

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



November 24, 2019

Replant Program Deadline

Get your application in by November 30, 2019!

If you plan to plant fruit trees in the Spring of 2020 (or benchgrafts planted in the Spring of 2019) and the site was planted to tree fruit in the past 5 years, you can apply for funding by November 30, 2019. The [Replant Program application](#) is simplified this year, so it is easy to fill out. Do not forget to attach a map of the orchard to your application!

Deadline to apply is **Nov. 30** (unless otherwise noted)

- ★ [2020 Replant Program](#)
- ★ Light Reflecting Materials (for 2019 purchases) [Program](#).
- ★ [Tree Fruit Production Insurance](#) Application and Payment.

Agriculture Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN)

Grower Session Planned - Register NOW for December 2 session

ACARN is a network of University, government and private researchers on Climate Change. For agriculture, this research tends to be very practical, focusing on how growers can adapt and mitigate to climate change. ACARN is inviting growers attend a meeting in Kelowna. Please [register](#) if you are interested.

- 11 am – 12:30 pm** **Focus group discussion:** Barriers to Climate Change Adaptation in the Okanagan Agriculture Sector
(lunch provided, no cost for registration, open to producers only)
[Read more about the project](#)
- 1 pm – 4 pm** **Applied research for wine grape and tree fruit growers**
Two rooms: tree fruit and wine grape streams

TREE FRUIT SESSIONS

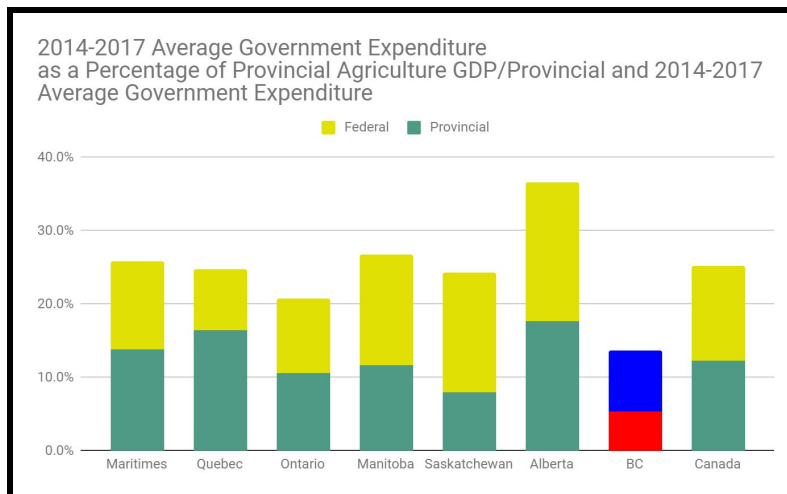
- **Changing climate, shifting crops – future crop suitability modelling to inform future crop choices** (K. Hannam, AAFC)
- **Importance of crop drive-rows in soil carbon storage in woody perennial crops; a regional study along the Okanagan Valley** (A. Midwood, UBCO)
- **Use of technology and data for adaptation in the tree fruit sector**
 - How ready are we for innovative agricultural practices and to adapt to climate challenges?(S. Lembke & L. Cartier, OC)
 - Discussion: How can we leap-frog the big data revolution in agriculture for BC tree fruits? (S. Lembke, OC)
- **Managing fire blight and scab with the BC Decision Aid System for Integrated Pest Management** (Molly Thurston, Claremont Ranch Organics)
- **Postharvest deficit irrigation for improved resilience of cherry to climate change** (L. Nelson, UBCO & co-presenters)
- **Resources for Okanagan growers for water supply information, wildfire & invasive species** (K. Garcia, OBWB & H. Bjarnason, CAI)

Public Engagement - ALR Review

BCFGA Position Paper

The Ministry of Agriculture is holding a public consultation on the ALR. The deadline for response was November 15. The [BCFGA Position Paper](#) on the regulation of the ALR was submitted on the deadline. We asked for

1. Protecting the ALR from development by non-bonafide farmers.
2. Allowing bonafide farmers to increase the value of their crops with value-added packing and processing, and through extension of their operations on their property.
3. Eliminating regulatory duplication, expense and delays for bonafide farmers.
4. Raising agricultural program support above the level of non-ALR provincial jurisdictions.



BCFGA also asked the Ministry of Agriculture to further consult with commodity associations and the BC Agricultural Council. BCFGa member input and thoughts are [welcome](#).

SAWP - News

1. SAWP Mexico workers? Please fill out end of season questionnaire

In order to expedite processing biometrics and LMIA's, STPS is requesting that EVERY employer fills out a returning report in SIMOL for each worker when they return to Mexico. Also, Having access to SIMOL will help the employer track the application progress for each requested worker in 2020.

If any SAWP employer requires a user name and password for SIMOL, or can't fill out the report or is having any type of issue with the system, then contact:

- Maria Fernanda Sanchez at fernanda.sanchez@stps.gob.mx and
- copy Veronica Moreno on that correspondence at info@walicanada.ca

SAWP - News (continued)

2. Transfers wanted / Transfers available

Van Belle Nursery

Van Belle Nursery will have SAWP workers available for transfer starting June 1, 2020. Any SAWP employers who may want to take advantage of employing workers, already in Canada, who would like to continue working beyond their contract with Van Belle, should contact Anita Ibarra for details.

