

November 15, 2019

To: The Minister of Agriculture

From: Zoë Thorbergson MAnimalSc, President of the British Columbia Goat Association

The BCGA was founded in 1917 and represents all aspects of the goat industry in British Columbia. Many members of BCGA throughout the province own ALR land and produce meat, milk and/or fiber.

Regarding: Supporting Farmers - request for feedback

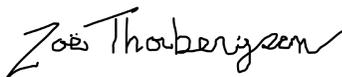
The top issues that BCGA members would like to *“bring forward in the feedback request on advice for the Ministry of Agriculture to consider in preparing his recommendations”* are:

- 1- *“Support farmers and ranchers in the ALR to expand and diversify their businesses”*:
 - a. Ensuring farmers and ranchers could diversify and “keep up” with social and environmental demands is imperative for farmers to survive financially.
 - b. Ensure frequent consultation with farmers and ranchers to identify what areas of diversification are relevant from a social, environmental and financial perspectives.

- 2- *“Help new or young farmers become established on the land and in business”*:
 - a. Ensure due and proper process is followed when proposing or changing regulations to ensure all farmers understand the impact such changes may have before the changes take place.
 - b. Ensure any current or proposed changes will not negatively impact the ability of new/young farmers to obtain a mortgage or insurance for ALR farmland.

- 3- *“Ensure there is flexibility for residential options while prioritizing agriculture in the ALR”*:
 - a. Ensuring that farmers can utilize existing homes as revenue is critical in factoring in accessibility and cost for mortgages. Many farmers may not have extended family but need the additional income to make a farm financially viable and sustainable.
 - b. Regulations that deny access to livable homes is counter to the housing shortage and destruction of these buildings would contribute to the environmental climate crisis.
 - c. House, property and farm insurance should not be negatively affected by new regulations which may have serious impact for farmers obtaining or retaining a farm.
 - d. Grandfather clauses should ensure historical, environmental and housing shortages are considered and appropriately identified.

Respectfully,



Zoë Thorbergson MAnimalSc
President of the British Columbia Goat Association.