

Appendix B

RECOMMENDATIONS BY CATEGORY

In March 2011 the draft recommendations were circulated for feedback via an online survey (in which 128 people participated) and in document form for the one person who requested it. The data from that survey were combined with findings from the community consultations to determine the level of priority for each recommendation. The survey results are included below next to each recommendation where the wording in the March survey matches or is sufficiently close to the final iteration of the recommendation. The survey results are in the form of a visual “pie chart” that graphically conveys the level of priority for each recommendation.

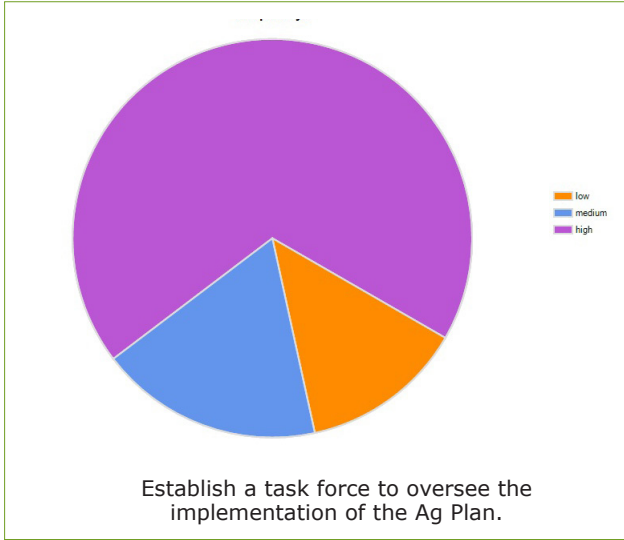
Of the findings from the community consultations, many of the needs and issues raised cannot be addressed by the RDCK, or at least not directly. So, for instance, the need to rebuild the infrastructure that supports farming and food systems falls mostly outside the RDCK purview though the RDCK can assist in small ways, such as by creating a fee exemption for farm building permits, as per Viability Recommendation #4.

The recommendations from the body of the Agricultural Plan are repeated below and are organized as priority recommendations, ease of implementation, general recommendations that the public would like to see implemented but did not identify as “high priority” and those that are the purview of external agencies where the RDCK can exercise its influence. Where the recommendation pertains to an external agency but has been identified as high priority, it is listed in the priority recommendations section.

Pie Chart colour codes: purple is high, blue is medium, and orange is low priority.

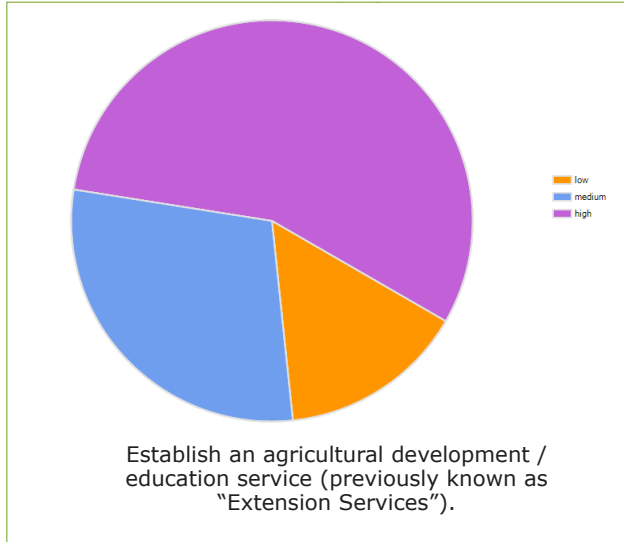
Priority Recommendations

The following recommendations were identified as high priorities in community meetings and input or that address key issues limiting farm viability and a secure food supply in the Region. Note that some of the priority recommendations will also be relatively easy to implement.



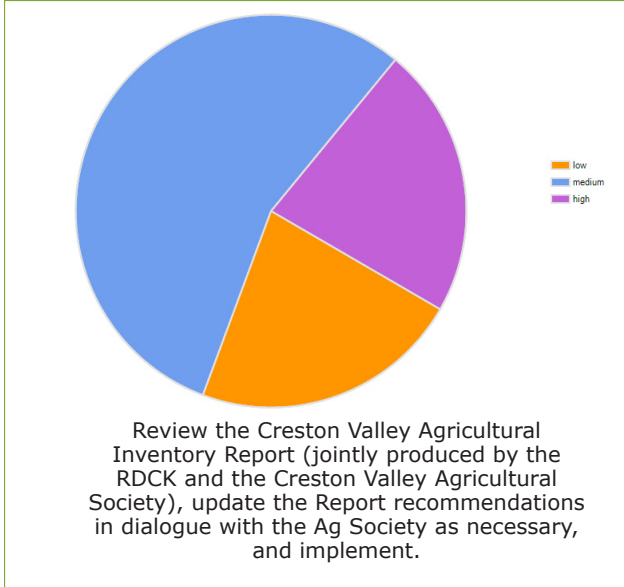
Implementation Recommendation #1

It is recommended that the RDCK establish a regional Agricultural Advisory Committee to oversee the implementation of the Agriculture Plan.



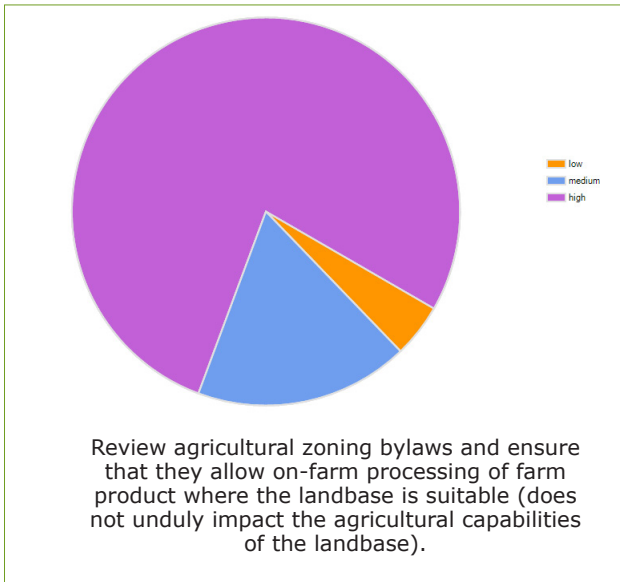
Viability Recommendation #1

It is recommended that the RDCK explore a partnership with the Columbia Basin Trust to establish a pilot project to provide an agricultural development service to farmers and other food producers in the RDCK.



