

## **UBCM FARMED ANIMAL MASS CARCASS DISPOSAL EMERGENCY PLANNING PROGRAM**

Backgrounder:

Date: September 28, 2007

The emergency planning program for farmed animal mass carcass disposal is designed to create a co-operative partnership between the Province, local governments, and local farmed animal producers. Funding has been provided by the Province of BC through the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

The funding and associated emergency plan amendments will help put into place a management and consultative framework that allows for a timely and efficient approach to emergency mass carcass disposal. As past Avian Influenza (AI) outbreaks and recent freshet readiness activities have highlighted, there is a strong need for greater emergency planning amongst all levels of government and local industry to deal with the high volumes of dead stock generated in an emergency.

Both the provincial and federal governments are currently revisiting their emergency plans, with the Province revising its All Hazards Emergency Plan and the Province and federal government revising their Foreign Animal Disease Eradication Support Plans.

The amendment of existing emergency plans to address mass disposal is intended to benefit the economic, health, and environmental well being of local communities. Once the risk of a farmed animal emergency has been identified, local governments will be better positioned to prevent public health risks, environmental contamination, and eliminate the further spread of disease to other animals. This latter ability will help protect the financial well being of local industries that contribute to the economic strength of local communities. The inclusion of a mass carcass disposal sub-plan in a local government emergency plan also enhances the capacity of local governments to recover from a major impact on the agriculture industry by shortening the duration of an event and minimizing any economic or health impact.

For a chart that illustrates the distribution of livestock across British Columbia please go to [www.civicnet.bc.ca](http://www.civicnet.bc.ca). Look under Programs and Services, then Local Government Program Services, then Emergency Planning.