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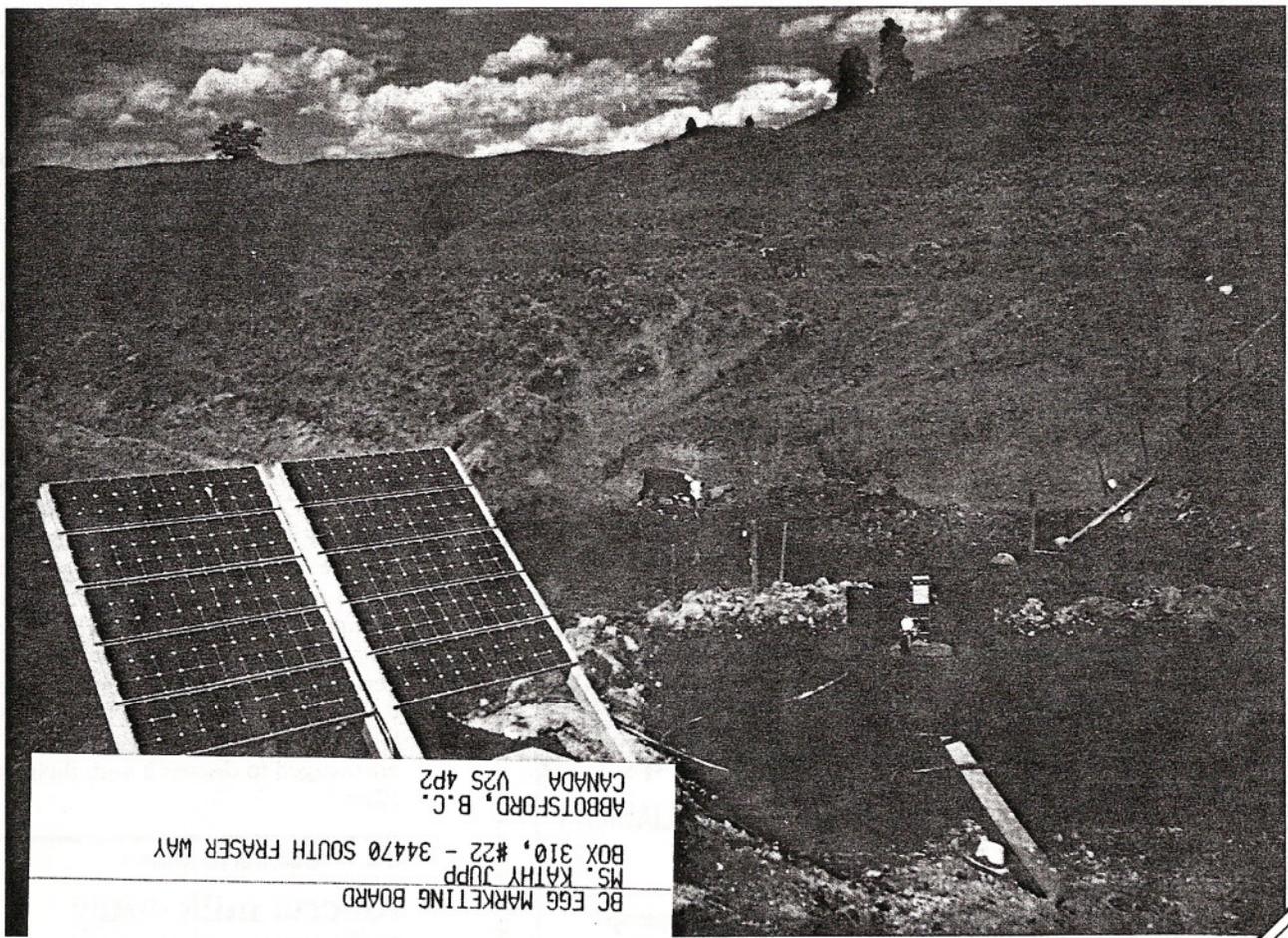
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# Agriculture

the magazine of the B.C. Federation of Agriculture



BC EGG MARKETING BOARD  
 MS. KATHY JUPP  
 BOX 310, #22 - 34470 SOUTH FRASER WAY  
 ABBOTSFORD, B.C.  
 CANADA V2S 4P2

## Power Source

...see page 13

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"This is to test feasibility of producing for export," he says. "It may create a major opportunity for expansion."

