

BC Fruit Growers' Association Friday File



October 12, 2018

2019 Replant Update

Make an application before October 31

[Replant applications are available](#) on the BCFGAs website. The process is simplified.

Remember to include a map of your farm.

BCFGA Regional Annual Meeting Notices

North Region

Time: 9-11 am

Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Place: Ramada Hotel (corner of Highway 97 and Dilworth), 2170 Harvey Avenue, Kelowna

South Region

Time: 9-11 am

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018

Place: Oliver Parks & Recreation, 6359 Park Drive, Oliver

BCFGA members are encouraged to attend.

- The North region is “*The area in the Okanagan and Shuswap Valleys to the North of Summerland.*”
- The South region is “*The area in the Okanagan, Similkameen to the South of Peachland, including Naramata, Creston Valley, and areas of BC not in the Okanagan, Similkameen, Shuswap and Creston Valleys.*”

Agenda

1. BCFGAs Update – Pinder Dhaliwal, President
2. Resolutions – member’s proposals to take forward to the Annual Convention
3. Election of Regional Officers
4. Election of Delegates for the District
5. Nomination of 4 Board of Directors positions (Vice-President, 2 North Directors, 1 South Director) for two-year terms.

Incumbents on the BCFGAs Board of Directors whose positions are up for nomination are:

Peter Simonsen, Vice-President

David Dobernigg, North Director

Sukhdev Goraya, North Director

Ravinder Bains, South Director

AgriStability

Important information for the 2017 Crop Year

2017 AgriStability Deadlines

2018 Enrolment Deadline

- April 30, 2018: *This deadline has passed.* Enrolment is required to be eligible.

2017 Interim Payment Application Deadline (an Interim Payment is like an advance payment)

- March 31, 2018: The deadline has passed for this optional 'early assessment of compensation.

2017 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized Form - deadline without penalty

- September 30, 2018: this was the deadline date to avoid penalty for late submission.

2017 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized Form - Final Deadline

- **December 31, 2018:** enrolled growers have until this date to submit the form.

Obsolete Pesticide Collection

October 17-18 in the Okanagan, October 30-31 in the Kootenays

The Obsolete Pesticide Collection in the BC Interior happens every two or three years. See dates and places in the calendar at the end of the newsletter.

2018 Replant

Inspections almost all completed

The 2018 program inspections are almost all completed. Payment requests have been delivered to government, typically within a week of inspection. Some projects payment requests are slightly delayed until proof of payment of the required royalties is received.

The BCFGA has received some feedback that the government's payment process is slow, and BCFGA continues to seek improvements to the payment process.

Water Well Registration

February 28, 2019 deadline

You must register your agricultural irrigation water well by February 28, 2019 to retain right to use the well. "Groundwater licensing ensures there is a fair and transparent mechanism in place for determining who uses the water during shortages". If you are not registered, your use of water may not be allowed during water shortages. "A water license is tied to your land and provides major benefits to your business including the protection of your water from future developments". Registration is not required if you only use your well for domestic (residential) purposes only.

Start your applications by contacting FrontCounterBC at:

www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/start/ground-water

or telephone 1-877-855-3222

An upcoming BCFGA newsletter will have information on well registration sessions for growers.

SAWP

Biometrics

Consular and industry associations continue to be extremely concerned that the requirement of biometrics for Mexican SAWP workers will cause delays in arrivals of workers in 2019. There are two main opportunities for growers to avoid delays in the arrival of SAWP workers.

- a. Apply for Mexican SAWP workers early, so that the IRCC processes the Work Permit before the deadline. IRCC set a deadline of Dec. 7 to receive the Work Permit request from ESDC in order to process before Dec. 31. But ESDC needs to process the LMIA before requesting the Work Permit. If you wish to avoid the 2019 Mexico biometrics delay by applying early, apply (submit your LMIA with housing inspection and advertising requirements fulfilled) no later than November 15, 2018.
- b. Apply to the Caribbean SAWP program. The Caribbean is not expected to have the same level of delays due to smaller numbers, and Jamaica implemented biometrics 5 years ago so no delays in arrivals are expected there.

The government of Mexico and Canadian horticulture associations (including the BCFGAs) is seeking further changes to the Biometric requirement to avoid delayed arrival of workers in 2019. At this time, there is significant risk of delay in the arrival of workers on Mexico SAWP.

Caribbean SAWP Source Country	Country Population (2015 Est)	SAWP workers in Canada, (average 2005-2009)	Contact	Phone
Antigua and Barbuda	93,900	9	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Barbados	287,500	428	Shirley Wall-Mayers	416-464-2997
Dominica	72,700		Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Grenada	107,900	94	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Jamaica	2,790,200	6,821	Donna Adams	250-869-6288
St. Kitts and Nevis	55,400	29	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Lucia	183,800	234	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
St. Vincent and Grenadines	107,900	291	Charmaine Williams*	416-523-4662
Trinidad and Tobago	1,332,700	2,040	Gaston Thongs	416-435-7048

*Eastern Caribbean Liaison Service includes the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Monserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines.

