

BC Fruit Growers' Association Friday File

July 10, 2015



Active time for BCFG

President Fred Steele is attending a Canadian Horticulture Council Board meeting in Toronto this week.

The following meetings were also attended by General Manager Glen Lucas:

- SVC General Manager Frank Kappel
- Apple Clearwing Moth project advisory
- new Tree Fruit and Grapes Specialist (BC Ministry of Agr.) Carl Withler
- Agriculture Canada regional staff on an audit of export opportunities
- Several meetings with BC Ministry of Agr. staff on Replant

The CHC Apple Working Group (BCFGA and apple associations from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) meet each summer at the beginning of August. Representatives from BC will include Fred Steele and Glen Lucas from the BCFG and Frank Kappel of Summerland Varieties Corporation.

Replant Update

BCFGA is administering the Replant Program under the direction of the Ministry of Agriculture and expects further project approval letters to be delivered next week. Inspections have started on the first batch of approvals.

The project review committee - after rating all project applications and assigning a 'grade' to each application over the past two months - set aside time to make recommendations for improving the replant program and administration in 2016. The expected deadline for 2016 Replant applications to be October 15, 2015, but this is yet to be confirmed.

BCFGA will inform growers when 2016 application is available - look for further news here in this newsletter, as well as through industry magazines and advertisements in local newspapers and posters at agriculture supply retailers, over the next few weeks.

ALR news

The province announced new regulations for the ALR on June 15. The regulations are seen as providing more flexibility for value-added processing of agricultural products on ALR land. See the provinces' press release for further information:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/stories/new-regulations-encourage-farming-on-alr-land>

A bylaw hearing on a farm-based coffee house was attended by Fred Steele and General Manager Glen Lucas at Kelowna City Council on Tuesday June 30. The BCFG made a presentation with regard to agriculture-related use on ALR land. The BCFG proposed that

value-added activities related to and supporting the farm should be considered, in support of the ALR's dual goals of preserving farmland and ensuring the viability of farming. Council was interested and asked several questions of the BCFGA. The next step is to hold more in-depth discussions with Kelowna City Council and staff.

The BCFGA is also meeting with the new Chair of the Agricultural Land Reserve.



Reminder

Minimum wage and piece rates change on September 15, 2015. Minimum wage goes from \$10.25 to \$10.45, plus vacation pay of 4%. Piece rates include vacation pay.

Commodity	Before September 15, 2015	After September 14, 2015
Apple	\$17.06 / bin	\$17.39 / bin
Apricots	\$19.62 / ½ bin	\$20.00 / ½ bin
Cherries	\$0.224 / lb	\$0.228 / lb
Peaches	\$18.13 / ½ bin	\$18.48 / ½ bin
Pears	\$19.21 / bin	\$19.58 / bin
Prune Plums	\$19.21 / ½ bin	\$19.58 / ½ bin