

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

March 9, 2018



Farm Safety Week

March 11 - 17

Family safety is the focus of Canadian Farm Safety Week this year. The focus is on 'senior farmers', or growers over the age 60 in agriculture.

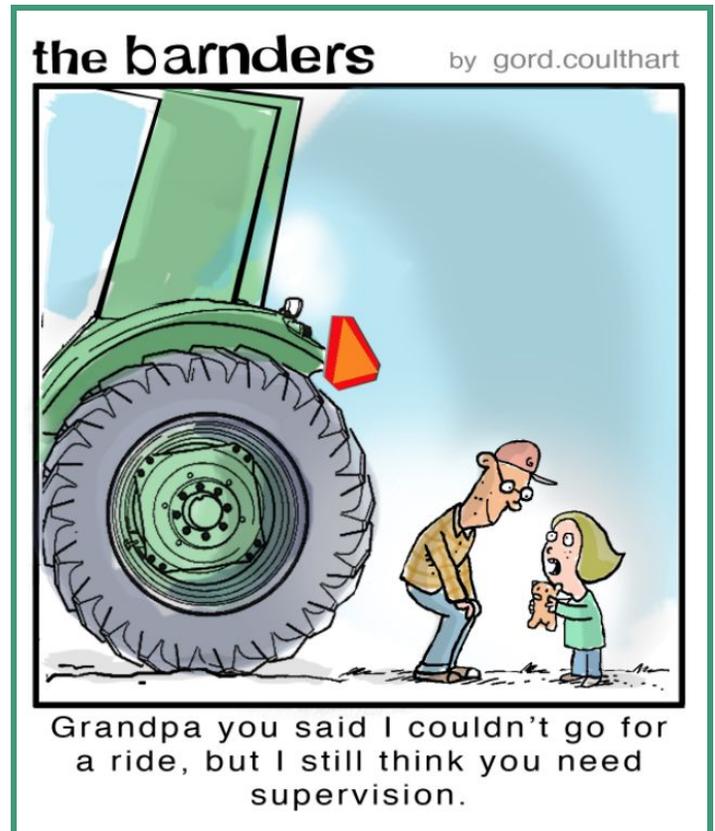
The good news in statistics indicate that farm fatalities are declining by 1.1% average per year. The bad news is that for older farmers the fatality rate is much higher than any other age group. Canadian Agricultural Injury Reporting (CAIR) found that fatality rates are highest for older adults, aged 60 and over. In 2012, the fatality rate for older adults was 22.2 per 100,000. Compare that to adults in the 15-59 age range, which was only 4.2 per 100,000.

The aim of this year's Farm Safety Week is to get everyone thinking about those higher fatality rates for farmers over the age of 60. Learning how to identify hazards in the workplace can be a useful practice for all operations and can keep experienced farmers contributing longer and in a safe way.

Even though senior farmers experience fatalities higher than other age groups, that does not mean older farmers have to stop contributing to the farm. More importantly, having someone with the life experience, and wisdom, still working in agriculture helps to make the transition process smoother from one generation to the next. Pace yourself and know your capabilities.

For more information and a consultation on Farm Safety, Contact your AgSafeBC Representative:

Region	Ag Safe Consultant	Phone	E-mail
South Okanagan	Ron Macc	250-342-5704	ron@agsafebc.ca
North Okanagan	Chad Stewart	250-320-6099	chad@agsafebc.ca
Kootenay	Kevin Paterson	250-427-9883	kevin@agsafebc.ca



City of Kelowna Ag Plan

Proposed Bylaws - feedback encouraged by March 31

Kelowna City Council endorsed the [City's Agriculture Plan](#) in August 2017. Three bylaws have been developed by the city to support the Ag Plan:

- Setting a maximum Home Size on A1 Properties
- Vegetative Buffers for urban properties adjacent to ALR lots
- Adding some secondary uses for properties zoned A1

Participate at getinvolved.kelowna.ca/agriculture-plan by March 31, 2018 and provide your feedback on three proposed policies. The BCFGA is meeting with the City in early April to discuss the bylaws, so you may contact a Board member or staff.

