

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

November 13, 2015



Test Orchard - bid for operation

Deadline for RFP submission is December 11, 2015

Summerland Varieties Corporation has entered into a lease of the test orchard in Oliver, beginning November 15, 2015. SVC intends to convert some of the orchard to a demonstration of promising new varieties, with the balance of the orchard to be operated on a commercial lease basis. SVC intends to hire a BCFGAs member to manage the commercial portion of the orchard. The area to be operated on commercial terms is currently an orchard of about 36.6 acres, planted as follows:

Apples	22.8 acres
Peaches	6.4 acres
Cherries	3.1 acres
Plums	4.3 acres
	36.6 acres

It is SVC's intention that the Commercial Orchard area will reduce over time, with the expansion of the demonstration area for new varieties.

SVC is inviting proposals to manage the commercial acreage of the test orchard. Interested BCFGAs members may review and respond to the Request for Proposal, which is on the SVC website, www.summerlandvarieties.com, or by contacting SVC at 250-404-0088.

Deadline for replying to the Request for Proposal is **4:00 pm December 11, 2015**. It is mandatory that bidders must attend an on-site viewing of the test orchard on **November 20 or 24, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am**. The property is on Test Orchard Road north of Oliver, BC. It can be accessed from Secret Hill Road which is accessed from Highway 97 S.



Agritourism Review

Deadline for input is November 30, 2015

The BC Ministry of Agriculture, through its “Strengthening Farming Program”, provides guidance to municipalities on bylaws that regulate farming and guidance for Farm Practices Protection hearings. This guidance is done by providing industry and the regulators with “Guidelines” or “Bylaw Standards” on specific farm practices, such as propane cannon use to deter birds from entering orchards and vineyards.

A current bylaw standard is being reviewed and updated for Agritourism. The deadline is very short, with the bylaw standard issued in early October and the deadline for comment November 30. The BCFGAs will be preparing input to the standard and welcomes comments from growers (contact your local BCFGAs Executive member). The BCFGAs will also be asking for an extension of the comment period, as it is very rushed, compared to other government consultations.

[Click here for the discussion document on the Agritourism bylaw standard](#)

BCFGAs Regional Meetings

Regional Annual Meetings were held on November 9 and 10. Attendance was good and we thank all of the growers at the meetings for taking an interest and for your input. At the regional meetings, resolutions were proposed to the Annual Convention - these will be included in the Convention Portfolio.

2016 Tree Fruit Replant Program - Announcement

The updated requirements of the 2016 Replant Program are available on the BCFGAs Website, www.bcfga.com. The Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Norm Letnick, announced the opening of the new program on Oct. 15. The deadline for application is Nov. 20, 2015.

The Tree Fruit Replant Program is a 7 year, \$8.4 million program, funded by the Province of BC.

Okanagan Climate Change Workshop ***Impacts of Climate Change and Adaptation for Agriculture***

You are invited! Participate in the discussion and help us to address these key questions:

- *How can the agricultural sector and partners in the Okanagan work together to build resilience to climate change?*
- *What are the risks, vulnerabilities and opportunities facing various production systems?*
- *What are the critical information gaps or areas where knowledge needs to be improved?*
- *How can we develop and/or fine tune adaptation tools and resources to assist producers with decisions at the farm-level?*

Workshop Dates and Locations: choose one location (lunch provided!)

Penticton Wednesday, December 2nd, 2015, 9am to 2pm

Penticton Lake Resort, 21 Lakeshore Drive West, Penticton, BC

Vernon Thursday, December 3rd, 2015

Vernon Golf & Country Club, 800 Kalamalka Lake Road, Vernon, BC

Click [here](#) to RSVP (via webform) for this free workshop, or contact Okanagan@BCAgClimateAction.ca or call 778-676-7657.

Executive Nominations

Also at the regional meetings, executive and delegates were elected, and nominations for BCFGA executive were made. The Executive is elected by members in attendance at the BCFGA Annual meeting on January 30, 2016. Executive nominations are as follows:


	Nominated in the Northern Region	Nominated in the Southern Region
President	Jeet Dukhia Fred Steele	Fred Steele Jeet Dukhia
Vice-President	Pinder Dhaliwal	Pinder Dhaliwal
Southern Executive (3 to be elected)		Peter Simonsen Ravinder Bains Sukhdeep Brar
Northern Executive (3 to be elected)	Tony Nijjar Surjit Nagra Tahir Raza Asif Mohammed Sukhdev Goraya	

Dates and Events

Check the calendar on our website for details

Date	Event
November 20	Replant Program deadline for 2016 projects
November 30	Tree Fruit Crop Insurance Deadline for 2016 coverage
November 24-25	National Meeting - Mexico-Canada Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (Pinder Dhaliwal and Glen Lucas attending)
November 30 - December 4	National Meeting - Caribbean-Canada Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (Pinder Dhaliwal attending)
December 7-9	Washington State Hort Forum, Yakima
December 1	Tree Fruit Production Guide - specialists review meeting
December 10-11	Agriculture and Climate Change Adaptation, workshop in Kelowna (contact BCFGA if you are interested in attending)
December 14	next BCFGA Executive meeting
December 31, 2015	AgriStability application deadline for 2015 (with penalty)
January 12 and 14, 2016	BCFGA District Council meetings
January 29-30	BCFGA Annual Convention

How to contact the BCFGA Office

BCFGA Office  250-762-5226 or toll free 1-800-619-9022	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brenda Zarr, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.• Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.• Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3.• Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.
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