



CITY OF ABBOTSFORD

# Agriculture Strategy

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Prepared by:  
Zbeetnoff Agro-Environmental Consulting  
Serecon Management Consultants Inc.

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The Consulting Team received critical input from the AAC and Technical Advisory Group (TAG) through the Strategy development process. The Team also advised the AAC on a regular basis regarding progress and developments in the Strategy.

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### Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC):

Jerry Alamwala – Berry  
 David Avery – Farming  
 Parm Bains – Farming  
 Ted De Jong – Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association (ASCA)  
 Brenda Falk – Nursery  
 Marcus Janzen – Farming (Chair)  
 Frank Keis – Dairy  
 Mayor George W. Peary – Council Alternate  
 Tony Pellett – Agricultural Land Commission  
 Wayne Reitsema – Dairy and Broiler  
 Mark Robbins – BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (BCMAL)  
 Kim Ross – Member-at-Large  
 Councillor John Smith – Council Representative (*2009 Councillor Moe Gill*)  
 Armand Vander-Meulen – Greenhouse Operator  
 Mike Welte – Chamber of Commerce (*2009 Doug Edgar, past AAC chair*)  
 Dan Wiebe – Poultry production, hatchery, feed mill, processing (Vice Chair)



**Technical Advisory Group:**

- Grant Acheson, General Manager of Infrastructure
- Allan Campeau, Planner
- Doug Edgar, past AAC chair
- Ron Hintsche, (former City Staff)
- Marcus Janzen, AAC Chair
- Katherine Jeffcoatt, Manager, Communications and Marketing
- Carl Johannsen, Director of Community Planning
- Don Luymes (former City staff)
- Jay Teichroeb, General Manager of Economic Development and Planning Services
- Margaret-Ann Thornton, Director of Planning

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## Acronyms Used in the Strategy and Appendices

- AAFC – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- ACF – Abbotsford Community Foundation
- ACOC – Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
- ALC – Agricultural Land Commission
- ASCA – Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association
- BCAA – BC Assessment Authority
- BCAC – BC Agriculture Council
- BCATA – BC Agri-Tourism Association
- BCMAL – BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- DFO – Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- DDI – Abbotsford Diking Drainage and Irrigation Committee
- FCC – Farm Credit Canada
- FVFDMA – Fraser Valley Farm Direct Marketing Association
- FVREB – Fraser Valley Real Estate Board
- FVRD – Fraser Valley Regional District
- IAFBC – Investment Agriculture Foundation, BC
- MCSCD – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- MOE – Ministry of Environment
- SD – School District
- SFCF – South Fraser Community Futures
- UBCM – Union of BC Municipalities
- UFV – University of the Fraser Valley
- WSBC – WorkSafeBC



## Executive Summary

Abbotsford is one of the most intensively and diversely farmed areas in Canada, supporting a wide range of crop and livestock enterprises. Agriculture permeates every aspect of the City ranging from its predominance as a land use, to sweeping income and employment benefits. Agriculture is the literal economic backbone of the City and the vital link between the social health of the community and the sustainability of the City.

It would be difficult to over-emphasize the economic impact of agriculture in Abbotsford. On an average per hectare basis, the total revenues from primary agriculture in the City (at \$20,400 per ha) are the highest in the Fraser Valley and about three times the level of the next highest per acre revenue region, the Niagara peninsula in Ontario. Agriculture-related economic activity in the City amounts to about \$1.8 billion annually or about 35% of the total gross domestic product generated in the City. Agriculture supports about 25% of the private sector jobs in Abbotsford. The farm gate receipts of the dairy, broiler, turkey, and egg sectors, alone, account for about 52% of the gross farm receipts generated in the municipality.

Agriculture operates with the expectation of prospering in Abbotsford, not just surviving. The industry has attracted bright and highly qualified operators because of the opportunities it provides. The human resources involved in agriculture are also mobile and could readily transfer out of the industry if prospects were to significantly decline. At the same time, the agricultural sector represents an outstanding vehicle by which the City may further its economic growth and development. Agriculture typically displays steady growth and remarkable stability in good times and outperforms other sectors in economic downturns.

Abbotsford has embarked on an aggressive plan to more directly embrace agriculture within the City's economic, social and environmental growth and development plans. This Agriculture Strategy responds to key strategic issues affecting the agricultural industry, as identified through extensive community consultation and independent research and analysis.

In terms of overall vision, the Agriculture Strategy will seek the continued health and growth of agriculture in the City of Abbotsford, through the pursuit of the overall goals of:

- Promoting and strengthening the viability of agricultural enterprise
- Increasing the productive use of farmland and food production
- Protecting the agricultural land base.

The key objectives of the Agriculture Strategy are to:

- Enhance Opportunities for Agricultural Enterprise
- Encourage the Agricultural Use of Farmland



- Promote Integrated Management of Agricultural By-Products
- Pursue and Support Agri-Industrial Investment
- Invest in Agricultural Infrastructure
- Foster Agriculture Friendly Regulation
- Cultivate Public Support for Agriculture.

Each strategic objective is supported by a set of policies that serve to further the goal of the Strategy, broken out by recommended timeline and lead implementing agency.

The implementation of the Agriculture Strategy is anticipated to require the coordination of various agencies in order to address the key objectives. It is anticipated that many policies initiated by the City should benefit from consultation with other agencies.

A select group of Agriculture Strategy policies have been chosen, in consultation with the AAC, as the highest immediate priority policies necessary to ‘kick-off’ the implementation of the Strategy. Executive Summary Table 1 (next page) highlights these Strategy policies, as ‘Ongoing Initiatives’ and ‘New Initiatives’, as prioritized by the AAC.

The New Initiatives are Strategy policies that are to be implemented as soon as possible, with the intent of completing this implementation (or be well underway) within the next 2 years. Ongoing Initiatives are policies that are currently being implemented by various agencies to address agricultural issues and further the agricultural economy, with some of these policies also involving enhancement of existing processes and/or situations. The Ongoing Initiatives will also require continual monitoring and renewal to maintain relevance and effectiveness.

It is also recommended that the AAC, in its advisory capacity, play the lead role in monitoring the implementation of these high-priority initiatives, and report back to Council regarding the progress of this implementation. Involving the AAC in this role presents a key opportunity to identify specific considerations in the implementation of these initiatives and identify further new initiatives to pursue in the future, once the policies noted in the priority table below are successfully implemented.

The Agriculture Strategy will be a ‘living document’ that will be periodically reviewed to gauge progress and ensure Strategy Objectives are being achieved. This review will also create opportunities to adjust these objectives in the face of new and/or lingering issues, and develop new policies that respond to the needs of the agricultural economy.



**Executive Summary Table 1: Highest Immediate Priority Policies for Implementing the Agriculture Strategy**

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>Ongoing Initiatives</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby senior governments for the continued support of supply management (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate the importance of supply management to senior governments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The contribution of supply managed sectors to employment and economic stability is kept in the public eye</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to attract agri-industrial to industrial business lands (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an agri-industrial “open for business” policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agri-industrial processes and technology increase the demand for and add value to agricultural production</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, Industry Groups, AAC, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote farmer’s interests with agencies regulating maintenance of drainage, irrigation and flood control systems (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise DFO, MOE, BCMAL</li> <li>Participate in BCAC Agriculture-Environment Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved communication is anticipated to result in better coordination of agency needs with those of farmers</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: ALC, MOE, FVRD, UBCM, City, Public & Private Sector Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support cost efficient waste management solutions (such as anaerobic digestion, gasification, composting, recycling etc.), provided these solutions offer a net benefit to agriculture and do not negatively impact the environment (5.6, p. 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support or co-sponsor investigative studies of these needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved waste management will remove a prime bottleneck to continued growth of the agricultural industry</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, ALC, ASCA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require agricultural impact assessments and reclamation plans for gravel extraction, to be submitted to the City prior to extraction (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing assessment of this process and outcomes</li> <li>Enhancement of this process where necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better assessments will ensure that the long term effect of gravel extraction on agriculture is identified and fully considered in remediation plans</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Lead: SFCF</b> Support: City, UFV, Volunteers, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support community gardens and/or urban agriculture demonstration projects that promote agricultural awareness among City residents (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify projects, knowledge gaps and potential partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More public involvement in growing food will increase the awareness of consumers of the value of protecting farmlands and supporting local production</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: BCAC, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and support completion of environmental farm plans and use of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to improve agricultural operations and provide environmental benefits (5.6, p. 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage producers and growers organization to complete environmental farm plans</li> <li>Lobby for continued funding of BMPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of environmental farm plans will ensure that agriculture grows in an environmental sustainable, resource efficient manner</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Lead: Producer Groups</b> Support: Tourism Abbotsford, BCAC, ACOC, BCATA, City, Marketing Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with tourism industry to develop ‘taste of Abbotsford’ tours, guidebooks, cookbooks and promotions at local and regional restaurants, convention/hotel facilities and other venues (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and develop venues, celebrations and tours focusing on Abbotsford agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased support for venues that promote interaction between the public, tourists and farmers will increase awareness of agriculture and provide diversification opportunities for farms</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Lead: ALC</b> Support: BCMAL, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased enforcement of regulations to curtail illegal land uses and direct illegal/ inappropriate uses to appropriate areas (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key land use issues</li> <li>• Increased and improved enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory enforcement will ensure that those that unfairly and illegally abuse rules governing farmland are brought to task</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCAC, Service Canada, WSBC, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with industry and government agencies to support the employment of seasonal and foreign agricultural workers, with respect to working conditions, accommodations, cultural services and accessibility to workers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication with relevant industry partners and agencies</li> <li>• Identify responsibilities and areas for increased support</li> <li>• Respond to needs as they arise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports ability of farmers to attract and obtain needed seasonal and foreign farm workers</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>New Initiatives - City</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the implementation of the City's agri-industrial policies through a new comprehensive approach based on coordinated planning and regulatory and policy support from ALC (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate discussions with the ALC</li> <li>Ask BCAC to support and promote strategies for value-added agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The heightened role of agriculture in the industrial development plans of the City will increase opportunities for industry growth and prosperity</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In consultation with the ALC, investigate the feasibility of developing agri-industrial uses in the ALR in relation to farms, servicing and transportation infrastructure, and City-led agri-industrial investment policies and initiatives (5.4, p. 16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore feasibility</li> <li>Initiate interest from BCMAL and ALC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture welcomes the City's support in enhancing the ability of farmers and agri-industry to pursue value added agricultural opportunities in the context of legitimate use of the ALR</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: AAC, BCMAL, ALC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake the Abbotsford rural area plan (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare Terms of Reference</li> <li>Initiate planning process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A rural area plan will provide predictability and stability for rural and agricultural development into the future</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ASCA, BCMAL, DDI, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop agriculture-friendly scheduling processes to minimize impacts on agriculture and facilitate City access onto private land for the purposes of ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate farmer issues</li> <li>Collaborate to reach mutually beneficial approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved scheduling is anticipated to reduce costs to farmers as well as streamline the process under which the City carries out its maintenance responsibilities</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, BCAC, DFO, MOE, Industry Groups, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve the City in reviews and processes dealing with agency regulations affecting agriculture and in developing more ‘agriculture-friendly’ protocols for ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise DFO, MOE , BCMAL</li> <li>• Participate in BCAC Agriculture-Environment Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The City will represent agricultural concerns to ensure that the precautionary policies of agencies are practical, feasible, and affordable for farmers</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate City staff positions to strengthen understanding and relationships between farmers and government (economic development officer for agriculture, agricultural liaisons) (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate, second or hire qualified staff</li> <li>• Meet with agricultural groups to explain intent and identify areas for action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved capacity to engage farmers on their terms will result in a better understanding of concerns and more streamlined relationships to achieve required responses</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL , ALC, FVREB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require disclosure of agricultural practices at building permit stage (and/or covenant) (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop material</li> <li>• Make requests for support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disclosure will inform prospective builders that agricultural sights, sound and smells are to be expected in farming areas</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ACF, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize the City’s Agricultural Trust fund to further agricultural investment, research and innovation (5.1, p. 11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop mechanisms to evaluate applications for funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding for research and programs that would act to enhance agricultural productivity and innovation</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>New Initiatives – BCMAL</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: ALC, City staff, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policies to defend farmers from rural-residential encroachment (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies that will protect farms from the pressures of rural-residential encroachment will protect the ability of farmers to farm and minimize the potential for rural-urban conflicts</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: ALC, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider ways of reducing wasteful use of agricultural land for excessive building footprints, access roads, and inappropriate siting (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiatives to reduce wasteful use of farmland are intended to highlight that top quality soils should be retained for agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: AAC, SFCF, BCATA, FVFDMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a needs assessment for small scale farmers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> <li>Identify start-up guidelines for new farms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This emerging segment of the agricultural industry will be supported through coordinated development of programs and policies</li> </ul>
<b>New Initiatives – Other Agencies</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: Tourism Abbotsford</b> Support: BCMAL, City, Agri-Fair, Producer Associations, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create signage that identifies agricultural sub-areas or “neighbourhoods” within the City, what is grown there, provides directional signage for agri-tourism, and directs motorists to respect farm traffic (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage support groups</li> <li>Develop messaging, signage specs, and strategy for intro. into the City</li> <li>Sign bylaw changes by the City</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coordinated plan to provide agricultural signage will inform the general public, improve safety, increase respect for agriculture, as well as facilitate meeting farmer’s needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: SFCF</b> Support: BCMAL, FVREB, AAC, FCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the leasing of farmland (including the existing MLS system) with additional mechanisms (agreement templates, websites and incentives) that identify potential landlords and tenants (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather info. from other jurisdictions</li> <li>• Produce templates for BC situations, make available to potential landlords and tenants</li> <li>• Create database</li> <li>• Engage FVREB (support / enhance existing leasing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of aids to assist farmers in getting access to farmland, in addition to the existing MLS system, is expected to encourage new entrants and increase the productive use of farmland in the City</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: SD #34,</b> Support: BCAC, UFV, Marketing Boards, 4-H, Agri-Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance agriculture education at schools (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance curricula into primary and secondary schools</li> <li>• Complement Ag. In the Classroom initiative</li> <li>• Complement healthy food and snacks programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved agricultural awareness among school children will lead to educated consumers and more pursuing the profession in adult life</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead: UFV</b> Support: BCMAL, IAF, City, AAFC, Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to attract agri-industrial research, technology, expertise, and funding into the City (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify projects, knowledge gaps, and potential partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pursuit of intellectual expertise behind agri-industrial opportunities, while largely untapped, offers great opportunity for local agricultural-related business growth</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Lead: UFV</b> Support: BCMAL, SFCF, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue initiatives to train young people and attract new entrants into agriculture (5.1,p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage support to determine needs</li> <li>Develop curricula</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New training programs will pursue potential new farmers by marketing opportunities in agriculture to them</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Lead: MCSCD</b> Support: ALC, BCMAL, City, BCAA, FVFDMA, BCATA, Producer Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a more contemporary definition of agriculture, with taxation implications, to support market opportunities in the peri-urban region (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Staff to confirm suitable lead</li> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture within the urban fringe has differing needs and challenges for which unique solutions are required and will be explored</li> </ul>