Harjit Sajjan, MP and Minister of Defense

Kelowna, March 13

BCFGA representatives will be attending a 'meet and greet' for agriculture. Federal priorities for BCFGA members are:

- Improving turnaround times for the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program.
- Federal Tree Fruit Rejuvenation Program (Bare land planting and infrastructure funding).
- Re-introduction of the PFRA and its water supply programs.
- Support for the National Plant and Animal Health Strategy.

And we will thank government for:

- Changing the tax proposals that would have harmed farmers.
- Investment in research.
- Investment in climate change.

AgriStability

Be aware of deadlines

The AgriStability Program will help many growers with low apple revenue for 2017. Don't 'leave money on the table'. The only way to determine if you are eligible is to apply by April 30 and either apply for an Interim (advance) Payment by March 31 or submit your harmonized tax form by September 30.

March 31, 2018. The deadline to apply for an Interim Payment. An Interim Payment is an estimate of your AgriStability program payment. For example, if your program payment is estimated at \$10,000, you could receive an Interim Payment of \$7,500. A new participant can enroll in the program and apply for an interim payment at the same time. Interim payments can be applied for using the [2017 AgriStability Interim Application](#). The deadline is March 31st, 2018.

April 30, 2018. The new deadline to apply and possibly pay the fee for AgriStability for 2017. If you are not currently participating in AgriStability, you may register late for 2017 coverage, up until April 30, 2018. If you have not yet paid the fee to register for 2017 AgriStability, complete

and submit the [2017 Late Participant Initial Declaration and Authorization Form](#) to the AgriStability Administration by scanning and emailing, faxing or by mail.

September 30, 2018. The deadline to submit the completed Harmonized Form without penalty. If you receive an Interim payment for the 2017 crop, you must submit your Harmonized Tax form by September 30, 2018 or pay the advance back.

For further information, contact 1-877-343-2767. If, after applying and having your information reviewed by AgriStability, you find that you are not eligible or the program is not working for you, please contact a BCFGAs director or the BCFGAs office to let us know.

Tree Fruit Competitiveness Fund

A first meeting held with government and BC Investment Agriculture Foundation

BCFGAs met with government and BCIAF representatives on March 5 to have preliminary discussions on how the fund will work.

We agreed that there be an industry consultation on the priorities and will be working towards finalizing priorities and allocations to programs by the end of May.

SAWP Program

Delays and substitutes

1. Service Canada delays have been noted in the processing of the LMIA 'application'. BCFGAs, BCAC, CHC, CFA, Mexico Consulates, Caribbean Consulates, Mexico Ministry of Labour, Mi Tierra Travel and Kelowna-Lake Country MP Stephen Fuhr are all very aware of and actively working on the issue. It appears there have been some improvements in turnaround time recently. We are continuing to treat this as a priority issue.
2. Service Canada has not been transparent with growers in the status and results of audits (whether 'risk based' or 'random'). It is frustrating to growers to have to answer questions that are clearly obvious to anyone with farm experience. BCFGAs, WALI and the Caribbean consulate will note these issues at an upcoming meeting with Integrity Services.
3. The Canadian Embassy in Mexico City issues work visas for the SAWP workers. The Embassy had some change in system or personnel, and the process changed from being quick and straightforward to one that rejected any visa if there was the slightest question about any detail. This is causing many 'unnamed' workers to be substituted for named workers who are returning from prior years on the farm. Apparently, the Embassy will now seek to resolve the documentation issues by calling the Mexican Ministry of Labour, instead of outright rejecting the visa.

BCFGA is monitoring all of these issues, and we need your help to document and resolve these issues (if we don't know, we can't help). Please call Bunvir Nijjer to provide details - 250-762-5226 ext. 4.

Mexico SAWP 2018 Form Available

One last reminder - do not use the 2017 Form

Use the appropriate 2018 forms on these websites:

[SAWP Mexico](#)

[SAWP Caribbean](#)

Allow plenty of time - apply 12 weeks prior to worker arrival - delays this year are the worst ever. BCFGa and all of Canadian agriculture is placing a priority on getting the attention of government to improve the program administration.

