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COUNTRY LIFE IN BC

The agricultural news source in British Columbia since 1915  JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2025 | Vol. 111 No. 1



Silver lining

Trevor Edwards, along with his wife Allysha, are taking advantage of cold damage this season to tweak the mix of grapes in their Kelowna vineyard to include the hardier Marquette variety. They're also supplementing their production with Washington fruit, producing 'crafted' in BC wines like many other estate wineries. With limited domestic production in 2024, many wineries are charting a path for the future. Read what's in store for the Edwards at Hidden Vines on page 33. MYRNA STARK LEADER

DCCs hit farms hard

Greenhouse growing area should be exempt

PETER MITHAM

DELTA – On-farm development is going to become even costlier this year as Lower Mainland governments hike development cost charges on new construction.

Builders of new greenhouses and other

Greenhouses, farm buildings ▶

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 Jan. 23-25 in Abbotsford

Dairy producers on alert: AI

PETER MITHAM

ABBOTSFORD – The sixth wave of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) since the disease reached BC in April 2023 has claimed yet another species.

An ostrich farm near Edgewood in the Central Kootenay region tested positive for HPAI on December 31, bringing to six the number of non-commercial premises infected since October 21.

A total of 79 premises in BC have tested positive for the disease since October, for a

total of nearly 8.6 million domestic birds lost in the province over the past two years. This fall's outbreak has claimed 2.6 million birds.

The ongoing spread has milk producers on alert, given outbreaks in US dairy herds. The past year has seen the Canadian Food Inspection Agency sample raw milk from processors as well as milk sold at retail.

CFIA reports that 464 samples of raw milk from Western Canadian processors were sampled through December 19, all of which

tested negative. An additional 300 samples of milk from retailers in Western Canada were sampled, all returning negative results.

While the news has been positive, dairy farmers aren't resting easy. Dairy herds in 16 states have reported cases, led by California, which is home to 701 of the 917 confirmed US cases.

The situation was deemed serious enough that California governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency

Calls for proactive border ban ▶

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