**(1) See List of Acronyms on page v.**



## 1.0 Introduction

The Agriculture Strategy aims to support the continued health and growth of farming within the rapidly urbanizing City of Abbotsford. This Strategy contains policies that respond to key issues affecting agriculture and has been developed through extensive consultation with the agricultural community including farmers, producer groups, agri-industry and government agencies.

This document is organized as follows. Starting with a statement of the context and rationale for developing the Agriculture Strategy, the stages of the Strategy development process and the process by which this Strategy has been developed is described. The main body of the report presents the key strategic objectives that guide the Strategy, recommended policies, and an action plan for implementing these policies. A list of the acronyms used in the report is found on page v and 23.

### 1.1 *Context: Canada's Leading Agricultural Area*

Abbotsford is one of the most intensively and diversely farmed areas in Canada supporting a wide range of crop and livestock enterprises. Abbotsford agricultural resources support very significant berry, vegetable, greenhouse, dairy, poultry and hog operations, as well as numerous specialty sectors. Gross farm receipts in Abbotsford, at \$20,441 per ha, are about three times greater than those found in the next most productive agricultural region, the Niagara Regional District of Ontario, and the highest in Canada. In 2006, capital investment in farming assets was valued at \$3.1 billion, and annual farm expenses amounted to \$477 million.

The City generates 34% of all agricultural revenues in the Lower Fraser Valley and 21% of all agricultural revenues in the province. In addition, Abbotsford is the regional hub for agricultural goods and services in the Lower Fraser Valley, with 40% of the agri-business sector supported by farms outside Abbotsford. Value-added agricultural products processing is a vital sector generating substantial local employment and income opportunities.

It would be difficult to over-emphasize the economic impact of agriculture in Abbotsford. The local agricultural economy is the economic mainstay of the community, generating gross farm receipts in the range of \$558 million, annually. The five Supply Managed commodity sectors (SM5) alone, including dairy, chicken, turkey, table egg, and hatching egg, generated \$289 million (52%) of this total. Recent research has estimated that the indirect and induced expenditures from farming operations in Abbotsford create a further \$1.35 billion, adding up to total agriculturally-related economic activity amounting to about \$1.8 billion, annually. In comparison, total labour force income in the City of Abbotsford, including agriculture related, was \$2.93 billion in 2005.

Agriculture permeates every aspect of the City; Abbotsford is literally a “City in the Country”. About 74% of the land area of the City of Abbotsford is in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a provincial designation of land reserved for farming. Agricultural needs such as water supply, drainage, dyking, and irrigation are intricately linked to the systems developed for the area as a whole. Transportation networks that were historically developed as agricultural corridors are now used in many areas predominantly by non-agricultural traffic.

Abbotsford agriculture operates in a complex environment of local, provincial and national policies, programs and regulatory influences. The current configuration of the industry has evolved in response to these forces as well as social, environmental and economic factors. The effects of these forces are reflected in identifiable patterns and trends that are described in this report such as agricultural concentration, intensification, specialization, growth and contraction, and changes in types of farming enterprises.

## 1.2 Why an Agriculture Strategy?

Despite the robustness of Abbotsford’s agricultural economy, the industry faces significant issues and challenges related to maintaining its continued health, growth, and sustainability. In strategically planning for the City’s continued vitality, leaders need to carefully consider the needs of agriculture and the community so the industry that is so important to the local economy is not compromised. Various issues and challenges are confronting the industry, including:

- Changing attitudes towards agriculture
- Adjusting to higher cost business environment
- Pressures created by population growth and urbanization
- Impact of gravel extraction on agriculture
- Non-agricultural use of agricultural areas
- Rural residential land use into farming areas
- Meeting environmental and rural-urban challenges
- Providing infrastructure and services needed by agriculture
- Increasing the public awareness and support for agriculture
- Being able to respond to change and opportunity
- Maintaining an atmosphere of confidence in the agricultural industry.

More specifically, an Agriculture Strategy is required for the City of Abbotsford to ensure that:

- Agriculture, as the economic backbone of the community, continues to grow
- Direct and indirect negative impacts of urbanization on the agricultural land base are mitigated
- Agriculture intensifies, diversifies and successfully adapts to local, regional and global market realities

- Agriculture continues to contribute to the sustainable use of the City's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) land base and associated resources.

### 1.3 Guiding Principles

The Agriculture Strategy development process, as a part of a broader Agriculture Plan, has been guided by principles identified in the Council-endorsed Agricultural Plan Scoping Report. These principles include:<sup>1</sup>

- Recognize the primacy of agriculture in the ALR – by supporting the fundamental intent of the ALR to protect the land base that allows agriculture to continue to thrive and grow
- Recognize the changing face of agriculture – reflected in trends towards:
  - Larger, more intensive operations, higher-value crops and higher densities of livestock
  - Highly specialized, organic and craft production targeting local, niche and agri-tourism market opportunities
  - Non-food related products, supplying pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries, capitalizing on emerging technologies, innovative practices and new markets
- Forge rural-urban understanding and partnerships – by recognizing the vital contribution that the agricultural sector brings to the economic, environmental and social health of the City
- Develop a visionary and user-friendly planning document – emphasizing specific, practical actions supporting a compelling and realistic plan.

### 1.4 Consistency with City Plans and Policies

The Agriculture Strategy has been developed to be consistent with the City's Official Community Plan (OCP) and the City in the Country Plan (CICP).

The OCP (2005) has numerous policies supporting the growth of agriculture in Abbotsford and the integrity of the ALR, including those that direct urban development within City's Urban Development Boundary (UDB) and prevents urban residential encroachment into the ALR. Other related policies support the development of a compact, contiguous urban area, buffering between urban and agricultural uses and innovative agricultural by-product management.

The CICP (2004) clearly identifies the City's long-term needs for employment (industrial) lands, in support of developing a complete community and well-diversified economy. Contained within the City's UDB, these lands are identified in the OCP as 'Industrial-Business (CICP)' and 'Industrial Reserve', and require the exclusion of ALR lands to be developed. This approach is intended to prevent ad hoc ALR exclusions and provide long-term certainty regarding the

<sup>1</sup> City of Abbotsford. 2005. Agriculture Plan Scoping Report.

integrity of the ALR land base and the provision of an adequate land supply for employment growth.

A 'net benefit' to agriculture must accompany these exclusions, by way of cash contributions to an Agricultural Trust fund. These funds are to be utilized to finance agricultural research, innovation and investment, among other initiatives supporting agriculture.'

The Strategy is also consistent with the AAC's *Strategy for Enhancing the Agricultural Economy*, which sets out a vision for enhancing the agricultural economy through initiatives organized under three broad themes:

- The agricultural resource base must be protected
- The City must be proactive in enhancing the viability of agriculture, and
- The City must support the efforts of the agricultural industry.



## 2.0 Strategy Development Process

The context and content of the Agriculture Strategy has been developed through a three-phase development process, involving extensive consultation with the agricultural industry and community.

### 2.1 Phase 1: Background Research and Consultation (Fall 2009)

#### 2.1.1 Agriculture Profile

The Abbotsford Agriculture Profile was developed to provide a baseline context for the Agriculture Strategy, employing literature research, analysis of agricultural statistics, review of pertinent information in the Agricultural Scoping Report and Request for Proposal, and incorporating advice from the City of Abbotsford Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC). The Profile also includes a scan of issues identified in the investigative phase and literature review. The 2005 Official Community Plan (OCP) and 2004 City in the Country Plan (CICP) were also carefully reviewed in the development of the Profile.

#### 2.1.2 Agricultural Stakeholder Workshops

Workshops were conducted with agricultural stakeholders using the issues identified in the Abbotsford Agriculture Profile as a starting point. Listening sessions were conducted with the agricultural industry to identify strategic issues. The industry was broken out into the following stakeholder groups:

- Field horticulture (vegetables, fruits, berries)
- Intensive horticulture (greenhouse, mushroom)
- Horticultural processing
- Supply managed producers (chicken, turkey, egg layers, broiler hatching eggs, dairy)
- Supply managed products processing
- Livestock producers (beef, hogs, mink)
- Livestock products processing
- Specialty (specialty production, small scale farming, agri-tourism, on-farm value-added, aquaculture, community programs, farmers markets, alternative agriculture).

#### 2.1.3 Neighbourhood Meetings

Four neighbourhood meetings were held in the Sumas Prairie, South Poplar, Matsqui Prairie and Mt. Lehman/Bradner agricultural areas, to identify area-specific agricultural issues and concerns. These meetings were widely advertised and well attended.

#### **2.1.4 Interviews**

Approximately 20 interviews were completed with knowledgeable persons familiar with the industry and/or in positions to influence agriculture, to discuss strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in local agriculture.

## ***2.2 Phase 2: Issues and Options (Spring 2010)***

### **2.2.1 Issues and Options Report**

Key strategic issues were distilled out of the background research and consultation of Phase 1, and a number of policy options were developed to respond to these issues. This information was consolidated into an Issues and Options Report, which was then reviewed by the AAC and Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

### **2.2.2 Issues and Options Public Open House**

The Issues and Options report was presented for review and feedback at a Public Open House. The Open House was widely advertised and invitations were sent to the agricultural stakeholders consulted in Phase 1 of the process. Approximately 60 people attended the Open House and provided valuable feedback on issues facing the agricultural economy, and on policy options that could most effectively address these issues.

