



Agriculture Plan

District of Lake Country



Acknowledgements

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Acronyms

AAC	Agricultural Advisory Committee
AGRI	BC Ministry of Agriculture
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
ALUI	Agricultural Land Use Inventory
AWDM	Agricultural Water Demand Model
BC CAI	BC Climate Action Initiative
BC FGA	BC Fruit Growers Association
COEDC	Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission
C&E	Compliance and Enforcement
DCC	Development Cost Charge
DLC	District of Lake Country
DPA	Development Permit Area
EFP	Environmental Farm Plan
EMBC	Emergency Management BC
OBWB	Okanagan Basin Water Board
OCP	Official Community Plan
RDCO	Regional District of Central Okanagan
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
YA	Young Agrarians

Executive Summary

In 2008, the District of Lake Country (DLC) embarked upon its first *Community Agriculture Plan* which provided recommendations and guidance for agriculture in the District. Since then, a number of major plans and policies have been adopted, including:

- An Official Community Plan update in 2018;
- A DLC Water Master Plan in 2012;
- Adoption of a Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy in 2013; and
- Ongoing changes in provincial agricultural regulations.

The revised 2020 *Agriculture Plan*, presented here, provides clear policy and land use direction to ensure that DLC's agricultural policies are current and aligned with provincial policies and best practices. The objectives of this new 2020 *Agriculture Plan* are to:

1. Re-examine the 2008 *Community Agriculture Plan* to determine how best to build upon the important groundwork that it had laid out;
2. Identify opportunities and actions to support and strengthen agriculture; and
2. Contribute to the diversification and long-term economic sustainability of the community.

The 2020 *Agriculture Plan* process began in the fall of 2019 and occurred in three main phases:

- Phase 1: Agricultural Profile, Analysis and Background Research
- Phase 2: Market Analysis and Expansion Opportunities Research
- Phase 3: Agriculture Plan Content Development and Finalization

The vision statement for the 2020 *Agriculture Plan* is:

"Agriculture in the District of Lake Country is sustainable, profitable, and supported by the local community and government. Lake Country's agricultural character is preserved and agri-tourism flourishes. Farming enterprises are respected and represent a source of pride for Lake Country residents. Abundant, healthy, Lake Country food is offered to local, regional, national, and international markets."

The four key goals presented within the 2020 *Agriculture Plan* provide direction to strengthen the DLC's agriculture and food sector and are used to develop recommended actions. The goals and associated recommendations are presented here in bullet format and elaborated upon within Section 3 of the document.

Goal 1: Support agriculture throughout government process, policy, and regulation.

- 1.1 Continue to protect and preserve the ALR.
- 1.2 Update zoning bylaw to ensure best edge planning practices and (ALC) Act and Regs.
- 1.3 Promote clarity and awareness around Agricultural Development Permit Areas.
- 1.4 Ensure that existing and/or future Development Cost Charges are clearly communicated.
- 1.5 Update existing temporary farmworker housing policy and associated zoning.
- 1.6 Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection.
- 1.7 Prioritize the agricultural community when planning and implementing infrastructure.
- 1.8 Explore opportunities for rural design standards and strategies.

- 1.9 Include development standards that are compatible with agriculture for new development (or re-development) along the ALR's edge.
- 1.10 Continue to improve active transportation opportunities in rural and agricultural areas.

Goal 2: Encourage agricultural production and sector diversification.

- 2.1 Develop an agri-food sector strategy.
- 2.2 Work with local and regional organizations to develop regional marketing.
- 2.3 Support and facilitate land-linking and succession planning programs locally.
- 2.4 Determine the feasibility of establishing a permanent year-round Farmers Market.
- 2.5 Develop an agri-tourism strategy for Lake Country.

Goal 3: Grow communication, education, and celebration of Lake Country food and agriculture.

- 3.1 Revitalize the Agriculture Advisory Committee.
- 3.2 Engage and educate developers and real estate industry in agri-sector land use realities.
- 3.3 Provide agricultural learning opportunities for District Council and staff.
- 3.4 Establish a conduit for information on agriculture for producers, residents, and DLC.
- 3.5 Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in Lake Country.

Goal 4: Include agriculture in climate change and emergency planning.

- 4.1 Promote water conservation practices and water licensing.
- 4.2 Engage the agricultural community in planning and development of water infrastructure.
- 4.3 Control invasive and noxious species through the enforcement of existing bylaws.
- 4.4 Provide opportunities to learn about climate change and adaptive farm practices.
- 4.5 Incorporate agriculture in DLC Community Climate Action initiatives and strategies.
- 4.6 Communicate and involve agriculture in emergency preparedness planning.
- 4.7 Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.

Within each goal area, recommended actions are identified. The recommendations are intended to be achievable, measurable, relevant and time-bound where possible. Recommendations within each goal area are presented with a list of organizations responsible for implementing them and a timeframe. A focus was placed on recommendations where the DLC is able to take a leadership role from a jurisdictional perspective.

An implementation plan and monitoring and evaluation strategy have been developed and included within the *2020 Agriculture Plan* to help guide the successful realization of the Plan. It includes measurable performance indicators to determine progress of the Plan over time. Through tracking the indicators, an assessment can be provided both of how many actions are being accomplished, but also of the general state of agriculture in Lake Country.

The District of Lake Country's agricultural landscape is an integral part of the community's identity. Agricultural land plays an essential role in improving the quality of life of residents and is an essential part of the local economy. This updated *Agriculture Plan* provides all members of the agricultural community, along with staff and decision-makers, with a strong vision and directive towards increasing food production and enhancing the livelihood of those involved in agriculture. It is a progressive document and will require regular realignment as actions are completed. It is anticipated that the Plan will be fully revised within 10-15 years from now, or when it has become fully achieved, whichever comes first.

1.0 Introduction

The District of Lake Country (DLC) *Agriculture Plan* provides a coordinated approach to support agriculture and food systems in the DLC over the next 10 years. The *Agriculture Plan* provides an updated vision and roadmap of actions to maximize the agricultural and food sector potential of the DLC.

In 2008, the District of Lake Country embarked upon its first *Community Agriculture Plan* which provided recommendations and guidance for agriculture in the District. However, the plan was never formally endorsed, and in the meantime the DLC community has continued to grow and a number of major plans and policies have been adopted, including:

- An Official Community Plan update in 2018;
- A DLC Water Master Plan in 2012;
- Adoption of a Regional District of Central Okanagan Regional Growth Strategy in 2013; and
- Ongoing changes in provincial agricultural regulations.

An update to the 2008 Plan was necessary to respond to the growth and changes within the DLC. The revised *Agriculture Plan* presented here considers agriculture in its regional context and attempts to identify and anticipate future changes and challenges. The *Agriculture Plan's* focus is to provide clear policy and land use direction to ensure that DLC's agricultural policies are current, accurate, defensible, and aligned with other major corporate policy documents as well as provincial standards.

The goal of updating the 2008 *Community Agriculture Plan* is to foster a strong, viable and sustainable agricultural sector within Lake Country. The objectives of this new *2020 Agriculture Plan* are to:

3. Re-examine the 2008 *Community Agriculture Plan* to determine how best to build upon the important groundwork that it had laid out;
4. Identify opportunities and actions to support and strengthen agriculture; and
3. Contribute to the diversification and long-term economic sustainability of the community.