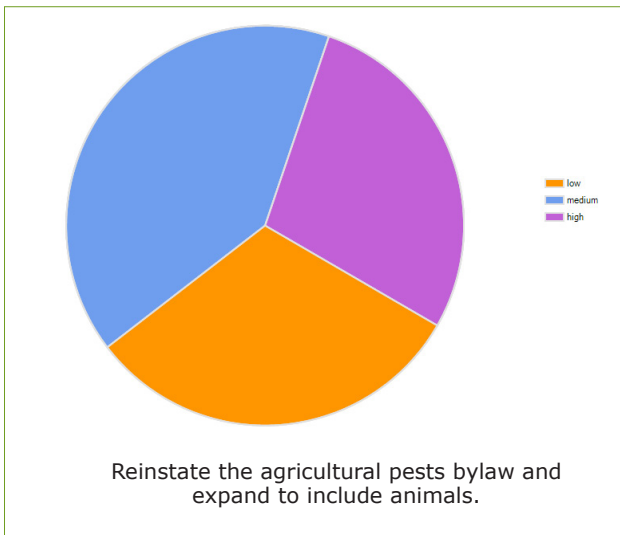
Viability Recommendation #2

It is recommended that the RDCK create and maintain a database for the collection and analysis of agricultural inventory data in the Creston Valley, as recommended in Creston Valley Agricultural Inventory of 2002.



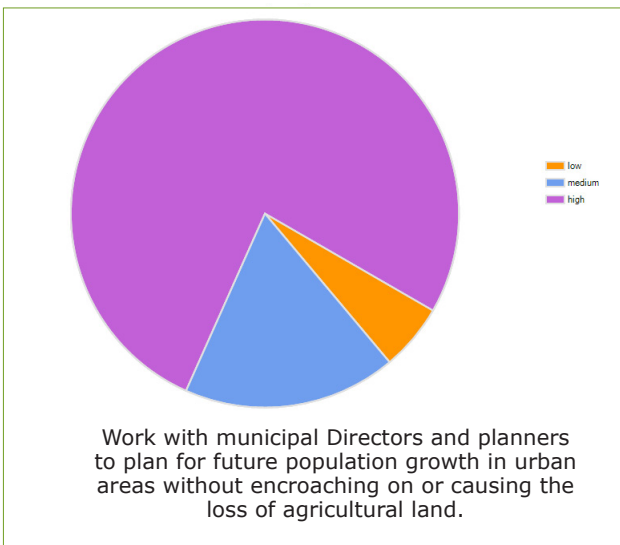
Viability Recommendation #5

It is recommended 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.



Viability Recommendation #7

It is recommended that the RDCK investigate a region-wide pest control program and potential partners, incorporating elements such as an agricultural pests bylaw and the Invasive Plant Management Plan.

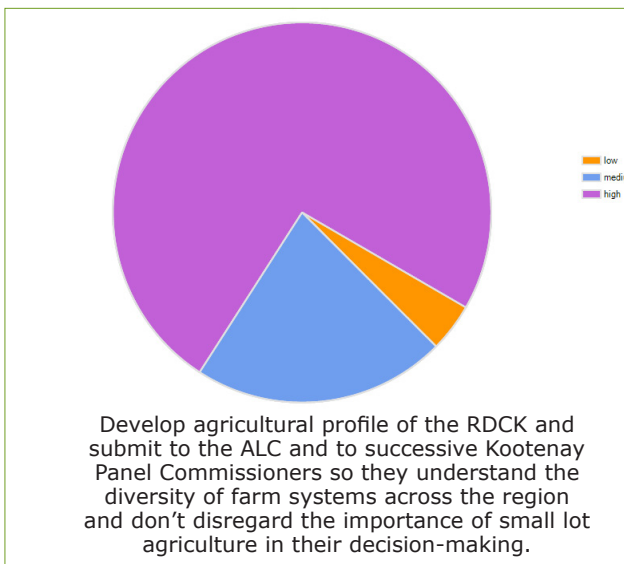
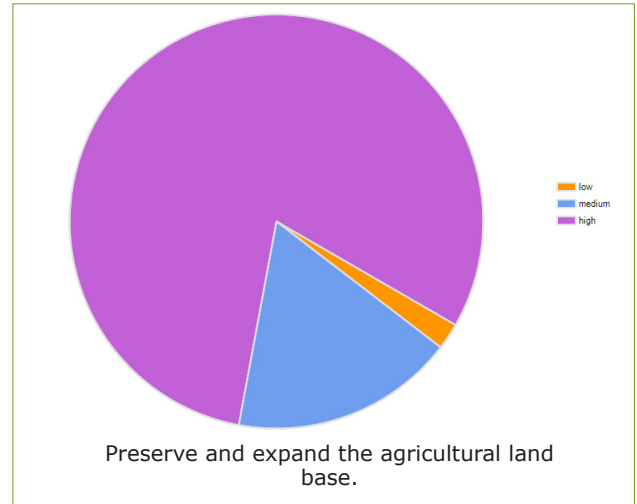
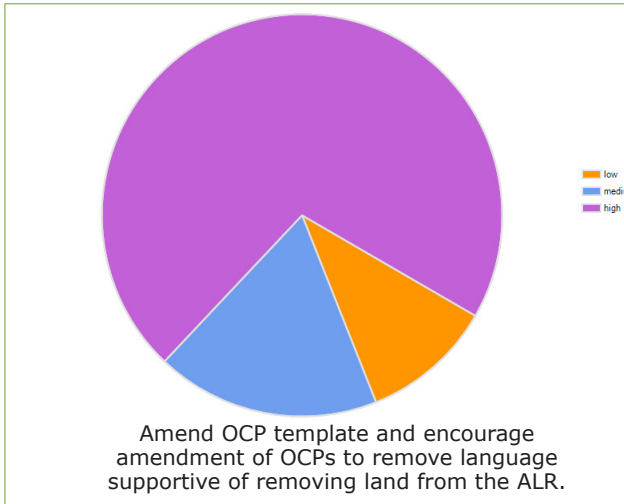


Capability Recommendation #2

It is recommended that the RDCK work with member municipalities to investigate a co-operative approach to agricultural lands within the urban / rural interface that will mitigate the loss of agricultural land to urban boundary expansions. ("build up, not out").