## ***2.3 Phase 3: Agriculture Strategy (Summer 2010)***

### **2.3.1 Draft Agriculture Strategy**

A draft Agriculture Strategy was developed, complete with recommended policy options, based on Phase 2, and several further deliberations with the AAC and the TAG.

### **2.3.2 Agriculture Strategy Open House**

The draft Agriculture Strategy was presented to a Public Open House in the second week of June 2010. Comments and new perspectives were received and incorporated into the Strategy.

### **2.3.3 Draft Final Agriculture Strategy**

Following the Public Open House, received comments were discussed with the AAC. The Agricultural Strategy was then updated and supported by AAC resolutions for presentation to Council. The draft final Agriculture Strategy was approved-in-principle by Council in August 2010.

### **2.3.4 Final Agriculture Strategy**

The final Agriculture Strategy will be prepared after comments from Abbotsford Council are received and incorporated.

## 3.0 Key Strategic Perspectives

The following key perspectives regarding agriculture in Abbotsford are based on what was gleaned during the background investigation and consultation process, and provide the context for the Agriculture Strategy vision, objectives and supporting policies, as presented in Sections 4.0 and 5.0.

### 3.1 Role of Agriculture in the Economic Development of Abbotsford

Recent studies have quantified the key role that agriculture plays in the local economy, making major contributions to the income, employment and social welfare of the community. The two most recent reports are:

- *The Economic Impact of Agriculture in Abbotsford*, prepared by the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce in 2008, in conjunction with BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands; and
- *BC Dairy, Egg and Poultry Industries: The Socio-Economic Impact of BC's Dairy, Chicken, Turkey, Hatching Egg and Table Egg Industries*, prepared by Price Waterhouse Coopers in 2009.

These documents help provide a platform for launching new economic initiatives based on the opportunities provided by agriculture.

### 3.2 Preserving the Land Base

The vast majority of respondents in the investigation support the use of the ALR for farming purposes. Rural-residential use of farmland is recognized to be one of the more significant threats to farming. The encroachment into rural areas causes rural-residential conflicts, reduces the land base for agriculture, affects the types of adjacent farming operations, increases price competition for land, and places more strain on rural infrastructure. It is also becoming more apparent that the farmland taxation system provides rural-residential dwellers with the ability to “farm the tax system” rather than the farmland, ultimately at the expense of agricultural use. The cost to non-farming property owners of holding farmland for speculative purposes is also similarly subsidized.

Exclusion, subdivision and land degradation also have impacts on the degree to which land preservation strategies are successful. Ad-hoc exclusion from the ALR can unnecessarily fragment the agricultural land base by allowing non-farm activities in the midst of farming areas. Subdividing agricultural lands into smaller parcels for any reason increases the susceptibility of those parcels to land conversion to non-farm uses in the future. And where land degradation is allowed to happen, the pro-development arguments for conversion to non-agricultural uses are more difficult to resist.

### **3.3 Prosperity of Farming**

Participant responses clearly articulated that agriculture expects to continue to prosper in Abbotsford, not merely survive. Farming operations and farm operators need more than a protected land base to operate in a sustainable manner in Abbotsford. One of the most effective ways to protect agricultural land is to ensure the viability of its use as farmed land. The Phase 2 investigation and analysis reveals that the Abbotsford agricultural sector wants a more viability-focused framework to enhance the use of the agricultural land base for working agriculture<sup>2</sup> in Abbotsford.

### **3.4 Farming Intensification**

There is general agreement in the agricultural sector that intensification is one of the key components of an approach to promote the sector. Farmers must take steps to retain more revenues on farms, reduce costs through adoption of technology or increased efficiency, or risk going out of business. Many farmers are getting into value-adding to increase farm income stability and generate profits. Farm expansion necessitates increasing farming intensity to offset the increased business risk created by escalating farmland prices.

### **3.5 Land Use Flexibility**

In the search for viability, farmers are adopting new and multiple land uses that have not been a part of farming operations historically. As well, small scale and value-added farm-based entrepreneurs are responding to new markets by offering products and services that attract the public to farms. It is anticipated that non-traditional farming-related opportunities will increase, promote agriculture, and should be supported. Support may consist of consideration under the umbrella of farm eligible activities (along with the exemptions such status confers) and agri-sensitive provisions at the local, regional and provincial levels to recognize the many faces and scales of farm-based activities.

There is support in the Abbotsford farming community for agriculture to include activities that are becoming more prevalent in the midst of urbanization, such as adding value to farm products on the farm through processing, hosting agri-tourism events, and bringing people onto farms. At the same time, there is concern that the focus should be targeted, such as through an agri-industrial initiative, so as to protect the integrity and agricultural capacity of the land base.

### **3.6 Holistic Approach to Agricultural Solutions**

The agriculture in Abbotsford is a highly concentrated industry, to the point that it requires technological intervention at the production, waste management and processing levels in order

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<sup>2</sup> The term “working agriculture” is defined as agriculture where an operator tries to make money on his land in contrast to a property owner who spends money on his land in a non-profit capacity.



to function in a sustainable manner. This situation provides opportunities to develop creative and profitable solutions with applications at multiple levels. It also means that unaddressed constraints at one level have the potential to affect viability at the other levels. For example, agriculture's waste management problems are potential opportunities for developing leading edge research capability, biotechnology solutions and incubating commercialization opportunities. An effective strategy needs to devise a holistic approach to addressing current bottlenecks and present eco-industrial solutions for the future.

### ***3.7 A Level Playing Field***

The agricultural sector is fully aware of the many ways that the ALR is being used that are not in the best interests of the farmland base or working agriculture. As individuals they are powerless to prevent these abuses but hope that authorities will eventually recognize the damage, unfairness and inequities that such actions create. Thus, the appeal for agricultural support is combined with a desire for action to prevent pretenders from subverting good agricultural intentions or thwarting initiatives to promote agriculture. The City, ALC and the province all have regulatory roles to play to ensure that compliance prevails to support the goals of the strategy.

### ***3.8 Planning for Efficiency***

In order to be competitive, the agricultural sector needs to be efficient. Key factors affecting agricultural efficiency are the provision and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure to support agricultural enterprise and streamlined regulatory controls that facilitate agriculture's ability to respond to society's needs.





## 4.0 Agriculture Strategy Vision

Based on the Strategy consultation process and the preceding Key Perspectives, it is evident that an effective Agriculture Strategy, reflecting a long-term commitment to advancing the City's agricultural economy, needs to reflect the following vision:

"The Agriculture Strategy will seek the continued health and growth of agriculture in the City of Abbotsford, through the pursuit of the overall goals of:

- Promoting and strengthening the viability of agricultural enterprise
- Increasing the productive use of farmland and food production
- Protecting the agricultural land base."





## 5.0 Strategy Objectives and Policies

Strategy Objectives support the Strategy vision and address key issues facing agriculture, which have been distilled from extensive consultation with the agricultural community. These are detailed below (see Table 1 for quick reference), along with policies that support the achievement of these Objectives.

Based on feedback from the review of the Issues and Options report, some Issues were combined to produce the Strategy Objectives. Recommended policies were also derived through this process. Both Strategy Objectives and supporting policies are summarized in a table in Appendix A.

**Table 1: Strategy Objectives**

1	<b>Enhance Opportunities for Agricultural Enterprise</b>
2	<b>Encourage the Agricultural Use of Farmland</b>
3	<b>Promote Integrated Management of Agricultural By-Products</b>
4	<b>Pursue and support Agri-Industrial Investment</b>
5	<b>Invest in Agricultural Infrastructure</b>
6	<b>Foster Agriculture Friendly Regulation</b>
7	<b>Cultivate Public Support for Agriculture</b>

### 5.1 Enhance Opportunities for Agricultural Enterprise

**The Issue**

The agricultural industry is continuously challenged by the growth of the City and the changing conditions under which business is conducted. The challenges include:

- Increased taxes and fee costs charged to the agricultural sector
- Unfarmed land in the ALR
- Financial pressure on farming



- Changing farm markets and economic opportunities
- Bottlenecks appearing in the agricultural system, related to cost structures, regulatory constraints, allowed uses, and lack of flexibility in ability to respond to markets
- Reduced value-added opportunities in support of primary agriculture
- Insufficient support to small scale farmers
- Shortage of agricultural labour.

### ***The Objective***

In light of the diversity of agricultural activity in Abbotsford and the dynamic economic environments in which these businesses operate, directed effort is required to ensure that legitimate pursuits in agriculture are facilitated to respond to new markets and opportunities. Agriculture should be enabled to respond to opportunity, while adequate precautions are maintained to protect the land base. The City also wishes to increase the certainty about the purpose of the farmland base by supporting steps to ensure that agricultural pursuit is favoured and that the impact of non-farm use of the ALR is more transparent in municipal fee structures and policies.

The role of agriculturally-based value-added enterprise is recognized for the substantial contribution it makes to the economic and social well-being of the community. The City wishes to pursue and support initiatives to increase the role this sector as the economic lynchpin of the local economy, particularly in the rapidly growing sectors of agri-tourism and peri-urban<sup>3</sup> direct-market agriculture. As such, there is a need to support a full range of farming operations including small-scale farming.

Shortages of agricultural labour can be addressed through industry initiatives and programs such as the federal Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), which allow farmers to obtain seasonal and foreign workers for agricultural operations. Key supports, including safe and healthy working conditions and accommodations, cultural services<sup>4</sup> and policies that increase accessibility to these workers, improve the ability of farmers to attract and obtain seasonal and foreign workers. The City wishes to assist in ensuring these supports are present, in partnership with industry and senior governments.

### ***Recommended Policies***

The following policies aim to increase support for agriculture:

- Lobby senior governments for the continued support of supply management
- Undertake a needs assessment for small scale and peri-urban farmers

<sup>3</sup> Peri-urban agriculture is defined as agriculture on farmland adjoining urban areas and commercial farming.

<sup>4</sup> Cultural services is defined as providing access to communications, transportation, financial services, recreational opportunities, groceries, places of worship, entertainment and other cultural activities.



- Partner with proponents/applicants to access provincial/federal funding and programs that enhance agriculture
- Decouple rural servicing rates to non-agricultural farmland uses in the ALR from preferential rates in support of agriculture
- Develop a more contemporary definition of agriculture, with taxation implications, to support market opportunities in the peri-urban region
- Increased enforcement of regulations to curtail illegal land uses and direct illegal/inappropriate uses to appropriate areas
- Undertake the Abbotsford rural area plan
- Pursue initiatives to train young people and attract new entrants into agriculture
- Facilitate ancillary<sup>5</sup> developments on agricultural lands in the ALR
- Pursue research into processes and technology innovations that address agricultural issues including: management of agricultural by-products, energy production, agricultural responses to climate change, agronomic impacts of gravel extraction, eco-industrial<sup>6</sup> technologies and solutions, agriculture-related problems and science based solutions
- Utilize the City’s Agricultural Trust fund to further agricultural investment, research and innovation
- Pursue strategies to promote the local food system, such as the development of a permanent Farmers Market and other marketing facilities, and integrating agro-tourism into the City’s tourism theme
- Work with industry and government agencies to support the employment of seasonal and foreign agricultural workers, with respect to working conditions, accommodations, cultural services and accessibility to workers.

## 5.2 Encourage the Agricultural Use of Farmland

### The Issue

Despite the presence of the ALR, competition for the agricultural land base and encroachment on well-run agricultural operations comes from many quarters. Issues include:

- Rural residential incursion into the ALR, due to unintended spill-over from the urban area
- Large building footprints, extravagant estate house sizes, and wasteful siting of access and structures
- Access to farmland owned by non-farmers
- Challenges to neighbouring farming practices under the Right-to-Farm legislation

<sup>5</sup> Ancillary is defined as providing support to a primary agricultural land use activity. Some examples of ancillary uses include tours, processing, storage, retail sales, and food and beverage service.

