

**New Amendments Enhance Lease Opportunities for Farmers
Excerpted from Island Agriculture News
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Amendments to the Land Title Act will make it easier for farmers to enter into long-term leases with landowners for unused portions of agricultural lands, Agriculture and Lands Minister Pat Bell announced earlier this year. The amendments, part of Bill 35, the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2007, received Royal Assent May 31, 2007. Until now, it has been both difficult and expensive for farmers to access unused portions of agricultural lands," said Bell. "They had to either go through the expense of subdivision or draft complicated legal arrangements. These amendments will create new opportunities for farmers by ensuring they are able to enter into long-term leases without going through subdivision requirements unnecessarily."

The amendments will ensure that long-term agreements to lease unsubdivided land are enforceable between the parties even if the leases do not comply with the subdivision and registration requirements set out in the act.

The amendments will:

- Remove an impediment to common, longstanding practice.
- Enhance the ability of farmers to affordably access unused farmland.
- Prevent injustice of parties having no agreement and no remedies, even though they thought they did and acted accordingly.
- Promote certainty of agreements and reduce litigation.

For more information:

http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2007AL0030-000849.htm

Agricultural Lease examples

http://www.al.gov.bc.ca/busmgmt/bus_arrange/lease.htm

http://www.bcassessment.bc.ca/process/agricultural_forestry/classify_leased

Click below to return to the Making Food Matter newsletter:

http://www.communitycouncil.ca/crfair_nl/crfair_nl_issue3_index.html