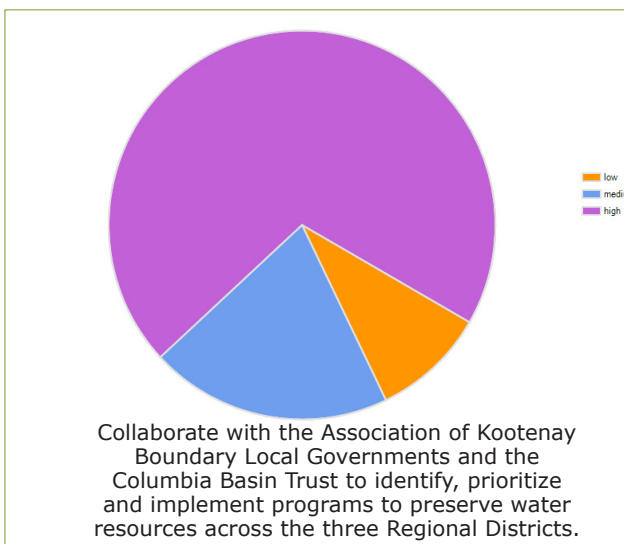
Capability Recommendation #3

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the protection of agricultural land where appropriate, through the Official Community Plan process and other land use planning tools.



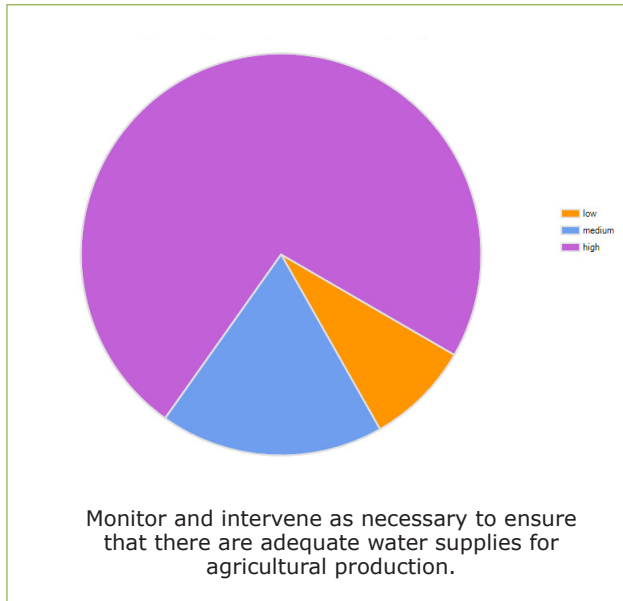
Capability Recommendation #10

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the Agricultural Land Commission to update their ALR decision-making guidelines incorporating criteria that acknowledges the unique characteristics of this region and the productive capabilities of smaller parcels.



Capability Recommendation #11

It is recommended that the RDCK work with the Columbia Basin Trust to expand the Columbia Basin Trust "Water Smart" initiative to encourage household water conservation practices.

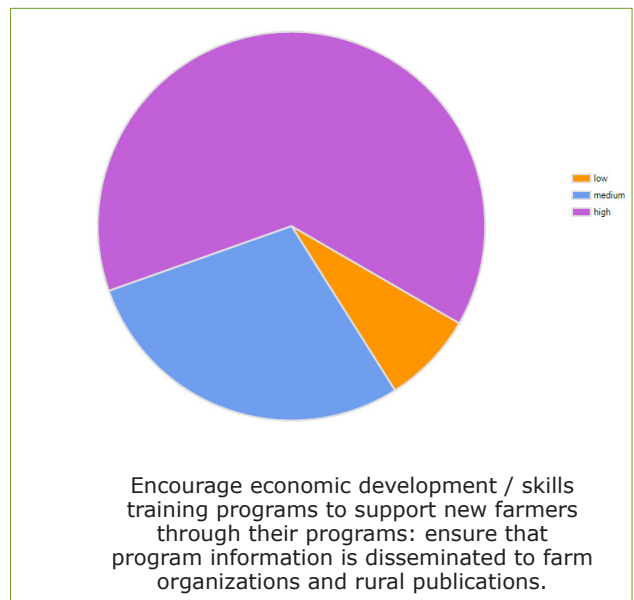
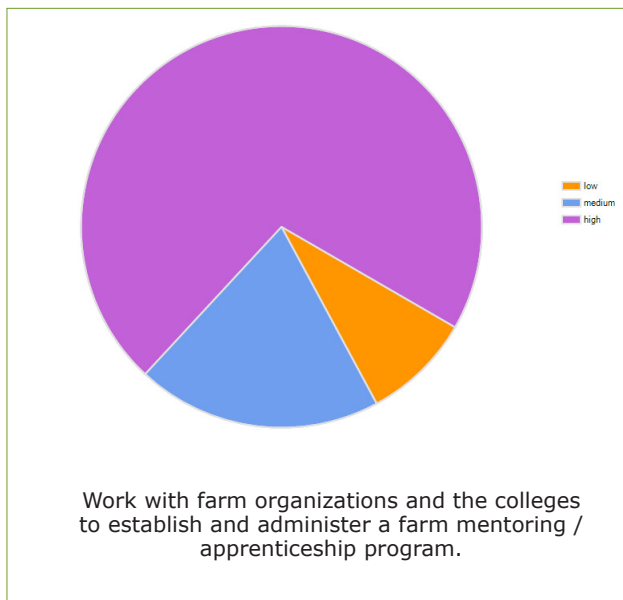


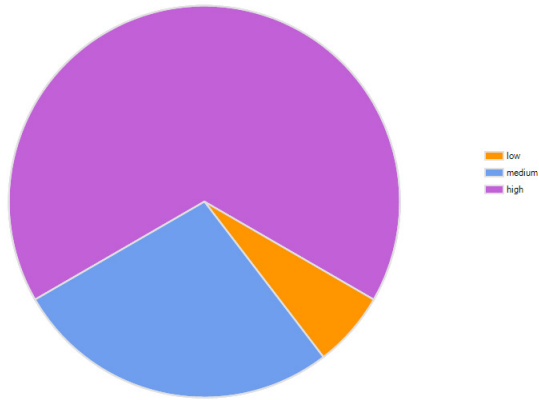
Capability Recommendation #14

It is recommended that the RDCK explore options for including the provision for agricultural needs in the design and operation of RDCK water systems.

