

# **BC Fruit Growers' Association**

## **Friday File**



October 9, 2015

### ***A new Thanksgiving Tradition***

#### ***BC Cider Week- October 17-25, 2015***

Summerland Heritage Cidery is planning an event on October 17th. The hosts will be pouring cider from five or six interior cideries at the tasting room in Trout Creek. This event is in conjunction with the grand opening of the tasting room and BC Cider Week.

If you are in Victoria after Thanksgiving, Sea Cider is hosting an event on October 18: <http://m.bpt.me/event/2253104> . Our next newsletter will contain more information on Cider Week events. If you hear of any, let us know!

BC Tree Fruits Cider Company will be one of several ciders featured at BNA Brewing Co. and Eatery in Kelowna. October 23, 5 pm.

For more information, visit the NorthWest Cider Association webpage: <http://northwestciderguide.blogspot.ca/2015/10/cider-festival-bc-northwest-cider.html>

### ***Minor Use***

#### ***A successful way to register and access new crop protection products***

Remember when the BCFGA spent a lot of its effort trying to get new pest control products registered? There is still a lot of effort involved, but it guided more effectively and positively. Here is an excellent review of the system:

<http://www.thegrower.org/readnews.php?id=6q4h5p2q2n0n>

### ***Sterile Insect Release Program***

#### ***Update***

The Sterile Insect Release Program, which is a unique partnership of the three Okanagan Regional Districts and growers, has agreed to hold the line on parcel and ad valorem taxes. 2010 was the last increase in SIR taxes, and the SIR Board appreciates the efforts and contributions of staff to keep the program operations efficient.

The program is a unique, progressive, efficient and effective program, according to several independent studies conducted in the prior year. The Board observed that they are committed to a fiscally conservative approach and that the program is in a good financial position with reasonable reserves set up to ensure operation and equipment renewal keeps the program practical and effective.

The SIR program is exploring the possibility of using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to release moths, and this possibility is generating a great deal of international interest in the program

## ***Vote October 19 for the federal candidate of your choice*** ***Election Update for Agriculture***

The Canadian Federation of Agriculture hosted a 'webcast' debate on September 30, 2015. The agriculture minister/critics from each of the 5 parties participated - Bloq, Conservative, Green, Liberal, and New Democratic parties were all present. The debate features 2 hours of in-depth discussion of agriculture issues. You can view the debate on this website (scroll down the page):

[www.cfa-fca.ca/election2015](http://www.cfa-fca.ca/election2015)

Here are some links to agriculture programs and policies that are being promoted by the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Horticultural Association:

CFA <http://www.cfa-fca.ca/node/2238> (scroll to bottom of page)

CHC <http://www.hortcouncil.ca/tools/advocacy.aspx>

## ***Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program*** ***Housing Inspectors must be accredited***

Be aware that Service Canada is checking that housing inspectors are properly accredited. The following inspectors are accredited with the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors (BC).

### Okanagan:

Mike Bradshaw - mike.bradshaw@telus.net / 250-870-8340

Bob Hamm - bob@theinspectionpro.com / 250-862-1054

### Kootenays:

Brian Blair - blairshome@nethop.net / 250-443-1905

There are other accrediting organizations - please contact the BCFGA if you need more information.

## ***Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program*** ***Annual Program Review***

Pinder Dhaliwal and Glen Lucas will be attending provincial meetings to review SAWP requirements and agreements with the foreign governments. There are two sets of meetings - one for Mexico (October 13 - 14) and one for the Caribbean Commonwealth countries (October 20). The BCFGA is leading the Caribbean meeting being held in Kelowna on October 20.

Following the regional SAWP meetings, held in each province, the national SAWP meetings are held in late November, early December. Terms of the employment agreements are determined at the meetings (minimum wage, minimum hours of employment, housing, transportation, etc).

***Bursary Applications Available***  
***University Students - apply now!***

The deadline for the BCFGAs Joe Sardinha Memorial Bursary and the BCFGAs Golden Jubilee Bursary (each \$1,000) is November 1, 2015. The Golden Jubilee bursary requires that the applicant be a close relative of a BCFGAs member. The Joe Sardinha Memorial bursary requires a short essay. Applications are available on-line - visit [www.bcfga.com](http://www.bcfga.com) and select the link on the lower right-hand corner.

***How to contact the BCFGAs Office***

BCFGAs Office  
250-762-5226  
or toll free 1-800-619-9022

Our new phone extensions:

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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**2016 Tree Fruit Replant Program  
Announcement**

The updated requirements of the 2016 Replant Program will be available soon on the BCFGAs Website, [www.bcfga.com](http://www.bcfga.com). We are working to get the replant information up on websites today, prior to the Thanksgiving weekend.

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

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***2015 Tree Fruit Replant Program  
Update***

The program is oversubscribed, but further funding has and will continue to become available through 'project slippage'. Summerland Varieties has also approved new, additional funding for 2015 projects - this additional industry funding will only be available to existing BCFGAs growers.

A new round of inspections has been ordered and almost all eligible applications will be funded.

## ***Obsolete Pesticide Collection In interior BC***

Collection sites will be open on the days specified from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Thanks to Clean Farms for organizing these events.

### Interior Region

- October 20: Glen Dale Agra Services in Vanderhoof at 1055 Hwy 16 W
- October 21: 153 Mile Fertilizer in Williams Lake at 5101 Frizzi Road
- October 22: Foothills Regional Landfill in Prince George at 6595 Foothills Boulevard
- October 23: Quesnel Agro in Quesnel at 1280 Quesnel-Hixon Road
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### Okanagan Region

- October 20: Purity Feed Ltd in Kamloops at 471 Okanagan Way
- October 21: Growers Supply Company Limited in Vernon at 1200 Waddington Drive
- October 22: Growers Supply Company Limited in Kelowna at 2605 Acland Road
- October 23: Growers Supply Company Limited in Oliver at 5911 Sawmill Road

### Kootenay Region

- November 4: Truscott Farms in Creston at 3016 Hwy 3
- November 5: Top Crop Garden, Farm and Pet in Cranbrook at 2101 Cranbrook Street