<sup>6</sup> Eco-industrial refers to the concept of networks among businesses and communities to optimize resource use and reduce economic and environmental costs emphasizing pollution prevention, by-product exchange, green design, life cycle analysis, technological innovation, and other efficiency creating approaches.



- Gravel extraction and farmland rehabilitation.

### ***The Objective***

The overall objective is to ensure that farmland is used in its intended agricultural use and that circumstances leading to non-farm use do not result in the long term physical erosion of the farming base. Removing the real and perceived financial advantages associated with owning farmland for non-agricultural purposes is considered desirable. Farmland values should be determined primarily by working agriculture competing for the land base. Ensuring that sound rehabilitation plans are created and implemented is considered essential to ensure that temporary use of the farmland for mineral extraction does not lead to long term degradation of the farmland. Finally, residents choosing to live in farming areas need to be made aware of, and accept, the characteristics of good farming operations.

### ***Recommended Policies***

The following policies are anticipated to encourage the increased agricultural use of farmland:

- Encourage the remediation of current exhausted mineral extraction sites
- Require agricultural impact assessments<sup>7</sup> and reclamation plans for gravel extraction projects, to be submitted to the City prior to extraction
- Support the leasing of farmland (including the existing MLS system) with additional mechanisms (agreement templates, websites and incentives) that identify potential landlords and tenants
- Require disclosure of agricultural practices at building permit stage (and/or covenant)
- Develop policies to defend farmers from rural-residential encroachment
- Consider ways of reducing wasteful use of agricultural land for excessive building footprints, access roads, and inappropriate siting
- Investigate creating a tax classification to tax rural residential at urban residential rates
- Consider ways of tightening rural residential eligibility for farm classification.

<sup>7</sup> The purpose of an agricultural impact assessment (AIA) is to determine if a development proposal will adversely affect existing and future agricultural activities on-site and in the surrounding area. The AIA should a) indicate the effects of the proposal through direct loss of agricultural resources, b) indicate the potential effects of the proposal on existing and potential farming operations on surrounding lands, and c) consider the proposal's impact on the existing agricultural character of the general area including such matters as precedence issues or other implications of land use, tenure or fragmentation patterns.



### 5.3 Promote Integrated Management of Agricultural By-Products

#### The Issue

The agricultural industry has responded to stability, favourable markets, and high land prices by increasing the intensiveness of its farming operations, resulting in the production of abundant manures, waste streams, and other by-products on a restricted land base. Concerns about the sustainability of the agricultural system have emerged with respect to:

- Consumption of water, energy, and other resources
- The disposition of animal manures and the feasibility of landfills, composting, anaerobic digestion, incineration, and energy generation options
- The capacity to handle processing wastes in municipal waste management systems
- The disposal of plastics and non-biodegradable products used by agriculture
- Air emissions, smog and air quality issues
- Transmission of disease
- Farm biosecurity
- Disposal of specified risk materials
- Surface and groundwater contamination.



#### The Objective

The objective is to ensure that the Abbotsford agriculture industry is sustainable<sup>8</sup> as it continues to grow and generate increased volumes of agricultural by-products in the process. The best assurance that sustainability will be maintained is for the City to support and promote research and investigation of technologies that address agricultural issues related to environmental impacts,

resource efficiency, and conservation. There is significant potential to use organic farm wastes to support green responses to climate change as well as beneficial by-products.

#### Recommended Policies

The following policies are anticipated to encourage a more integrated and eco-industrial approach to the agricultural sector:

<sup>8</sup> Sustainable agriculture is: The application of husbandry experience and scientific knowledge of natural processes to create agriculture and agri-food systems that: a) Are economically viable; b) meet society's need for safe and nutritious food; c) promote vibrant rural communities; and d) conserve enhance natural resources and the environment. (From: Agricultural Institute of Canada. 2005. Big Farms, Small Farms: Strategies for sustainable agriculture to fit all sizes.)



- Consider centralized sites for pursuing industry solutions and enabling farm and processing (organic and non-organic) wastes to be handled together
- Explore synergies between waste management and energy production
- Support cost efficient waste management solutions (such as anaerobic digestion, gasification, composting, recycling, etc.), provided these solutions offer a net benefit to agriculture and do not negatively impact the environment.
- Encourage and attract research and investigation into eco-industrial technologies and solutions.

## 5.4 Pursue and Support Agri-Industrial<sup>9</sup> Investment

### The Issue

The robustness of agricultural production and services masks the relatively small size of the processing and value-added components of the local industry. Much of the raw production leaves the City and the province for value-adding elsewhere. With such a strong production base Abbotsford should be the natural choice to locate value-added businesses in the future. Agri-industrial issues include:

- Ad-hoc relationship between the City's economic development strategy and agriculture, its largest economic activity
- Absence of targeted research and investigation in agri-industrial opportunity areas
- Undeveloped eco-industrial focus on Abbotsford's agricultural industry
- Lack of an agri-industrial friendly regulatory regime to retain and attract agri-industry
- Stagnant business climate for agri-industrial investment.



### The Objective

The objective is to explore the potential to integrate the economic growth and development of the City with the opportunities presented by the presence of its large primary producer of raw resources in its back yard. Agricultural outputs produced in the City are potential raw resources for an infinite number of technological and value-added conversion possibilities. The potential for clustering research, technology and expertise in the area is untapped. The opportunities for

<sup>9</sup> Agri-industrial, or agro-industrial, refers to the production or provision of materials used in, produced by or involved with, the industrial processing of agricultural products.





innovative, value-added, community-based industry with high quality employment, income, and wealth generation are unexplored.

### ***Recommended Policies***

The following policies are anticipated to explore and develop the potential for value-added agri-industrial investment in Abbotsford:

- Continue to attract agri-industrial investment to industrial-business lands
- Pursue the implementation of the City's agri-industrial policies through a new comprehensive approach based on coordinated planning and regulatory and policy support from ALC
- In consultation with the ALC, investigate the feasibility of developing agri-industrial uses in the ALR in relation to farms, servicing and transportation infrastructure, and City-led agri-industrial investment policies and initiatives
- Explore opportunities to attract agri-industrial research, technology, expertise, and funding into the City
- Investigate the associated needs of food processing (in industrial areas)
- Develop an integrated agri-industrial location and servicing plan
- Pursue the development of an agri-food technology cluster in the City directly connected to the agricultural production base.

## ***5.5 Invest in Agricultural Infrastructure***

### ***The Issue***

Much of the infrastructure for agriculture has developed in response to incremental increases in demand. Overloaded City infrastructure is creating impacts that are constraining the ability of agriculture to perform efficiently in various ways:

- Inequitable sharing of fiscal responsibility for constructing and maintaining drainage and flood control systems in the lowlands to handle increased upland stormwater flows
- Some areas are at water supply capacity or face shortages for agricultural purposes
- City growth and development are increasing/creating the need for expanded drainage and flood control in agricultural areas
- Increased levels of non-agricultural traffic through the ALR, along with speeding and unsafe driving, is creating unsafe conditions and is affecting farm-related activities
- Increasing scale, intensity and diversity of agricultural activity is elevating the need for planning infrastructure to minimize or avoid cross-impacts in farming areas.



### ***The Objective***

Municipal planning is the most effective way to deliver needed infrastructure efficiently and to ensure that agriculture has services necessary to thrive and grow compatibly with the community as a whole. The capital, operating and maintenance costs of these infrastructure improvements should be shared equitably among users in relation to the benefits received.

### ***Recommended Policies***

Provision of well-functioning infrastructure is a necessary condition for ensuring the continued efficient functioning of primary agricultural production and can be strategic in influencing, directing, and encouraging land uses and functions, including certain types of agriculture, into specific areas. Recommended policies include:

- Encourage farmers to develop irrigation plans to quantify water needs and assist the City in water supply planning
- Plan transportation corridors in the ALR to facilitate access to farmland, minimize disruptions to farming operations and reducing vehicle conflicts<sup>10</sup>
- Investigate providing infrastructure bundles (water, sewer, electrical, hook-up to the grid) to areas suited/targeted for certain types of agriculture
- Examine feasibility of retrofitting existing drainage and irrigation systems so that these systems do not connect to natural or channelized water courses
- Develop an agricultural rural servicing plan based on the infrastructure required to promote efficiency in the agricultural sector
- Develop a water supply plan that considers agricultural water needs
- Improve the ability of drainage systems to eliminate flooding of agricultural lands from upland storm water runoff.

## ***5.6 Foster Agriculture-Friendly Regulation***

### ***The Issue***

Farmers have identified a spectrum of regulations governing agricultural uses in the ALR, including those designed to allow for and protect agriculture. In many cases, regulations overlap, involve more than one department and/or agency, and may be unnecessarily prescriptive, and may restrict agricultural operations to the point of compromising viability. Even more importantly, wherever redundant regulation of agriculture may occur, it has the potential to cause:

- Numerous fees and extra costs, for which benefits/services may not be received
- Lack of understanding of agriculture's need of or impact on the regulatory area

<sup>10</sup> The plan should be supported by increased ongoing traffic law enforcement to enhance safety in agricultural areas



- Extra time and delays for permitting and application processing
- Excessive and unnecessary precautionary measures
- Poorly advised and impractical recommended solutions.

### ***The Objective***

Good government entails achieving desirable outcomes informed by the public good. The City's strategic focus is to strive to tailor regulations and streamline the regulatory process affecting agriculture to ensure that the intended purpose of the regulations are achieved in the most reasonable and cost-effective manner.

### ***Recommended Policies***

The desired strategic focus is to make the regulatory system more responsive to the needs of the agricultural sector while creating rules of conduct that serve to promote the sector. Recommended policies to modify the regulatory environment to support agriculture include:

- Promote and support completion of environmental farm plans and use of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to improve agricultural operations and provide environmental benefits
- Continue to promote farmer's interests with agencies regulating maintenance of drainage, irrigation and flood control systems
- Designate City staff positions to strengthen understandings and relationships between farmers and government (economic development officer for agriculture, agricultural liaisons)
- Involve the City in reviews and processes dealing with agency regulations affecting agriculture and in developing more 'agriculture-friendly' protocols for ditch and drainage maintenance
- Raise awareness of farmers on the requirements of senior legislation (e.g., provide presentations to DDI and ASCA AGMs, prepare brochures, etc.)
- Develop agriculture-friendly scheduling processes to minimize impacts on agriculture and facilitate City access onto private land for the purposes of ditch and drainage maintenance
- Create an agricultural variance committee to deal with special circumstances where the City of Abbotsford has jurisdiction
- Update the agriculture section in the zoning bylaw to facilitate agricultural regulatory awareness and compliance, and develop and include an expanded 'agriculture' definition
- Review municipal regulations to ensure they meet their intended purposes and are practical for agriculture.



## 5.7 Cultivate Public Support for Agriculture

### *The Issue*

While the presence of agricultural activity pervades the community, Abbotsford agriculture lacks a clear identity among the majority of its population and specifically, urban residents. And despite recent studies confirming agriculture's economic contribution to the City and region, local residents may be relatively ambivalent about the need to make any special efforts to ensure its continued growth and development. Particular efforts need to be made to reach out to the consumer and resident by improving public awareness of:

- Human health, food safety, food security, environmental protection, resource conservation, animal rights and welfare related to agricultural operations and practices
- Physical characteristics and activities of farming operations and the sight, sounds and smells of normal agriculture
- Recognizing and celebrating safe and nutritious locally produced food.

### *The Objective*

The City recognizes that increased public support for agriculture will promote its other strategies in supporting and developing the agricultural industry in Abbotsford. The objective is to link City agriculture to converging trends involving the celebration of local food, food experiences, regional agro-tourism, adaptation to climate change, and reducing carbon footprints in support of community and City-led climate change mitigation initiatives.