In BC, Mexicans are the largest group of SAWP workers, followed by Jamaica, Barbados, and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

SAWP

Question the week

How do the Caribbean and Mexico SAWP differ?

- The employment contracts are very similar. One area of difference is that Caribbean employees have a small deduction from each pay which the employer forwards to the country liaison service.
- The minimum hours of work clause is more flexible in the Caribbean contract.
- Biometrics was fully implemented in Jamaica, and other Caribbean countries have fewer workers to enroll by the December 31, 2018 deadline.
- The airfares are similar.

Overall, the main difference is the citizenship of the workers!

Looking for Transfer Workers

A nursery in Summerland is looking for up to 18 transfer workers, October to December 15th. They would be working inside sorting, bundling, wrapping, boxing clean up, block sterilizing. Contact Bunvir Nijjer for more information if you have workers available and willing to stay until Dec. 15 (and will not be in Canada longer than 8 months as of Dec. 15, 2018).

Environmental Farm Plan

A new allotment of funding is released

Additional funding is available to the BMP program for fall 2018. Funds are available for all project categories with preference given towards Supplementary Management Plans, Technical Design Projects & Short Term Projects or Equipment Purchases.

Applications must be approved, and are subject to deadlines and application windows. For details go to the [EFP website](#).

Speak Up! Seminar

A training session organized by the BC Agriculture Council

“Speak Up! Training teaches producers how to tell their story and have a positive, meaningful conversations about food and farming.” The session is intended to help you interact with the public and be a strong spokesperson for agriculture. The session is free for producers, lunch is included, and space is limited. To register www.bcac.ca/pt

Our Newsletter

If you are not on our email list, you are missing out

The BCFGAs produces the Friday File about every two weeks. It contains valuable information (we hope you will agree, after viewing this edition). However, we only produce a print version and deliver it with conventional mail once or twice a year. In between, the Friday File is delivered by email.

If we do not have your email, you are missing out on valuable industry information. Contact [Brenda Jorde](#) if you have an email but do not receive our newsletter.

Plant Health Council launched

From a Press Release dated October 12, 2018

Collaboration between Canadian governments, industry, academia and other partners in plant health is essential to protect our resources from new and emerging risks, drive innovation and ensure that Canadian industry remains competitive and sustainable.

Plant health partners in Canada are pleased to announce the establishment of the Canadian Plant Health Council – fulfilling a multi-partner commitment to collaboratively implement the Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada. The Canadian Plant Health Council will address priorities for the plant health sector, working together on preventive approaches and activities to protect forests, agriculture and other plants from pests, diseases and other risks.

The council consists of 11 members from national industry associations, academia and federal, provincial and territorial governments representing the plant health sector in agriculture and forestry.

The council will develop a focused work plan and over the next 2 years, advance key priorities, demonstrating what can be achieved through collaboration between governments, industry, and academia.

The Plant and Animal Health Strategy for Canada is an action-oriented strategy focused on risk prevention and collaboration among partners in plant and animal health. It was endorsed in 2017 by all partners, including federal, provincial and territorial ministers of agriculture. A significant first step towards implementation was to establish the 2 separate coordinating councils for plant and animal health. These councils will provide leadership in prioritizing and implementing the potential activities outlined in the strategy.

Meetings and Events

Date	Meeting	Details
October 17	World Food Day	
October 17	Unwanted Pesticide Collection, Growers' Supply, Kelowna	
October 18	Unwanted Pesticide Collection, Growers' Supply, Oliver	
October 18-19	Mexico SAWP Annual Review	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas; Rhonda Driediger, Reg Ens, Veronica Moreno (WALI)
October 25	BC Tree Fruit Cooperative AGM	
October 30	Regional Caribbean SAWP meeting	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Veronica Moreno (WALI)
October 30	BCFGA Labour Committee	

October 30	Unwanted Pesticide Collection, Top Crop Garden, Cranbrook	
October 31	Unwanted Pesticide Collection, Growers' Supply, Creston	
November 5-7	BC Agriculture Day	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
November 13	BCFGA Board meeting	
November 14-15	BCFGA Regional meetings	
November 20-21	Annual Review Caribbean SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
December 3	Starling Control Meeting	
December 4-5	BC Agriculture Climate Network workshop, Kamloops	
December 7	SIR Board meeting	
February 12-13	BCFGA Annual Convention	

BCFGAs 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: BCFGAs 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 BCFGAs). You may call your local director so that the BCFGAs Board can remain informed on how to best represent the tree fruit growers of BC.

BCFGAs 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 250-550-8999