Settlement has been reached between the growers and the broiler breeders regarding placement of birds. A level of 94% of local market needs will be provided by B.C. breeders. "There is some shortage just now, but that is expected to even out shortly," Flokstra says.

#### B.C. Coast Vegetable Co-op Association

### Prices from '92 'a little higher'

Volumes are diminishing as the Co-op comes to the end of its business year April 30, reports general manager Peter Lanosky from Richmond. "It's been a better year for our growers, with prices a little higher. Unfortunately, we are expecting increased supplies both in B.C. and from the prairies for 1993."

Carrots and early potatoes were planted before mid-March, making a good start to the new season. The co-op is making additions to its equipment to increase handling capacity and quality of the new crops.

#### B.C. Egg Marketing Board

### Hike of 20 per cent in table egg consumption

Table egg consumption is up by about 20%, reports controller Peter Whitlock from Abbotsford. The drop in the relative value of the Canadian dollar and subsequent reduced cross-border shopping is considered to be at least partly responsible. "The West seems to be short of everything," Whitlock says. "All industrial product surpluses seem to be in the East." He feels it will be difficult to make projections of future markets until more is known about the causes, but "we should be okay as long as the dollar stays down."

The move from uniformity to variability in the national levy structure has caused the BCEMB some difficulty with the provincial pricing function. However, it has been possible to achieve the short-term stability necessary to help get the national program back on track, reported Board chairman Gerald Zaph at the annual meeting in March.

Statistics show an over-all decline of about 1% in production and disappear-

ance in 1992. However, an increase of 2% was reported for the last quarter. "Only time will tell whether this is a trend or an aberration," he said. B.C. industrial product declarations for mid-March show a drop of 39%.

Egg pricing continues to be of concern to the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and the B.C. Marketing Board, Zaph says. In response, "the new board has prepared a pricing report which sets out in detail the procedures and rationale for pricing in B.C. The purpose of the report is three-fold: to educate the new board; to inform and educate Ministry staff and the B.C. Marketing Board; and to be used as the basis for an understanding of the pricing of eggs in Canada in the event that the CEMA abrogates its responsibilities in this area to the provinces." The BCEMB has met twice with MAFF and the BCMB and is encouraged that these communications will improve in the future. "This process is absolutely critical because the pricing process is becoming more complex as we move from uniformity to variability," Zaph points out. "The maximum pricing regulation must also be addressed and we will concentrate on this issue once stability is returned to the national system." After due deliberation, the new board instructed counsel to drop the appeal of the Supreme Court pricing decision.

Effort is being made nationally to fast-track removal of the words "through normal marketing channels" from regulations in order to resolve the Delight issue. A Court of Appeal decision put Christine Delight outside the B.C. egg scheme because her operation utilizes niche marketing rather than "normal" channels. The BCEMB and BCMB are on side and the BCMB "is working diligently to persuade the Ministry to join us," Zaph says. "This may require assistance from producers who should be encouraged to discuss it with their own MLAs."

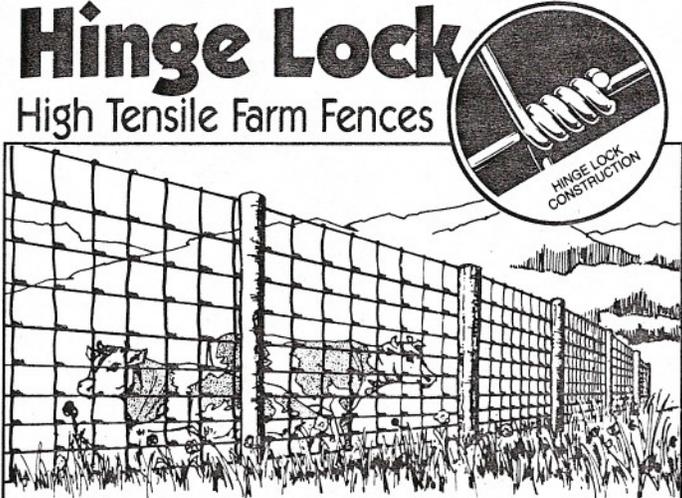
#### B.C. Federation of Dairymen

### Alberta milk entry 'of major concern'

The B.C. Milk Marketing Board has been meeting with producers on the challenges facing the dairy industry, reports secretary Andy Dolberg from Victoria. "Of major concern to all in the industry is the issue of fluid milk entering B.C. from Alberta. The problem,

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