### *Recommended Policies*

Public support for agriculture will be increased through developing awareness of local food production and an appreciation of local food supply, and by facilitating participation in food production. Education about investment and employment opportunities in agriculture and supporting agriculture in the City are also important, and are supported by these policies:

- Enhance agriculture education at schools
- Support community gardens and/or urban agriculture demonstration projects and programs that promote agricultural awareness among City residents
- Improve local business awareness of agriculture
- Create signage that identifies agricultural sub-areas or "neighbourhoods" within the City, what is grown there, among other things, provides directional signage for agri-tourism, and directs motorists to respect farm traffic
- Develop annual 'State of Agriculture' reports and communicate to public
- Work with tourism industry to develop 'taste of Abbotsford' tours, guidebooks, cookbooks and promotions at local and regional restaurants, convention/hotel facilities and other venues.

## 6.0 Implementation Plan

The implementation of the Agriculture Strategy is anticipated to require the coordination of various agencies in order to address the key objectives. As Tables 2, 3, 4 and 5 indicate, the recommended policies will be initiated through the actions of a lead implementing agency and support agencies, with jurisdiction, responsibility or interest in the relevant area. Each policy is correlated with a suggested timeline and proposed actions. This information is presented as follows:

- Table 2: Highest Immediate Policy Priorities for Implementing the Abbotsford Agriculture Strategy
- Table 3: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by Timeline and Action Required
- Table 4: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by City of Abbotsford as Implementing Agency, Timeline, and Action Required
- Table 5: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by BCMAL as Implementing Agency, Timeline, and Action Required
- Table 6: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by Other Agencies as Implementing Agency, Timeline, and Action Required.

It is anticipated that many policies should benefit from consultation amongst various agencies, including the City. In particular, involving the Agricultural Advisory Committee in its advisory capacity is an extraordinary opportunity to 'ground truth' the desirability and/or feasibility of policies, and identify specific considerations and priorities in the implementation of these policies. As such, it is proposed that AAC play a lead role in monitoring the progress of the various initiatives, including the implementation of the highest immediate priority policies listed in Table 2, and identifying further new initiatives to pursue in the future.

Table 2 presents the policies considered to have the highest immediate priority for implementing the Strategy in the immediate to short term. These priorities have been developed in consultation with the AAC. The New Initiatives are Strategy policies that are to be implemented as soon as possible, with the intent of completing this implementation within the next 2 years. Ongoing Initiatives are policies that are currently being implemented by various agencies to address agricultural issues and further the agricultural economy, with some of these policies also involving the continuing enhancement of existing processes and/or situations. The Ongoing Initiatives will also require continual monitoring and renewal to maintain relevance and effectiveness.

Table 3 presents a summary of recommended policies, sorted by timeline, and action required. Behind each policy is a notation indicating which Strategy objective the policy supports and the page number in the report on which the objective and policy are discussed.

In Table 4, the recommended policies are sorted according to the City being the lead implementing agency. The proposed initiatives could require different types of City initiatives depending on the jurisdiction, scope of the issue, and scale of the recommended policy, as follows:

- City-initiated policies requiring support from other agencies as indicated
- City support and encouragement of action in policy areas by other lead agencies
- New City policy to request participation in processes not currently involved in.

In Table 5, the proposed policies are correlated with a suggested range of BCMAL-lead initiatives, all supported by the City. Table 6 presents policies that would be anticipated to be led by other agencies, in areas supported by the City.

Appendix A presents a detailed description of all the recommended policies, implementing agencies, time lines and priorities for action.



## Acronyms Used in the Strategy and Appendices

- AAFC – Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- ACF – Abbotsford Community Foundation
- ACOC – Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce
- ALC – Agricultural Land Commission
- ASCA – Abbotsford Soil Conservation Association
- BCAA – BC Assessment Authority
- BCAC – BC Agriculture Council
- BCATA – BC Agri-Tourism Association
- BCMAL – BC Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- DDI – Abbotsford Diking, Drainage and Irrigation Committee
- DFO – Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- FCC – Farm Credit Canada
- FVFDMA – Fraser Valley Farm Direct Marketing Association
- FVREB – Fraser Valley Real Estate Board
- FVRD – Fraser Valley Regional District
- IAFBC – Investment Agriculture Foundation, BC
- MCSCD – Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
- MOE – Ministry of Environment
- SD – School District
- SFCF – South Fraser Community Futures
- UBCM – Union of BC Municipalities
- UFV – University of the Fraser Valley
- WSBC – WorkSafeBC



**Table 2: Highest Immediate Priority Policies for Implementing the Agriculture Strategy**

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>Ongoing Initiatives</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby senior governments for the continued support of supply management (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate the importance of supply management to senior governments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The contribution of supply managed sectors to employment and economic stability is kept in the public eye</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to attract agri-industrial to industrial business lands (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an agri-industrial “open for business” policy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agri-industrial processes and technology increase the demand for and add value to agricultural production</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, industry groups, AAC, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote farmer’s interests with agencies regulating maintenance of drainage, irrigation and flood control systems (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise DFO, MOE, BCMAL</li> <li>Participate in BCAC Agriculture-Environment Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved communication is anticipated to result in better coordination of agency needs with those of farmers</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: ALC, MOE, FVRD, UBCM, City, public & private sector utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support cost efficient waste management solutions (such as anaerobic digestion, gasification, composting, recycling, etc.), provided these solutions offer a net benefit to agriculture and do not negatively impact the environment (5.6, p. 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support or co-sponsor investigative studies of these needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved waste management will remove a major bottleneck to continued growth of the agricultural industry</li> </ul>



	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, ALC, ASCA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require agricultural impact assessments and reclamation plans for gravel extraction, to be submitted to the City prior to extraction (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing assessment of this process and outcomes</li> <li>Enhancement of this process where necessary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better assessments will ensure that the long term effect of gravel extraction on agriculture is identified and fully considered in remediation plans</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Lead: SFCF</b> Lead: SFCF Support: City, UFV, Volunteers, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support community gardens and/or urban agriculture demonstration projects that promote agricultural awareness among City residents (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify projects, knowledge gaps and potential partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More public involvement in growing food will increase the awareness of consumers of the value of protecting farmlands and supporting local production</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: BCAC, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and support completion of environmental farm plans and use of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to improve agricultural operations and provide environmental benefits (5.6, p. 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage producers and growers organization to complete environmental farm plans</li> <li>Lobby for continued funding of BMPs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of environmental farm plans will ensure that agriculture grows in an environmental sustainable, resource efficient manner</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Lead: Producer Groups</b> Support: Tourism Abbotsford, BCAC, ACOC, BCATA, City, Marketing Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with tourism industry to develop ‘taste of Abbotsford’ tours, guidebooks, cookbooks and promotions at local and regional restaurants, convention/hotel facilities and other venues (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and develop venues, celebrations and tours focusing on Abbotsford agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased support for venues that promote interaction between the public, tourists and farmers will increase awareness of agriculture and provide diversification opportunities for farms</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	<b>Lead: ALC</b> Support: BCMAL, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased enforcement of regulations to curtail illegal land uses and direct illegal/inappropriate uses to appropriate areas (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key land use issues</li> <li>• Increased and improved enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regulatory enforcement will ensure that those that unfairly and illegally abuse rules governing farmland are brought to task</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCAC, Service Canada, WSBC, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with industry and government agencies to support the employment of seasonal and foreign agricultural workers, with respect to working conditions, accommodations, cultural services and accessibility to workers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication with relevant industry partners and agencies</li> <li>• Identify responsibilities and areas for increased support</li> <li>• Respond to needs as they arise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports ability of farmers to attract and obtain needed seasonal and foreign farm workers</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>New Initiatives - City</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the implementation of the City's agri-industrial policies through a new comprehensive approach based on coordinated planning and regulatory and policy support from ALC (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate discussions with the ALC</li> <li>Ask BCAC to support and promote strategies for value-added agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The heightened role of agriculture in the industrial development plans of the City will increase opportunities for industry growth and prosperity</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In consultation with the ALC, investigate the feasibility of developing agri-industrial uses in the ALR in relation to farms, servicing and transportation infrastructure, and City-led agri-industrial investment policies and initiatives (5.4, p. 16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore feasibility</li> <li>Initiate interest from BCMAL and ALC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture welcomes the City's support in enhancing the ability of farmers and agri-industry to pursue value added agricultural opportunities in the context of legitimate use of the ALR</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: AAC, BCMAL, ALC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake the Abbotsford rural area plan (5.1,p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare Terms of Reference</li> <li>Initiate planning process</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A rural area plan will provide predictability and stability for rural and agricultural development into the future</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ASCA, BCMAL, DDI, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop agriculture-friendly scheduling processes to minimize impacts on agriculture and facilitate City access onto private land for the purposes of ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate farmer issues</li> <li>Collaborate to reach mutually beneficial approaches</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved scheduling is anticipated to reduce costs to farmers as well as streamline the process under which the City carries out its maintenance responsibilities</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL, BCAC, DFO, MOE, Industry Groups, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve the City in reviews and processes dealing with agency regulations affecting agriculture and in developing more 'agriculture-friendly' protocols for ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise DFO, MOE , BCMAL</li> <li>Participate in BCAC Agriculture-Environment Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The City will represent agricultural concerns to ensure that the precautionary policies of agencies are practical, feasible, and affordable for farmers</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate City staff positions to strengthen understanding and relationships between farmers and government (economic development officer for agriculture, agricultural liaisons) (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate, second or hire qualified staff</li> <li>Meet with agricultural groups to explain intent and identify areas for action</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved capacity to engage farmers on their terms will result in a better understanding of concerns and more streamlined relationships to achieve required responses</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: BCMAL , ALC, FVREB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require disclosure of agricultural practices at building permit stage (and/or covenant) (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop material</li> <li>Make requests for support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disclosure will inform prospective builders that agricultural sights, sound and smells are to be expected in farming areas</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>Lead: City</b> Support: ACF, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize the City's Agricultural Trust fund to further agricultural investment, research and innovation (5.1, p. 11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop mechanism to evaluate applications for funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for research and programs that would act to enhance agricultural productivity and innovation</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>New Initiatives – BCMAL</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: ALC, City staff, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policies to defend farmers from rural-residential encroachment (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policies that will protect farms from the pressures of rural-residential encroachment will protect the ability of farmers to farm and minimize the potential for rural-urban conflicts</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: ALC, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider ways of reducing wasteful use of agricultural land for excessive building footprints, access roads, and inappropriate siting (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiatives to reduce the wasteful use of farmland are intended to highlight that top quality soils should be retained for agriculture</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: BCMAL</b> Support: AAC, SFCF, BCATA, FVFDMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a needs assessment for small scale farmers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> <li>Identify start-up guidelines for new farms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This emerging segment of the agricultural industry will be supported through the coordinated development of programs and policies</li> </ul>
<b>New Initiatives – Other Agencies</b>				
<b>1</b>	<b>Lead: Tourism Abbotsford</b> Support: BCMAL, City, Agri-Fair, Producer Associations, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create signage that identifies agricultural sub-areas or “neighbourhoods” within the City, what is grown there, provides directional signage for agri-tourism, and directs motorists to respect farm traffic (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage support groups</li> <li>Develop messaging, signage specs, and strategy for intro. into the City</li> <li>Sign bylaw changes by the City</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A coordinated plan to provide agricultural signage will inform the general public, improve safety, increase respect for agriculture, as well as facilitate meeting farmer’s needs in an efficient and cost-effective manner</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Lead: SFCF</b> Support: BCMAL, FVREB, AAC, FCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the leasing of farmland (including the existing MLS system) with additional mechanisms (agreement templates, websites and incentives) that identify potential landlords and tenants (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather info. from other jurisdictions</li> <li>• Produce templates for BC situations, make available to potential landlords and tenants</li> <li>• Create database</li> <li>• Engage FVREB (support / enhance existing leasing)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of aids to assist farmers in getting access to farmland, in addition to the existing MLS system, is expected to encourage new entrants and increase the productive use of farmland in the City</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Lead: SD #34,</b> Support: BCAC, UFV, Marketing Boards, 4-H, Agri-Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance agriculture education at schools (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance curricula into primary and secondary schools</li> <li>• Complement Ag. In the Classroom initiative</li> <li>• Complement healthy food and snacks programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved agricultural awareness among school children will lead to educated consumers and more pursuing the profession in adult life</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Lead: UFV</b> Support: BCMAL, IAF, City, AAFC, Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to attract agri-industrial research, technology, expertise, and funding into the City (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify projects, knowledge gaps, and potential partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pursuit of intellectual expertise behind agri-industrial opportunities, while largely untapped, offers great opportunity for local agricultural-related business growth</li> </ul>

