

# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File



March 20, 2020

### COVID-19

#### Update

BC Agriculture Council organized a conference call with the Commodity Associations to discuss COVID-19 impact.

- The ban of TFW (SAWP) travel is the main concern.
- Some of the 'non-essential' commodities such as the nursery trades have seen sales collapse.
- Some commodities are concerned about input supplies (e.g. fertilizer supply on Vancouver Island) and processing for their commodity (e.g. meat packing plants).

General suggestions:

- Keep access to TFW's as the highest priority.
- Recommend Agristability coverage at 85%.
- Provide additional links for locals looking for work (e.g. Job Bank, possible use of Food and Beverage BC app that links food service people with jobs).

BCFGA will be circulating, in future, a weekly Canadian Federation of Agriculture questionnaire on the impacts of COVID-19 on your farm, so that early warning on any emerging issues can be gained.

- Please direct all media inquiries to [communications@bcac.ca](mailto:communications@bcac.ca)
- Please send any questions to us at [info@bcfga.com](mailto:info@bcfga.com)

### Creston Tree Fruit Production Guide Meeting

#### Cancelled

The Tree Fruit Production Guide meeting scheduled for April 8 is cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. BCFGa is working on scheduling a video conference call (participation will also be available by telephone) for this year's Tree Fruit Production Guide meeting in Creston.

### BCFGA Office

#### Covid-19 restrictions

We are temporarily closing access to the BCFGa office during the Covid-19 emergency. Most of our staff are working from home. Please call (250-762-5226) or [email](mailto:info@bcfga.com) us if you need to communicate with us. If necessary, we will arrange for in-person appointments, but prefer to assist BCFGa members by telephone or email.



Ministry of  
Agriculture

## IN PERSON SERVICES

As of Friday, March 20, 2020, all services will be provided by mail, phone and email only. Temporarily, we are not providing services in person in order to limit the spread of COVID-19 to the public and our employees.

### Local Contact Information:

Production Insurance/Agricultural Wildlife Program/Western Livestock Price Insurance Program/AgriInvest/ General Business Risk Management Inquiries

Phone: 250 498-5250 or 1-888-812-8811

Fax: 250-498-4952

Email: [ProductionInsurance.Oliver@gov.bc.ca](mailto:ProductionInsurance.Oliver@gov.bc.ca)

#### **AgriStability**

Phone: 1-877-343-2767

Fax: 250-712-3269 or 1-877-605-8467

Email: [agristability@gov.bc.ca](mailto:agristability@gov.bc.ca)

#### **Regional Agrologists & Industry Specialists - AGRIServiceBC**

Phone: 1-888-221-7141

Email: [AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca)

### Provincial Contact Information:

#### **BUSINESS RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS - General Inquiries:**

AgriStability/ Production Insurance/Agricultural Wildlife Program/Western Livestock Price Insurance Program/AgriInvest

Phone: [1-888-332-3352](tel:1-888-332-3352)

Email: [brmb.claims.administration@gov.bc.ca](mailto:brmb.claims.administration@gov.bc.ca)

Web: <http://gov.bc.ca/agribusinessriskmanagement>



**BCFGA Office:**  
**250-762-5226**  
**Toll free:**  
**1-800-619-9022**

- Brenda Jorde, Member Services and BC Tree Fruit Replant Program, part-time, Monday - Thursday, local 1.
- Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.
- Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, part-time, local 3.
- Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, part-time, local 4.

### BCFGA 2020 Board of Directors

Name		Cell/Text
Pinder Dhaliwal - President	Oliver	250-490-7198
Peter Simonsen - VP	Naramata	250-488-0363
Ravinder Bains	Keremeos	250-499-0512
Sukhdeep (Deep) Brar	Summerland	250-462-5687
Avi Gill	Kelowna	778-990-9737
Sukhdev Goraya	Kelowna	250- 859-1229
Talwinder Bassi	Oliver	250-485-7272
David Dobernigg	Vernon	250-550-8999

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

Date	Meeting	Details
April 8	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review <b>Cancelled</b>	Creston