



BRITISH COLUMBIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Representing the Beef Cattle Industry of British Columbia

AGRI CENTRE - #4 - 10145 DALLAS DRIVE, KAMLOOPS, B.C. V2C 6T4 PHONE (250) 573-3611 FAX (250) 573-5155

January 24, 2024

Hon. Pam Alexis
Minister of Agriculture and Food
PO BOX 9043, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Email: AF.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4
Email: ECC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Our File: 2024-001

Sent via email

Re: Request from BC Cattlemen's Association to Improve Agriculture Education in Schools

The BC Cattlemen's Association is a non-profit association representing beef cattle ranchers in British Columbia. We are writing to draw attention to the diminished agriculture content being delivered in schools and the need for more to be included in the curriculum. As dedicated advocates for agriculture, and particularly beef cattle ranching, we are keen to foster a deeper integration of agriculture knowledge into the classroom, recognizing its profound impact on students with important topics like sustainability, food production and environmental stewardship.

One such resource that already exists and could easily be integrated into the classroom are the Beef Kits, available through BC Agriculture in the Classroom. These kits serve as an excellent resource for educators, offering comprehensive materials and practical tools to facilitate engaging and informative lessons about the beef industry, its significance and its contributions to our society. The Beef Kits contain curricular connections to Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies, Food Studies, Culinary Arts and Career Education. The unit plans have been tested in a selection of classrooms and teachers were delighted to have an opportunity to use this new learning tool.

Enabling teachers and students to gain an understanding about cattle ranching in BC, where beef comes from, how it is responsibly produced and who produces it will foster a greater appreciation for our land, animals and people. Students and teachers will also connect to environmental stewardship, food security and food safety concepts. Furthermore, by integrating more agriculture into the classroom we have an opportunity to inspire the next generation of agriculturists, environmental stewards and informed consumers who appreciate the complexities and significance of BC's agricultural systems.

While we would like to see a collaboration between the ministries of Agriculture and Education, we leave the logistics of how to increase and improve agriculture education in the classroom to you. We feel that by joining forces, your ministries can put together a concerted effort to significantly enhance the integration of agriculture related curriculum materials such as the aforementioned beef kits into the educational framework.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to the possibility of working together with both of you to advance agricultural education in our classrooms. If you have questions arising from this letter and our suggestions, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Monical
BC Cattlemen's Association
Public Affairs and Education Committee Chair

BC Agriculture in the Classroom Beef Kits link:

<https://www.bcaitc.ca/blog/new-beef-resources>