The *2020 Agriculture Plan* generates new recommendations and actions to support the sustainability and viability of the agricultural sector. An implementation strategy and accompanying monitoring and evaluation framework is presented to provide guidance to local government to support planning efforts.

1.1 Role of Local Governments in Agriculture Planning

Farmland and agricultural land uses are regulated by several levels of government. As a result, farmers may be governed by municipal, regional, provincial and federal policies. Agriculture is not an issue addressed by one department, one piece of legislation, or one single level of government. Some regulations are wide in scope and far-reaching, such as national and international trade agreements, while others are site-specific or issue-specific, such as local zoning or meat inspection regulations. Awareness of jurisdictional responsibilities and authority is key in defining policy, strategies, actions and pilot projects that can be undertaken by local government.

Legislative tools outlined in B.C.'s *Local Government Act* and *Land Title Act* assist local governments to encourage a secure and stable working environment for farming in their communities. The legislation

works to ensure that agriculture is given appropriate consideration in planning processes. The manner in which agriculture is considered at the municipal policy level is through the Official Community Plan (OCP), and subsequently through regulations in the Zoning Bylaw. The OCP provides a long-term vision and strategies for future land use, development and servicing. The Zoning Bylaw regulates and permits uses within each zone, representing current land use. Through these documents, local governments can support local food production and increase farm viability.

This 2020 *Agriculture Plan* was developed in accordance to *Local Government Act* provisions and focuses on the regulatory areas and conditions that support agriculture in the community. The *Plan* focuses mainly on actions that the DLC has jurisdiction over implementation. Although developed for the DLC, the *Plan* also acknowledges that the participation of senior levels of government, agricultural businesses, community organizations, and the public is essential to realize a resilient agricultural sector.

1.2 Agriculture in Lake Country – Geographic Context

The 2020 *Agriculture Plan* area encompasses the DLC, which is part of the Regional District of Central Okanagan (RDCO) (Figure 1). The DLC is comprised of four neighbourhood wards: Oyama, Winfield, Carr’s Landing and Okanagan Centre, which were amalgamated in 1995.

The DLC is a fast growing community and continues to outpace average population growth rates throughout the province and the RDCO. Lake Country has a land base of approximately 12,200 ha with approximately 43% (5,400 ha) of within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) (Figure 2).

Approximately 75% of the DLC’s land base is designated as rural (3,593 ha) and agricultural (5,428 ha) within the OCP. Maintaining rural character and supporting local agriculture are important stated values of residents and local government. Residents have indicated they appreciate living amongst areas of natural open space, scenic views and natural areas.¹

¹ Official Community Plan (2018-2038) Bylaw 1065, 2018.

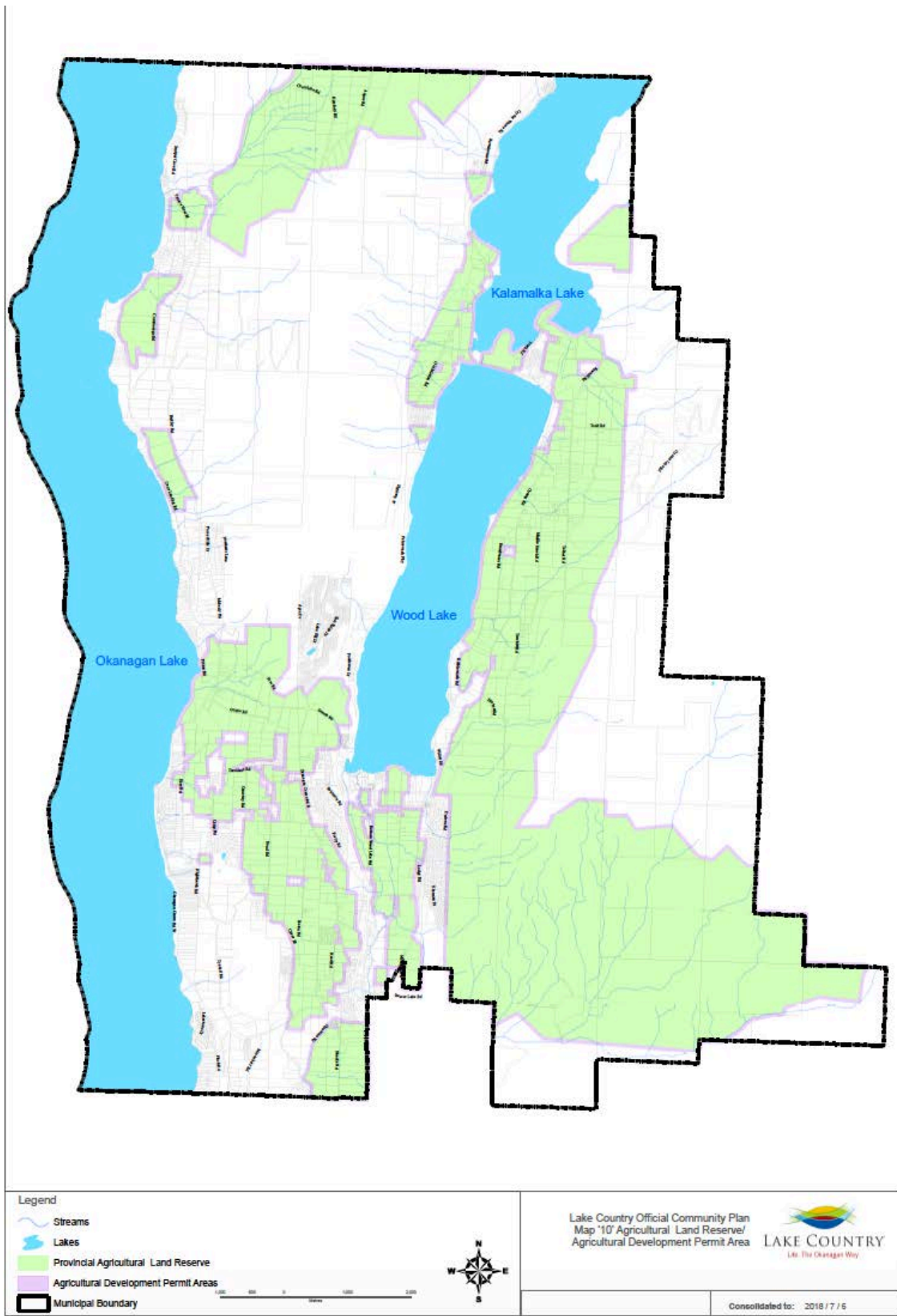


Figure 1. Agricultural Land Reserve / Agricultural Development Permit Area (source: Lake Country OCP).

Agriculture in Lake Country



315 farms



43% (5,400 ha) of the Lake Country land base is within the Agricultural Land Reserve



26% of this land is farmed

- ½ is used for livestock, pasture or grazing
- ½ is in orchards, vineyard and other crops



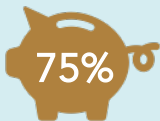
63% of farmers are over the age of 56

The DLC has a long history of farming. Many farmers have been farming for more than 20 years and families have been farming in the area for generations.

Results from the 2019 Producer Survey:



58% of producers farm on land less than 10 acres



75% of agricultural operations bring in off-farm income



76% of agricultural operations irrigate their crops

Water conservation practices are used by many farmers. Common practices include:

- Irrigation timers
- Drip or micro irrigation
- Water budget & irrigation calculator tools
- Soil moisture sensors

Top 5 Crops

- Apples
- Cherries
- Peaches
- Garlic
- Plums

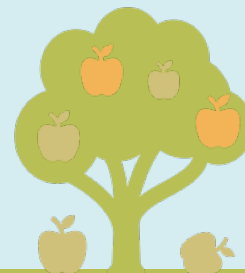


Figure 2. Overview of agriculture within the District of Lake Country (sources: unpublished ALUI report by AGRI, 2014; Statistics Canada Agricultural Census, 2016; and DLC Agricultural Plan community survey, 2019).

