

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File



September 28, 2018

AgriStability

Important information for the 2017 Crop Year

Last year tree fruit production was difficult, especially for apple production due to heat and drought conditions. Smaller apple size, fruit storage quality and other factors impacted returns. Average price for the entire crop was down about \$.06 per pound.

In this situation, enrollment in AgriStability and providing all the required information to AgriStability before deadlines is important for several reasons:

1. Participating can provide you with needed resources if you qualify for a claim. While AgriStability does not work well for growers who have diversified by growing several types of fruit (e.g. apples and cherries), individual growers will not know until their paperwork is processed by AgriStability.
2. The program is enhanced for the 2017 crop year, due to the floods, fire and drought conditions throughout 2017. The compensation rate is increased from 70% to 80% on positive reference margin loss for 2017. All agriculture producers enrolled in AgriStability will receive the enhanced coverage.
3. The effectiveness of the AgriStability program is being monitored by government and producer associations like the BCFGA. Based on data that proves how the program works for growers, government and associations will assess and respond to deficiencies in the short and long term.

The AgriStability Program was once notorious for being difficult and not adjusting to particular growers' circumstances. Many changes have been made and processing is also improved to streamline requirements as much as possible.

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: *2017: The deadline has passed* for this optional 'early assessment of compensation.

2017 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized Form - deadline without penalty

- September 30, 2018: *submit by this date to avoid penalty for late submission.*

2017 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized Form - Final Deadline

- December 31, 2018.

The BCFGA suggests that all enrolled growers 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.

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.

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.

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 SWP 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.

The government of Mexico and Canadian horticulture associations (including the BCFGAs) are 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.

SAWP

Question(s) of the week

WALI recently hired a new employee, Veronica Moreno. What does WALI do?

The Western Agriculture Labour Initiative (WALI) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of BCAC. It is responsible for taking input from the BCAC Labour Committee and representing BC SAWP participants at the regional and national *negotiation of Mexico and Caribbean SAWP employment agreements*. Other activities of WALI include:

- Being listed as facilitator in the SAWP employment agreement, providing services necessary to the operation of SAWP.
- Tracking and reporting SAWP data.
- Establishing housing standards and guidelines, up to the time that the province of BC or Employment Service Development Canada (ESDC) takes on this responsibility.
- Publication and tracking of SAWP housing inspection forms.
- Establishing a registry of SAWP housing inspectors.

- SAWP education and training sessions for employers.
- Subcontracting IT and travel agency activity to MiTierra Holidays.
- Participation in a regulatory review for Temporary Foreign Worker Programs, with emphasis on updating workcamp and inspection regulations.
- Participating in the Canadian Horticultural Council Labour Committee.
- Participating in the Canadian Federation of Agriculture Temporary Foreign Worker Program Service Delivery Working Group.
- Participation in the Migrant Worker Support Network Pilot Project.
- Coordination with Mexican Consular and Caribbean Liaison Services.

Will WALI help me fill in my LMIA?

No, WALI does *not* help fill out Labour Market Impact Assessments (LMIA's, the SAWP application form). This assistance is available from independent contractors who are registered immigration consultants. The service is normally provided for a fee. For BCFGA members, the BCFGA's Bunvir Nijjer, who recently passed her Immigration consultant exam, can help fill out the forms (for a fee). Congratulations on passing exam, Bunvir!

AgriFood and Seafood Meeting/Webinar

Information session in person or remotely


Packers and brokers who export or are considering exporting tree fruit will be interested in attending an October 3 event to find out more about related government funding programs.

[Here is more information on the event and how to register.](#)

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

Date	Meeting	Details
October 2	Mexico SAWP Regional Meeting	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
October 3	Agrifood and Seafood Export webinar	
October 4-5	ESDC Migrant Worker Support Network	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas
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; 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	

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

BCFGF Board of Directors

Name		Telephone
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