



British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board

Presentation to:

Farm Assessment Review Panel

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History

- 1934 *Natural Products Marketing (British Columbia) Act*
- 1934 British Columbia Marketing Board
- 1974 Appeal responsibilities added

- 1996 *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*
- 1996 British Columbia Farm Practices Board

- 2003 Merged into British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB)

BCFIRB &

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands

- A partnership with Ministry
 - Work closely together
 - Complementary roles
- BCFIRB independent decision-making



Board Membership

Chair Richard Bullock

Vice-Chair Sandi Ulmi

Members
Garth Green
Honey Forbes
Dave Merz
Suzanne Wiltshire
Ron Bertrand



BCFIRB Roles

Under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* (the *FPPA*):

- Hear complaints from persons “aggrieved by any odour, noise, dust or other disturbance resulting from a farm operation conducted as part of a farm business...” (s. 3(1))
- Study, report on, and make recommendations concerning any matter related to farm practices (s. 11)
 - On its own initiative
 - At the request of a municipality, regional district or trust council
 - At the request of the Minister



BCFIRB Roles

Under the *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* (the *NPMA*):

- Supervision of eight BC marketing boards and commissions
- Hearing appeals of decisions of boards and commissions
- Signatory to federal provincial agreements

Under the *Agricultural Products Grading Act* (the *AGPA*):

- Hearing appeals from persons who have had their grading licences refused, suspended, revoked or not renewed.



Farm Practices Complaints Process

- Attempt resolution through mediation
- If goes to hearing, panel to determine whether the disturbance results from a normal farm practice
- Right to Farm protected under the *FPPA*:
 - Dismiss complaints regarding disturbances resulting from normal farm practice
 - Order the farmer to cease or modify practices related to the disturbance that are not consistent with normal farm practices



Farm Practices Complaints: Determining Normal Farm Practice

- Normal farm practice means a practice that is conducted by a farm business in a manner consistent with:
 - a) proper and accepted customs and standards as established and followed by similar farm businesses under similar circumstance, and
 - b) any standards prescribed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council
- Determinations are site specific and not bound by precedent.
- Many factors considered.



Farm Practices Studies

- Scope for of s. 11 studies potentially quite broad:
 - Review of wildlife damage control guidelines on propane cannons (1998)
 - Opportunities for management of noise associated with wind machine use (ongoing)
 - Review of updated propane cannon guidelines (upcoming)
- Complaints focus on specific cases, studies focus on widespread practices



Issues & Opportunities for Agriculture in a Changing World

- Evolution of farming:
 - New activities, new scales, new practices
 - Industry integration and concentration
 - Value-added production
- Diversity of agriculture in BC:
 - Large and small farms, specialization and diversification, commodity production and specialty production, mainstream and niche markets
 - Regional differentiation



Issues & Opportunities for Agriculture in a Changing World

- Succession planning for the sector:
 - Accessibility of agriculture to new entrants
- Complex regulatory framework:
 - Legislation and regulation
 - Municipal bylaws
 - ALR
 - Interactions and impacts



Issues & Opportunities for Agriculture in a Changing World

- Changing public awareness of agriculture:
 - Emerging social, environmental and food safety concerns
 - Increased recognition of a broader public stake in agriculture
 - Public perception of agriculture inconsistent with reality
 - Edge management: buffers etc.
- Increasing complexity of the rural-urban interface:
 - High population growth in agricultural regions
 - Rural estates
 - Changing practices/technologies
 - Increasing pressure on urban/agriculture boundaries



Discussion

Questions?