1.3 Agriculture Planning Process

An agricultural plan focuses on a community's farming area to discover practical solutions to challenges and to identify opportunities to strengthen the agricultural sector and to contribute to the community's long-term sustainability.² The intent of agricultural planning is to provide an overview of the current food system and develop policy and regulatory recommendations, and an implementation strategy, to support the agricultural viability of the community.

The 2020 *Agriculture Plan* process began in the fall of 2019 and occurred in three main phases (Figure 3):

- Phase 1: Agricultural Profile, Analysis and Background Research
- Phase 2: Market Analysis and Expansion Opportunities Research
- Phase 3: Agriculture Plan Content Development and Finalization

Throughout each Phase of the planning process the DLC community was consulted and engaged. This 2020 *Agriculture Plan* is the culmination of the *Background Report*, the *Market Analysis and Opportunities Expansion Report*, and public engagement activities. Towards the end of the timeline, all engagement events were moved into online-based platforms (such as surveys) due to COVID-19.

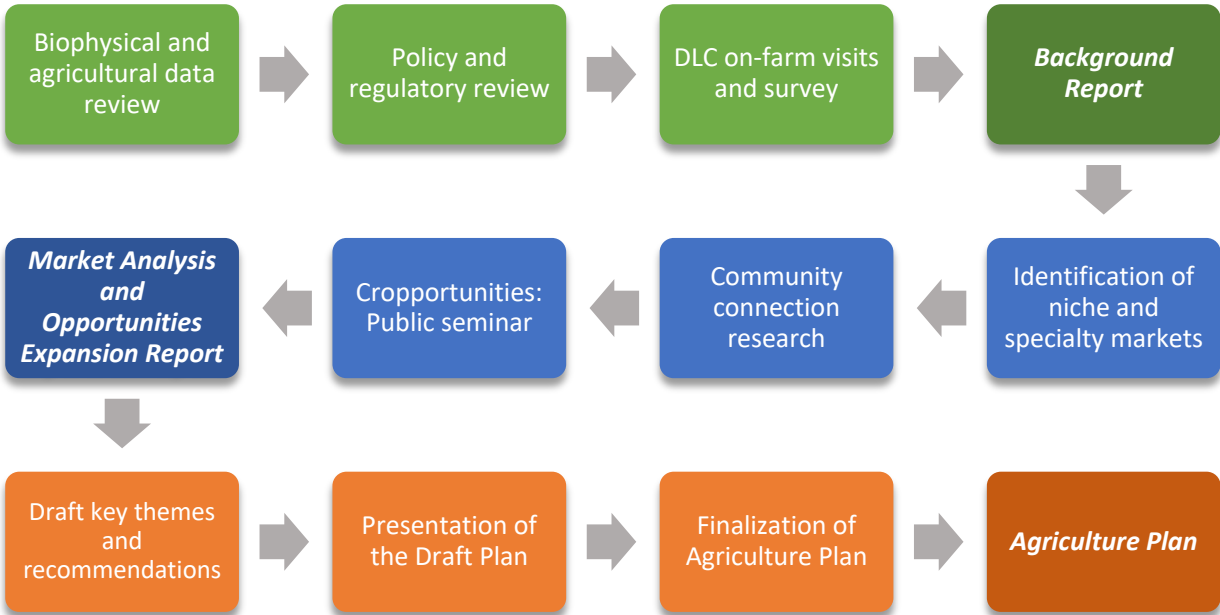


Figure 3. District of Lake Country Agricultural Planning Process.

² Smith, B. 1998. Planning for Agriculture. BC Ministry of Agriculture publication. <http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/publist/800Series/822420-1.pdf>

1.4 Community Engagement Process

The process of developing the *2020 Agriculture Plan* involved robust public and stakeholder consultation, and feedback received from the community was integrated into the plan. Stakeholder consultation was targeted to the agricultural sector and included farmers, winery operators, food processors, ALR landowners, food business owners, agri-tourism operators, and non-governmental organizations. However, it is important to note that some stakeholder groups were not captured despite best engagement efforts. These groups include farmworkers, Indigenous organizations, the School District 23, and youth representatives. One of the reasons for this gap in engagement was the restrictions associated with hosting in-person meetings that was imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The objectives of the community engagement were to:

- Determine which previously-identified agricultural challenges and opportunities remain relevant and which need to be updated, based on the 2008 *Community Agriculture Plan*;
- Revise the vision statement for the Plan;
- Receive input on a Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats (SWOT) analysis for improving the local food system;
- Raise community awareness around the local food system; and
- Identify champions who will support continued implementation of the Final Plan.

The engagement strategy was based on the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)'s engagement goals and spectrum, including: Inform, Consult, Involve and Collaborate levels of engagement.

The *Agriculture Plan Engagement Summary Report*, published as a separate document, details the range of activities undertaken within the IAP2's engagement spectrum. Throughout the fall of 2019 to late summer 2020, engagement activities events included:

- Regular updates to DLC website and social media on plan progress and events;
- On-farm field tour with DLC producers, consultants and DLC staff;
- Online and paper survey distributed to ALR and Agricultural zoned landowners;
- Producer market opportunities seminar in March 2020 (Croportunities workshop);
- Presentation of the Draft Plan to the public; and
- Online feedback on Draft Plan.



Figure 4. Croportunities workshop in Lake Country, March 2020.

1.5 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats for Lake Country Agriculture

Highlights of the *Background Report*, *Market Analysis and Expansion Opportunities Report*, and community feedback that was provided are organized into a SWOT Analysis.³

Table 1. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats for Agriculture in Lake Country.

Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
High-quality agricultural land and part of an agriculturally productive region.	Perceived lack of local government support for the sector.	Vacant agricultural land that can be brought into production.	Impacts from climate change such as unstable water supply, extreme weather events and changes in pest pressures.
Accessible transportation networks to markets within the region, provincially, nationally and internationally.	Lack of communication between local government, producers and residents.	New and emerging markets such as UBC Okanagan.	Restrictive regulations at provincial/federal levels.
Many established farms with established local, regional, provincial, and global sales channels.	Edge conflicts between urban and rural landowners.	Climate change may increase growing degree days and the diversity of what can be grown in the region.	Competing non-farm uses on farmland.
Successful agri-tourism and farm gate sales.	Concerns about water availability and water rights for farming properties vs residential properties.	Relative proximity to customers and large markets.	Cost of farmland may be prohibitive for farmers.
Continued growth of the juice, and winery facilities.	Infrastructure upgrades that may prioritize the benefits for urban users over agricultural users.	Trends towards increase in institutional (e.g. schools, hospitals) procurement of local foods.	Increasing labour costs and shortages of local labour.
Some irrigation and water conservation practices being used.		Skill development resources from provincial government.	
		Young Agrarians and other land-linking support.	
		Provincial funding for food hub feasibility studies.	
		Federal funding initiatives for food processing infrastructure.	

³ As the COVID-19 pandemic was unfolding during the finalization of the 2020 *Agriculture Plan*, the SWOT analysis does not consider the impacts that it may have on the local agricultural sector.

