

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

May 27, 2016



Bravo review

grower use surveys urgently needed

If you use Bravo, please respond to a survey of use. The Canadian Horticultural Council is coordinating a national response to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's (PMRA) review of Chlorothalonil (Bravo).

It is urgently important that CHC receive completed survey information from cherry and soft fruit producers on their use and use pattern related to the application of Chlorothalonil (Bravo). This is an important pesticide for use in cherry production and as heard at the CHC Annual General Meeting, the PMRA has proposed the cancellation of certain uses and significant restriction for other uses.

CHC is looking to fill in the gaps based on data received to date. **Please respond to [the grower use survey \(click here\)](#) if you grow cherries or soft fruit.** Note: there is one section of the survey that asks you to choose from a list of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), and you must choose one answer. If you do not use of any items on the list (e.g. long pants, gloves, long-sleeve shirt), then pick the generic "PPE", which would cover the generic clothing requirements on your farm (e.g. shoes required).

The information is required by end of day May 30.

2016 Census - Statistics Canada

We need accurate Census data to maintain programs and funding

Statistics Canada conducts a census every five years and the Census of Population is being conducted this month of May 2016. The census information is used extensively in government planning. Industry programs are designed based on census data. Please take the time to complete the Agriculture Census, as this is a once-every-five-years event that will help maintain programs that match industry needs. Visit [the 2016 Census website](#) for further information.

Mexican SAWP Worker Scam

Ask your workers to be aware and to report

The BC Agriculture Council notes that a SAWP worker has been scammed out of \$1500 after receiving a ransom note for his supposedly abducted family in Mexico. Please alert your SAWP workers to this scam. Here is the article from the Abbotsford News with details - and note this is not the first time this has occurred.

Abbotsford News

Police warn of farmworker scam

Caller tells man that family in Mexico was abducted and he must pay ransom

VIRAJ HOPES
Abbotsford News

A seasonal farmworker is out \$1,500 after he recently received a phone call telling him that his family in Mexico had been abducted and they would be killed if he didn't send money to a drug cartel.

The Abbotsford Police Department has since confirmed that the call was a scam, and they are now warning others to be wary of similar ploys.

Const. Ian MacDonald said the worker received the threatening call on Friday, May 6.

The caller, who knew personal information about the victim, demanded that the man send \$3,000 as soon as possible in order to spare the lives of his family members.

The shaken worker then went to his employer and requested an advance on his pay, saying he had a family medical emergency in Mexico.

After the man had left and was arranging a wire transfer of the funds, his fellow workers told their employer what had really happened.

The boss called the Abbotsford Police Department and the Mexican consulate, but by the time they intervened, the worker had already sent half of the funds that had been demanded.



MACDONALD

Meanwhile, the employee was able to reach his family members in Mexico, and they indicated they were all safe.

MacDonald said police have confirmed that the money was transferred to Mexico and that the caller spoke in Spanish, but they have been unable to trace the source of the call.

He said the caller either obtained information about the victim online or perhaps knew people who were familiar with the man.

Police advise that anyone experiencing a similar scam call them at 604-859-5225 or text abbypd (22973) to report it.

Test Orchard

Update on Lease

Background

1. The Test Orchard property is owned by BC R&D Orchard Ltd., which in turn is owned by the BCFGA.
2. BCFGA R&D Ltd. leases the orchard to Summerland Varieties Corporation, also owned by the BCFGA.
3. BCFGA R&D leverages the lease income by applying for grants from government programs, such as research programs and BC Investment Agriculture Foundation administered programs.

Future use of the orchard, including sub-lease of portion not needed by SVC

1. SVC intends to use about 25-50% of the Test Orchard for new variety demonstration purposes.
2. The remainder of the orchard was sub-leased using a Request For Proposal process (i.e. proposals were invited, and a scoring process was used to rank the proposals and select a winning proposal).

Tendering Process

3. On November 13, 2015, the BCFGA sent out a letter to ALL BCFGA MEMBERS on inviting them to attend a viewing of the test orchard as a requirement of bidding on the lead of the test orchard. Ten (10) people attended a viewing, which was arranged for two alternative dates to accommodate people not able to attend one of the dates.
4. Three (3) proposals were received by the deadline. Of these, one proposal had 3 people listed as proponents, 2 were BCFGA members and 1 was not. The proposal was not considered eligible.
5. A committee of the Board of Directors and staff scored each of the remaining proposals according to different factors including: lease payment per acre and horticultural experience.
6. An agreement with the top scoring proponent was negotiated and finalized.
7. The process was fair, bidding was open to any BCFGA member.

SVC has invested, or plans to invest, as follows in the Test Orchard:

- a. A new deer fence (completed).
- b. A variable frequency drive for the irrigation well (completed).
- c. Upgraded pumphouse and replaced thrust block (completed).
- d. A filtration system will be installed next year.
- e. An irrigation lagoon may be constructed, as a back-up in the event the main well pump fails during the irrigation season.
- f. The sub-lessee gets a 3-year remission on lease payments for replanted acreage and must complete a orchard renewal program as agreed with SVC.

Summary

1. The BCFGA test orchard will provide funding to the BCFGA R&D Orchard Ltd. to participate in projects such as Starling Control, Apple Clearwing Moth Control, and Labour Orientation and Safety.
2. The BCFGA test orchard will be used by SVC to demonstrate and test new varieties.
3. The portion of the BCFGA test orchard not required for new variety demonstration is leased to a commercial operator, following an open, fair and thorough tendering process.

A Welcoming Communities Summit- Okanagan College, Penticton

BCFGA members are invited to attend “Welcome 2016” which is a *Welcoming Communities Summit* to be held at the Okanagan College in Penticton, BC on June 17th and 18th, 2016. This event has been organized by the South Okanagan/Similkameen Local Immigration Partnership. There will be sessions and keynotes speaking on social and economic integration for new immigrants. For further information and registration visit their [website](#).

Upcoming courses for PAC Points

Spring BBQ Meetings

Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Kenyan Park, OK Falls

And repeat...

Thursday, June 2, 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Beasley Park, Winfield

We will have speakers on Apple Clearwing Moth, nutrition and pesticide products as well as PAC points, information and door prizes from exhibitors and top it off with a BBQ, so save the date!

How to contact the BCFGa Office

BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226
Toll free -1-800-619-9022



- 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.

Dates and Events- check the [BCFGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information

Meetings Attended recently

May 12	Integrated National Apple Breeding Framework	Fred Steele, Glen Lucas, and other provincial apple association reps.
May 18	“Export Market Access”, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry	Fred Steele, Glen Lucas, with blueberry, nursery representation
May 24	BCFGA Labour Meeting	Committee members
May 24	Minister’s Agriculture Advisory Council	Fred Steele
May 27	Quarterly Caribbean SAWP Update	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas