

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



September 20, 2018

2019 Replant Update

Make an application before October 31

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

Remember to include a map of your farm.

Obsolete Pesticide Collection

Plan for October

The Obsolete Pesticide Collection in the BC Interior happens every two or three years. Dates this October are scheduled for this valuable service. See the calendar at the end of the newsletter and the attachment.

Important AgriStability Deadline

Program enhanced for 2017 Crop Year

2017 apple returns are down, impacted by hot weather and smaller-sized fruit. One possible help for growers is the AgriStability program, if you have already applied to participate. The BCFGA is requesting all growers to participate by submitting their [AgriStability Harmonized AgriStability and AgriInvest form \(Statement A\)](#) before the September 30, 2018 Deadline. There is some flexibility in the deadline, but it is best to submit before the deadline.

If you find that AgriStability does not help you despite low returns, please let the BCFGA know of your situation - this information will help the BCFGA to lobby government for extra help.

Municipal Elections

Once every 4 years, your chance to get involved

Municipal elections are being held on October 20, 2018. Nominations are now closed and candidates determined.

The BCFGA has a policy to support individuals who run for municipal election, by providing brochures for use by the candidate who agrees to some general statements of support for agriculture. Here is our [local government election support policy](#) for potential candidates to consider. Contact Glen Lucas if interested.

BCFGA Summer Labour Project - 2018

Contact Ron Forrest before the end of September

Ron Forrest can let workers know of available work at your farm - call him to let him know when you need workers. Ron is available until the end of September. Call him at 778-363-3620.

SAWP

Current topics

- The introduction of Biometric requirement (to be implemented by December 31, 2018) may cause delays for Mexico SAWP. There are two ways to avoid risk of delay:
 - a. Apply 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 biometrics delay by applying early, the recommendation of BCFGA is to apply (submit your LMIA with housing inspection and advertising requirements fulfilled) before mid-November.
 - b. Apply to the Caribbean SAWP program.
- Your associations are seeking changes to the Biometric requirement, to avoid delays.
- The BCAC housing inspection form and list of approved SAWP housing inspectors is in place for 2019, as the national housing standard will not be ready in time for 2019. Two housing inspectors in BC are suspended by ESDC, pending a review of their previous inspections. BCAC has limited the number of inspections per inspector to 75 per year to maintain the quality of inspections.
- The BCAC housing form is being modified for 2019. Growers take note of the following changes:
 - a. On-site washing machines and dryers are required.
 - b. As a result of the fire in Abbotsford, countertop hot plates will not be accepted as substitutes for stoves.
 - c. Larger Facilities may require an inspection by the local fire department.
 - d. The temperature range for accommodations is changed - temperatures must be able to be maintained between 18 and 27 c at most times.

SAWP

Question(s) of the week

What happens if a SAWP worker does not want to work anymore?

Hopefully this happens rarely - but when it does happen, it causes concern and stress for the grower.

Any worker - Canadian or foreign - on your farm cannot be forced to work, even though their employment contract obligates them to do so.


Note that, even if the SAWP worker stops working (abandoning their position), the entry visa allows the worker to stay in Canada until the Visa expires. The farm is not obligated to provide housing to the worker in this rare instance.

The SAWP agreement obligates the grower to pay the airfare both ways, even if the worker does not fulfil their part of the agreement. The BCAC is seeking to clarify that workers who abandon their positions and do not return home immediately will not have their return airfare paid by the employer. However, this requested change has not yet been presented and is not presently in the SAWP agreement.

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

Date	Meeting	Details
Sept. 18	WALI/BCAC Board meeting	Glen Lucas
Sept. 19	BCAC Labour Committee	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Sept. 20	CFA TFWP Service Delivery Working Group	Glen Lucas
Sept. 26	Legislature Committee on Finance and Government Services	Pinder Dhaliwal and Glen Lucas
October 2	Mexico SAWP Regional Meeting	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
October 4-5	ESDC Migrant Worker Support Network	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer, Ron Forrest
October 5	Sterile Insect Release Program	
October 9	Interior SAWP Housing Inspector meeting	Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
October 11	Water Stewardship Council	Kevin Day, Glen Lucas
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
October 25	BC Tree Fruit Cooperative AGM	
October 30	Regional Caribbean SAWP meeting	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
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 15	BCFGA Board meeting	
November 20-21	Annual Review Caribbean SAWP	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
December 4-5	BC Agriculture Climate Network workshop, Kamloops	
December 7	SIR Board meeting	
February 12-13	BCFGA Annual Convention	

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: 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.

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 250-550-8999