

Right to Farm

Anyone purchasing land in the ALR or in a rural area should be aware that agriculture and farming are permitted and that normal farm practices are protected. That means that noise, dust and odors may arise from agricultural businesses and are to be expected. The *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* enables the pursuit and continuation of normal farm practices that also follow the *Public Health Act*, *Integrated Pest Management Act*, *Environmental Management Act*, and land use regulations.

Through the Strengthening Farming Program, the Ministry of Agriculture has developed a Farm Practices Reference Guide. The Guide lists and describes many of BC's diverse farm practices, references existing government legislation and industry guidelines and serves as a reference to people seeking information related to issues and concerns about farm practices. The guide may also be used by the Farm Industry Review Board, the statutory body established under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* to hear formal complaints about farm practices.

Agricultural Land Reserve

The ALR is a provincial zone in which agriculture is recognized as the priority use, where farming is encouraged and non-agricultural uses are restricted. The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) is dedicated to preserving agricultural land and encouraging farming on land in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).



For more information about the
Regional District of Nanaimo
Agricultural Area Plan and agriculture
and aquaculture related initiatives
in the region go to

www.growingourfuture.ca

Or email

agriculture@rdn.bc.ca



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RURAL AREAS GUIDE

Living Near Farms



Rural Life

The Regional District of Nanaimo has a diverse mix of rural and urban areas. Rural areas are increasingly desirable to people who seek the peace and quiet rural life can offer. However, it is important to remember these areas also support valuable farm land, and are a source of local food production and economic revenue. New rural residents may not understand what happens in farming country and farmers may not understand how these new residents perceive country life.

Fencing And Property Lines

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 neighbour's animals, ask.

Where's All That Smoke From?

In BC, farmers are allowed to clear large areas of land for crops or grazing and these activities are protected under the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act*. Farmers must ensure that air quality objectives of the Province are achieved.

What's That Noise?

Farming requires long hours and sometimes noisy equipment and noisy farm animals. Farmers often get an early start to their day and work late into the night. Machinery involved in planting or harvesting can sometimes disturb peace and quiet or cause dust depending on soil moisture. And don't forget, roosters are a common sound at dawn in the country!



What's That Smell?

Healthy, nutrient rich soils are vital to farming and crop production. Many farmers choose sustainable farming practices of recycling or composting agricultural materials and wastes to enhance soil productivity. Accumulated manure are often sprayed or otherwise incorporated as a source of fertilizer to add nutrients to the soil. While this practice typically only takes place twice a year, it's never a bad idea to contact your farming neighbour to find out their schedule for spraying.

Farm Vehicle Traffic

Living in the country can sometime mean less traffic, but farm equipment is slow and may cause you delays, especially during harvest time. Be patient, the farm vehicle may be turning just ahead!

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 and given the opportunity, may chase and in some cases kill livestock. It is important that you keep your dog on your property 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 by pack dogs. 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.