	<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Strategy Policy</b> (applicable Strategy Objective, page #)	<b>Actions Required</b>	<b>Benefit to Agriculture</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Lead: UFV</b> Support: BCMAL, SFCF, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue initiatives to train young people and attract new entrants into agriculture (5.1,p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage support to determine needs</li> <li>• Develop curricula</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New training programs will pursue potential new farmers by marketing opportunities in agriculture to them</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<b>Lead: MCSCD</b> Support: ALC, BCMAL, City, BCAA, FVFDMA, BCATA, Producer Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a more contemporary definition of agriculture, with taxation implications, to support market opportunities in the peri-urban region (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Staff to confirm suitable lead</li> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture within the urban fringe has differing needs and challenges for which unique solutions are required and will be explored</li> </ul>

**(1) See List of Acronyms on page 23.**

**Table 3: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by Timeline and Action Required**

Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Ongoing Action (Continue)</b>		
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby senior governments for the continued support of supply management (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate the importance of supply management to the City</li> </ul>
Lead: ALC Support: BCMAL, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased enforcement of regulations to curtail illegal land uses and direct illegal/ inappropriate uses to appropriate areas (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify key land use issues</li> <li>• Increased and improved enforcement</li> </ul>
Lead: City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require agricultural impact assessments and reclamation plans for gravel extraction, to be submitted to the City prior to extraction (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing assessment of this process and outcomes</li> <li>• Enhancement of this process where necessary</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, MOE, FVRD, UBCM, City, Public & Private Sector Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support cost efficient waste management solutions (anaerobic digestion, gasification, composting, recycling, etc) (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support or co-sponsor investigative studies of these needs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to attract agri-industrial to industrial-business lands (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an agri-industrial “open for business” policy</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, industry groups, AAC, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote farmer’s interests with agencies regulating maintenance of drainage, irrigation and flood control systems (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise DFO, MOE , BCMAL</li> <li>• Participate in BCAC Agriculture-Environment Committee</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and support completion of environmental farm plans and use of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to improve agricultural operations and provide environmental benefits (5.6, p. 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage producers and growers organization to complete environmental farm plans</li> <li>• Lobby for continued funding of BMPs</li> </ul>
Lead: SFCF Support: City, UFV, volunteers, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support community gardens and/or urban agriculture demonstration projects that promote agricultural awareness among City residents (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify projects, knowledge gaps and potential partners</li> </ul>



Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Ongoing Action (Continued)</b>		
Lead: Producer Groups Support: Tourism Abbotsford, BCAC, ACOC, BCATA, City, Marketing Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with tourism industry to develop ‘taste of Abbotsford’ tours, guidebooks, cookbooks and promotions at local and regional restaurants, convention/hotel facilities and other venues (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop venues and celebrations focusing on Abbotsford agriculture</li> <li>• Sign bylaw changes by the City</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCAC, Service Canada, WSBC, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with industry and government agencies to support the employment of seasonal and foreign agricultural workers, with respect to working conditions, accommodations, cultural services and accessibility to workers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication with relevant industry partners and agencies</li> <li>• Identify responsibilities and areas for increased support</li> <li>• Respond to needs as they arise</li> </ul>
<b>Immediate Action (Within a Year)</b>		
Lead: BCMAL Support: AAC, SFCF, BCATA, FVFDMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a needs assessment for small scale farmers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> <li>• Identify start-up guidelines for new farms</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC, BCMAL, ALC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake the Abbotsford rural area plan (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Initiate planning process</li> </ul>
Lead: MCSCD Support: ALC, BCMAL, City, BCAA, FVFDMA, BCATA, producer associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a more contemporary definition of agriculture, with taxation implications, to support market opportunities in the peri-urban region (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Staff to confirm suitable lead</li> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: UFV Support: BCMAL, SFCF, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue initiatives to train young people and attract new entrants into agriculture (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage support to determine needs</li> <li>• Develop curricula</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider ways of reducing wasteful use of agricultural land for excessive building footprints, access roads, and inappropriate siting (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Immediate Action (Within a Year) - continued</b>		
Lead: SFCF Support: BCMAL, FVREB, AAC, FCC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the leasing of farmland (including the existing MLS system) with additional mechanisms (agreement templates, websites and incentives) that identify potential landlords and tenants (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gather info. from other jurisdictions</li> <li>• Produce templates for BC situations, make available to potential landlords and tenants</li> <li>• Create database</li> <li>• Engage FVREB (support / enhance existing leasing)</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, FVREB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require disclosure of agricultural practices at building permit stage (and/or covenant) (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop material</li> <li>• Make requests for support</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop policies to defend farmers from rural-residential encroachment (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue the City's agri-industrial policies through a new comprehensive approach based on coordinated planning and regulatory and policy support from ALC (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate discussions with the ALC</li> <li>• Ask BCAC to support and promote strategies for value-added agriculture</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In consultation with the ALC, investigate the feasibility of developing agri-industrial uses in the ALR in relation to farms, servicing and transportation infrastructure, and City-led agri-industrial investment policies and initiatives (5.4, p. 16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore feasibility</li> <li>• Initiate interest from BCMAL and ALC</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate City staff positions to strengthen understanding and relationships between farmers and government (economic development officer for agriculture, agricultural liaisons) (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hire or second qualified staff</li> <li>• Meet with agricultural groups to explain intent and identify areas for action</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, BCAC, DFO, MOE, industry groups, AAC, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Involve the City in reviews and processes dealing with agency regulations affecting agriculture and in developing more 'agriculture-friendly' protocols for ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise DFO, MOE , BCMAL</li> <li>• Participate in BCAC Agriculture-Environment Committee</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Immediate Action (Within a Year) - continued</b>		
Lead: City Support: ASCA, BCMAL, DDI, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop agriculture-friendly scheduling processes to minimize impacts on agriculture and facilitate City access onto private land for the purposes of ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate farmer issues</li> <li>• Collaborate to reach mutually beneficial approaches</li> </ul>
Lead: SD #34 Support: BCAC, UFV, marketing boards, 4-H, Agri-Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance agriculture education at schools (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance curricula into primary and secondary schools</li> <li>• Complement Ag In the Classroom initiative</li> <li>• Complement health food and snacks programs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACOC, agricultural associations, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve local business awareness of agriculture (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with ACOC</li> <li>• Develop communication strategy</li> <li>• Create communication materials</li> </ul>
Lead: Tourism Abbotsford Support: City, Agri-Fair, producer associations, BCMAL, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create signage that identifies agricultural sub-areas or “neighbourhoods” within the City, what is grown there, provides directional signage for agri-tourism, and directs motorists to respect farm traffic (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage support groups</li> <li>• Develop messaging, signage specification, and strategy for introduction into the City</li> </ul>
Lead: UFV Support: BCMAL, IAF, City, AAFC, industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities to attract agri-industrial research, technology, expertise, and funding into the City (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify projects, knowledge gaps, and potential partners</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACF, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize the City’s Agricultural Trust fund to further agricultural investment, research and innovation (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop mechanism to evaluate applications for funding</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Short Term Action (1 to 2 Years)</b>		
Lead: UFV, Support: BCMAL, AAFC, BCAC, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with proponents and applicants to access provincial and federal funding and programs that enhance agriculture (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify projects of interest</li> <li>Identify potential funding agencies,(e.g., IAF), partner agencies, federal programs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decouple rural servicing rates to non-agricultural farmland uses in the ALR from preferential rates in support of agriculture (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate policy and fiscal impacts</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: Tourism Abbotsford, UFV, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop permanent farmers market(s) (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain support for farmers markets</li> <li>Initiate interest in investigating local food system needs</li> <li>Initiate interest in determining agri-tourism needs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, ASCA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the remediation of current exhausted mineral extraction sites (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate targeting agricultural trust funds to this purpose</li> <li>Consider enforcing property owner responsibilities</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, public & private sectors, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider centralized sites for enabling farm and processing wastes to be handled together (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> <li>Collaborate with industry and BCMAL to determine what agriculture needs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: Public & private sector utilities, FVRD, UFV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore synergies between waste management and energy production (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate feasibility analysis</li> <li>Encourage public and private sector interest and proposals</li> </ul>
Lead: UFV Support: BCMAL, IAF, City, AAFC, industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to attract agri-industrial research, technology, expertise, and funding into the City (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify projects, knowledge gaps, and potential partners</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Short Term Action (1 to 2 Years) - continued</b>		
Lead: BCMAL Support: City, ACOC, UFV, industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the associated needs of food processing (in industrial areas) (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support or co-sponsor an investigative study of these needs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: Farmers, BCMAL, AAC, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage farmers to develop irrigation plans to quantify water needs and assist the City in water supply planning (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote uptake of BMPS involving irrigation planning on farms</li> <li>Create database of farm water demand</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ASCA, BCMAL, DDI, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of farmers on the requirements of senior legislation (e.g., provide presentations to DDI and ASCA AGMs, prepare brochures) (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop communication materials</li> <li>Host meetings, workshops, seminars</li> </ul>
<b>Medium Term Action ( 2 to 5 Years)</b>		
Lead: City Support: AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an agricultural variance committee to deal with unconventional situations where the City has jurisdiction (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City action</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ACOC, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop annual 'State of Agriculture' reports (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce these reports annually</li> <li>Develop communication strategy</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC , BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate ancillary developments on agricultural lands in the ALR (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City to review policy to identify current bottlenecks</li> <li>Initiate interaction with BCMAL to determine gaps</li> </ul>
Lead: BCAA Support: City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate creating a tax classification to tax rural residential at urban residential rates (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a targeted study of rural-residential tax impacts and solutions</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: Industry, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an integrated agri-industrial servicing plan (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Medium Term Action ( 2 to 5 Years) - continued</b>		
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan transportation corridors in the ALR to facilitate access to farmland, minimize disruptions to farming operations and reducing vehicle conflicts (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> <li>• Vet through support agencies</li> </ul>
Lead: City, Support: BCMAL, industry, public & private sector utilities, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate providing infrastructure bundles (water, sewer, electrical, hook-up to the grid) to areas suited / targeted for certain types of agricultural investment (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> <li>• Encourage BCMAL to investigate implications</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine feasibility of retrofitting existing drainage and irrigation systems so that these systems do not connect to natural or channelized water courses (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate investigation</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the agriculture section in the zoning bylaw to facilitate agricultural regulatory awareness and compliance and develop and include an expanded 'agriculture' definition (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing policies</li> <li>• Vet through support agencies</li> </ul>
<b>Long Term Action ( 5 to 10 Years)</b>		
Lead: BCMAL Support: IAF, City, AAFC, BCAC, UFV, private sector, industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue research into processes and technology innovations that address agricultural issues including: management of agricultural by-products, energy production, agricultural responses to climate change, agronomic impacts of gravel extraction, eco-industrial technologies and solutions, agriculture-related problems and science based solutions (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indicate intent</li> <li>• Generate interest</li> <li>• Encourage support agencies to identify opportunities</li> <li>• Seek partners to pursue initiatives in these areas</li> <li>• Access IAF to explore possibilities</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
<b>Long Term Action ( 5 to 10 Years) - continued</b>		
Lead: Tourism Abbotsford, Support: City, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue strategies to promote the local food system, such as the development of distribution and handling facilities, integrating tourism into the City's tourism theme (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain support for farmers markets</li> <li>Initiate interest in investigating local food system needs</li> <li>Initiate interest in determining agri-tourism needs</li> </ul>
Lead: MCSCD Support: BCAA, ALC, BCMAL, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider ways of tightening rural residential eligibility for farm classification (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Staff to confirm suitable lead</li> <li>Undertake a tax study to address rural residential non-farm use of agricultural land</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, IAF, public & private sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and attract research and investigation into eco-industrial technologies and solutions (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify partners and proponents of initiatives in these areas</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACOC, BCMAL, AAFC, UFV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the development of an agri-food technology cluster (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attract funding to initiate a feasibility assessment</li> <li>Initiate interest from ACOC in determining agri-food cluster needs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC, industry, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an agricultural rural servicing plan based on the infrastructure required to promote efficiency in the agricultural sector (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC, industry, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a water supply plan that considers agricultural water needs (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: DFO, MOE, DDI, AAC,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the ability of drainage systems to eliminate flooding of agricultural lands from upland storm water runoff (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: DFO, MOE, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that municipal regulations meet their intended purpose and are practical for agriculture (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing policies</li> <li>Vet through support agencies</li> </ul>

