

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



June 22, 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 from away!

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 website (look to the Program Resources page for BMP info).

Program highlights:

- The BMP list contains a similar list of practices eligible funding as in past years; however, minor changes have been made to eligibility and policy.
- Funding appears to be allocated to different regions of BC to ensure greater fairness.
- There are now four broad groups of practices codes with application deadlines

1. Supplementary Management Plans and Technical Design Projects

Applications opened on June 18th, 2018.

2. Long Term Complex or Construction Projects

Application window: July 3rd to July 17th, 2018.

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

3. 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.

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

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

All projects will be subjected to a detailed review using the information required under General Policy Statement 21 (2018-19 BMP List).

- Applications can be submitted in person, by fax, email or mail or a Planning Advisor.
- Application packages must be complete before they will be reviewed.
- Application approval is subject to funding availability.

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.

Hours of Work - grower penalized for not keeping records

Employers must record start and end times, even if paying piece rates

A penalty was issued to a grower who did not “record all hours worked by each employee on each date, regardless of whether the employee is paid on an hourly, piece rate, or other incentive basis.” A recent appeal to the Employment Standards Tribunal upheld the \$500 penalty.

Employment Standards “contravention penalties” escalate rapidly. Fine for a first contravention is \$500. Fines for second and third similar contravention - within three years - are \$2,500 and \$10,000, respectively.

To summarize the Employment Standards Tribunal case, employee time sheets must record the hours worked each day, even when workers on on piece rate.

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 conducting consultations to provide growers with the opportunity to gain industry insight, ideas and experiences on four key themes:

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.

In addition to the themes identified above, stakeholders can choose to provide feedback on additional topics related to the Primary Agriculture Stream of the TFW Program.

Participate in an [online survey](#)

The deadline is extended to July 27.

The BCFGGA will be preparing a submission that will be available to members.

Reminder - Minimum Wage Changed June 1

Piece rates changed last September, no change this year

The [minimum wage](#) in BC is **\$12.65 per hour effective June 1, 2018.**

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.

Ron will have a college intern working with him for June and into July - her name is **Genevieve Naud**. Both Ron and Genevieve will have BCFGAs business cards for identification. The BCFGAs 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.

Migrant Worker Support Network

Your Feedback is important

The federal government is proceeding with a two year, \$3.4 million pilot project in BC to support migrant workers. BCFGAs encourages employers of Temporary Foreign Workers (ie. SAWP and Ag Stream) provide input into the project by filling out [a survey](#). The top 5 migrant worker sectors in BC are currently:

	<u>Employees</u>
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing:	10,800, or 60% (of which, 7,500 are SAWP)
Accommodation and Food Services:	2,500, or 14%
Other Services:	2,200, or 12%
Transportation and Warehousing	1,300 or 7%
Construction	1,300 or 7%

In 2017, BC ranked second among the provinces in usage of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFW) with 22,169 TFW positions on 9,685 positive Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIA's, the application to bring in foreign workers).

The BCFGAs recognizes the need to provide foreign workers with the same workplace protections and social programs available to Canadian workers. Sometimes, foreign workers may need help accessing these protections and programs. For the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program (SAWP), the foreign workers have the extra support of specialized foreign government staff (liaison services and Consular staff), as well as the assistance to growers of the employer's group - the Western Agricultural Labour Initiative (WALI). Extension materials and best practices information for growers may be supported by the MWSN. We feel strongly that SAWP workers receive much more support than workers in the other TFW streams.

Your input on the MWSN is important, [please complete the survey!](#)


Mexico SAWP Delays?

Gathering information

Mexico is reporting that the number of delayed workers is down significantly. If you are experiencing delays, please send [Bunvir an email](#) . We have noted some ongoing problems with extremely slow processing of Service Canada audits. If you are having a problem, please contact us.

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

Date	Meeting	Details
June 22	Migrant Worker Support Network	-
July 15	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	

BCFGa Office 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda Jorde, Member Services and BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, local 1. • Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2. • Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3. • Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, local 4.
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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

Name		Telephone
Bhupinder (Pinder) Dhaliwal - President	Oliver	Cell/text 250-490-7198
Peter Simonsen - VP	Naramata	Cell/text 250496-5156
Ravinder Bains	Keremeos	Cell 250-499-0512
Sukhdeep (Deep) Brar	Summerland	Cell/text 250-462-5687
Karm Gill	Kelowna	Cell 250-863-9737
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