2.0 Vision

The statement for the 2020 *Agriculture Plan* was crafted by building off of the 2008 *Community Agriculture Plan* vision and using feedback from stakeholders, including the top vision terms identified through the agricultural survey. The vision statement describes a clear, comprehensive future state and intention for agriculture in Lake Country, while anticipating possible future events.

“Agriculture in the District of Lake Country is sustainable, profitable, and supported by the local community and government. Lake Country’s agricultural character is preserved and agri-tourism flourishes. Farming enterprises are respected and represent a source of pride for Lake Country residents. Abundant, healthy, Lake Country food is offered to local, regional, national, and international markets.”

3.0 Key Goals and Recommendations

The key goals presented here reflect the vision statement and objectives articulated through community engagement. These goals provide direction to strengthen the DLC’s agriculture and food sector and are used to develop recommended actions. The goals are not presented in order of importance, rather they are all critical for improving agricultural capacity.

Goal 1: Support agriculture throughout government process, policy, and regulation.
(10 recommendations)

Goal 2: Encourage agricultural production and sector diversification.
(5 recommendations)

Goal 3: Grow communication, education, and celebration of Lake Country food and agriculture.
(5 recommendations)

Goal 4: Include agriculture in climate change and emergency planning.
(7 recommendations)

Within each goal area, recommended actions are identified. The recommendations are intended to be achievable, measurable, relevant and time-bound where possible. Recommendations within each goal area are presented with a list of organizations responsible for implementing them and a timeframe. A focus was placed on recommendations where the DLC is able to take a leadership role from a jurisdictional perspective.

Timeframe:

- **Ongoing:** This recommendation may have already begun but requires continued, renewed support to achieve success.
- **Short:** To be completed within 1-2 years.
- **Medium:** To be completed within 2-5 years.
- **Long:** To be completed within 5-10 years.

Goal 1: Support agriculture throughout government process, policy, and regulation.

The rural and agricultural character of Lake Country is highly valued by residents. The popularity of local agri-food products and experiences is largely based on general public knowledge and respect of farming practices. However, opportunities exist for the District to work with producers to further strengthen this valued sector from a land use planning perspective. Tensions along the urban:rural edge persist, and in order to limit these edge conflicts, local policies and regulations must be developed, and adhered to, in order to protect the livelihood of farmers while also providing clarity for the development community. Ensuring alignment between local and provincial regulations, particularly regarding housing on farmland, will also help to support farming activities.

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
1.1 Continue to protect and preserve the Agricultural Land Reserve for agricultural uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that all planning documents, such as the OCP, neighbourhood plans, infrastructure plans, etc., clearly state support for the ALR and recognize agricultural uses as the highest priority within the ALR. Assign large minimum lot size designations to reduce subdivision speculation and development pressure within the ALR. Continue to develop, implement, and enforce robust edge planning strategies (such as the Agricultural Development Permit Area and vegetative buffer requirements) to minimize urban:rural conflicts. Follow, or exceed, ALC requirements and AGRI bylaw standards regarding sizing and siting of residential uses on farmland. The ALC's Guide to Bylaw Development in Farming Areas and AGRI's Guide to Edge Planning are key resources. 	Lead: DLC	Ongoing
1.2 Update the zoning bylaw to ensure alignment with best edge planning practices and the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) Act and Regulations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure definitions and permitted uses related to agriculture and the ALR match ALC policies and regulations. Refer draft OCP and Zoning Bylaw updates to the ALC before third reading for an opportunity to comment. Continue to ensure that local policies and zoning direct the establishment of large-scale processing and retail activities into industrial and commercial areas. 	Lead: DLC Support: ALC	Ongoing

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
<p>1.3 <i>Promote clarity and awareness around the Agricultural Development Permit Area.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create educational materials (e.g. brochures, inserts) highlighting key objectives and requirements for the Agricultural Development Permit Area (DPA), such as vegetative buffers, and distribute it to properties along the ALR boundary. • Ensure planning recommendations to Council consider the dust, noise and potential spray drift from farm activities and food safety restrictions to which farms must adhere. • Ensure that the DPA is upheld and adhered to at both the decision-making level and the building permit approval level. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>1.4 <i>Ensure that existing and/or future Development Cost Charges are clearly communicated.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly communicate the goals and objectives of any current or future Development Cost Charges (DCCs) on farmland to landowners and the public. • Consult the agricultural community when developing DCCs. • Ensure that the soil base is protected from industrial-style buildings and development within the ALR. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.5 <i>Update existing temporary farmworker housing policy and associated zoning.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with the agricultural community, including farmworker representatives, to further discuss challenges and solutions to temporary farmworker housing needs. • Continue to meet with other local governments to discuss alignment of farmworker housing rules and regulations so that farm operations with parcels in several communities can foster clarity and consistency regarding this issue. • Discuss potential solutions with ALC to ensure alignment with provincial rules and regulations. • Ensure that amendments/changes to the Zoning Bylaw reflects the current and changing needs of the agricultural community with respect to temporary farmworker housing. Amendments must be for the benefit of both long term Lake Country residents as well as temporary farmworkers. • Include Interior Health representatives in discussions related to safe and sanitary housing conditions for farm workers (e.g. sense of safety, suitable ventilation, proximity to active transportation infrastructure) prior to Building Permit issuance. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p> <p>Support: ALC Ministry of Ag Interior Health</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.6 <i>Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with the agricultural community to identify and prioritize enforcement issues. • Continue to participate in regional efforts lead by the RDCO and in partnership with the ALC's Okanagan Compliance & Enforcement officers to develop and resource a coordinated joint compliance and enforcement strategy for land within the ALR. 	<p>Lead: RDCO</p> <p>Support: DLC ALC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
<p>1.7 <i>Engage the agricultural community when planning and implementing infrastructure works and ensure needs are considered and addressed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that engagement around current and future infrastructure plans and projects includes the agricultural community to minimize impacts on farm activities (both in terms of the timing of the works and the physical aspects of the projects). • Include representatives of the agricultural community when updating long term infrastructure development plans, including but not limited to: water management plans, transportation network upgrades, utilities, and other servicing. • Restrict upgrades to servicing and utilities within the ALR in order to minimize development pressure on, and adjacent to, farmland. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>1.8 <i>Continue to explore opportunities for rural design standards and strategies that benefit agriculture and rural character.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas where rural street design standards and strategies may apply. Consider level of priority and custom approaches for different areas that are responsive to local conditions. • Establish a typology of rural street infrastructure to be considered in standards such as sidewalks, pull-outs for farm equipment, bike lanes, signage, and transit shelters. • Establish a phased implementation plan that considers priority areas. 	<p>Lead: DLC Infrastructure & Engineering</p>	<p>Long</p>
<p>1.9 <i>Amend the Agriculture Development Permit to include development standards that are compatible with agriculture for new development (or re-development) along the ALR's edge.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify potential areas where specific farm-friendly neighbourhood development standards could be appropriate (e.g. along the urban containment boundary, ALR edge). • Refer to the Guide to Edge Planning by AGRI for building design guidelines for development along the ALR edge. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p>	<p>Long</p>
<p>1.10 <i>Continue to improve active transportation opportunities in rural and agricultural areas.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to update DLC active transportation plans and strategies in rural areas to consider the needs of agricultural users (e.g. within the <i>Transportation Plan for Tomorrow</i> and <i>Bike Plan</i>). • Identify areas that could be easily connected/improved and priority areas that need more work. • Identify areas that could benefit the community the most (e.g. help to connect people living in rural areas to urban amenities, self-guided farm walking or cycling tours). • Identify opportunities to work with land owners and developers to fund or implement public realm improvements including connecting to the active transportation network in Lake Country. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Goal 2: Encourage agricultural production and sector diversification.

