

# **BECKWITH FARM**

**BIRD PREDATION**

**MANAGEMENT STRATEGY – 2011**

Prepared By  
Beckwith Holdings Ltd.

March 1, 2011

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## Bird Predation Management Strategy - 2011

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### Introduction

Bird predation was not anticipated to be required in 2010 due to the age of the blueberry plants, and that no fruit was going to be permitted to grow in 2010. Unfortunately, Canada Geese arrived spring 2010, and immediately began to feed on the young leaf buds of the plants. As Canada Geese were not anticipated to be a threat, a hastened management plan was required and implemented to address the Canada Geese.

The blueberry plants will not be permitted to grow fruit in 2011, in part due to the impact on the health of the plants from the Geese predation in 2010. The threat from birds that prey on blueberry fruit is not expected, therefore the predation is expected to be localized to Canada Geese based on the 2010 experiences on the farm.

Following our experiences in 2010, the strategy to address bird predation has been refined and expanded.

### Strategy Components

**Resident Employee** – A farm employee moved onto the farm during summer 2010, and will remain onsite throughout 2011. Having an employee onsite allows deterrents to be employed with greater accuracy and efficiency.

The resident farm employee will be able to regularly monitor the farm land, and attempt to manually scare small groups of Canada Geese, as well as employ hand held scare devices in specific areas where birds are found.

**Specially Trained Resident Dogs** – Two Border Collie/English Sheppard cross dogs were purchased during the fall 2010, and are currently in general and specialized training that focuses on deterring Canada Geese from habituating on the farm. The two dogs, named Blue and Berry, will not be fully trained or matured until late 2011, however they will spend considerable time during 2011 on the farm. *When fully trained, the dogs will reside full time on the farm under the care of the Resident Farm Employee.*

**Visual Deterrents** – The use of predator kites, stationary decoys, and holographic tape will be expanded. Three additional anchor points for the use of predator kites will be installed Spring 2011 (see attached site plan for location information). The use of the anchor poles will also include new concepts in the use of holographic tape and similar items.

**Taste Repellants** – A proven taste repellent will be employed in 2011 on the grassed areas between the blueberry plant rows, and where possible, on the plants themselves. This product is an organic based product which makes the grass and leaves of the plants taste bitter and undesirable to the geese. The product is not poisonous or hazardous to animals or people.

**Canada Geese Cull** – Although an inquiry and an application to cull Canada Geese on the lands were denied by Saanich in 2010, a new application will be made with the District of Saanich and other related authorities in 2011. The culling of Canada Geese on the lands will reinforce a response from the Geese to stay away from the lands, as well as the carcasses will attract natural predators such as vultures and eagles, therefore providing an additional natural deterrent.

**Audible Devices** – Audible devices will be employed in accordance with normal farm practice, and will include;

***Distress Calls*** – The distress call will continue at various intervals, utilizing the specialized Canada Goose chip.

***Handheld Devices*** – Handheld audible devices were the primary audible device utilized during summer and fall in 2010. The resident farm employee will utilize the handheld device to deter the birds as required.

***Propane Cannons*** – The propane cannons will include two cannons, positioned at predetermined cannon locations (see attached site plan for location information), with the cannon discharge being locked in directions away from residential areas when possible, and where the effectiveness of their use on the geese is not compromised. The propane cannons will be employed as the threat increases beyond the effectiveness of the handheld audible devices and the non-audible devices, and where birds are demonstrating habitual behavior.

## **Communication**

Beckwith Farm will utilize the website to post regular updates on the Bird Predation Strategy for 2011, as well as other important updates on items that interest our neighbors. Visit our website at [www.islandberrycompany.ca](http://www.islandberrycompany.ca).

Do you have questions regarding Beckwith Farm or the Bird Predation Strategy for 2011? If yes, we encourage you to contact us by email, fax or phone.

EMAIL: [info@islandberrycompany.ca](mailto:info@islandberrycompany.ca)

FAX: 250.405.4399

PHONE: 250.590.5092

In situations of emergency, where a deterrent is not functioning properly or there is risk to property (i.e. fire or criminal element), please call 250.588.1497. This is for emergency use only.

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## Bird Predation Management Strategy 2011

### SITE PLAN