- Available June 1: 3 workers - available until December 15
- Available June 1: 7 workers available until October 15
- Available June 1: 1 worker - available until September 30
- Available June 1: 1 worker available until September 10

Arbutus Grove Nursery (October 29, 2019)

Arbutus Grove Nursery, a reforestation facility on Vancouver Island, requires 5 SAWP workers able to stay until December 15. The transfer LMIA has already been approved and the employer will assist with the transfer to the Island and cover the airfare back to Mexico. The work is primarily indoors, and lots of hours are available. If you have workers able to transfer, please contact Amanda Watson by email or phone at 250-656-4162.

3. SAWP Question of the week

What are the major issues and paperwork that Integrity Services is looking for when a farm audit is conducted, and how I should avoid / keep track of these issues?

1. Never switch workers from an inspected house to an uninspected accommodation.
2. Always get the employment contract signed by the worker and keep it on file.
3. For payroll advances, always get a note *signed* by the worker that the advance was accepted by the worker and it is owed to the employer through payroll deduction off the next payroll. Make sure your payroll or accounting service is able to track advances properly.
4. Never 'lend' workers to another farm. Transfers are permitted, but LMIA's are required by the receiving farm.
5. Written bullying and harassment policies need to be given to workers and on file.

Here is a [list of the many items](#) that Integrity Division looks for when auditing a farm. Practically, it is helpful to have a file folder for each worker, with a document checklist. For example, the checklist could include: ___ copy of employment agreement (signed), ___ copy of work permit, ___ [House rules](#) (signed), ___ [Bullying and harassment policy](#) (signed), ___ Safety procedures (signed), ___ employee SIN number, etc. [Let us know](#) your 'Best Management Practice' ideas.

BCFGA Regional Meetings

BCFGA Regional Annual Meetings of members were held on November 12 and 14 in Oliver and Kelowna, with about 20 members attending each meeting. President Pinder Dhaliwal updated the members on priorities over the past year, and General Manager Glen Lucas provided updates on programs, including Replant, Competitiveness, and EFP. A number of regulatory restrictions is impacting the agricultural sector. Resolutions were formulated by members and will be finalized and circulated prior to the Annual Convention on February 11-12 in Kelowna.

Delegates

2020 North Delegates	2020 South Delegates
Tarsem Goraya	Denise MacDonald
Amarjit Lalli	Mohinder Dhaliwal
Mani Gill	Ranbir Kambo
Madeleine van Roechoudt	Balwinder Sidhu
Joginder Dhand	Charanjit Ghuman
Tahir Raza	Kiranpreet Gill
Asif Mohammed	
Penny Gambell	


Alternates

2020 North Alternates	2020 South Alternates
Gurinder Gill	Katie Sardinha
Avi Gill	Andre Scheepers
Parmjit Patara	Parm Dhaliwal
Jadvinder Nijjer	Mehar Kheira
Steve Day	Allan Patton
Sam DiMaria	Doug Nield
Kevin Day	David Machial
	Emerson Khosa
	Analisa Simonsen
	Wilf Mennell

Nominations for BCFGA Board of Directors

Each year, one-half of the BCFGA Board is elected. Nominations are made at the Regional Annual Meetings. The nominees for the 2020 BCFGA Board positions are:

Position to be elected at Feb 12 BCFGA Annual Convention	Nominees	Nominating Region
President	Bhupinder Dhaliwal	North and South
North Director - One Position, currently held by Karm Gill	Avi Gill	North
South Directors - Two Positions, currently held by David Machial and Deep Brar	Talwinder Bassi Deep Brar	South

 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, 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.
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BCFGA 2019 Board of Directors

Name		Telephone
Pinder Dhaliwal - President	Oliver	Cell/text 250-490-7198
Peter Simonsen - VP	Naramata	Cell/text 250-488-0363
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 250-550-8999

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

Date	Meeting	Details
Nov 26-28	Annual Review, Caribbean SAWP	Glen Lucas
Nov 27	National Environment Farm Plan Meeting	Adrian Arts
Nov 28	Tender Fruit Grading Standards Review	Glen Lucas
Nov 28	Food Security Task Force	Pinder Dhaliwal and Peter Simonsen
Dec 2	Agriculture Climate Adaptation Research Network (ACARN) Kelowna workshop	See the article in this information on how to register.
Dec 5	BCFGA Board meeting	
Dec 6	SIR Board meeting	
Dec 12	Okanagan Basin Water Stewardship Council Meeting	
January 14	BCFGA North District Council AGM	10-2 Ramada, Kelowna
January 16	BCFGA South District Council AGM	10-2 Penticton Lakeside, Penticton
January 28	BCAC Agriculture Gala, Abbotsford	
Feb 11-12	BCFGA Annual Convention	Coast Capri, Kelowna
Feb 25	BC Tree Fruit Horticultural Symposium	Kelowna
9 am - noon, March 3	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Oliver	
1 - 4 pm, March 3	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Summerland	
9 am - noon, March 5	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Winfield	
6:30 - 9 pm April 8	Tree Fruit Production Guide annual review - Creston	