



BC Fruit Growers' Association Friday File

September 15, 2017

Open House - Summerland Research and Development Center September 23, 2017 from 10am-3pm.

Invite your family and friends - and especially children - to find out about the science of tree fruits and grapes. Free admission and free parking.

New Tax Rules Proposal

Income Splitting and Capital Gains Tax Exemptions under review

There is concern from small businesses about the federal government's proposed changes to income tax that would negatively impact family farms, especially those that are incorporated. Here is a [letter from BCAC outlining the issue](#).

If this change looks like it would impact you, please contact your MP and let them know in your own words what you think about making family farms worse off financially.

MP contacts:

[Richard Cannings](#), NDP MP, South Okanagan-West Kootenay

[Wayne Stetski](#), NDP MP, Kootenay-Columbia

[Dan Albas](#), CON MP, Central Okanagan-Similkameen-Nicola

[Stephen Fuhr](#), LIB MP, Kelowna-Lake Country

[Mel Arnold](#), CON MP, North Okanagan-Shuswap,

AgriStability

Deadline September 30

The AgriStability administration would like to remind producers and tax filers that the deadline to submit your complete *2016 AgriStability/AgriInvest Harmonized form* is September 30th, 2017. For more information please call 1-877-343-2767 or visit www.gov.bc.ca/agribusinessriskmanagement

2018/19 BC Tree Fruit Replant Program

Application deadline is November 15, 2017

The 2018 Replant Program is now open for applications. [Information may be viewed on the BCFG website](#).

Survey on Commercialization of New Apple Varieties

Help Summerland Varieties Corporation by doing this on-line survey

Here is [an on-line survey](#) that BCFGa is asking its members to complete. The survey intent seems to be to determine if another avenue of commercializing new varieties is required. In our opinion, AAFC's apple and cherry varieties are well-served by Summerland Varieties Corporation (SVC) and more competition in such a small market is inefficient and unwarranted.

When asking about access to new varieties, the survey does not seem to recognize that many of the club varieties will only be available to large international fruit producing corporations or companies. SVC's best opportunity will be to maintain the entire AAFC portfolio of new varieties, demonstrate its ability to service variety owners by implementing systems to collect all royalties owed, and to potentially negotiate access to new, off-shore varieties on a case-by-case process. Splintering the Canadian effort in this regard will weaken the national approach.

Farm Vehicle Brochure

RCMP info

Earlier this summer, an overzealous RCMP officer was issuing tickets to growers for driving tractors on the road, in Kelowna - BCFGa can assist in appealing these tickets. The BC Ministry of Agriculture assisted in getting the RCMP to gain an understanding of tractor licensing and insurance regulations.

In fact, a tractor does not require a license if it is driven temporarily on a highway and several other commonsense conditions are met (no passengers, driver is the farmer or is acting on behalf of the farmer, the tractor is used for farming, the vehicle is empty or loaded with farm-related materials). Also, the tractor must be insured with an Unlicensed Tractor Insurance Certificate.

Tractors are prohibited from certain highways. In the interior, the highways where tractors may not be driven include:

- Hope-Princeton Highway 3 (for Keremeos-Cawston-Osoyoos growers)
- TransCanada Highway 1 (for Salmon Arm growers)

Growers should review the information in the blue brochure "Farm Vehicles on the Move" to gain a full understanding of the rules of the road for tractors and other farm vehicles - BCFGa mailed all member this brochure last week.

Minimum Wage change

Heads up for September 15

Minimum wage increases from \$10.85 per hour to \$11.35 per hour on September 15. Vacation pay (minimum 4%) is also paid on top of the hourly wage. There is no change in piece rates shown on the [summary of employment standards that regulate pay](#),

Cherry Orchard Research Field Day

Coral Beach Farms, Coldstream, Friday Sept 22, 2017, 1:30 – 3:30 pm

1. Laser Bird Control. The European Agrilaser Autonomic Program has been field tested for 3 years by Coral Beach Farms. Funded by Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program and delivered through the BC Investment Agriculture Foundation Agri-Food Environment Initiative

2. Expanding cherry production in British Columbia under climate change by optimizing water use and maintaining soil health

UBC Okanagan researchers are testing the effects of adding compost and mulch to tree rows and post-harvest deficit irrigation on cherry production in new and established orchards. Funded by the BC Farm Adaption Innovator Program delivered through the BC Investment Agriculture Foundation.

Hosted by: Gayle Krahn, Horticulture/Vernon Manager, Coral Beach Farms and Louise Nelson, Biology Professor, UBC Okanagan

Directions: From Highway 97 in Vernon, turn east onto Highway 6 and proceed 11.7 km, turn left.



Climate Action Initiative
BC AGRICULTURE & FOOD



Canada


BCFGA Golden Apple Award

Nominations open

Nominations are open for the prestigious Golden Apple Award. Nominations for the 2017 season may be forwarded to Charlotte Leaming (cleaming@bctree.com) or Carl Withler (Carl.Withler@gov.bc.ca). If you know of a deserving neighbour or friend to nominate, contact Carl or Charlotte with their name and address.

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

Date	Meeting	
Sept. 19	SAWP Housing Standards review	Pinder Dhaliwal
Oct. 3	BC-Mexico Regional SAWP, in Vancouver	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Oct. 23-25	Mexico SAWP Annual Review Meeting	
Oct. 25	BCTFC Annual Meeting	
Oct. 27	SIR Board Planning Session	Glen Lucas
Oct. 30	BCFGA Crop Protection Committee (9-noon)	Peter Simonsen, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Oct. 30	BCFGA Labour Committee (1-3)	Pinder Dhaliwal, Glen Lucas, Bunvir Nijjer
Nov. 2	National EFP Summit	Glen Lucas
Nov. 3	BC-Caribbean Regional SAWP, in Vancouver	Pinder Dhaliwal, Bunvir Nijjer
Nov. 7	BCAC Agriculture Day	
Nov. 14	BCFGA Executive	
Nov. 16	BCFGA Bylaw Review	
Nov 19-25	Caribbean SAWP Annual Review Meeting	
November 28	BCFGA South Regional AGM	
November 30	BCFGA North Regional AGM	
December 4	BCFGA Executive	
January 25-26	BCFGA Annual Convention	

<p>BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda Jorde, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1. • Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2. • Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.
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The BCFGALabour Orientation and Safety Program

Contact Ron Forrest
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