

# You Could Be This Happy Too.

## Be an #EFPchampion

**Lee Murphy**  
Farmer, Vista D'oro Farms & Winery  
Langley, B.C.



Confidential—No Charge—No Obligation  
**1-877-574-3447 / [www.bcefp.ca](http://www.bcefp.ca)**

Lee Murphy of Vista D'oro Farms & Winery

From the start, Lee and Patrick Murphy knew exactly what kind of farmers they wanted to be—smart, sustainable and successful. They have been in good company ever since.

‘Everything that can go well, will go well’ are words by which the Murphys have thrived since transforming 10 acres in South Langley into the aptly named **Vista D'oro Farms & Winery** in 1997. While the name embraces the Campbell Valley view of the Golden Ears Mountains, it also captures the essence of Vista D'oro's success as a primary culinary agritourism destination—as renowned for its ethos and practices as Lee's preserves or Patrick's wines.

“For us, the **Environmental Farm Plan** made sense on a lot of levels. Over the years, we have had a lot of attention for not spraying, not culling our ground cover and keeping the ecosystem. Whether its vinifera or apples, we plant varieties that grow in our conditions,” says Patrick. “I grew up with grandparents on both sides with farms. I had to make that decision early, ‘What kind of footprint do I want to leave behind?’”



“What the EFP did was give us a chance to really step back and look at what we were doing on the farm. We were on the right path, but our EFP Planning Advisor really asked us some tough questions, opened our eyes to where we could make a real difference and helped us find funding.”

“For starters, we're not on city water, so our EFP Planning Advisor helped us identify how we could capture the run off from our springs into four cisterns. The program also really helps you look at how you store your potentially hazardous products. Instead of using little jerry cans for tractor fuel, we secured funding for a 1000-litre, double-walled tank to ensure that diesel spills were mitigated,” Patrick shares. “It also allowed me to clean out the fertilizer shed and only keep natural products like the bio-feed. We got rid of a lot of stuff that had been kicking around.”

As for the impact of the Environmental Farm Plan signage—whether at the farmers' market or at the Farmgate Shop & Tasting Room—the Murphys have no doubts. “It's actually funny how big a difference it has made. We are shocked at how many of our guests

“As farmers, we want people to have the same confidence buying our products as they do buying fish that is Ocean Wise.”

Patrick Murphy,  
Vista D'oro Farms & Winery

will stop, take a picture of the EFP sign, drive up to the Farmgate Shop and ask us questions about it. For those of us who farm sustainably, it educates our customers that we are farming in an environmentally sensitive way. This program is building awareness with farmers, but getting it out to the consumers is key too, so the farmers' markets are great that way.”

To farmers on the fence about the Environmental Farm Plan program, Patrick poses a simple question: “What's taking you so long? This program will save you money, help you analyze your practices and explore what you really need, to have a positive impact on the environment and your business. You might not implement all of their suggestions, but what you learn from the process to improve your farming operations is invaluable. It costs nothing to get involved and is a fantastic way to review your farming practices. Most importantly, it gives the consumer or retailer the knowledge and assurance they want and deserve.”



Patrick Murphy of Vista D'oro Farms & Winery. Photo courtesy of Tourism Langley.



Patrick and Lee take a moment to toast their well-earned successes with wine from their own vines.



Lee and EFP Planning Advisor Susan Van Der Ende doing the on-farm environmental risk assessment.

**Want to know more about the Environmental Farm Plan program? Call 1-866-522-3447, or visit [www.bcac.bc.ca](http://www.bcac.bc.ca)**

Funding for the Environmental Farm Plan Program is provided by *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative.



ADVERTISEMENT