

**BC Fruit Growers' Association
Friday File**

August 21, 2015



Wind Damage in Oliver-Keremeos

The intense wind last Saturday that led to the rapid expansion of the Wilson Creek Fire near Oliver also caused severe damage to crops and trees in local areas around Oliver and also in the Keremeos area. Apple crops were blown off trees, severely scuffed and cut from limb rubs, and some trees were blown over.

The BCFGAs Executive re-located its August 19 meeting to Oliver to see the damage first hand and to talk to affected growers at the Growers Supply lunch. Many growers observed that Crop Insurance does not provide the coverage for wind damage that hail does. Growers also expressed concern that the Agristability Program reduced its coverage two years ago.

The BCFGAs Executive discussed the situation and will be clarifying with Crop Insurance the extent of damage and coverage provided. Also, the BCFGAs is encouraging growers to pursue Agristability claims. We looked at one example and the grower's "margin" fell from about \$50,000 to -25,000 (a loss). In this case, the grower could receive an Agristability payment of \$39,000 to bring his margin for the year from -25,000 to +14,000. It is still a very difficult financial situation, but made less difficult with Agristability. The BCFGAs is working with government to coordinate Agristability information meetings for growers in the affected areas.



Replant

The BCFGA is pleased to announce that additional funding has been allocated to the 2015 Replant Program. The province has transferred about \$117,000 from the end of the program (in seven years time) to the first year of the program. Summerland Varieties Corporation has matched this funding and contributed \$117,000 to the 2015 Replant Program. The SVC contribution was very important in achieving government commitment to the re-allocation of funding. ***The BCFGA expresses its gratitude to SVC for this important contribution to the renewal of BC orchards.***

For the 2015-2021 Replant Program, applications are no longer on a first-come, first serve basis. Projects are rated by a committee of horticulture specialists, based the criteria set out in the 2015 Program Requirements and the quality of the project as described in the Application and Replant Plan. The projects are then placed in order of priority based on their score with the highest-rated projects receiving funding until all funds had been allocated. The new process was put in place to meet the Program's mandate of supporting the highest quality replant projects available and making optimal use of limited funds to enhance the future of the tree fruit industry.

The program for 2015 is now at a stage where three batches of projects have been worked through and funded from either the base funding, the new funding provided by SVC and reallocated by the BC Ministry of Agriculture, or from funding released through project slippage as projects are inspected and reveal less trees than in the project application. A letter is being delivered to growers who applied and whose projects have not been allocated funding. Growers receiving the letter advising that no funds are currently available will be contacted if funding subsequently becomes available for the grower's replant project. Growers whose projects remain unfunded will be contacted at the close of the 2015 program (expected in November-December of this year) to avoid any uncertainty about their status in the program.



BCFGA
BC LABOUR PROJECT

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