**(1) See List of Acronyms on page 23.**

**Table 4: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by City of Abbotsford as Implementing Agency, Timeline, and Action Required**

<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ACOC	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lobby senior governments for the continued support of supply management (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate the importance of supply management to the City and province</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACOC	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to attract agri-industrial to industrial-business lands (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an agri-industrial “open for business” policy</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, Industry groups, DDI, AAC	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to promote farmer’s interests with agencies regulating maintenance of drainage, irrigation and flood control systems (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advise DFO, MOE , BCMAL</li> <li>• Participate in BCAC Agriculture-Environment Committee</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, ASCA, AAC	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require agricultural impact assessments and reclamation plans for gravel extraction, to be submitted to the City prior to extraction (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing assessment of this process and outcomes</li> <li>• Enhancement of this process where necessary</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCAC, Service Canada, WSBC, BCMAL	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with industry and government agencies to support the employment of seasonal and foreign agricultural workers, with respect to working conditions, accommodations, cultural services and accessibility to workers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve communication with relevant industry partners and agencies</li> <li>• Identify responsibilities and areas for increased support</li> <li>• Respond to needs as they arise</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC, BCMAL, ALC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake the Abbotsford rural area plan (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Initiate planning process</li> </ul>



<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, ASCA, AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require agricultural impact assessments and reclamation plans for gravel extraction projects, to be submitted to the City prior to extraction (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise ALC</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, FVREB	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require disclosure of agricultural practices at building permit stage (and/or covenant) (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop material</li> <li>Make requests for support</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the City's agri-industrial polices through a new comprehensive approach based on coordinated planning and regulatory and policy support from ALC (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate discussions with the ALC</li> <li>Ask BCAC to support and promote strategies for value-added agriculture</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In consultation with the ALC, investigate the feasibility of developing agri-industrial uses in the ALR in relation to farms, servicing and transportation infrastructure, and City-led agri-industrial investment policies and initiatives (5.4, p. 16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore feasibility</li> <li>Initiate interest from BCMAL and ALC</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, DFO, MOE, industry groups, AAC, DDI	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve the City in reviews and processes dealing with agency regulations affecting agriculture and in developing more 'agriculture-friendly' protocols for ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise DFO, MOE , BCMAL</li> <li>Ask for status on Ag-Environment Committee</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate City staff positions to strengthen understanding and relationships between farmers and government (economic development officer for agriculture, agricultural liaisons) (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hire or second qualified staff</li> <li>Meet with agricultural groups to explain intent and identify areas for action</li> </ul>

<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: City Support: ASCA, BCMAL, AAC, DDI	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop agriculture-friendly scheduling processes to minimize impacts on agriculture and facilitate City access onto private land for the purposes of ditch and drainage maintenance (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate farmer issues</li> <li>• Collaborate to reach mutually beneficial approaches</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACF, AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize the City's Agricultural Trust fund to further agricultural investment, research and innovation (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop mechanism to evaluate applications for funding</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: Tourism Abbotsford, UFV, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop permanent farmers market(s) (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain support for farmers markets</li> <li>• Initiate interest in investigating local food system needs</li> <li>• Initiate interest in determining agri-tourism needs</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC, BCMAL, ALC	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decouple rural servicing rates to non-agricultural farmland uses in the ALR from preferential rates in support of agriculture (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate policy and fiscal impacts</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, ASCA, AAC	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage the remediation of current exhausted mineral extraction sites (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate targeting agricultural trust funds to this purpose</li> <li>• Consider enforcing property owner responsibilities</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, public & private sector interests, AAC	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider centralized sites for enabling farm and processing wastes to be handled together (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> <li>• Collaborate with industry and BCMAL to determine what agriculture needs</li> </ul>

<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: City Support: Public & private sector utilities and interests, FVRD, UFV	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore synergies between waste management and energy production (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate feasibility analysis</li> <li>• Encourage private sector interest and proposals</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: Farmers, BCMAL, DDI, AAC,	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage farmers to develop irrigation plans to quantify water needs and assist the City in water supply planning (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote uptake of BMPS involving irrigation planning on farms</li> <li>• Create database of farm water demand</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ASCA, BCMAL, DDI, AAC	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise awareness of farmers on the requirements of senior legislation (e.g., provide presentations to DDI and ASCA AGMs, prepare brochures, etc.) (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop communication materials</li> <li>• Host seminars</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create an agricultural variance committee to deal with unconventional situations where the City has jurisdiction (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City action</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACOC, agricultural associations, BCMAL	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve local business awareness of agriculture (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with ACOC</li> <li>• Develop communication strategy</li> <li>• Create communication materials</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ALC , BCMAL, AAC	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate ancillary developments on agricultural lands in the ALR (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City to review policy to identify current bottlenecks</li> <li>• Initiate interaction with BCMAL to determine gaps</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: Industry, AAC	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an integrated agri-industrial location and servicing plan (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>

<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, AAC	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan transportation corridors in the ALR to facilitate access to farmland, minimize disruptions to farming operations and reducing vehicle conflicts (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> <li>Vet through support agencies</li> </ul>
Lead: City, Support: BCMAL, industry, public & private sector utilities, DDI	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate providing infrastructure bundles (water, sewer, electrical, hook-up to the grid) to areas suited / targeted for certain types of agricultural investment (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> <li>Encourage BCMAL to investigate implications</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, DDI	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine feasibility of retrofitting existing drainage and irrigation systems so that these systems do not connect to natural or channelized water courses (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate investigation</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, AAC	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the agriculture section in the zoning bylaw to facilitate agricultural regulatory awareness and compliance and develop and include an expanded 'agriculture' definition (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review existing policies</li> <li>Vet through support agencies</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ACOC, ALC, IAF, public & private sectors	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and attract research and investigation into eco-industrial technologies and solutions (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify partners and proponents of initiatives in these areas</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: ACOC, UFV	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the development of an agri-food technology cluster in the City (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attract funding to initiate a feasibility assessment</li> <li>Initiate interest from ACOC in determining agri-food cluster needs</li> </ul>

<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: City Support: AAC, DDI	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an agricultural rural servicing plan based on the infrastructure required to promote efficiency in the agricultural sector (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: AAC, DDI	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a water supply plan that considers agricultural water needs (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: DFO, MOE, AAC, DDI	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the ability of drainage systems to eliminate flooding of agricultural lands from upland storm water runoff (5.5, p.17)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: City Support: DFO, MOE, AAC	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that municipal regulations meet their intended purpose and are practical for agriculture (5.6, p.18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing policies</li> <li>• Vet through support agencies</li> </ul>

**(1) See List of Acronyms on page 23.**

**(2) Timeline for Action: Ongoing = continue; Immediate = within 1 year; Short = 1- 2 years; Medium = 2 – 5 years; Long = 5-10 years**

**Table 5: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by BCMAL as Implementing Agency, Timeline, and Action Required**

<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, MOE, FVRD, UBCM, City, public & private sector utilities	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support cost efficient waste management solutions (anaerobic digestion, gasification, composting, recycling, etc) (5.3, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support and co-sponsor investigative studies of these needs</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: City, AAC	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and support completion of environmental farm plans and use of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to improve agricultural operations and provide environmental benefits (5.6, p. 18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage producers and growers organization to complete environmental farm plans</li> <li>• Lobby for continued funding of BMPs</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: AAC, SFCF, BCATA, FVFDMA	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a needs assessment for small scale farmers (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study</li> <li>• Identify start-up guidelines for new farms</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, City, AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider ways of reducing wasteful use of agricultural land for excessive building footprints, access roads, and inappropriate siting (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, City, AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop policies to defend farmers from rural-residential encroachment (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate an internal study of issues and options</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: City, ACOC, UFV, Industry	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate the associated needs of food processing (in industrial areas) (5.4, p.16)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support or co-sponsor an investigative study of these needs</li> </ul>
Lead: BCMAL Support: ACOC, City	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop annual 'State of Agriculture' reports (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce these reports annually</li> <li>• Develop communication strategy</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Timeline (2)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
Lead: BCMAL Support: IAF, City, AAFC, BCAC, UFV, private sector, industry	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue research into processes and technology that addresses agricultural issues including: management of agricultural by-products, energy production, agricultural responses to climate change, agronomic impacts of gravel extraction, eco-industrial technologies and solutions, agriculture-related problems and science based solutions (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicate intent</li> <li>Generate interest</li> <li>Encourage support agencies to identify opportunities</li> <li>Seek partners to pursue initiatives in these areas</li> <li>Access IAF to explore possibilities</li> </ul>

(1) See List of Acronyms on page 23.

(2) Timeline for Action: Ongoing = continue; Immediate = within 1 year; Short = 1- 2 years; Medium = 2 – 5 years; Long = 5-10 years

**Table 6: Summary of Recommended Policies, Sorted by Other Agencies as Implementing Agency, Timeline, and Action Required**

<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: ALC Support: BCMAL, City, AAC	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased enforcement of regulations to curtail illegal land uses and direct illegal/inappropriate uses to appropriate areas (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key land use issues</li> <li>Increased and improved enforcement</li> </ul>
Lead: SFCF, Support: City, UFV, volunteers, , BCMAL	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support community gardens and/or urban agriculture demonstration projects that promote agricultural awareness among City residents (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify projects, knowledge gaps and potential partners</li> </ul>
Lead: Producer Groups Support: Tourism Abbotsford, BCAC, ACOC , BCATA, City, Marketing Boards	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with tourism industry to develop ‘taste of Abbotsford’ tours, guidebooks, cookbooks and promotions at local and regional restaurants, convention/hotel facilities and other venues (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop venues and celebrations focusing on Abbotsford agriculture</li> <li>Sign bylaw changes by the City</li> </ul>
Lead: UFV Support: BCMAL, SFSF, City	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue initiatives to train young people and attract new entrants into agriculture (5.1,p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage support to determine needs</li> <li>Develop curricula</li> </ul>
Lead: SFCF Support: BCMAL, FVREB, AAC, FCC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the leasing of farmland (including the existing MLS system) with additional mechanisms (agreement templates, websites and incentives) that identify potential landlords and tenants (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gather info. from other jurisdictions</li> <li>Produce templates for BC situations, make available to potential landlords and tenants</li> <li>Create database</li> <li>Engage FVREB (support / enhance existing leasing)</li> </ul>
Lead: UFV Support: BCMAL, IAF, City, AAFC, industry	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to attract agri-industrial research, technology, expertise, and funding into the City (5.4, p.15)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify projects, knowledge gaps, and potential partners</li> </ul>



