

# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File

June 10, 2016



### Next Ag Policy Framework

#### Activity is increasing

A BC Agriculture Council members' meeting, attended by association managers, took place on June 7 to prepare industry proposals for the Next Ag Policy Framework ("GF3"). Harvey Sasaki, former Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture, facilitated the discussion. A draft report is being prepared for the end of the month.

A more in-depth look at financial programs is taking place, as the Risk Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) is being re-activated after several years of inactivity, with a meeting scheduled for June 22. RMAC provides input to the Ministry of Agriculture on financial or risk management programs such as AgriStability, AgriInvest, AgriRecovery and AgriInsure. The committee is appointed by the Minister of Agriculture on recommendation of the BCAC and agriculture associations and Tony Nijjar is the BCFGAs Executive member on the RMAC committee. Association staff attend RMAC as observers.

A survey of BCFGAs growers is being planned. Watch for the survey in the next BCFGAs Friday File.

### Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)

#### Registered Products 2016

Here is a [table of products that are registered for SWD control](#), prepared by BCMA entomologist Susanna Achaempong. Remember to check for [Maximum Residue Limits \(MRLs\)](#) for countries of interest, if exporting.

### Food Safety

#### BCFGAs to fund certification program

The BCFGAs announced at the Annual General Meeting that it would be implementing a program to fund food safety certification in 2016. Plans are progressing, and a formal announcement is expected shortly. The program will be funded by a dividend paid by Summerland Varieties Corporation.

### AgSafe 2015 Annual Report

AgSafe (formerly FARSHA) introduces their 2015 Annual Report. [Read more.](#)

## **Food Safety**

### **Read this if you are not yet certified**

For growers not yet participating in a food safety program, assistance is available. The province has launched an interim program, due to delays in the government's RFP process. An interim traceability program is not available at this time. The Interim On-Farm Food Safety Audit Program provides reimbursement for FIRST time certification in On-Farm Food Safety (OFFS) Programs. Recertification of a food safety program is not eligible.

Participants will receive 90% cost-shared funding for successful audits up to a maximum of \$900, until funds are exhausted. Only successful audits will be reimbursed. Applications will be assessed on a first come, first serve basis. Only applicants who qualify as Eligible Participants may receive funds through the Interim On-Farm Food Safety Audit Program.

BCMA is now accepting applications. The application intake period for the Interim On Farm Food Safety Audit Program will be from June 1, 2016 to September 30, 2016.

To apply, please complete and submit the application form prior to completing your audit. Program details and Application form are [here](#).

### **SAWP workers available for transfer**

Qualitree, a nursery in Rosedale, BC has 5 good workers for transfer beginning the end of June to middle of July. For details, please contact:  
Deborah Woelders, email [deborah@qualitree.com](mailto:deborah@qualitree.com), or phone 604-259-2958.

## **BC Agriculture and Seafood Conference**

**Province-wide scope - held in Kelowna**

The Minister's Agriculture Advisory Committee is planning a conference with a theme of "Growing the Future Together". The BCFGAs are pleased that this provincial conference is being held in Kelowna, November 14 - 15, 2016.

More information will be provided in the Friday File as the conference agenda and other details are finalized.

## **Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative**

**Conservation, habitat restoration projects?**

If you have an idea for an environmental project on your farm, funding is available to get some hired help. The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative will help fund internships for post-secondary graduates, who are 30 years or younger and are Canadian Citizens or permanent residents, interested in working in the agriculture industry. Internships must incorporate activities that are environmentally beneficial and must be at least four months in length and be completed by March 31, 2017. Funding of up to \$10,000 per 'intern' is possible. If interested [here is more information](#). If you do come up with ideas on how you can access this fund, and the idea can be applied to other farms, please let us know so that we can spread the word!

## A Welcoming Communities Summit- Okanagan College, Penticton

BCFGA members are invited to attend “Welcome 2016” which is a *Welcoming Communities Summit* to be held at the Okanagan College in Penticton, BC on June 17th and 18th, 2016. This event has been organized by the South Okanagan/Similkameen Local Immigration Partnership. There will be sessions and keynotes speaking on social and economic integration for new immigrants. For further information and registration visit their [website](#).

## Taking Extra Care for Pollinators?

Call for Nominations, Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award

### Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award

The CFA has joined with the [Pollinator Partnership](#) and the [Canadian Forage and Grassland Association](#) (CFGGA) to recognize farmers who work to protect this indispensable natural resource through the Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award.



This award recognizes an individual or family in the farm and ranch community in Canada who has contributed significantly to pollinator species protection and conservation on either working or wild lands. The CFA, P2 and CFGGA, through recognition and appreciation of these individuals and organizations, encourage their conservation stewardship and hope to catalyze future actions on behalf of pollinators through public recognition of the award winner.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2016 Canadian Farmer-Rancher Pollinator Conservation Award. Nominations are open until August 12, 2016. The nomination form can be downloaded [here](#).

## How to contact the BCFGGA Office

BCFGGA Office - 250-762-5226  
Toll free -1-800-619-9022



- Brenda Zarr, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.
- Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.
- Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3.
- Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.

**Dates and Events**- check the [BCFGGA Calendar](#) on our website for more information

**Meetings**  
**Attended recently and upcoming**

June 7	BCAC Growing Forward 3	Glen Lucas
June 8	Kelowna Agriculture Plan	Fred Steele, Glen Lucas
June 9	BCMA Tree Fruit Production Insurance Advisory Committee	
June 10	Sidney Laboratory and Science Branch update	Glen Lucas, and Summerland Variety reps Nirmal Dhaliwal and Nick Ibuki
June 16	BC Agriculture Council Board Meeting	Fred Steele, Glen Lucas
June 17-18	Welcoming Communities Summit	Bunvir Nijjer
June 22	Risk Management Advisory Committee	Tony Nijjar, Glen Lucas
June 22	New Variety Development (Ambrosia) Council AGM, Summerland Library, 7 pm	
July 22-23	CHC Apple Working Group	Fred Steele, Glen Lucas
August 11	BCFGA Executive meeting	