

Professional Development Coordinator's Report - 2023

Dear Registrants of the BCIA FV Branch:

2023 was not a great year for Fraser Valley Poultry farmers due to the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks that affected 158 farms throughout BC and led to the destruction of approximately 6 million birds. Due to HPAI biosecurity requirements a couple of the professional development (PD) events the Fraser Valley Branch had planned in 2023 had to be postponed.

The Branch hosted 7 PD events and co-hosted 1 event with Vancouver Branch.

- 1) **Tour to NATS Nursery** in Langley, BC
Presented by NATS Nursery on May 10, 2023

NATS Nursery is committed to providing best quality plants for restoration, reclamation, reforestation, sustainable gardening, construction and many more. As ambassadors of sustainability, the nursery sets example for environmentally and ecologically responsible work processes and practices. **(32 attendees)**

- 2) **The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) – the Basics Webinar**
Presented by Kim Grout, P.Ag on May 24th, 2023

Kim Grout, the CEO of the BC Agricultural Land Commission, provided attendees with a general overview of the work of the Commission and the legislative framework governing land use in the ALR. **(68 attendees)**

- 3) **John Volken Academy Farm Tour** in Surrey, BC
Presented by Marc Vance on June 23rd, 2023

Attendees got to see the farm's state of the art production system for water buffalo and bison. But this was more than a farm. It's a place that's helping people from across the country find their way out of addiction through hard work, determination, and the therapy that working with animals can bring. The farm also has a new pig barn, greenhouse and farm store that sells buffalo/bison products and fresh produce produced on the farm. **(24 attendees)**

- 4) **Coqualeetza Grounds Tour** in Chilliwack, BC
Presented by Stolo Nation (Tourism) on Oct 11th, 2023

The tour guide covered a wide range of topics. At the outset, he narrated what Stolo Nation meant and its territory. The guide described the names of the mountains and the relationships. Other areas covered were fishing, and trade with other Nations. It was interesting to learn that there was only one location (Yale) within the territory and adjacent areas where fish could be air dried, and how this was an advantage. Potlatch, hierarchy in the Nation, as well as how the people in higher status maintained their status was also discussed. Death, Nation veterans, and the memorial for them and residential schools were also described by the tour guide.” **(18 attendees)**

5) **Reception for Sustainability & Climate Resilience Event SFU Surrey Campus**

Networking Event Cohosted by Vancouver and FV Branch on November 18th, 2023:

Following the BC ACARN, BCIA and AgriTech Collaboration: Emerging Tech for Sustainability & Climate Resilience PD event, the Vancouver and Fraser Valley Branches co-hosted a reception at the SFU Surrey Campus to provide attendees with an opportunity to meet some of the speakers from the earlier PD event, discuss topics and ideas, network and meet other members of the branches. **(28 attendees)**

6) **November Social Networking & Guest Speakers Event** in Abbotsford, BC on November 23, 2023

Guest Speakers: Eryne Croquet, Parashar Malla, BCIA Registrar Ryan O’Grady

The Branch held it’s first social networking event since the COVID pandemic at the Highwayman Pub in Abbotsford and was pleased to attract a diverse and enthusiastic group of Branch agrologists to attend. Our speakers lit up the event with their witty and engaging talks about their journey with the BCIA and importance of mentorship. The carefully chosen theme seamlessly integrated with the pub's atmosphere, creating a vibrant and inviting ambiance. The events 34 attendees enjoyed plenty of networking and engagement with fellow agrologists. BCIA’s new Registrar Ryan O-Grady’s attendance at the event provided a great opportunity for attendees to ask questions related to the right to practice and professional governance. Positive feedback and high attendance underscored the event's success. **(34 attendees)**

7) **Carbon Footprint of the Agriculture Industry Webinar**

Presented by Dr. Frank Mitloehner on December 12th, 2023

Dr. Frank Mitloehner is a professor and air quality specialist in cooperative extension in the Department of Animal Science at University of California, Davis (UC Davis). He is also a director at Clarity and Leadership for Environmental Awareness and Research (CLEAR) at UC Davis. The CLEAR Center brings clarity to the intersection of animal agriculture and the environment, helping our global community understand the environmental and

human health impacts of livestock, so we can make informed decisions about the foods we eat and while reducing environmental impacts. **(34 attendees)**

8) Background and Development of Oregon's Tide Gate Optimisation Tool Webinar

Presented by Jason Nuckols on December 16th, 2023

Jason helps lead The Nature Conservancy's freshwater and coastal programs in creating and implementing effective strategies for conservation of in-stream, floodplain, wetland and estuarine habitats. For the last few years Jason has led the Oregon's Chapter's estuary work involving tide gates. This has included creating an inventory of tide gates in all 22 major estuaries in Oregon, developing a decision support tool to optimize for tide gate replacement and serving in a technical role on multiple tide gate replacement projects along the coast. He shared the background and development of Oregon's Tide Gate Optimization Tool followed by a demonstration of the tool itself. **(12 attendees)**

It was a pleasure to be PD coordinator for 2023 and I hope I was able to provide you many opportunities of learning and earning PD hours in my PD coordinator tenure in 2024.

Thank you

Submitted by:

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