



Agriculture

Agriculture continues to play a primary role in Pitt Meadows. Large sectors of land are utilized in the production of berries, horticultural products, greenhouse crops, grazing, dairy farming, and other farming activities. Pitt Meadows continues to work with the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) to confirm its commitment to agriculture as a land use.

Current Trends

- Pitt Meadows ranks sixth amongst BC's municipalities for agriculture production, fourth within the Greater Vancouver area and contributes to 20% of BC's overall blueberry production.
- Farm cash receipts are in the excess of \$60 million, with over 1500 people employed by farming activities.*
- Over 78% of Pitt Meadows is agricultural land.
- Pitt Meadows agricultural lands consist of both small and large acreage parcels, with extensive large parcels located in the southwest and northeast portions of the City.
- Over 4000 hectares of land are farmed in the community.

What does the current OCP say?

- Continue to update agricultural regulations and policies that support and encourage farming.
- Buffer agricultural lands from urban uses that could have negative impacts on farming activities.
- Work with the ALC to ensure the protection of natural resources.
- Update agricultural regulations and policies that support and encourage farming.
- Support the retention of large land holdings, the consolidation of small parcels of land and the creation of long-term land leases to enable investment, and establish economically viable farm units.
- Restrict and regulate the size of dwelling units on agricultural land.

*Farm cash receipts represent the cash income received from the sale of agricultural commodities as well as direct program payments made to support or subsidize the agriculture sector.



Challenges

- Increased development pressure and real estate speculation on the agricultural area because of overall rising land values and lack of alternatives for certain uses, especially truck parking and large equipment storage.
- Filling farmland without permits or oversight.
- Conflicts regularly arise between farming and residential uses in regard to noise, light, odour or other impacts.
- Many levels of regulation (municipal, provincial and federal) can create confusion and increase the cost of farming.
- An aging farming population with fewer young people choosing to take up farming as a career.
- The dispersion of waste produced on agricultural land and within the rural drainage system is potentially costly, both to the municipality and to local farmers.
- Conveying water from and providing water to farms at appropriate times of the year.
- Invasive plant species are increasingly a concern.

Opportunities

- New rules and regulations imposed by the ALC limit the number and size of new dwellings and protect agricultural and for agricultural purposes.
- Support of appropriate value-added agricultural business initiatives on farm sites.
- Possibility of using agricultural and ditch waste for bio-fuel and/or as certified, clean and safe soil amendment material.
- Encouraging best practices for farming and innovation in crops.
- Consistent promotion of the agricultural area and economy to make the agricultural community as economically viable as possible.
- Increasing the capture of as much water runoff as possible within the boundaries of the municipality.

Current & Upcoming Projects

- Updating the City's Zoning Bylaw for greater consistency with provincial regulations.
- Continued work regarding the cultivation of cannabis in the Agriculture Land Reserve.

To provide input, visit haveyoursaypittmeadows.ca