

6

Enhance Agricultural Integrity



Vision

Abbotsford's agricultural areas – which comprise a longstanding pillar of the local economy and form a vital part of Abbotsford's character – will be protected and maintained as places for agricultural growing, production and processing, and a place for thriving livelihoods.

This rich agricultural identity will also be felt more strongly within urban areas, where community gardens and other forms of agriculture take root, and where local markets and food culture flourish.

Big Picture

Agriculture in the Country

Ensure Abbotsford is surrounded and sustained by a thriving and diverse agricultural sector through maintaining agricultural uses in viable agricultural areas, and encouraging public support for agriculture.

Food in the City

Support the establishment of urban agriculture, such as community gardens, edible landscaping, and permanent markets.



Policies

The policies in this Chapter apply across the city, and the AgRefresh project (the City’s review of agricultural practices) will consider many of them in more detail.

AGRICULTURE IN THE COUNTRY

6.1 Agricultural Uses

Continue to work with the Agricultural Land Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to develop up-to-date regulations to enable agriculture to grow and thrive.

6.2 Agricultural Enhancement Endowment Fund

Implement the Agricultural Enhancement Endowment Fund (‘Ag Trust Fund’) by requiring a \$20,000 per acre contribution for land that is rezoned in the area identified on Map 16. Consider expanding the Ag Trust Fund program to further support agricultural research, innovation, and farm practices.

6.3 Value Added Opportunities

Encourage a thriving and innovative agricultural sector by supporting value-added agri-businesses in appropriate locations, including directing agri-processing facilities to specific areas.

6.4 Advance Agriculture

Support and showcase agricultural enterprise, research, and best practices.

6.5 Urban-Rural Interface

Update the Protection of Agriculture Development Permit Guidelines requiring a buffer area between the urban area and the Agricultural Land Reserve.

6.6 Food Culture

Support the agricultural sector by preserving the agricultural land base, marketing the industry, and supporting local and regional initiatives to protect and further develop the local food industry and culture.

6.7 Holistic Food Systems

Support a thriving food system throughout the city, including local production, processing, distribution, celebration, consumption, nutrient recovery, and waste to energy.

6.8 Rural Centres

Identify rural centres to enable support services for the rural farming community.

FOOD IN THE CITY

6.9 Production and Sale

Enable the production and sale of food throughout the urban area by developing urban agriculture guidelines and permitting small scale, commercial urban food gardens.

6.10 Add Bees

Consider supporting additional urban agriculture activities that encourage self sufficiency such as keeping bees in the urban area.

6.11 Community Gardens

Encourage and establish non-commercial community and demonstration gardens where feasible and appropriate in parks, right-of-ways, boulevards, vacant lots, and mixed use developments.

6.12 Farmers Market

Support establishing a permanent farmers market facility to create a year-round local agricultural presence in the urban area.