The biophysical characteristics of Lake Country, such as good soils and climactic conditions, present many opportunities for a variety of crops to be grown successfully. The centralized location of the community within the Okanagan provides excellent connections to value-added processing infrastructure as well as market access. The need to encourage agri-tourism and farm product processing and other value-added opportunities regionally is recognized as a way to increase economic viability. However, this is also leading to an emerging difference between scope and scale of farming, whereby some enterprises are becoming large scale and/or industrial in nature, and others are refocusing on developing intensive small and medium-scale farm businesses. Wineries, tree fruit processing, and commercial cannabis production (a relatively new legal crop), will likely continue to place agri-industrial pressure on farmland. This divergence of scope and scale has impacts on water use and associated rates, on servicing requirements, and local retail and on regional marketing approaches. Local and regional economic development organizations, such as the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission (COEDC) provide essential resources and capacity to help grow Lake Country’s agricultural sector. The DLC can provide in-kind support by providing a location for workshops, leveraging funding opportunities to undertake feasibility studies and strategies that benefit the agricultural sector.

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
2.1 <i>Develop an agri-food sector strategy for the Central Okanagan that can be incorporated into the Economic Development Strategy but also act as a stand-alone document.</i>	Use the results of the <i>Market Expansion and Opportunities Report</i> in the development of a broader economic development strategy for agriculture. Opportunities that could be highlighted include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applying a health lens to the strategy ii. How to best coordinate and collaborate with COEDC iii. Collective aggregation, processing, and packaging iv. Institutional buyers, such as UBC Okanagan v. Retail and restaurant relationship-building vi. Distribution strategy vii. Jobs and labour skills 	Lead: DLC Support: COEDC Interior Health Industry leaders Farmers	Medium
2.2 <i>Work with local and regional organizations to develop regional marketing.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to participate in regional roundtable discussions regarding the creation of a regional marketing strategy for Central Okanagan agricultural products. 	Lead: DLC Support: COEDC Industry leaders Local farmers	Ongoing

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
<p>2.3 <i>Support and facilitate land-linking and succession planning programs locally.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with organizations such as Young Agrarians and AGRI to facilitate land linking and succession planning for those who have farmland, but are not farming, or those that are planning to wind down their farming career. • Discuss with existing landowners of agriculturally viable land about what can be grown and opportunities to lease or rent their land out to growers. Engagement can be done through a workshop or information brochures. • Share Young Agrarians annual reports regarding match-making endeavours to further encourage and highlight successful partnerships. 	<p>Lead: Young Agrarians AGRI</p> <p>Support: DLC Local farmers</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>2.4 <i>Determine the feasibility of establishing a permanent year-round Farmers Market in Lake Country.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the Lake Country Farmers' Market Association to seek funding opportunities to conduct a feasibility assessment and a business plan. • DLC to provide support through zoning, as needed. 	<p>Lead: Lake Country Farmers' Market Association</p> <p>Support: DLC</p>	<p>Medium</p>
<p>2.5 <i>Develop an agri-tourism strategy for Lake Country and ensure that it is incorporated into the DLC Economic Development Strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with COEDC and producers involved in agri-tourism to discuss challenges and opportunities. • Develop a fact sheet or brochure to distribute to ALR parcels regarding agri-tourism, ensuring that it is aligned with ALC regulations and policies. The educational materials should be available at DLC offices, online and distributed when possible (e.g. with other DLC updates) to owners of ALR parcels. • Seek funding to develop an agri-tourism strategy for Lake Country. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p> <p>Support: COEDC</p> <p>Tourism BC</p> <p>Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association</p>	<p>Long</p>

Goal 3: Grow communication, education, and celebration of Lake Country food and agriculture

The District of Lake Country already communicates using a range of tools such as direct mail, website, social media, and hosting events to connect with the agricultural community and support community education about the agricultural sector. Building on these channels, the DLC can strengthen communications on a wide-range of topics in food and agriculture that will help to increase clarity and quality of working relationships with local farmers and food sector businesses as well as spread awareness to community members about the agricultural sector. Information and events that would help Lake Country businesses and celebrate local agriculture include:

- How to navigate the many layers of government policy and regulation;
- How to access grants and programs for small to medium scale enterprise;
- Producer-focused conferences and informal networking events;
- Lake Country Agricultural Fair; and
- Peer mentoring and networking groups and events.

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
3.1 <i>Revitalize the Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC).</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and revise, as necessary, the Terms of Reference for the AAC to ensure that it's purpose is to provide expertise and input on agricultural policies and regulations, ALC applications, and development plans that may impact the farming community. • Ensure that the AAC is representative of the agriculture and farming community. • Appoint at least one Council member to participate in the AAC. • Appoint a DLC staff liaison who will be responsible for AAC membership applications and meeting administration. 	Lead: DLC	Ongoing
3.2 <i>Engage and educate developers and real estate industry in agri-sector land use realities.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Real Estate Board or Association to provide information about land use restrictions, normal farm practices, and the <i>Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act</i> to property buyers and developers. 	Lead: DLC Support: Real Estate Board	Medium
3.3 <i>Provide agricultural learning opportunities for District Council and staff.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize an annual farm tour/virtual event to connect District Council and staff to the farming community and land base. • Staff to provide regular agriculture updates at council meetings on topics affecting the agricultural community either directly or indirectly. • Staff to stay up to date with other organizations regional projects (e.g. Okanagan Bioregion Food Systems Project, Interior Health Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit and others). 	Lead: DLC Support: Local farmers and agricultural businesses	Medium

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
<p>3.4 <i>Establish a conduit for information on agriculture for producers, residents, DLC staff and DLC Council.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicate a part of the District of Lake Country website to update monthly with links to key resources, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Lake Country Agriculture Plan ○ The Lake Country Agriculture Market Expansion and Opportunities Report. ○ The summary from the Let’s Talk: Croportunities event. ○ Links to the COEDC’s Regional Agricultural Assets report. ○ District Council updates, ○ AAC updates; ○ Information regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agricultural water allocation, ○ Development Cost Charges ○ Agricultural Development Permit Area ○ Calendar of events, ○ Farmer profiles, guide for where to buy local products). • Update social media in conjunction with website updates. • Using existing databases where possible, develop an on-line resource to connect producers and consumers in Lake Country and beyond. Consider collaboration with COEDC to reduce duplication of efforts. • Consider partnering with existing programs (e.g. Farm-to-School BC) to encourage the growth and development of school and youth-based agricultural education opportunities to raise youth awareness of local agriculture. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p>	<p>Short</p>
<p>3.5 <i>Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in Lake Country.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate celebration of agriculture into the DLC Ec Dev Strategy. • Establish an annual event to celebrate food production in Lake Country to enable the general public to get to know local farmers. This may involve partnerships with organizations such as UBC Okanagan and COEDC. Options include, but are not limited to: A farm-to-table dinner; Slow-food cycle; Farm tours. • Integrate Lake Country food and agriculture into existing community events (e.g. local catering, information booth, handouts, quick surveys, guest speakers) • Support Lake Country food and agriculture events organized by other entities where possible and appropriate (e.g. provide in-kind resources, promotion through existing DLC communication streams, participation by staff and Council). • Convey a spirit of community support for and pride in agriculture and Lake Country Farmers in print, on-line, and in-person communications. 	<p>Lead: DLC</p> <p>Support: UBC Okanagan COEDC</p>	<p>Long</p>

