



THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN

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TOWNSHIP'S INCORPORATION ON JULY 21ST, 1892

The Township of Spallumcheen is a diverse mix of urban and rural areas that has a farming community prior to its incorporation over 125 years ago. Farming activities comprise a large portion of land use in the community with over 50% of the land base contained within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). Living in the country is an enticing factor for people looking to enjoy the peace and quiet that comes with rural life. However, new rural residents might not understand what farming activities can occur in an agricultural community, and farmers might not understand how these new residents perceive the rural lifestyle.

WHAT TO DO WHEN FARMING PRACTICES ARE BEING CONTRAVENED

If you have concerns that a farmer is contravening the *Right to Farm Act*. Please contact the Farm Industry Review Board (FIRB) at:

Inquiry BC at 1-800-663-7867

(this service will connect you to any provincial ministry requested).

Or via the following link to an online complaint process:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/boards-commissions-tribunals/bc-farm-industry-review-board/farm-practices/steps-in-complaints-process>

**For more information contact the
Township of Spallumcheen**



LIVING IN AN AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

SO WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT?

FARMERS HAVE A RIGHT TO FARM

The fundamental policy of the provincial government is that farmers have the right to farm. The Ministry of Agriculture is responsible for farming in the province of BC. The key legislation under the Ministry is the Farm Practices Protection (*Right to Farm Act*) which can be found under:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/farm-practices-protection>.

It is important that residents understand that farmers have the right to farm, particularly in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), provided they use normal farm practices and follow other legislation listed in the act (*Environmental Management Act*, *Integrated Pest Management Act*, *Health Act*, and their regulations).

THE RIGHT TO FARM ACT REFERENCE GUIDE

The *Right to Farm Act* provides information related to normal farm practices in agricultural communities: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/strengthening-farming/farm-practices-in-bc-reference-guide>

The Act lists and describes many of British Columbia's diverse farm practices in general terms. It also refers the reader to existing government legislation, industry guidelines and other sources of information related to farm practices in BC.

This guide is intended to inform the public when they are moving to a farming community.

BUT IT'S ONLY 5 AM

Farming requires long, hot hours. The typical workday starts early and ends late. And yes, the rooster does crow at the break of dawn. Just think of it as nature's alarm clock!

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

Most farming is done with large machinery. Sometimes peace and quiet can be disturbed, especially during planting and harvest time. Machines can run late into the night and start up very early in the morning. Would the farmer rather be sleeping? Yes, but ensuring there are food sources for human consumption, as well as livestock make their early lifestyle a necessity.

Bird scare devices, and other techniques, such as helicopters, are also a requirement of farming to ensure crops don't get ruined. Remember – the farmer lives where he works too.

THERE'S THE FENCE...HIS PROPERTY, MY PROPERTY

Most of the time, yes. But property lines in the country are not always clear. Make sure you know where they are and respect them. Most farm animals are fairly docile, however it is not a good idea to be on the same side of the fence as a bull or a stallion. If you are not sure how to act around the neighbours animals, ask.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

Many crops rely on fertilization, or nutrient management practices, and many use the “end” products (pardon the pun) of their livestock. The farmer is recycling and using environmentally friendly alternatives to chemical fertilizers. It is quite common to see a farmer spraying this fertilizer onto his fields. That many cows...that large barn...only one bathroom. The accumulated liquids become fertilizer and are normally sprayed. Depending on wind direction, it can disrupt a patio party quite quickly. It may be a good idea to contact your farming neighbourhood and see what the schedule for spraying is.

Cannabis facilities are approved facilities in the ALR. With the new rules regarding legalization of marijuana means smells. Facilities are Federally regulated and are required to follow specific rules when it comes to smells. The Farm Industry Review Board will be addressing complaints, similar to any other farm nuisance complaint.

FARMS IN THE TOWNSHIP INCLUDE (but aren't limited to):

Apiculture	Grapes
Beef	Greenhouse
Berry	Horses
Dairy	Mushroom
Field Vegetables	Nursery & Turf
Forage	Organic Production
Fur Farms	Pork
Game Farms	Poultry
Goats	Sheep
Grain	Fruit trees (apple/cherry/ etc.)

HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO FOLLOW THIS GUY?

Living in the country can sometimes mean less traffic, but farm equipment is slow and may cause delays, especially during harvest time. Be patient, the road where he's turning, may be just ahead. In 2016, with the support of Township Council, a new set of signs were implemented in the Township of Spallumcheen reminding motorists to please share the road.



WHERE DOES FIDO FIT IN?

For many people, moving from the city to a rural property means having a family dog. Dogs are great companions and are well suited to a rural lifestyle where there is room to romp and play. Dogs are also predators by nature and given the opportunity may chase and in some cases kill livestock.

It is important that you keep your dog in an enclosed area and do not permit your dog to run loose. One loose dog is bad...more than one loose dog constitutes a “pack” and farmers can tell you of instances of mass kills of sheep, chickens and other livestock caused by a pack of dogs. Farmers do have the right to defend their livestock at all times.

Dogs behave differently when they are roaming and even though you may believe your dog is not capable of such carnage, remember that dogs have instincts that come out when not at home.



Dogs can also stress livestock, even if there is a fence separating them. Please ensure your dog is kept away from property lines and other areas that may allow the dog to interact with livestock. They must be on your property at all times, or under the direct control of an adult at all times when off the property.

WHERE IS ALL THAT SMOKE COMING FROM?

In BC, farmers are protected under the “Right to Farm Act” and are permitted to clear large tracts of land for crops and grazing. Farmers must be ensured that air quality objectives of the province are achieved. For more information on Smoke Control Regulations: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-pollution/smoke-burning/regulations/openburningregulation>.

Ventilation Index	Ventilation Category
0 – 33	POOR
34 – 54	FAIR
55 – 100	GOOD