Capability Recommendation #16

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage regionally-based farm organizations, colleges and employment / career development service agencies to establish and administer farmer training and mentoring programs.

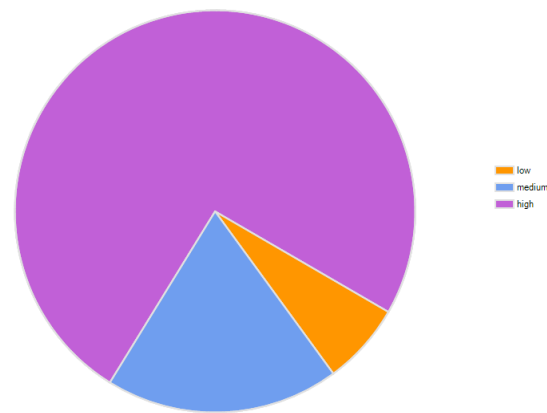




Create info sheet to accompany property tax notices that explains the tax exemptions that apply to active farmland and invites landowners who don't want to farm to register their land for farmers in search of land to lease.

Capability Recommendation #17

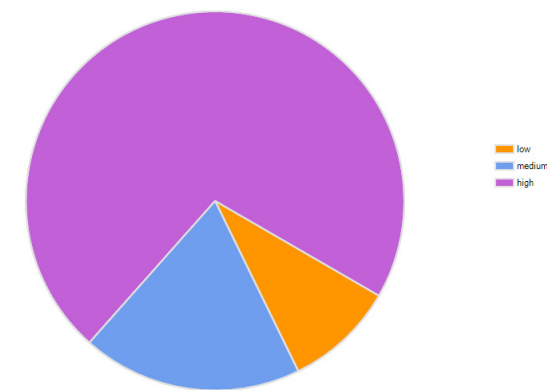
It is recommended that the RDCK develop and distribute an information sheet on the tax exemptions available to landowners whose land meets income threshold criteria from production by the landowner or lessees.



Lobby the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that the regional Apiary Inspector is replaced when he retires.

Capability Recommendation #18

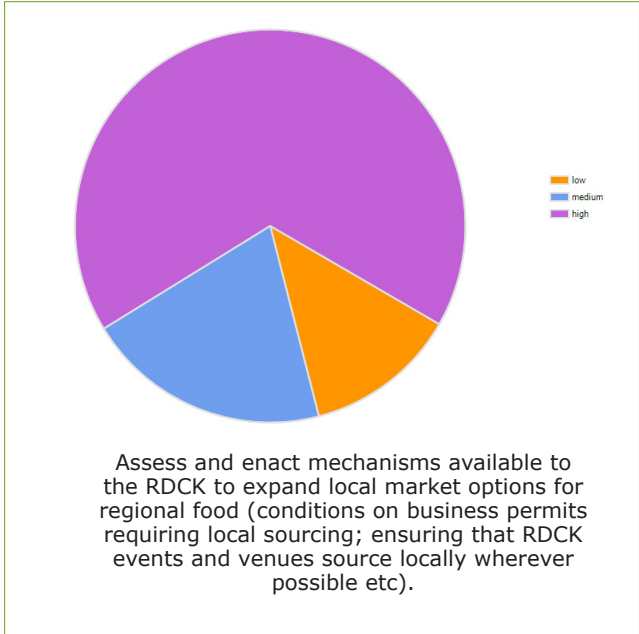
It is recommended that the RDCK champion a resolution at the Association of Kootenay Boundary Local Governments to have a Kootenay-based bee inspector suitably staffed to meet the needs of apiarists across the region.



Encourage the School Districts (10,8, and 93) to incorporate working school gardens into their curricula and food supply, drawing on existing programs and models in and outside the Region (Central School in Nelson, David Thompson Secondary School in Invermere).

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #2

It is recommended that the RDCK work with the Edible School Grounds Network and School Districts 8, 10 and 93 to promote, establish and incorporate working school gardens into their curricula and food supply.

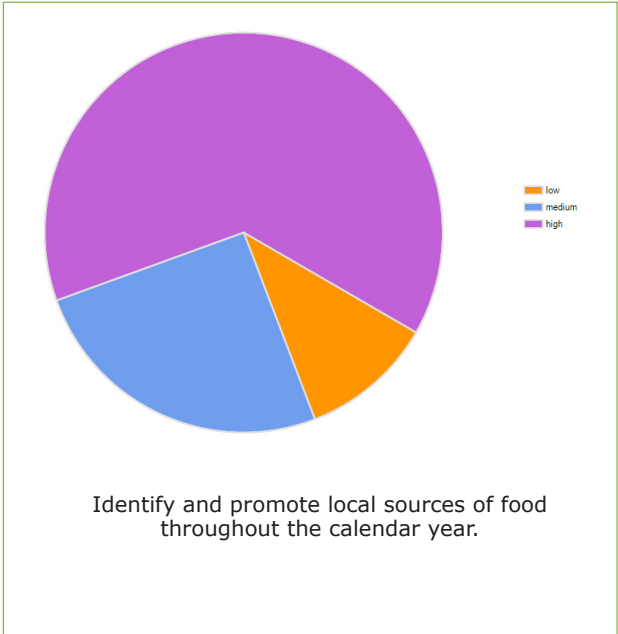
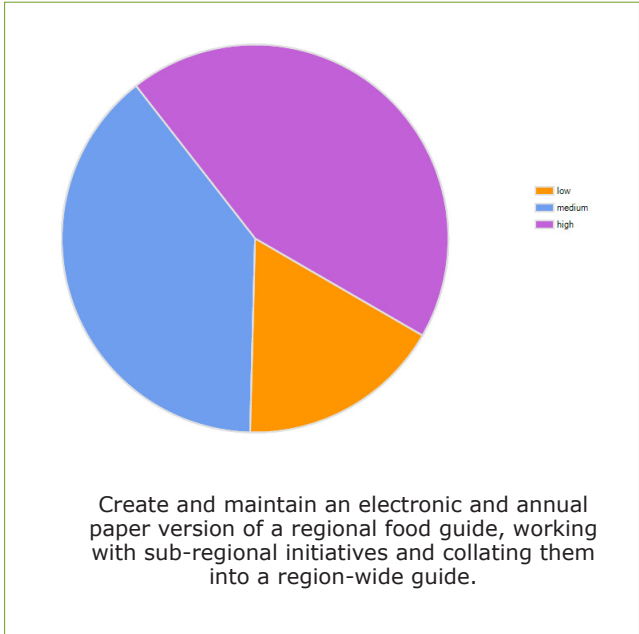


Secure Food Supply Recommendation #7

It is recommended that the RDCK assess and enact mechanisms to expand local market options for regional food.