Goal 4: Include agriculture in climate change and emergency planning

Lake Country has favourable biophysical conditions for agricultural production. However, climate change is projected to bring increased risk of forest fires, changes in weeds, pests and diseases, extreme precipitation events and changes to water availability. With changes to snowpack and temperatures, runoff peaks are likely to occur earlier in the season, with lower discharge later in the summer.⁴ Agricultural water demands are expected to increase as climate change leads to hotter summers and longer growing seasons. Climate change, population growth, and expansion of the agricultural land base are expected to result in significantly increased water withdrawals from surface and groundwater sources in the Okanagan Basin, especially during summer months.⁵ While climate change may challenge future growing conditions and increase droughts, there are also opportunities for innovative growing practices that focus on maintaining and enhancing the natural environment. Environmentally sound, regenerative, farming practices will help to conserve water, replenish the soil, and provide habitat for pollinators.

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
4.1 <i>Promote water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage agricultural landowners to apply for water licences through FrontCounterBC. Educate agricultural landowners by providing links to online water conservation resources and/or distributing printed materials, such as brochures, during mail-outs (e.g. with annual property tax information). Participate in Agricultural Water Supply Communications Project with Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) and BC Climate Action Initiative (BC CAI). 	Lead: DLC Support: OBWB BC CAI	Short
4.2 <i>Engage AGRI and the agricultural community in the planning and development for water infrastructure in the DLC.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information regarding agricultural water pricing, how it compares to non-agricultural rates. Consult with the agricultural community if/when the DLC Water Master Plan is being updated and/or changes to the pricing of agricultural water rates are considered. Work with AGRI to update the Agricultural Land Use Inventory and associated Agricultural Water Demand Model for Lake Country on a regular basis (e.g. every 5 years). 	Lead: DLC Support: OBWB RDCO AGRI	Ongoing

⁴ [Okanagan Regional Adaptation Series](#). 2016. BC Climate Action Initiative.

⁵ Okanagan Basin Water Supply & Demand Project. 2010. Executive Summary Report.

Recommendations	Actions	Responsibilities	Timeframe
4.3 <i>Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing bylaws and protocols.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the RDCO to update, implement, and enforce the Noxious Weed program (Bylaw 179) (www.regionaldistrict.com/weeds). Inform producers of Okanagan Invasive Species Online (https://www.oiso.ca) Ensure that invasive species are managed on DLC-owned lands. Maintain invasive/noxious species and agricultural etiquette signage along the Rail Trail. 	Lead: DLC Support: RDCO Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society	Ongoing
4.4 <i>Provide opportunities for producers to learn about impacts from climate change and adaptive farming practices.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with OBWB and BC CAI to disseminate existing information regarding climate change adaptation. Provide opportunities to industry groups, such as the BC Fruit Growers Association (BC FGA), to host meetings and workshops on the topics of innovation, technology, and climate change. Support research and knowledge extension in preparing and planning for extreme weather events and climate change adaptation and mitigation. 	Lead: OBWB BC CAI Support: DLC BCFGA	Short
4.5 <i>Incorporate agriculture in ongoing DLC Community Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include the agriculture sector in local government and regional district climate change plans and strategies and consider the connection between emergency preparedness and food supply reliability. Acknowledge agriculture as both as a contributor to climate change, as well as part of the solution for mitigating impacts. 	Lead: DLC Support: BC CAI	Ongoing
4.6 <i>Communicate and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve disaster risk awareness and understanding of hazards. Facilitate awareness of existing emergency plans and strategies by providing and making available relevant information to the sector (e.g. hosting meetings and/or directly visiting agricultural operations). Consider livestock owners and necessary trailer access in the event of an evacuation. Include a producer perspective when reviewing local emergency response plans. Consider the implications of an emergency that disrupts the local food system; support a food system that ensures adequate food supply in the event of an emergency. 	Lead: DLC Support: EMBC BC Wildfire Service	Ongoing
4.7 <i>Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a list of resources for farmers regarding wildfire-related risk reduction programs and regulations. This should include best practices regarding land clearing, brush burning techniques and alternative waste disposal methods. Utilize the Community Wildfire Protection Plan as a reference document and identify and implement the agricultural-related recommendations within it. Make resources, reports, and maps available at local government offices and online. 	Lead: DLC Support: RDCO BC Wildfire Service	Ongoing

4.0 Implementation Strategy

The *2020 Agriculture Plan* will act as a guiding document for DLC Council, staff, and the community for the next 10 to 15 years. There are 27 recommended actions presented in the Plan: the DLC can play a leading role in 23 actions and a supporting role in the remaining 4 actions. In the case of an action that identifies the DLC in a supporting role, another organization may have to take the lead role. This organization may be governmental (e.g. RDCO, Ministry of Agriculture), or non-governmental (e.g. Young Agrarians or Okanagan Basin Water Board).

At this time, no external organizations have been asked to commit to these actions, however, the successful implementation of the Plan will require ongoing collaboration with community partners and regular reassessment. District-led initiatives will be subject to Council's Strategic Priority setting, which this Plan can inform.

4.1 Implementation Timeline and Action Priority

The recommended actions are presented in the following tables based on priority of implementation:

- **Ongoing:** This recommendation may have already begun but requires continued, renewed support to achieve success: 14 actions.
- **Short:** To be completed within 1-2 years: 5 actions.
- **Medium:** To be completed within 2-5 years: 4 actions.
- **Long:** To be completed within 5-10 years: 4 actions.

The relevant DLC departments, as well as external organizations, are identified whenever possible. With regards to funding, "Operational Base" refers to existing staff/roles while "External Funding" refers to either an annual budget request, other funding sources, or a combination thereof.

4.2 Recommended Strategies as Plan Outcomes

There are four ongoing and/or new strategies that are recommended as outcomes of the *2020 Agriculture Plan*. Details regarding timeline and leadership roles are summarized below. Two are being led by other organizations, and none are targeted to be completed in the short term.

Table 2. Summary of strategies recommended within the plan.

Strategy #	Plan Action #	Strategy Title	Lead* and Supporting Roles	Timeframe
1	1.5	Temporary Farmworker Housing	City of Kelowna*, DLC, City of West Kelowna	Ongoing/Underway
2	1.6	ALR Compliance and Enforcement	RDCO*, DLC, ALC	Ongoing/Underway
3	2.1	Agri-food Sector Economic Strategy	DLC*, COEDC	Ongoing/Medium
4	2.5	Agri-tourism	DLC*, COEDC	Long

Table 3. Implementation of Ongoing Actions (continuous timeline).

