



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

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For immediate release

BC APPLE GROWERS COMPETE

November 17, 2015 (Toronto, Ontario) – BC apples captured several of the top spots at this year's National Apple Competition at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) in Toronto, Ontario. The annual event attracts entries from Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and BC.

"I congratulate the orchardists who grew exceptional crops, even with the challenging early season and hot weather in 2015," said Fred Steele, President of the BCFGa.

BC did well in the new varieties section, with Jim Hermiston receiving Reserve Champion for the category for his Aurora Golden Gala. BC collected first through fifth places for "Other named New Varieties", including

1. Coral Beach Farms, Lake Country, BC for Salish
2. Angie Ritz, Kelowna, BC for Nicola
3. Windmill Orchards, Summerland, BC for Salish
4. Marheson Creek Farms, Penticton, BC for Salish
5. Matheson Creek Farms, Penticton, BC for Nicola

The BC Fruit Growers' Association represents 550 commercial growers in BC, with a mandate "to foster a business environment for the long-term prosperity of BC tree fruit growers".

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<http://www.royalfair.org/sites/default/files/820-824%20Apples.pdf>

2014 Royal Winter Fair, National Apple Competition
Grower Biographies - Okanagan-Region Participants

1. Doug Boulton

Doug Boulton of RafterBea Farms, alongside with his parents Jack and Bea Boulton, have collectively been growing in the Cawston area for 50 years. Doug primarily grows a handful of cherry varieties and the apple varieties Ambrosia, Salish, Gala, and Sunrise. Doug is one of the top Ambrosia growers in the Okanagan and ensures top quality produce from his farm year after year.

2. Billy and Shauna Boerboom

Billy and Shauna Boerboom of Windmill Orchards are independent growers from Summerland, BC. They have both an onsite packing house, as well as a popular produce stand, named The Apple Barn, from which they sell a majority of their fruit from. The fruit stand is very popular amongst locals and the Boerbooms grow apples, pears, and cherries on 13 acres of land.

3. Angela and Frank Ritz

Angela and Frank Ritz are second generation farms out of Kelowna, BC. They have been farming since 2003 and have replanted their farm to newer apple varieties such as Ambrosia, Nicola, and Aurora Golden Gala. Aurora Golden Gala apples are a favorite and speciality of the Ritz family, as well as a great seller for their local customers.

4. Dave and Arlene Sloan

Dave and Arlene Sloan of Matheson Creek Farms in Okanagan Falls have been growing highquality produce in the area since 1978. The Sloans have successfully replanted their orchard over twice since then; supporting new apple varieties and developing favorites among local customers. Today, the Sloans grow a variety of different cultivars, including fieldcrops and grapes, but retain the Aurora Golden Gala, Nicola, Salish, and Honey Crisp apple varieties in larger amounts. They sell their fruit directly out of their own onsite market.

5. Andrew and Penny Gambell

Andrew and Penny Gambell of Gambell Farms in Winfield, BC took over the family farm since it started in the 1960's. They grow many different cultivars, as well as field crops, but grow the apple varieties Ambrosia, Honey Crisp, and Aurora Golden Gala in larger amounts; of which they have entered into the fair this year. The Gambells have their own onsite fruit stand from which they market their highquality produce to local customers during the summer and fall months.

6. Jim and Cathy Hermiston

Jim and Cathy Hermiston of Hermiston Orchards in Summerland, BC specialize in the growing of apple varieties due to their farm location being ideal for producing highcolor and highquality apples. Jim is a third generation fruit grower with parts of the farm being in his family since 1916 (100 years). Jim focuses on the cultivation of some of the newer apple varieties including Ambrosia, Salish, and Aurora Golden Gala.

7. David Geen

David Geen of Jealous Fruits and Coral Beach Farms in Lake Country, BC is one of the largest and most renowned cherry growers in the Okanagan Valley. However, David does grow a select few apple varieties in larger quantities as well as maintaining the same highquality standard throughout both cultivars. David has one of the larger blocks of Salish apples in the Okanagan valley, which he has entered into the competition this year.

8. Paul Sidhu

Paul Sidhu of BK Orchards in Peachland, BC grows large quantities of both apple and cherry varieties. Paul produces some of the best Ambrosia apples year after year that can be found in the Okanagan, of which he has entered into the competition this year. He also grows large amounts of Gala apples, all of which he is able to process in his onsite packing plant and orchard overlooking the central Okanagan Valley.