

**BC Fruit Growers' Association
Friday File**



August 28, 2015

Wind Damage in Oliver-Keremeos - Info Session Tonight (Thursday)

The BCFGa and the Agriculture Risk Management Branch of the BC Ministry of Agriculture are organizing a meeting to make sure growers whose operations suffered damage in the wind storm of Saturday August 16 have up-to-date program information.

Grower Meeting on AgriStability and Production Insurance

Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Date: Thursday, September 3

Place: Meeting Room #2
Oliver Recreation Centre
6359 Park Drive, Oliver

Replant Program 2016

Project applications for the 2016 Replant program will be available in late September 2015 on the BCFGa website, www.bcfga.com. The deadline for applications will be November 15, 2015. Projects will be adjudicated (given a mark for the quality of the application) and placed on a priority list, according to the mark assigned to the application. The funding will be allocated to the projects with the highest marks. In the winter, prior to planting in 2016, project offers will be delivered to successful applicants.

An information package on grading and a sample application are being prepared to assist growers in completing the application. In February 2015, grower information sessions were held on the new program, but none are planned for the 2016 Program. A training session for horticultural advisors is being considered.

Minimum wage and piece rates change on September 15, 2015

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
Pears	\$19.21 / bin	\$19.58 / bin

Our Labour Project is winding up for the year. Ron Forrest will remain available until the end of September for worker placements.



The flyer features a Facebook logo with 'bc.cherries' below it on the left. On the right is the BC Fruit Growers' Association logo, which includes a basket of fruit and the text '125 YEARS est. 1889'. The central text reads: 'BCFGA BC LABOUR PROJECT', 'Ron Forrest, Facilitator', '(250) 859-7503', and 'rforrest.bcfga@gmail.com'. At the bottom, it says 'WORKSHOPS!' on the left and 'EMPLOYMENT!' on the right.

Summerland Varieties Corporation and the BCFGA Research and Development Orchard Ltd. provide funding for the BCFGA Labour Project - thank you to these BCFGA subsidiaries for supporting growers.



In Memorium

Marc van Roechoudt passed away peacefully at home after a yearlong battle with a brain tumour.

The van Roechoudt's were well known as leaders in the tree fruit industry. Marc's father was the first to plant dwarf trees in the Okanagan and Marc followed in his innovative footsteps by experimenting with high-density plantings and new varieties. Marc took great pride in his apples and recently was awarded the Golden Apple Award, the Farm Family of the Year award along with taking top prizes at the Royal Winter Fair for his Ambrosia and Royal Gala apples. Marc was an active volunteer with both community and industry groups. He sat on the Lake Country Water Advisory Committee (formerly Winfield and Okanagan Centre Irrigation District) for nearly thirty years, was a BC Fruit Growers' Association committee member, and more recently vice-chair of the Ambrosia Council.

There will not be a funeral service, but a date for a celebration of life will be announced at a later time.

Unwanted and Obsolete Pesticide Pick Up - mark your calendar

Farmers can safely dispose of unwanted agricultural pesticides and equine/livestock medications from October 20 – 23, 2015 in the Interior and Okanagan Regions and November 4 – 5, 2015 in the Kootenay Region at designated collection sites.

Click [here](#) for a map of collection sites.

Click [here](#) for the promotional poster.

Collection Sites:

Okanagan

Kamloops	Purity Feed Ltd 471 Okanagan Way 250-372-2233	October 20
Vernon	Growers Supply Company Limited 1200 Waddington Drive 250-545-5859	October 21
Kelowna	Growers Supply Company Limited 2605 Acland Road 250-765-4500	October 22
Oliver	Growers Supply Company Limited 5911 Sawmill Road 250-498-6406	October 23

Kootenay

Creston	Truscott Farms 3016 Hwy 3 250-428-4983	November 4
Cranbrook	Top Crop Garden, Farm and Pet 2101 Cranbrook Street North 250-489-4555	November 5

What products will be accepted?

- Obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides (identified with a Pest Control Product number on the label)
- Equine/livestock medications that are used by primary producers in the rearing of animals in an agricultural context (identified with a DIN number, Ser. number or Pest Control Product number on the label)

If you are unsure whether your product fits the scope of this collection please call 1-877-622-4460 ext. 2223.

Farm Safety - a message from your Farm and Ranch Safety Association representative

*Below is a link to a recent effort done to help raise safety awareness in orchards.
How many hazards can you find?*

http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/Multimedia/Photos.asp?_ga=1.169324833.1278634183.1441235314

Take care

Carol Reid

Regional Safety Consultant

Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association

Carol.reid@farsha.bc.ca

250-215-5293

Federal Election

The current federal election campaign is gaining momentum. Election day being October 15, following one of the longest ever federal election campaigns.

The BCFGGA is non-partisan, but actively encourages the development of positive agriculture programs and policies. We advocate for growers, but we also encourage growers to exercise the democratic right of voting - hopefully each grower will take into account the agriculture policies of the different parties and the responses of candidates to agriculture questions.

The BCFGGA will communicate agriculture platforms as they become available. Our partners at the Canadian Federation of Agriculture and the Canadian Horticulture Council are intensely focused on getting the federal parties to strengthen the agriculture sector through the development of meaningful agriculture platforms.

The BCFGGA will also co-sponsor "All candidates forums" with our partners at the municipal chambers of commerce (who do all of the work of organizing the events).

The first forum confirmed is through the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, and requires registration (for a fee) to participate. The BCFGGA encourages local Kelowna growers to participate in the event. The forum will take place at the Manteo Resort Waterfront Hotels & Villas on September 25 from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. with a buffet breakfast and networking taking place in the first half-hour and the forum taking place for the remainder. The general cost to attend is \$35 (or \$25 for Kelowna Chamber Members). To register visit:

<http://www.kelownachamber.org/events/Federal-Candidates-Forum-1332/details> or call 250-469-7350. Tickets must be purchased by 4 pm on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

BCFGGA has requested to sponsor "all candidates forums" in other cities. Further information to follow in future editions of the Friday File.