Action IDs	Description	Planning and Development	Engineering and Env.	Infrastructure Services	Protective Services	Corporate Services	Other Supporting Organizations	Operational base*	External funding**
1.1	<i>Continue to protect and preserve the Agricultural Land Reserve for agricultural uses.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
1.2	<i>Update the zoning bylaw to ensure alignment with best edge planning practices and the ALC Act and Regulations.</i>	✓					ALC	✓	
1.4	<i>Ensure that existing and/or future Development Cost Charges are clearly communicated.</i>	✓				✓		✓	
1.5	<i>Update existing temporary farmworker housing policy.</i>	✓					RDCO	✓	✓
1.6	<i>Enhance compliance and enforcement for farmland protection.</i>				✓		RDCO ALC	✓	
1.7	<i>Prioritize the agri community when planning and implementing infrastructure</i>	✓	✓	✓				✓	
1.10	<i>Continue to improve active transportation opportunities in rural and agricultural areas.</i>	✓		✓				✓	✓
2.2	<i>Work with local and regional organizations to develop regional marketing.</i>					✓	COEDC Industry leaders Farmers		✓
3.1	<i>Revitalize the Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC).</i>	✓				✓		✓	
4.2	<i>Engage AGRI and the agricultural community in the planning and development for water infrastructure in the DLC.</i>	✓		✓			AGRI	✓	
4.3	<i>Control invasive and noxious plants and pests through the enforcement of existing bylaws and protocols.</i>		✓		✓		RDCO	✓	
4.5	<i>Incorporate agriculture in ongoing DLC Community Climate Action planning initiatives and strategies</i>	✓	✓	✓		✓	BC CAI	✓	
4.6	<i>Communicate and involve agricultural stakeholders in emergency preparedness planning.</i>	✓	✓				EMBC Wildfire Service	✓	
4.7	<i>Continue to support wildfire risk reduction initiatives with agricultural stakeholders.</i>	✓	✓				RDCO Wildfire Service	✓	✓

Table 4. Implementation of Short Term Actions (1-2 year timeline).

<i>Action IDs</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Planning and Development</i>	<i>Engineering and Environmental Services</i>	<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	<i>Protective Services</i>	<i>Corporate Services</i>	<i>Other Supporting Organizations</i>	<i>Operational base*</i>	<i>External funding**</i>
1.3	<i>Promote clarity and awareness around the Agricultural Development Permit Area.</i>	✓				✓		✓	
2.3	<i>Support and facilitate land-linking and succession planning programs locally</i>	✓				✓	Young Agrarians	✓	✓
3.4	<i>Establish a conduit for information on agriculture for producers, residents, DLC staff and DLC Council.</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
4.1	<i>Promote water conservation practices and water licencing within the agricultural community.</i>		✓	✓			OBWB BC CAI	✓	✓
4.4	<i>Provide opportunities for producers to learn about impacts from climate change and adaptive farming practices.</i>		✓	✓		✓	OBWB BC CAI BCFGA	✓	✓

Table 5. Implementation of Medium Term Actions (2-5 year timeline).

<i>Action IDs</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Planning and Development</i>	<i>Engineering and Environmental Services</i>	<i>Infrastructure Services</i>	<i>Protective Services</i>	<i>Corporate Services</i>	<i>Other Supporting Organizations</i>	<i>Operational base*</i>	<i>External funding**</i>
2.1	<i>Develop an agri-food sector strategy for the Central Okanagan.</i>					✓	COEDC Industry leaders Farmers		✓
2.4	<i>Determine the feasibility of establishing a permanent year-round Farmers Market in Lake Country.</i>	✓					Lake Country Farmers Market Association		✓
3.2	<i>Engage and educate developers and real estate industry in agri-sector land use realities.</i>	✓					Real Estate Association		✓
3.3	<i>Provide agricultural learning opportunities for District Council and staff.</i>					✓	COEDC Industry leaders Farmers		✓

Table 6. Implementation of Long Term Actions (5-10 year timeline).

Action IDs	Description	Planning and Development	Engineering and Environmental Services	Infrastructure Services	Protective Services	Corporate Services	Other Supporting Organizations	Operational base*	External funding**
1.8	Explore opportunities for rural design standards and strategies.	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
1.9	Amend the Agriculture Development Permit to include development standards that are compatible with agriculture for new development (or re-development) along the ALR's edge.	✓							✓
2.5	Develop an agri-tourism strategy for Lake Country.	✓				✓	COEDC Tourism BC Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association		✓
3.5	Celebrate the past, present, and future of agriculture in Lake Country.					✓	COEDC UBC Okanagan		✓

5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A monitoring and evaluation strategy has been developed to help guide the implementation process of the 2020 *Agriculture Plan*. It includes measurable performance indicators to determine progress of the Plan over time. Through tracking the indicators, an assessment will be provided both of how many actions are being accomplished, but also of the general state of agriculture in Lake Country.

To create the monitoring and evaluation strategy, a series of short and long term performance indicators have been identified. Many of the indicators presented in Table 7 (next page) are similar to targets being tracked by the monitoring local and regional plans, such as the OCP and Regional Growth Strategy, federally through the Agricultural Census, or more informally such as Kwantlen Polytechnic University's *Okanagan Bioregion Food System Project*. Indicators may be reviewed and adjusted as changes occur over time within the local food system or data availability changes.

The following tables presents indicators for each of the four goals of the Plan. Each indicator is followed by the:

- Suggested frequency of evaluation;
- Baseline measurement, if available;
- Desired trend for the future; and
- Source of the information.

The indicators do not attempt to provide a complete analysis of all variables, but rather assess general trends and provide a picture of community health and the effectiveness of Plan implementation.

Table 7. Monitoring and Evaluation Indicators.

Goal	Indicator	Frequency	Baseline	Desired Trend	Source
Goal 1: Support agriculture throughout government process, policy, and regulation.	Number of plans, bylaws, or policies updated to incorporate Plan recommendations	Annual	N/A	Steady progress	Staff research
	Hectares of land within the ALR	Annual	5,400	Maintain or increase	DLC mapping
	Proportion of the farm worker population using active transportation networks	5 years	N/A	Maintain or increase	Stats Canada or community survey
Goal 2: Encourage agricultural production and sector diversification.	Number of business licenses for local food retailers	Annual	N/A	Increase	Staff research
	Number of properties qualifying for Farm Tax Status	Annual	N/A	Increase	BC Assessment and Staff research
	Average age per farmer	5 years	N/A	Decrease	Stats Canada or community survey
	Number of farms and acreage under production	5 years	N/A	Increase	Stats Canada or community survey
	Number of farm operators	5 years	N/A	Increase	Stats Canada or community survey
	Number of farms with succession plans	5 years	N/A	Increase	Stats Canada or community survey
	Community food self-sufficiency	5 years	OK Bio-regional Food Report	Increase	Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Goal 3: Grow communication, education, and celebration of Lake Country food and agriculture.	Number of local agriculture and food-related festivals and events	Annual	N/A	Increase	Staff research
	Number and status of farmers markets	Annual	1, seasonal	Increase	Staff research
	Number of agriculture and food education and networking programs	Annual	N/A	Increase	Staff research
Goal 4: Include agriculture in climate change and emergency planning.	The Agricultural Land Use Inventory has been updated every 5 years	Once	N/A	Maintain/update	AGRI
	The Agricultural Water Demand Model has been updated every 5 years	Once	N/A	Maintain/update	AGRI
	Agriculture is included in emergency plans (e.g. wildfire, evacuation, etc.) and food supply planning	Annual	N/A	Steady progress	Staff research
	Food resiliency (proportion of food produced vs. consumed within the community)	Every 5 years	N/A	Increase	UN Food and Agriculture Organization, OK Bioregional Food Report

6.0 Conclusion

The District of Lake Country's agricultural landscape is an integral part of the community's identity. Agricultural land plays an essential role in improving the quality of life of residents and is an essential part of the local economy. This updated *Agriculture Plan* provides all members of the agricultural community, along with staff and decision-makers, with a strong vision and directive towards increasing food production and enhancing the livelihood of those involved in agriculture.

