

BC Fruit Growers' Association



Friday File

March 18, 2016

BCAC Newsletter

Lots of information in this week's BCAC Newsletter:

1. [Its Agriculture Safety Week - Share your personal safety tips to #AgSafetyChamp to win!](#)
2. [What's the difference between AgSafe & WorkSafeBC?](#)
3. [BC Farm Animal Care Committee \(BCFAC\) Update](#)
4. [Recent Ministry of Agriculture Press Releases & Statements](#)
5. [Canadian Federation of Agriculture \(CFA\) Press Release March 15](#)
6. [Census of Canadian Agriculture](#)
7. [Meetings & event reminders](#)

Select any of the items to go to the BCAC newsletter page and scroll down to the article of interest.

Sterile Insect Release Program

Survey of Growers

The SIR program is asking growers to complete [a survey on the future direction of the program](#). Specifically, recent BCFGGA resolutions have been approved to ask SIR to extend its services to other pests and other types of tree fruit, and now broad-based grower direction is needed. The BCFGGA encourages all growers to participate. The survey takes a few minutes.

Thank you to the growers who came out to the "Coffee Chats" on March 1, 2 and 15, to discuss the future SIR Program.

Tree Fruit Production Guide Meetings

Tree Fruit Production Guide meetings were held on March 13 and 14. The TFPG is available on-line at www.bctfpg.ca

The 2016 spray schedule is available free of charge from co-operative fieldmen and will be mailed to BCFGGA independent members. We are planning to post summaries of presentations and changes will be posted to the TFPG webpage.

And finally, for our Kootenay members - we are planning to hold a TFPG and Kootenay Tree Fruit Planning session on April 12.

New Variety Development (Ambrosia) Council

A final reminder about the NVDC vote to extend its mandate. The Executive encourages all growers to be informed by [reviewing the proposal](#), asking questions and discussing the proposal, and voting. Ambrosia growers have until March 24 to vote.

Certified Irrigation Technician Courses Irrigation Industry Association of BC

Certified Irrigation Technician - Level 1
March 23, 2016 - Kelowna

For more information click here: <https://www.irrigationbc.com/irrigation/courses/scheduled>

ALR Presentation

Public session sponsored by Council of Canadians

On Friday, April 1st, the Kelowna chapter of the Council of Canadians presents Richard Bullock, former chair of the Agricultural Land Commission, speaking on “Agriculture and the ALR- Past, Present and Future” at 7 p.m. at the East Kelowna Community Hall, 2704 East Kelowna Road (corner McCulloch Road). Mr. Bullock will be introduced by Fred Steele, President of the BCFGA.

There will be a question and answer session - all are welcome to this presentation.

Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program

(links to earlier articles, in case you missed them)

Airfares

[Mexico](#)

[Caribbean](#)

[Changes to Mexico SAWP for 2016](#)


SAWP program Housing Inspectors

Here is a [list of certified housing inspectors](#).

An Opportunity for Housing 12 SAWP workers in Kelowna

If you are seeking housing for your workers this season, the “Inn from the Cold” building located on 1157 Sutherland Road in Kelowna, BC is available for rent from April 1st to October 15th, 2016. The housing inspection has been done and the building is approved for 12 people (all male or female). The renter will need to provide one stove and arrange its electrical hook up. The building is located across from the Capri Centre Mall. The grower will need to provide transportation for the workers to and from the farm to the housing. Rent to be negotiated with the “Inn from the Cold” association. If interested, please contact Bunvir Nijjer, BCFGa Corp. Secretary at 250-762-5226 ext.4 or via email bnijjer@bcfga.com.

How to contact the BCFGa Office

<p>BCFGa Office  250-762-5226 or toll free 1-800-619-9022</p>	<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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PAC Points – Upcoming events

Pesticide Applicators Courses - March 24, 2016 from 8:30am to 5:00pm. Location- Growers Supply Meeting Room, 272 Dawson Avenue, Penticton (upstairs).

This full day review of the Pesticide Applicator’s course will prepare growers to write the Pesticide

Applicator’s License Exam.

If you are renewing your license, PAC points are available for attending (3-A, 2-B, 1-C).

The course is free for BCTF growers, their employees will be charged \$40+GST. Books are required. If you have an old book, it is still usable. New books may be purchased by phoning 800-282-7955. A small number may be available for sale on the day of the course; please phone ahead to check.

You must pre-register by phoning your field-person, or responding to this email (please include your grower number)

Dates and Events

Check [the calendar on our website](#) for more information