

# BC Fruit Growers' Association Friday File



July 13, 2018

## International Fruit Tree Association's Summer Tour - Kelowna

Join in this international event July 22-25 !!!

The International Fruit Tree Association's [Summer Tour](#) is being held in Kelowna. Join in and interact with international leaders and growers.

## Environmental Farm Plan

Program funding in place

On June 21, 2018, details of the **2018-19 BMP Program** were posted to the [www.bcefp.ca](http://www.bcefp.ca) website (look to the Program Resources page for BMP info).

There are now two remaining groups of practices codes with application deadlines

### 1. Short Term Projects or Equipment Purchases

*Application window: July 30th to August 13th, 2018.*

Initial ranking will give preference to projects directly related to nutrient management.

### 2. Irrigation Projects - Category 18 (Practice Codes 1804, 1805, 1806)

*Application window: July 3rd to August 13th, 2018.*

Helpful hints from the ARDCORP website:

### What you need to do to apply for EFP funds.

**1**

Call 1-866-522-3447 to book a no-charge, confidential, on-farm appointment with one of the friendly Environmental Farm Plan Advisors. You could be eligible to receive an Environmental Farm Plan sign after this first visit! Many farmers are surprised by how sustainable they already are.

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**2**

Your Planning Advisor will identify any environmental risks on your farm within your Environmental Farm Planning workbook. This workbook is confidential and yours to keep. Choose to voluntarily address these risks to receive an Environmental Farm Plan Sign.

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**3**

Funding is available to help you reduce the environmental risks identified within your Environmental Farm Planning workbook.

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**4**

Display your new Environmental Farm Plan sign to proudly display your farm's environmental sustainability and to help us spread the good word about this great program!

## **BCFGA - hosting the National Apple Working Group**

### **Apple Grower Associations from across Canada in the Okanagan**

On July 17-18, Apple Associations from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario and BC will be meeting in the Okanagan. The BCFGA is taking the opportunity to showcase the tree fruit sector in BC to our apple association partners in the rest of Canada.

## **Primary Agriculture Review**

### **Service Canada is requesting input on the SAWP and TFWP-Ag Stream**

As part of the Temporary Foreign Worker (TFW) Program's Primary Agriculture Review, Employment and Social Development Canada, in collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, are asking for input on:

#### **Program Eligibility and Structure**

Explore the definition of Primary Agriculture and the use of the National Commodities List in the context of the TFW Program, as well as the structure of Primary Agriculture Stream.

#### **Wages and Deductions**

Discuss the current wage structure for the Primary Agriculture Stream and how it relates to the needs of the agricultural sector.

#### **Housing in Primary Agriculture**

Explore the current requirements for housing provided to temporary foreign workers and the impact of creating a national housing standard for the Primary Agriculture Stream.

#### **Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) Processing**

Discuss the current system for processing of LMIA applications, including possible measures to improve efficiency and service standards; and the potential impacts of an LMIA fee.

The BCFGA made [a submission to the Primary Agriculture Review](#).

A conference call is being held on July 27 for growers to provide further input to the review. If you are interested in participating, contact BCFGA President Pinder Dhaliwal (250-490-7198) or General Manager Glen Lucas (250-762-5226, ext. 2), and we will provide you with the conference call information.

## **BCFGA Summer Labour Project - 2018**

### **Contact Ron Forrest**

**Ron Forrest** can attend your farm to provide sessions in French, English or Spanish. Ron will provide you with a record of the training, to help fulfill Food Safety and WorkSafeBC requirements.

Ron can also let workers know of available work at your farm - call him to let him know when you need workers.

**Ron Forrest's new number is 778-363-3620.**

The BCFGA continues to strongly advise growers to ask for identification to ensure visitors are who they say, and to have all visitors sign a visitor recording sheet.

## 2018 Replant Update

### Inspections Underway

BCFGA Replant Inspectors are Mike Read, Sera Lean, and Nicole Verpaelst. Inspectors are now calling growers to make appointments to complete inspections for trees planted or grafted in the Spring (or for bench grafts planted last year). We are trying to move up the inspection timing in order to make program payments earlier this year.

## Mexico SAWP Consular Visits

### Underway


Hugo Valequez from the Vancouver Mexico Consulate is currently visiting farms in the Okanagan. The Consulate is ensuring that program standards are being met and that its own standards are being encouraged. Most visits appear to indicate that quality of housing and treatment of workers is going well. The most serious contraventions or non-compliance issues to avoid are:

- Switching housing and placing workers in non-inspected housing.
- Keeping workers on payroll while they work for a neighbour.

While workers are not authorized to work on other farms than on their work permit, it is not the growers responsibility to monitor workers on days when work is not available at the growers own farm.

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

Date	Meeting	Details
July 16	BCFGA Board conference call	
July 17-18	CHC mid-Summer Apple Working Group meeting, Summerland	
July 17-19	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Minister's Annual Meeting, Vancouver	
August 29	BCFGA Board meeting	

<p>BCFGA Office 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022 </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Brenda Jorde, Member Services and BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, local 1.</li> <li>● Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.</li> <li>● Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3.</li> <li>● Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, local 4.</li> </ul>
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Note: BCFGA has a very small office with limited staff. With many activities undertaken on behalf of our 487 members, Members should call to make an appointment to be sure of staff being present to meet with you (staff are often away on business related to the BCFGA). You may call your local director so that the BCFGA Board can remain informed on how to best represent the tree fruit growers of BC.

### BCFGA Board of Directors

<b>Name</b>		<b>Telephone</b>
<b>Bhupinder (Pinder) Dhaliwal - President</b>	Oliver	Cell/text 250-490-7198
<b>Peter Simonsen - VP</b>	Naramata	Cell/text 250496-5156
<b>Ravinder Bains</b>	Keremeos	Cell 250-499-0512
<b>Sukhdeep (Deep) Brar</b>	Summerland	Cell/text 250-462-5687
<b>Karm Gill</b>	Kelowna	Cell 250-863-9737
<b>Sukhdev Goraya</b>	Kelowna	Cell/text 250- 859-1229
<b>David Machial</b>	Oliver	Cell/text 250-485-2636
<b>David Dobernigg</b>	Vernon	Cell/text 250-550-8999