

AGRICULTURAL POLICY REVIEW



FARM PRODUCT PROCESSING

On Site Processing

The use of ALR land for storing, packing, preparing and processing farm products is designated as a farm use by the ALC and may not be prohibited by Local Government if at least 50% of the farm product is:

1. Produced either on that agricultural land or by an association to which the owner of the agricultural land belongs, or
2. Feed required for farm use on that agricultural land.

RDCK's Agriculture Plan recommends the following:

- that the RDCK review agricultural zones in the Zoning Bylaw and amend them as necessary and appropriate to allow on-farm processing of livestock and / or other agricultural crops

Phase 1 of the Agricultural Policy Review made the following changes to zoning regulations in Electoral Areas A, B & C:

1. Enabled processing of below 50% threshold for products originating from another parcel in the RDCK in (subject to non-farm use approval by the ALC)
2. Farm Product processing that involves processing livestock must be located on a minimum 2 hectare (5 acre) site outside the ALR or 3 hectares (7.4 acre) site within the ALR, and at least 30 meters (98 feet) from the nearest business or residence on another parcel
3. Deferred to overall site coverage rather than specifying maximum floor area for processing use
4. Removed the Development Permit Area for 'Small Scale Food Processing Area' as it added cost and delays for producers

Off Site Processing

Enabling space for off site processing is also an important component of the supply chain. Land for multi-use storage, processing, cold and freezer storage, distribution, transportation, and abattoirs located between farms and their markets are necessary. These uses are often permitted in commercial and industrial zones. Often the scale of use will dictate the land use considerations needed. Zoning can differentiate between industrial and cottage industry scales.

New Slaughter Licensing

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries amended the Meat Inspection Regulation to create new licence categories, and to allow more modernized inspection approaches.

Licence Type	Activities Permitted	Sales Permitted	Geographic Scope	# of Animal Units
<u>Abattoir licence</u>	Slaughter (own animals and custom slaughter for other producers)	Retail and direct to consumer	B.C.	Unlimited
<u>Farmgate Plus licence</u>	Slaughter (own animals and custom slaughter for other producers)	Retail and direct to consumer	B.C.	1-25
<u>Farmgate licence</u>	Slaughter (own animals only)	Direct to consumer only	From farmgate, and at farmers markets in the regional district and within 50 km of where the meat is produced	1 - 5
<u>Personal use</u> No licence required	Slaughter only	None	For producer only	Unlimited



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