road cross-sections (in 2025).</p> <p>City will be updating the Transportation Master Plan with associated road designations (in 2027).</p> <p>City will be evaluating future traffic calming of Old Dewdney Trunk Road once the North Lougheed connector is in place.</p>	<p>Updates to follow</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>In progress</p> <p>Not started</p> <p>Not started</p>
<p>3.4 Support local food procurement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and adopt a local food procurement policy for City of Pitt Meadows events and meetings.• Explore locations for a permanent year-round Farmers’ Market.	<p>City met with local producer on Feb.21, 2025 to review what regulations or issues need to be improved to help with local food distribution with retailers.</p>	<p>To be reviewed by the AAC for potential action items? Potential opportunity for education of consumers? Opportunities to improve BuyBC program or advocacy work? (March 2025)</p>	<p>In progress</p>
<p>4.5 Develop solutions for on-farm agricultural wastes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seek opportunities to dispose of agricultural waste products (organic and non-organic) within the municipality and/or in partnerships with nearby municipalities and Metro Vancouver. Examples could include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Exploring opportunities for a biofuel or waste-to-energy facility that provides a benefit to farmers by treating agricultural waste while providing heat and power to residents and businesses.-Exploring an agricultural plastics recycling/disposal pilot program with an organization such as Clean Farms.-Promoting on-farm composting of green waste using AF guidebooks.-Exploring the potential to have a mobile chipper that provides free or low-cost on farm wood waste management for farms (e.g., to dispose of waste materials from land clearing, crop pruning, or other wood waste).-Exploring ways to offer incentives to farmers dispose of plastics, hazardous materials, equipment (e.g., clean up days).• Ensure that the municipal landfill continues to accept ditch-cleaning materials (e.g.,sediment and green waste).	<p>Could use survey contact information for potential pilot project?</p>	<p>Development of potential pilot project? (June 2025?)</p>	<p>Not started</p>