The vision, goals, and recommended actions outlined in this *Agriculture Plan* are all derived from community engagement as well as best practice research and provincial guideline documents. The plan also includes a discussion of implementation options, a monitoring and evaluation framework, and a list of potential external funding opportunities.

The development of the *Agriculture Plan* involved a combination of farm tours, a presentation to the AAC, a community survey, a stakeholder session on market opportunities, and an online open house to ensure that a wide range of perspectives were incorporated. The *Agriculture Plan* is expected to serve the community for at least the next 10 years and will be used to inform future iterations of the OCP, zoning bylaw, and land use strategies. Most importantly, if the actions presented in this plan are fully implemented, the local farming sector will become strengthened and more resilient as a result - creating positive trickle down effects for the entire community for years to come.

Appendix I: Glossary

Agriculture

Agriculture can be defined as the systematic and controlled use of living organisms and the environment to improve the human condition. Sustainable agriculture enhances environmental quality and the resource base on which it depends; provides for basic human food and fiber needs; is economically viable; and enhances the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole over the long term.

Agricultural Land

According to the *Agriculture Land Commission Act* (the "ALC Act") agricultural land is the land resource upon which agriculture takes place due to its ability to grow food products. The agricultural land resource and the products that can be grown are based on a soils and climate combination which can vary across the landscape. Although agricultural land is primarily required for the production of food for human and animal consumption, agricultural activities also include the growing of plants for fibre and fuels (including wood), and for other organically derived non-food products (e.g. pharmaceuticals, etc).

Food Hub

A strategically located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products. Food hub refers to both facilities that distributes food to increase food security in the community and/or facilities that are set up to provide small farmers access to a market they would normally have be able to access.

Food System

A sustainable community food system is a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management in order to enhance the environmental, economic and social health of a particular place. Farmers, consumers and communities partner to create a more locally based, self-reliant food economy. (Gafsi, Mohamed, & Favreau, Jean Luc. (2013). Indicator-Based Method for Assessing Organic Farming Sustainability. Methods and Procedures for Building Sustainable Farming Systems)

Sustainability

Stems from the concept of sustainable development (World Earth Summit, Rio, 1992). Today, there is no universally accepted or single definition, but in general, sustainability is a condition where ecological health, economic prosperity and social justice must be balanced for the well-being and quality of life of both present and future generations.

Urban Agriculture

In general terms, means cultivating, processing, and distributing food in or around a town or city or other urban setting. It can be defined as the act of growing food on a lot and includes produce grown in a garden, community gardens, fruit and nut tree production, keeping of hens and bees, and can include agricultural retail sales.

Appendix II: Funding Opportunities

In order to implement the recommendations presented above, funding will need to be sourced. While some funding may be allocated through the DLC and RDCO, outside sources of funding have been identified to support specific initiatives within the implementation plan. Information on current funding opportunities is provided below. Note that funding programs are continually evolving and will need monitoring on a regular basis.

Organization	Funding Deadline	Funding Level	Notes	Website
Civic Info Grants Database	n/a	n/a	Up to date listing of funding available for local governments - may partner for applications	http://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/grants
Co-op: Community Spaces	Variable	\$25,000 - \$150,000	Urban Agriculture, Small-scale community agriculture initiatives in both rural and urban spaces.	http://crs.coopconnection.ca/communityspaces.html
EcoAction Community Funding Program	March	Between \$20,000-\$100,000	Funding is available for new projects that engage Canadians and clearly demonstrate measurable, positive environmental results related to clean water or climate change.	https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-funding/ecoaction-community-program/call-proposals.html
Farm to School BC	Variable depending on grant	Variable: \$650 - \$3,500 for multiple classrooms, schools, etc.	Various grants for schools to help get students outdoors learning and participating in hands-on experiences in nature.	https://farmtoschoolbc.ca/grants/
Federation of Canadian Municipalities	Variable	Variable	Multiple programs relating to food security, climate change mitigation, asset management, relationship with Indigenous communities, etc. New or existing municipal employees who will work on initiatives to improve adaptation to local climate change impacts or reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions	https://fcm.ca/en/programs
Government of Canada: Canada Summer Jobs	Ongoing	n/a	Canada Summer Jobs is an initiative of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy, which aims to provide flexible and	https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/canada-summer-jobs.html

			holistic services to support all young Canadians develop the skills and gain paid work experience to successfully transition in the labour market.	
Government of Canada: Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiatives Program	Ongoing, at least 18 weeks prior to event	\$25,000	Provides funding to community-based events that promote intercultural understanding, or foster civic memory and pride or respect for core democratic values grounded in our history. The primary intention is to create concrete opportunities for interaction among cultural, faith or ethnic communities.	https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/community-multiculturalism-anti-racism.html
Government of Canada: Legacy Fund – Building Communities Through Arts & Heritage	Ongoing	Maximum of \$500,000	Provides funding for community-initiated capital projects to commemorate historical event, involve resorting spaces of community significance and/or encourage arts and heritage activities.	https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/funding/building-communities/legacy-fund.html
Government of Canada: Western Economic Diversification Canada	Ongoing	variable	A variety of funding programs for economic diversification/support.	https://www.wd-deo.gc.ca/eng/home.asp
Investment Agriculture Foundation: Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program	April	Variable	Enables B.C.'s agriculture and food sectors to accelerate the pace of innovation.	https://iafbc.ca/agri-innovation/
Plan H	15-Jul	Creating Healthy Places Grant: Up to \$5,000 for up to 15 local governments	The PlanH program provides funding to local governments to support learning about the community context for health and well-being, partnership development between sectors, collaborative priority setting for health and well-being in local planning and policy, and innovative	http://www.planh.ca/funding

			action to influence local health outcomes.	
Real Estate Foundation BC	February and Sept	Variable, some matching funds required	Local and Sustainable Food Systems Grants - a list of past projects: http://www.refbc.com/interest-areas/local-and-sustainable-food-systems	http://www.refbc.com/grants
Rural BC Dividend Fund	n/a	\$10,000 - \$500,000.	The BC Rural Dividend has provided \$25 million a year to assist rural communities with a population of 25,000 or less to reinvigorate and diversify their local economies. Indigenous or non-Indigenous communities with a population of 25,000 or less, located outside the geographic boundaries of Metro Vancouver and the Capital Regional District.	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/employment-business/economic-development/support-organizations-community-partners/rural-economic-development/rural-dividend/program-details?utm_source=The%20Compass%20%20November%2015%2C%202017&utm_campaign=The%20Compass%20%20November%2015%2C%202017&utm_medium=email
Union of BC Municipalities - Community to Communities Forum	April September December	undefined	the Regional Community to Community (C2C) Forum program has been a driving force in efforts to build, mend, or transform relationships among neighbouring First Nations and local governments in British Columbia. The C2C Forum program was designed specifically to help First Nations and local governments connect.	https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-to-community-forum.html
WorkBC Employer Training Grant – Job Creation Partnerships	first-come, first-serve	Max of \$10,000 per participant	Foundational Training Stream: assist unemployed EI eligible clients with opportunities to gain meaningful work experience	https://www.workbc.ca/Employment-Services/Community-and-Employer-Partnerships/Job-Creation-Partnerships.aspx