For more information on the SAWP program, check out [Labour on the BCFGa website](#), and [Labour on the BCAC website](#).

SAWP Meetings

Past and future

The SAWP Employer meetings on February 20-21 were well attended. Presentations were made by the Mexican Consulate, Jamaican Liaison Service and BC government regulators (fire inspector, employment standards, and worksafe). Reg Ens from Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI/BCAC) also gave an update on its work to standardize housing and inspections, and Arturo Hernandez of Mi Tierra Travel gave an update on travel arrangements.

In a survey on the meeting, growers were most satisfied with the presentations on bullying and employment standards. Donna Adams, Deputy Chief Liaison Officer for Jamaica SAWP received high marks for her presentation.

Special guests at the meetings included the Consul General of Mexico, Berenice Diaz Ceballos, and Lori Hrycuik, Executive Director from the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

Everyone expressed frustration with Service Canada and Canadian Embassy (Mexico City) slow downs and everyone present agreed to press the government of Canada to speed up its processes.

TFPG Meetings

Highlights

The on-line tree fruit production guide is available at www.bctfpg.com. Or go to www.bcfga.com and see the link at the bottom-right of the page.

New features

- The printed spray guide (see the icon in the top-right of the spray schedule), includes the date of printing.
- The printed spray guide is automatically updated by the TFPg database, and it is kept up-to-date by the BC Ministry of Agriculture.

- The spray labels can be accessed through the information page on a particular spray. After clicking on a particular pest control product in the guide, you will be taken to a general information page for the product. On this page, select the “Label” button. You will now be taken to the PMRA website’s “Label Search results” page. Click on the PCP number and there you have the label. It sounds more difficult than it is - try it! If you have a problem, call the BCFGA. Don Magnusson suggests that, once you are viewing the product label, use the Ctrl - F key combination to search for the variety of interest (e.g. “apple”).

The following fungicide products are removed from the guide

Vanguard (cyprodinil)	Has been replaced by Inspire Super (cyprodinil + difenoconazole).
Microthiol (sulphur)	Kumulus and Cosavet still available.
Granuflo-T (thiram)	No demand.

New fungicide product registered

Quash Fungicide

- Group 3 (same as Nova)
- Crops: all stone fruit
- Diseases:
 - Brown rot
 - Powdery mildew (suppression)
- Max 1 application per season
- PHI: 14 days
- Re-entry: 9 days for thinning; 12 hours for all other activities.

New insecticide registration

- Harvanta 50 SL

Insecticide label expansions

- Movento,
- Sivanto Prime
- Dipel 2X DF

Do not use

Thionex (endosulfan), **Diazinon** (diazinon) and **Sevin** (carbaryl) can no longer be used for insect control in tree fruits.

Obituaries

Condolences

Several growers have asked where to send condolences to the families of Greg Norton and Pierre Calissi, whose untimely but unrelated deaths came as a shock.

[Greg Norton](#)

[Pierre Calissi](#)

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

Date	Meeting	Attending for the BCFGa
March 13-15	Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting	Pinder Dhaliwal, Fred Steele, Glen Lucas
March 13	Hon. Harjit Sajjan - Agriculture Round Table	BCFGA Board
March 16	Integrity Division Workshop	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
March 16	SIR	
March 16	Roundtable on Worker Protections, Integrity Policy and Program Intelligence Division, Temporary Foreign Worker Program	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
March 16	SIR	
March 20	Quarterly Mexico SAWP Conf. Call	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
March 21	Quarterly Caribbean SAWP Conf. Call	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
April 3	City of Kelowna Ag Bylaws	Pinder Dhaliwal, Sukhdev Goraya
April 6	BCFGA Board of Directors	

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.
--	--

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

Sukhdev Goraya	Kelowna	Cell/text 250- 859-1229
David Machial	Oliver	Cell/text 250-485-2636
David Dobernigg	Vernon	Cell/text 360-550-8999