

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

July 14, 2017



The BCFGA Labour Orientation and Safety Program

Contact Ron Forrest
250-859-7503

Email: rforrest.bcfga@gmail.com

BCFGA - Pesticide Handler Registry

A Food Safety Requirement - 'as painless as possible, please'

The CanadaGAP program requires anyone handling pesticides to have formal training. The BCFGA has reviewed a formal training course developed by BC Tree Fruits. Anyone completing the course will be kept in a register maintained by the BCFGA and issued a five year certificate by the BCFGA. It is a requirement that anyone with a 'Pesticide Handlers Certificate' apply PCP materials in consultation with a person who has a valid Pesticide Applicators Certificate. This consultation could involve, for example, reviewing pest control sprays with a field staff at the start or during each season. BCFGA will work with other packing organizations and commodity groups to establish the broad availability of the Pesticide Handlers Certificate. Please note - the Pesticide Handler Registry training course is separate from the Pesticide Applicator Certificate.

ATCO-type Workcamp trailers

Sourcing

Some poor quality travel trailers have led to the enforcement of the housing standard for SAWP workers, which does not permit the use of travel trailers. With the enforcement of SAWP housing requirements, travel trailers will no longer be approved for worker housing. Growers will need to replace any unapproved travel trailers with approved housing. Approved housing could be existing permanent housing on the farm property. Alternatively, ATCO-type workcamp housing can be set up on a non-permanent foundation. Electrical, water, and sewer/septic services will be needed. The BCFGA is preparing a suppliers list for temporary worker housing.

How well is AgriStability Working for You?

Please do this survey!

AAFC has launched an online survey seeking producers' input on the level of satisfaction with Business Risk Management (BRM) programs, including *AgriStability*, *AgriInvest*, *AgriInsurance (Crop Insurance)* and the *Advance Payments Program*. The survey is intended to be completed by producers who have applied to these programs in recent years. Results from this survey will help AAFC understand producer expectations and improve BRM program delivery services.

The anonymous survey will be available until **July 31, 2017** and will take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete.

To complete the Survey,
[please click here.](#)

Forest Fires

Information for Seasonal Agricultural Workers

Background

The smoke-filled air may be causing concern for workers from out-of-province. The purpose of this note is to provide workers with some information on forest fires, health and safety.

Dry weather during the summer, combined with a fire source, leads to forest fires. Some years are worse than others - the biggest risk is during long periods without rain, especially when followed by wind. Many fires are caused by lightning strikes. Some fires are caused by people who are careless about campfires and throwing away cigarettes.

Safety - The Danger from Forest Fire is Low, but Be Prepared

The threat of being hurt as a direct result of a forest fire is very small. People are evacuated if there is a risk of harm, or people have the time to get out of the way of an advancing forest fire. However, for those people who live in forested areas or have stayed in parks or wilderness locations, experiencing a forest fire up close is very risky.

For workers in orchards, the risk of direct harm from a forest fire is very low. The large forest fire in 2003 stopped at the edge of orchards - the orchards are irrigated and the fire was unable to enter the orchard areas. Housing in the forest or immediately beside a forest is at risk.

It is highly unlikely that you will be in danger from a forest fire or be evacuated. However, certain farm areas may be evacuated due to concern about smoke and the need for firefighters to be able to move freely on roads with no other traffic. If evacuation happens and you are here on the SAWP program, make sure that your employer or someone on your crew inform the consulate of your movement and location. If you are relocating because of a forest fire, make sure that someone outside of the area (e.g. spouse, parents, friends back home) knows of your current location and your plans to move. Evacuees should register with the Canadian Red Cross, even if aid is not required. To register, visit www.redcross.ca or call 1 800 863-6582.

Another area of concern is smoke. First, drink plenty of water, as this helps your body and lungs deal with smoke. In heavy smoke, you should reduce your physical activity by going slower, taking more frequent breaks or taking time off. Be sure to get the approval of your employer if you are taking more frequent breaks or taking time off. SAWP workers can also contact the country representative about health concerns or call the BC Nurseline. BC NurseLine provides 24-hour, confidential health information and advice. Anywhere in the province, call BC NurseLine to speak to a registered nurse 24-hours or a pharmacist overnight from 5 pm to 9 am every day. Specially trained nurses answer questions about health topics and procedures, identify symptoms, and help you decide when to see a health professional. Pharmacists are available to answer your questions about medications. Toll-free in BC 1-866-215-4700.

If you have breathing problems, you may need medical attention. First, let your employer know. If symptoms are not severe, then try stopping the work you are doing, go inside, cool down and rest. If you do not improve, seek medical attention - if you are in medical distress, ask your employer to arrange transport to a local clinic. For medical emergencies, dial 911. Be aware that there is a cost to calling for an ambulance - they are for emergencies.

Here is a great website for general information:

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/get-prepared-in-high-risk-communities

Finally, if you see a forest fire start, you can report it by calling *5555 on your cell phone.

Temporary Farm Worker Housing Bylaw

Compromise reached

The City of Kelowna passed the Temporary Farm Worker Housing Bylaw on July 11. In a letter to Council, BCFGGA President Fred Steele noted

While there needs to be a balance in respecting the potential impact of farming on residential neighbours, it is farming that is the priority for the ALR. The proposed Bylaws have several improvements to achieve the balance between residential neighbours and farming, which entirely meet the BC Fruit Growers' Association recommendations. The bylaws include:

- *Up to 10 months occupancy for TFWH.*
- *Up to 60 beds allowable without requiring a Public Hearing.*
- *Siting that recognizes soil productivity and minimizing neighbour impact.*

The Sectoral approach is an improvement over the Citywide focus proposed earlier.

There are 10 sectors (5 with agriculture) in the City of Kelowna, and a grower with property in different sectors will see those properties regulated independently of each other - so the maximum number of workers (without going to Public Hearing for approval) would be available on each of those properties that are in different sectors.

Growers will need further information on several aspects of the new bylaw - watch for upcoming newsletter articles.

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

Date	Meeting	
postponed	WorksafeBC Rate Consultation	Glen Lucas
July 19	New Variety [Ambrosia] Development Council, Annual Meeting and election of directors - 7 pm at the Summerland Library.	Open to all
July 25-26	CHC Apple Working Group	Fred Steele and Glen Lucas
August 28	BCFGGA Executive	
Aug 30 - Sept 2	Interior Provincial Exhibition	Visit us at our booth

How to contact the BCFGGA Office

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



- Brenda Jorde, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.
- Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.
- Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.