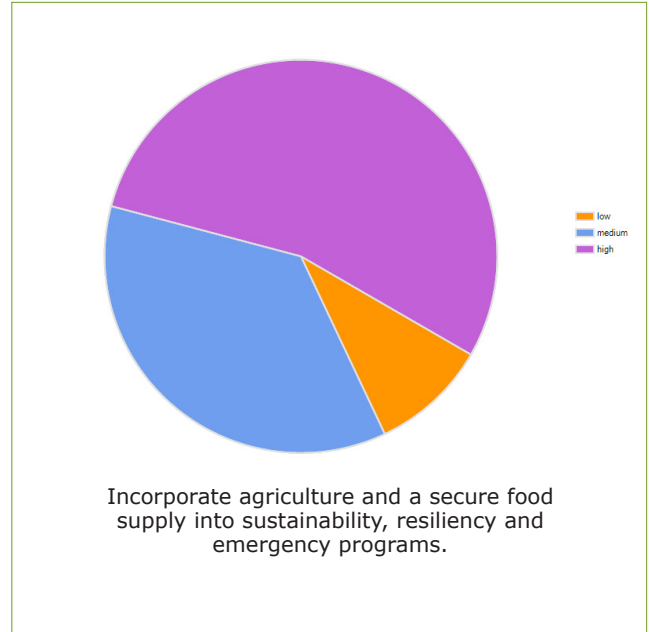
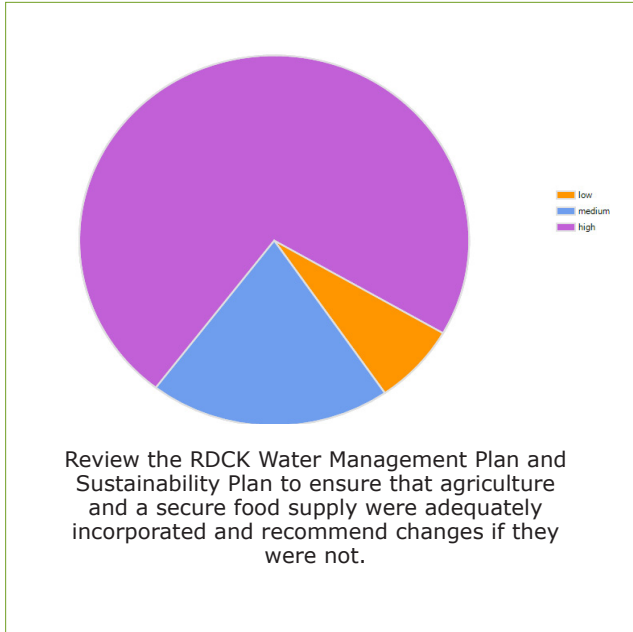
Secure Food Supply Recommendation #8

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the creation of a regional food and farm marketing program that includes regional food and seasonality guides.



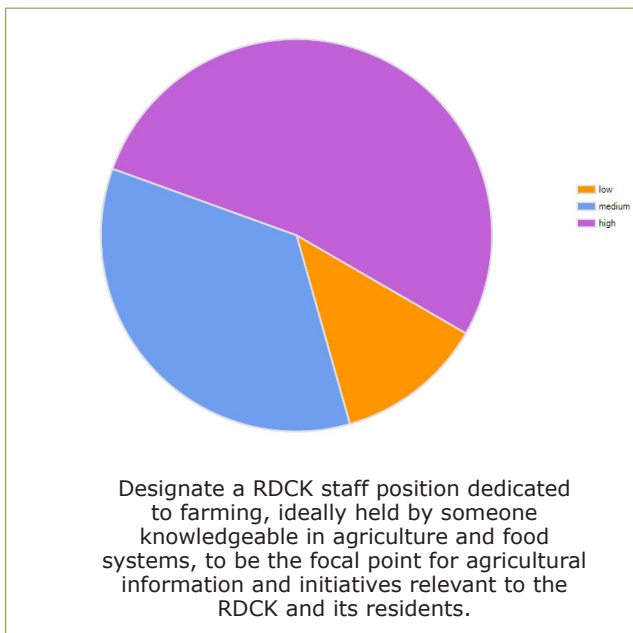
Secure Food Supply Recommendation #10

It is recommended that the RDCK explicitly incorporate agriculture and food systems into community planning.



Ease of Implementation

The following recommendations are the “low hanging fruit”, with low barriers to implementation. They can help to build momentum and trust in the implementation of the Plan.

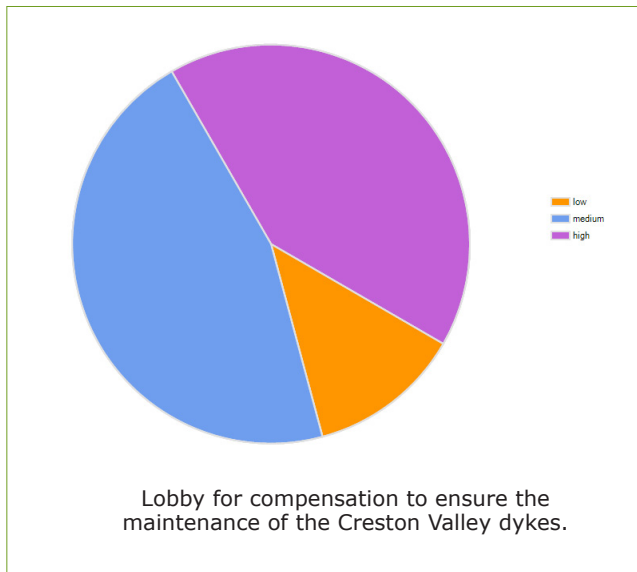


Viability Recommendation #3

It is recommended that the RDCK designate appropriate resources in the Development Services Department for those seeking information and support concerning regulations and requirements related to farming in the RDCK.

