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COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

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Horsepower

Adam Degenstein and his Clydes, Doc and John, placed third in the horse class at the 102nd annual Chilliwack Plowing Match at Greendale Acres, April 6. The plowing match, which also includes tractor classes, is always a crowd-pleaser and this year didn't disappoint. For more, see page 33. RONDA PAYNE

Livestock oversight to change

Province to oversee farmed animals

PETER MITHAM

VICTORIA – The province is poised to take over responsibility for farmed animal welfare in BC, following a report that recommends restricting the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to companion animals.

Policing of animal welfare, including that of farmed animals, has been the statutory responsibility of the BC SPCA since its founding in 1896, but the report says the time has come for a change.

“The majority of the SPCA’s enforcement activities are associated with companion animals, and there is an

Provincial staff ▶

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Boost in wool prices welcomed

KATE AYERS

BRISCO – BC wool producers saw a boost to fibre prices in 2022, according to data Statistics Canada released April 19.

Prices rose 61% compared to a year earlier, reaching \$1.08 per kilogram.

The increase is driven in part by more producers marketing their wool direct to consumers rather than through the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers Ltd., based in Ontario.

Jennifer Bowes of Riverside Farm in Brisco, a long-time advocate for sheep and wool sector improvements, says the co-op is paying about \$0.40 per kilogram for lower quality wool and up to \$8.82 per kilogram for premium wool.

These are lower than what some producers are seeing through direct sales. In addition, innovative uses for wool, including wool pellets, may be introducing some competition to the market and bumping up raw wool prices.

Fibre festivals have also

gained traction in recent years, creating opportunities for producers to showcase and sell yarn and fleece.

“Hand-spinners are paying premium prices for wool,” she says.

Peace sheep fleeces fetch between \$60 and \$100 from fibre artists, for example.

But the data presented may not be completely accurate, Bowes notes.

“I don’t think they show the whole picture because they

Peace fleeces ▶

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