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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE DIVISION CLOSURES IN PREPARATION FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANNUAL CELEBRATION: AG-FAIR

Regularly scheduled services provided by the Abattoir, Nursery, Veterinary Team and Market will be temporarily suspended; Set to fully resume after Fair clean-up

Kingshill, V.I., May 22, 2022 - The Commissioner of Agriculture, Positive T.A. Nelson wishes to announce that certain divisions of the Department will temporarily be suspending service to the public, in preparation for this coming Agriculture and Food Fair, also known as AgriFest. Divisions to be closed include the abattoir and nursery; the Market has been temporarily re-located and the Veterinary division has limited availability.

Abattoir – Closed to the public to complete required water quality testing and to ensure the filtration system infrastructure updates are completed in advance; *tentatively* scheduled to resume services Monday, June 13th, 2022. An update to confirm re-opening will be released.

Nursery – Closed to the public in preparation for AgFair. In addition to regular maintenance, the horticulture department will be prepping additional seedlings and/or slips to be provided during Fair, in addition to preparing stock for the resumption of regular service hours Thursday, June 9th, 2022.

Market – Re-located to previous Farmers Market site located at La Reine, across the street from Pueblo. Set to continue here Saturday, May 28th, 2022 and June 4th, 2022; hours of operation for the Exchange will be 4:30 AM – 2:00 PM. For more information, please contact Program Manager, Maxine Richards, at 340) 778-0993 or 340) 778-0995.

Veterinarian – Available for emergency calls or Bont Tick related business only; no regular farm visits during this time. Pick up for Fair participants will begin Tuesday, May 24th, 2022. Scheduling of regular non-emergency and farm visits will resume Thursday, June 9th, 2022.

Administration – Administrative operations will continue as normal, weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM (AST).

AgFair, starts this Saturday, May 28th, at the Fair grounds, with gates opening from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM; opening ceremony is set to begin at 10:00 AM. We are looking forward to having all V.I. community members come out to celebrate the great tradition of agriculture!

We appreciate your patience and support while your VIDA Team strives to prepare for our beloved celebration.

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