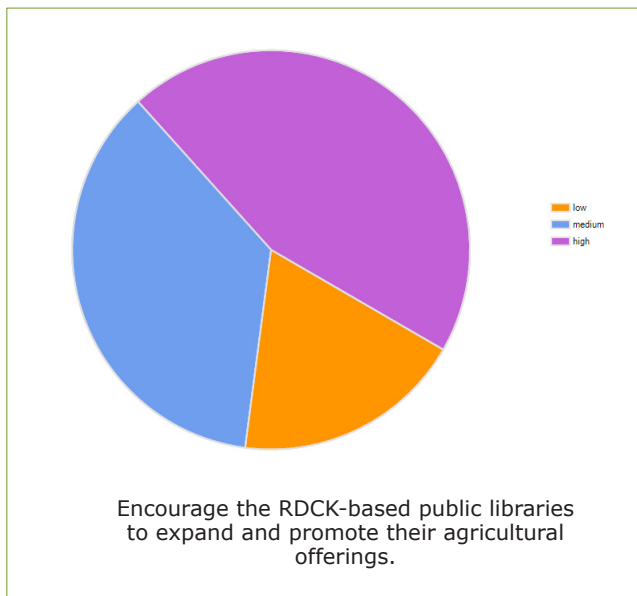
Capability Recommendation #7

It is recommended that the RDCK continue its agreement with the Creston Valley Agricultural Society to operate as the Creston Valley Agricultural Advisory Commission.



Capability Recommendation #13

It is recommended that the RDCK, in partnership with the Creston Valley Dyking Districts and the Columbia Basin Trust, submit information to the Columbia River Treaty negotiation process to secure compensation for the dyke damage and maintenance costs resulting from the Libby Dam water level management practices.

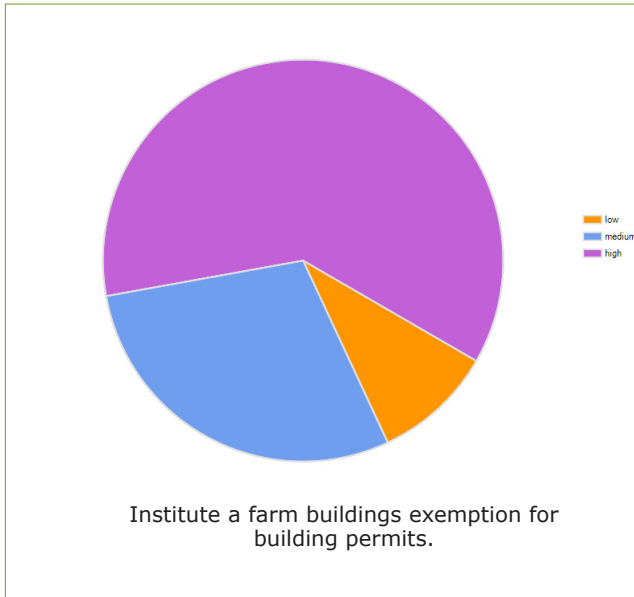


Secure Food Supply Recommendation #4

It is recommended that the RDCK support the public libraries in the Region to expand their agricultural resource offerings, in a range of media.

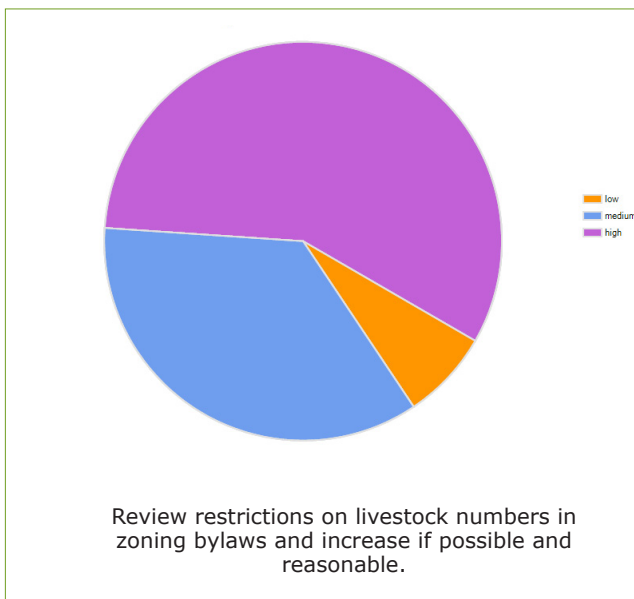
General Recommendations

The following recommendations reflect direction from the communities and supporting research as actions to be taken in support of viable farming and a secure food supply.



Viability Recommendation #4

It is recommended that the RDCK explore re-instating exemptions from building permits fees for structures that meet the National Farm Building Code of Canada definition of farm buildings having low human occupancy.

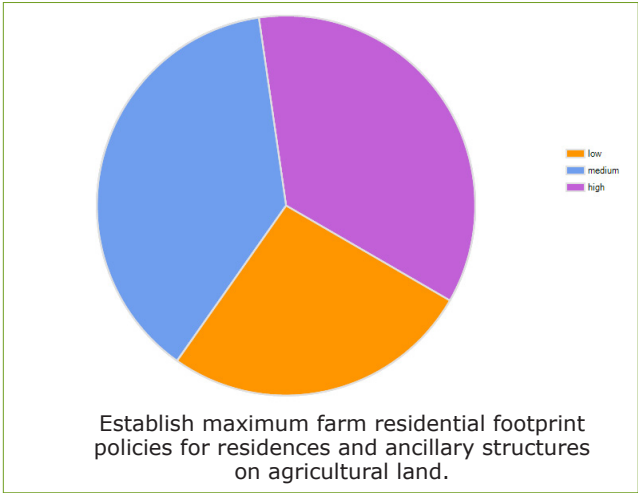
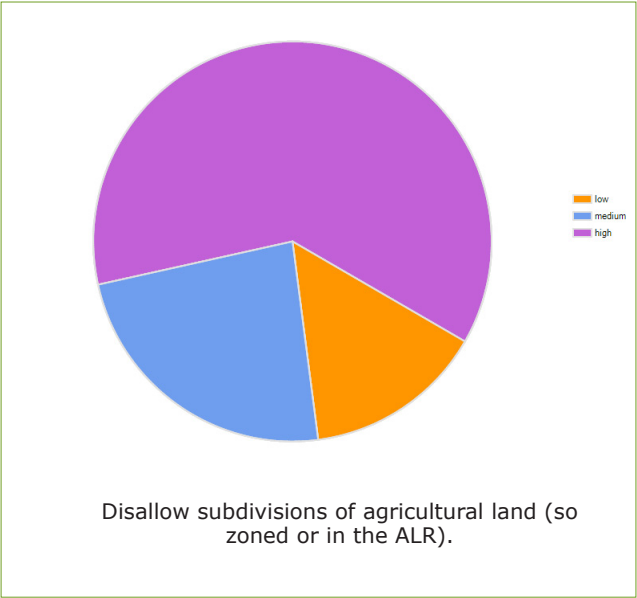
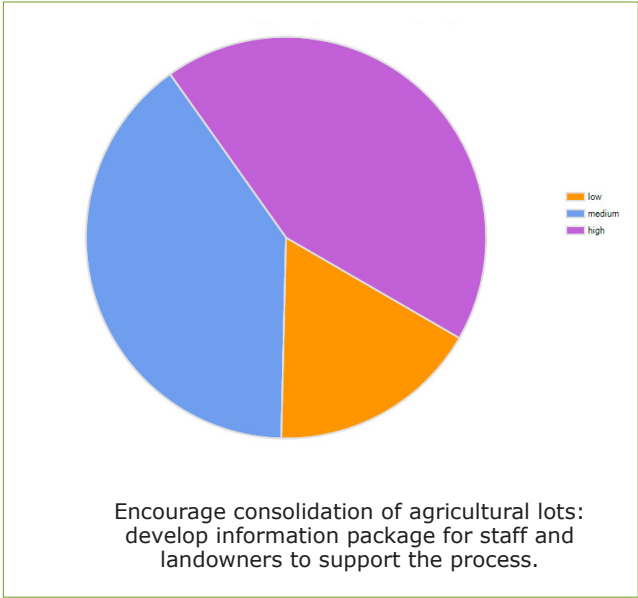