<b>Implementing Agency (1)</b>	<b>Timeline (2)</b>	<b>Recommended Policy (objective, page)</b>	<b>Actions Required</b>
Lead: SD #34, UFV, Support: BCAC, marketing boards, 4-H, Agri-Fair	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance agriculture education at schools (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and introduce curricula into primary and secondary schools and the community</li> </ul>
Lead: Tourism Abbotsford Support: City, Agri-Fair, producer associations, BCMAL, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create signage that identifies agricultural sub-areas or “neighbourhoods” within the City, what is grown there, provides directional signage for agri-tourism, and directs motorists to respect farm traffic (5.7, p.20)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage support groups</li> <li>Develop messaging, signage specification, and strategy for introduction</li> </ul>
Lead: MCSCD Support: ALC, BCMAL, City, BCAA, AAC, FVFDMA, BCATA	Immediate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a more contemporary definition of agriculture, with taxation implications, to support market opportunities in the peri-urban region (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Staff to confirm suitable lead</li> <li>Initiate an internal study</li> </ul>
Lead: UFV, Support: BCMAL, AAFC, BCAC, City	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with proponents and applicants to access provincial and federal funding and programs that enhance agriculture (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify projects of interest</li> <li>Identify potential funding agencies,(e.g., IAF), partner agencies, federal programs</li> </ul>
Lead: BCAA Support: City, BCMAL, ALC, AAC	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate creating a tax classification to tax rural residential at urban residential rates (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a targeted study of rural-residential tax impacts and solutions</li> </ul>
Lead: Tourism Abbotsford, Support: City, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue strategies to promote the local food system, such as the development of distribution and handling facilities, integrating tourism into the City’s tourism theme (5.1, p.11)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain support for farmers markets</li> <li>Initiate interest in investigating local food system needs</li> <li>Initiate interest in determining agri-tourism needs</li> </ul>

Implementing Agency (1)	Timeline (2)	Recommended Policy (objective, page)	Actions Required
Lead: MCSCD Support: BCAA, ALC, City, BCMAL, AAC	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider ways of tightening rural residential eligibility for farm classification (5.2, p.13)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City Staff to confirm suitable lead</li> <li>Undertake a tax study to address rural residential non-farm use of agricultural land</li> </ul>

**(1) See List of Acronyms on page 23.**

**(2) Timeline for Action: Ongoing = continue; Immediate = within 1 year; Short = 1- 2 years; Medium = 2 – 5 years; Long = 5-10 years**

## 7.0 Performance Indicators

The Agriculture Strategy is a 'living document' that should be reviewed every 5 years to gauge progress and ensure Strategy Objectives are being achieved. This review will also create opportunities to adjust these objectives in the face of new and/or lingering issues, and develop new policies that respond to the needs of the agricultural economy. Performance indicators, specifically applying to Strategy Objectives, will be developed to facilitate and quantify reviews of the Strategy.

These performance indicators would be policy-specific and include:

- Evidence that suggested reviews, investigations and feasibility analyses have been initiated/completed
- Level of adoption of lead roles by implementing agency
- Progress towards measurable targets, e.g., area farmed, growth in economic activity, creation/attraction of agri-firms, number of public awareness events, level of public participation, agro-tourism numbers
- Indication of the new coordination and partnering relationships
- Completion of the state of Abbotsford agriculture report
- Adoption of increased agriculture curricula in primary and secondary schools
- Measure of increased participation of the City in review and regulatory processes and record of associated results
- Measure of the creation of markets and local food system capacity.



It is also recommended that the AAC, in its advisory capacity, play the lead role in monitoring the implementation of Agriculture Strategy policies, and report back to Council regarding the progress of this implementation.

Involving the AAC in this role presents a key opportunity to identify specific considerations in the implementation of Strategy policies, and identify further new initiatives to pursue in the future.



# APPENDICIES

Appendix A:  
Summary of Objectives, Policies, Implementation Timeline, and Priority

## Appendix A: Summary of Objectives, Policies, Implementation Timeline, and Priority

Strategy Objective	Recommended Policy	Implementing Agencies (1)	Timeline (2)	Priority
<b>1. Enhance Opportunities for Agricultural Enterprise (page 11)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobby senior governments for the continued support of supply management</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased enforcement of regulations to curtail illegal land uses and direct illegal/ inappropriate uses to appropriate areas</li> </ul>	Lead: ALC Support: BCMAL, City, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with industry and government agencies to support the employment of seasonal and foreign agricultural workers, with respect to working conditions, accommodations, cultural services and accessibility to workers</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCAC, Service Canada, WSBC, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a needs assessment for small scale farmers</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support: AAC, SFCF, BCATA, FVFDMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with proponents and applicants to access provincial and federal funding and programs that enhance agriculture</li> </ul>	Lead: UFV, Support: BCMAL, AAFC, BCAC, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake the Abbotsford rural area plan</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: AAC, BCMAL, ALC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue initiatives to train young people and attract new entrants into agriculture</li> </ul>	Lead: UFV Support: BCMAL, SFCF, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize the City's Agricultural Trust fund to further agricultural investment, research and innovation</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ACF, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a more contemporary definition of agriculture, with taxation implications, to support market opportunities in the peri-urban region</li> </ul>	Lead: MCSCD Support: ALC, BCMAL, City, BCAA, FVFDMA, BCATA, Producer Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decouple rural servicing rates to non-agricultural farmland uses in the ALR from preferential rates in support of agriculture</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support : AAC, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate ancillary developments on agricultural lands in the ALR</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	

Strategy Objective	Recommended Policy	Implementing Agencies (1)	Timeline (2)	Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue strategies to promote the local food system, such as the development of a permanent Farmers Market and other marketing facilities, and integrating agro-tourism into the City's tourism theme</li> </ul>	Lead: Tourism Abbotsford Support: BCATA, City, AAC, FVFDMA, UFV	• Long	• Medium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue research into processes and technology innovations that address agricultural issues including: management of agricultural by-products, energy production, agricultural responses to climate change, agronomic impacts of gravel extraction, eco-industrial technologies and solutions, agriculture-related problems and science based solutions</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support: IAF, City, AAFC, BCAC, UFV, Private Sector, Industry	• Long	• High
<b>2. Encourage the Agricultural Use of Farmland (page 13)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require agricultural impact assessments and reclamation plans for gravel extraction projects, to be submitted to the City prior to extraction</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, ASCA, AAC	• Ongoing	• High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the leasing of farmland (including the existing MLS system) with additional mechanisms (agreement templates, websites and incentives) that identify potential landlords and tenants</li> </ul>	Lead: SFCF Support: BCMAL, FVREB, AAC, FCC	• Immediate	• High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require disclosure of agricultural practices at building permit stage (and/or covenant)</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, FVREB	• Immediate	• High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop policies to defend farmers from rural-residential encroachment</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, City, AAC	• Immediate	• High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider ways of reducing wasteful use of agricultural land for excessive building footprints, access roads, and inappropriate siting</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support : ALC, City, AAC	• Immediate	• High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage the remediation of current exhausted mineral extraction sites</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ALR, ASCA, BCMAL, AAC	• Short	• High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate creating a tax classification to tax rural residential at urban residential rates</li> </ul>	Lead: BCAA Support: City, AAC	• Medium	• Medium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider ways of tightening rural residential eligibility for farm classification</li> </ul>	Lead: MCSCD Support: BCAA, ALC, City, AAC	• Long	• Medium

Strategy Objective	Recommended Policy	Implementing Agencies (1)	Timeline (2)	Priority
<b>3. Promote Integrated Management of Agricultural By-Products (page 15)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support cost efficient waste management solutions (such as anaerobic digestion, gasification, composting, recycling, etc.), provided these solutions offer a net benefit to agriculture and do not negatively impact the environment</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support: ALC, MOE, FVRD, UBCM, City, UFV, Public & Private Sector Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider centralized sites for enabling farm and processing wastes to be handled together</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, Public & Private Sectors, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore synergies between waste management and energy production</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: Public & Private Sector Utilities and Concerns, FVRD, UFV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage and attract research and investigation into eco-industrial technologies and solutions</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, IAF, Public & Private Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
<b>4. Pursue and support Agri-Industrial Investment (page 16)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to attract agri-industrial to industrial-business lands</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ACOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the implementation of the City's agri-industrial polices through a new comprehensive approach based on coordinated planning and regulatory and policy support from ALC</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In consultation with the ALC, investigate the feasibility of developing agri-industrial uses in the ALR in relation to farms, servicing and transportation infrastructure, and City-led agri-industrial investment policies and initiatives</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ALC, BCMAL, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to attract agri-industrial research, technology, expertise, and funding into the City</li> </ul>	Lead: UFV Support: BCMAL, IAF, City, AAFC, Industry,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the associated needs of food processing (in industrial areas)</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support: City, ACOC, UFV, Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an integrated agri-industrial location and servicing plan</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>

Strategy Objective	Recommended Policy	Implementing Agencies (1)	Timeline (2)	Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue the development of an agri-food technology cluster in the City directly connected to the agricultural production base</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ACOC, UFV, BCMAL, AAFC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
<b>5. Invest in Agricultural Infrastructure (page 17)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage farmers to develop irrigation plans to quantify water needs and assist the City in water supply planning</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: Farmers, BCMAL, AAC, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan transportation corridors in the ALR to facilitate access to farmland, minimize disruptions to farming operations and reducing vehicle conflicts</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate providing infrastructure bundles (water, sewer, electrical, hook-up to the grid) to areas suited / targeted for certain types of agricultural investment</li> </ul>	Lead: City, Support: BCMAL, Industry, Public & Private Sector Utilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine feasibility of retrofitting existing drainage and irrigation systems so that these systems do not connect to natural or channelized water courses</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an agricultural rural servicing plan based on the infrastructure required to promote efficiency in the agricultural sector</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: AAC, Industry, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a water supply plan that considers agricultural water needs</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: AAC, Industry, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the ability of drainage systems to eliminate flooding of agricultural lands from upland storm water runoff</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: DFO, MOE, DDI, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
<b>6. Foster Agriculture-Friendly Regulation (page 18)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote and support completion of environmental farm plans and use of Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) to improve agricultural operations and provide environmental benefits</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support: City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote farmer's interests with agencies regulating maintenance of drainage, irrigation and flood control systems</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, Industry Groups, AAC, DDI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>



Strategy Objective	Recommended Policy	Implementing Agencies (1)	Timeline (2)	Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Designate City staff positions to strengthen understandings and relationships between farmers and government (economic development officer for agriculture, agricultural liaisons)</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve the City in reviews and processes dealing with agency regulations affecting agriculture and in developing more ‘agriculture-friendly’ protocols for ditch and drainage maintenance</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, BCAC, DFO, MOE, Industry groups, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop agriculture-friendly scheduling processes to minimize impacts on agriculture and facilitate City access onto private land for the purposes of ditch and drainage maintenance</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ASCA, BCMAL, DDI, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of farmers on the requirements of senior legislation (e.g., provide presentations to DDI and ASCA AGMs, prepare brochures, etc.)</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ASCA, BCMAL, DDI, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create an agricultural variance committee to deal with special circumstances where the City has jurisdiction</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the agriculture section in the zoning bylaw to facilitate agricultural regulatory awareness and compliance and develop and include an expanded ‘agriculture’ definition</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: BCMAL, ALC, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that municipal regulations meet their intended purpose and are practical for agriculture</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: DFO, MOE, AAC,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medium</li> </ul>
<b>7. Cultivate Public Support for Agriculture (page 20)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support community gardens and/or urban agriculture demonstration projects that promote agricultural awareness among City residents</li> </ul>	Lead: SFCF, Support: FCC, City, UFV, volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with tourism industry to develop ‘taste of Abbotsford’ tours, guidebooks, cookbooks and promotions at local and regional restaurants, convention/hotel facilities and other venues</li> </ul>	Lead: Tourism Abbotsford Support: BCAC, ACOC, BCATA, City, Marketing Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance agriculture education at schools</li> </ul>	Lead: SD #34 Support: BCAC, UFV, Marketing Boards, 4-H, Agri-Fair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>High</li> </ul>

Strategy Objective	Recommended Policy	Implementing Agencies (1)	Timeline (2)	Priority
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create signage that identifies agricultural sub-areas or “neighbourhoods” within the City, what is grown there, provides directional signage for agri-tourism, and directs motorists to respect farm traffic</li> </ul>	Lead: Tourism Abbotsford Support: City, Agri-Fair, Producer Associations, BCMAL, BCATA, FVFDMA, AAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immediate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve local business awareness of agriculture</li> </ul>	Lead: City Support: ACOC, Agricultural Associations, BCMAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop annual ‘State of Agriculture’ reports</li> </ul>	Lead: BCMAL Support: ACOC, City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium</li> </ul>

(1) See List of Acronyms on page 23.

(2) Timeline for Action: Ongoing = continue; Immediate = within 1 year; Short = 1- 2 years; Medium = 2 – 5 years; Long = 5-10 years