

AGRICULTURE

THE FIGURES

GDP: Agriculture including crop and animal production contributed \$1.08 billion to B.C.'s industrial gross domestic product in 2011, or 0.57 per cent of provincial GDP.

Employment: Agriculture direct jobs and support activities in 2012, 26,000. In addition, jobs in food manufacturing, 27,200.

Trade/exports: Value of B.C. agriculture and food exports to all countries in 2012: \$1.8 billion (2011, \$1.6 billion). Total for Canada: \$42.3 billion in 2012.

Sub-sector exports in 2012: Fruit and nuts \$301 million, vegetables \$214 million, other \$1.3 billion.

PARTY PLATFORMS

BC Liberal Party

- \$20 million in carbon tax relief for greenhouse and flower growers, sustain \$4 million in carbon tax relief for farmers using coloured fuel.
- Add \$2 million to "Buy Local" campaign supporting B.C. farmers.
- Work with organic farmers to develop "B.C. Organic" brand.
- Create agriculture centre of excellence at University of Fraser Valley.

BC New Democratic Party

- Invest \$8 million annually in programs to develop local and stable markets for B.C. growers.
- Create Feed BC program, expanding market for B.C. growers by putting locally grown food into B.C. hospitals.
- Create Grow BC program to promote food security by supporting replanting/renewal of orchards and more support for organic and conventional farmers.
- Bring back Buy BC marketing program to support local growers.
- Cut LDB markup on spirits from B.C. craft distillers, allow on-site sales and direct sales to restaurants and bars.

BC Conservative Party

- Would repeal carbon tax to provide relief to farmers and ranchers.

BC Green Party

- Bolster agricultural land reserve to create more land for farming