Viability Recommendation #6

It is recommended that the RDCK review restrictions on livestock numbers in rural non-agricultural zones and increase them as reasonable for the area, and environmentally sustainable for the lot size.

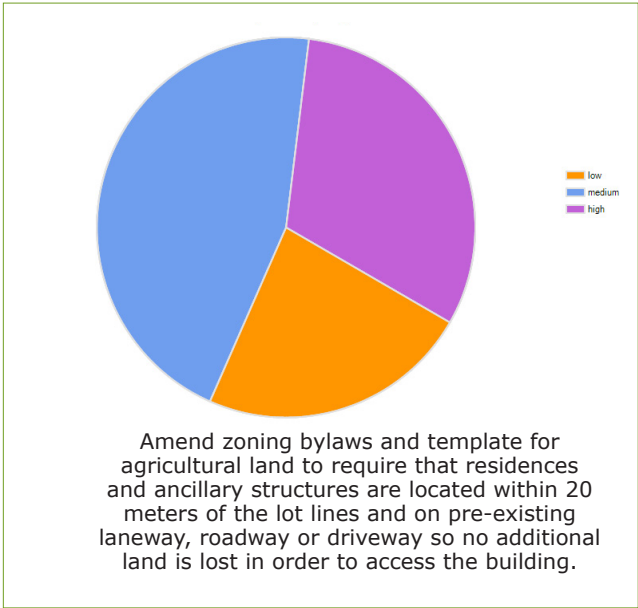
Capability Recommendation #1

It is recommended that the RDCK continue to use land use planning tools to discourage subdivisions of agricultural land and to encourage the consolidation of contiguous smaller agricultural lots provided they do not result in additional residences (resulting in higher land values for the farm).



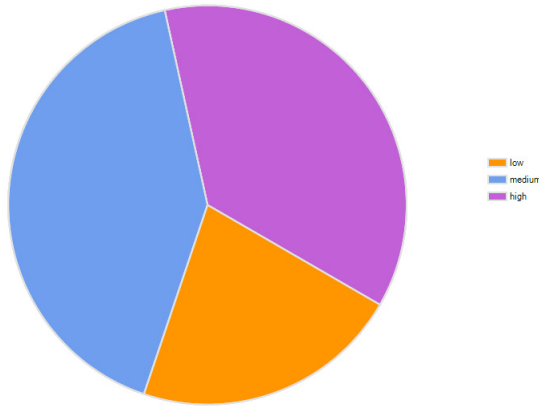
Capability Recommendation #4

It is recommended that the RDCK establish a maximum residential footprint policy for all agriculturally zoned land.



Capability Recommendation #5

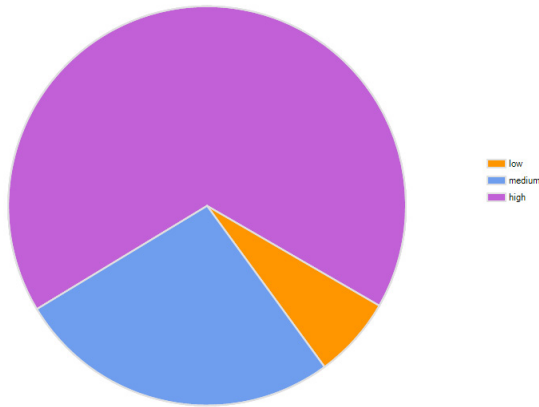
It is recommended that the RDCK amend the Zoning Bylaw to incorporate a maximum setback requirement for residential buildings in agricultural land.



Develop program to educate and support the implementation of no-build clauses on agricultural land.

Capability Recommendation #6

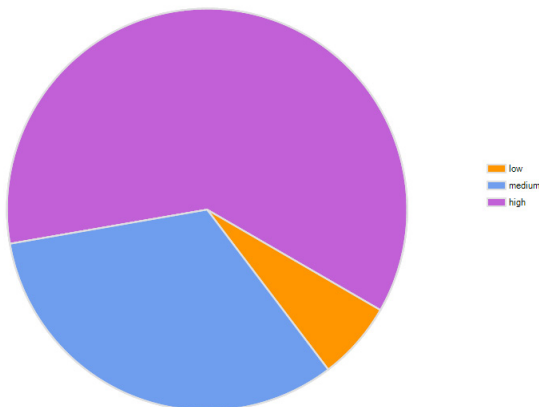
It is recommended that the RDCK develop educational materials to promote and support the establishment of no-build clauses on agricultural land.



Foster a positive and supportive relationship between the RDCK and the agricultural sector.

Capability Recommendation #8

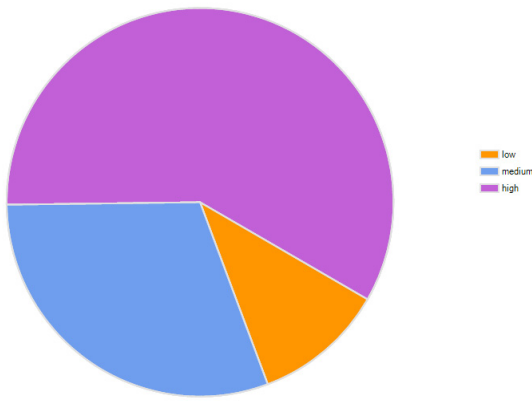
It is recommended that each RDCK Director reserve and fill a position on his / her Advisory Planning Commission for someone with a background in agriculture.



Ensure that there is a suitably qualified RDCK resident on the ALC Panels / governance overseeing decisions that affect our land base.

Capability Recommendation #9

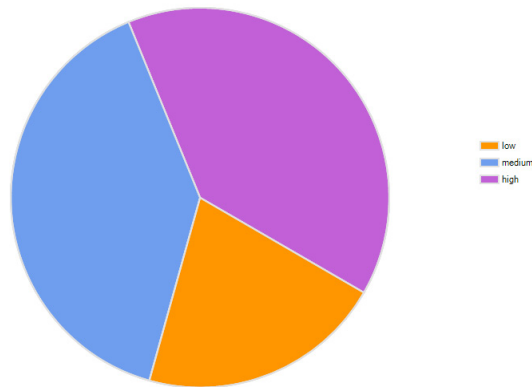
It is recommended that the RDCK work with the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that the Central Kootenays is represented on the Commission.



Work with and support food security organizations in the region to expand and become more effective in their work (for example, through grants in aid, communications tools, meeting space etc).

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #1

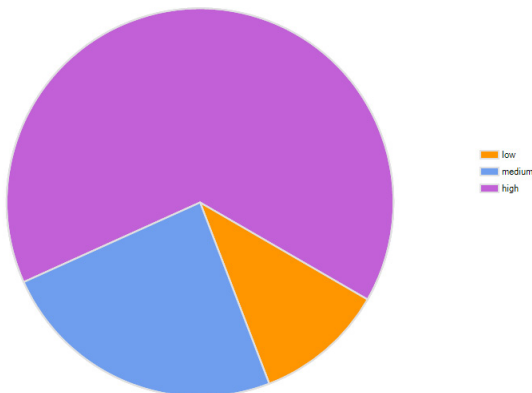
It is recommended that the RDCK continue to work with and support food security organizations in the Region to expand and become more effective in their work.



Assess the mandates and programs of all regional agricultural and food organizations in the RDCK to identify mechanisms and ways in which the RDCK can provide support (such as economic funding, spare room in RDCK buildings to house, for example, equipment from tool lending libraries etc).

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #6

It is recommended that the RDCK support agencies like the Kaslo Food Hub to establish the small-scale local food distribution centres in other communities.



Encourage municipalities to incorporate policies supportive of urban agriculture (zoning that allows commercial production and sales, where reasonable).

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #9

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage its member municipalities to incorporate policies and programs supportive of urban agriculture, food production, and food systems.

External Agency Recommendations

The implementation of these recommendations falls outside the purview of the RDCK but they were raised in the community consultations as important. The RDCK can exercise its influence and convening abilities to encourage the implementation of the recommendations.

Capability Recommendation #12

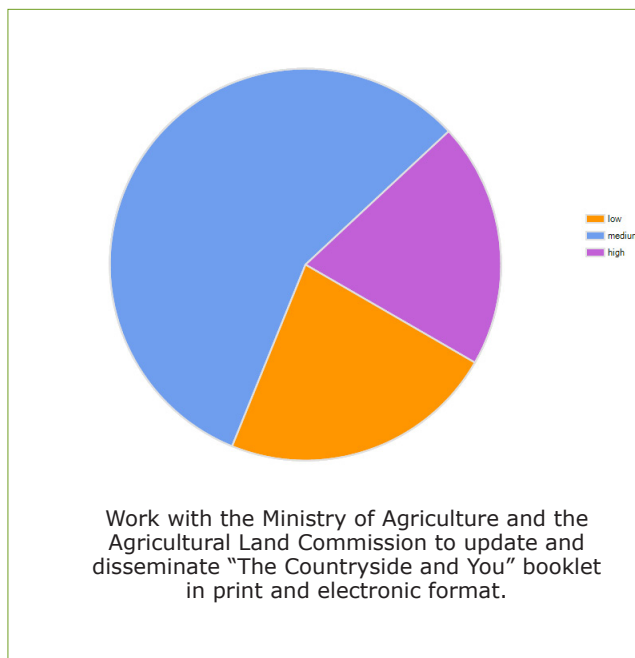
It is recommended that the RDCK work with farm and food security organizations of the Region to provide information on and encourage the use of water conservation practices in food production.

Capability Recommendation #15

It is recommended that the RDCK, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, promote the Environmental Farm Plan program to farmers in the Region.

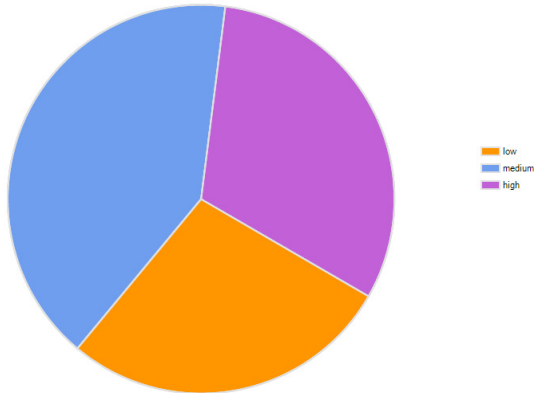
Secure Food Supply Recommendation #3

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the re-establishment of the Agricultural Land Commission's agricultural training programs at the Union of BC Municipalities Annual General Meetings.



Secure Food Supply Recommendation #5

It is recommended that the RDCK encourage the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Land Commission to update and disseminate "The Countryside and You" booklet in print and electronic format, and other quality material as appropriate.



Work with Selkirk College's Regional Innovation Chair in Rural Economic Development to create a research project to assess key nutritional needs of area residents and which are most at risk from long supply chains.

Secure Food Supply Recommendation #11

It is recommended that the RDCK explore a collaboration with, for example, Selkirk College, the College of the Rockies and Interior Health to develop a research project to determine core dietary needs for current and projected populations versus the carrying capacity of the land base and water systems of the Region.