

# BC Fruit Growers' Association

## Friday File

June 17, 2016



### The Next Ag Policy Framework

#### Your input

At a June 16 BC Agriculture Council meeting, the balance between “Risk Management” programs and “Strategic Investment” programs was discussed. Risk management programs provide insurance against different types of risks:

- **AgriStability** provides coverage for steep drops in net income (i.e. if the ‘program margin’ drops by more than 30% drop, participants receive a percentage coverage of 70% on the drop in margin that is over 30%).
- **AgriInsure**, or Production Insurance, can help with up to 80% of crop loss (with the many deductibles, 5 year averages and so on, the actual amount received for a loss is often less).
- **AgriInvest**, which provides a matching contribution to an account to be used for ‘rainy days’.
- **AgriRecovery**, which can help with recovery costs not covered by other programs.

The provincial and federal governments decided, in the last Agriculture Policy Framework, to reduce Risk Management programs and increase Strategic Investment programs, including

- **AgriInnovation** (funds the introduction of innovative equipment and products)
- **AgriCompetitiveness** (funds business education, industry studies through the national Value Chain Roundtables, and the Minor Use Program for more rapid access to new, safe, modern crop protection products)
- **AgriMarketing** (funds export market access and quality assurance programs)

Please give us [your input through our online survey](#) about your priorities.

### Test Orchard Lease

#### Information session

Information on the tendering process was provided in our May 20 newsletter. BCFGAs members interested in the Test Orchard and the process for leasing the Test Orchard may attend the following meeting.

Time: 10 am - noon

Date: Monday, June 20, 2016

Place: Cawston Hall

## **Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD)**

### **New Products with Emergency Use Permits**

Here is a [table of products that are registered for SWD control](#). Here is an updated [Maximum Residue Limits \(MRLs\)](#) for use in exporting to countries of interest. The MRL is updated to include Emergency Use permits which have been approved for Mako and Malathion 85E for 2016 field season.

## **SAWP Workers available for Transfer**

### **Save airfare**

BCFGA is coordinating transfer workers. We have a pool of workers available August 20. Call Bunvir 250-762-5226 ext 4, if interested, or if you have workers available to transfer to other farms.

## **Environmental Farm Plans**

### **BCFGA priority**

At recent meetings, BCFGGA has started to explore the introduction of new eligible projects for EFP. EFP projects are called Beneficial Management Practices or BMPs. BCFGGA has a goal to expand EFP participation so that growers can receive a fair share of BMP funding while making progress in transitioning their farm to new, innovative practices that help the environment.

If we are successful in establishing new BMPs that are meaningful to tree fruit growers, growers will be encouraged to complete EFPs after the Fall harvest.

## **Message from Summerland Varieties Corporation**

### **Unmanned Aerial Systems**



Summerland Varieties Corporation is moving forward with technology that delivers enhanced agricultural intelligence, potentially making the allocation of valuable resources easier for local growers.

Remote sensing technology is widely used in larger-scale satellite imagery, but SVC will be testing this technology closer to home, and to a scale that's most helpful and tailored to the needs of growers in the Okanagan Valley.

Unmanned aerial systems - most commonly known as drones, can assist growers with optimizing management techniques by variety.

Drones can provide detailed orchard information that may assess tree health, vigour, weather damage or measure whether trees are under water stress, making it simpler to determine where to allocate resources and irrigation programs, leading to better crop uniformity.


Drones will only be used with the full knowledge and consent of property owners, and will fly in preprogrammed and agreed-upon flight patterns.

Transport Canada requires that operators of all unmanned aerial systems apply for a Special Flight Operations Certificate (SFOC) for the region in which they will fly. SVC is proud to partner with Hummingbird Aerial Surveys, who are approved by Transport Canada, and the Ambrosia Council who are funding partners.

If you would like more information about this program or would like your orchard(s) to be considered for an aerial survey, please contact:

Erin Wallich  
[erin@summerlandvarieties.com](mailto:erin@summerlandvarieties.com)  
 778-516-8015

### How to contact the BCFGA Office

BCFGA Office - 250-762-5226 Toll free -1-800-619-9022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brenda Zarr, Member Services and Replant Admin, local 1.</li> <li>• Glen Lucas, General Manager, local 2.</li> <li>• Sheila MacGregor, Accountant, local 3.</li> <li>• Bunvir Nijjer, Corporate Secretary and Seasonal Agriculture Worker Program, local 4.</li> </ul>
---	---

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

### Meetings Attended recently and upcoming

June 16	BC Agriculture Council Board Meeting	Fred Steele, Glen Lucas
June 17-18	Welcoming Communities Summit	Bunvir Nijjer
June 20, 10 am to noon	Test Orchard Lease - Process for advertising and for selection. Open to BCFGA Growers. Cawston Hall	
June 21	Drought Update	Glen Lucas

June 22, 7 pm	New Variety Development (Ambrosia) Council AGM, Summerland Library,	
June 23	Risk Management Advisory Committee	Tony Nijjar, Glen Lucas
June 28	Fruit and Tree Nut Biosecurity Committee	Glen Lucas
July 18-20	Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Ministers meeting	Canadian Federation of Agriculture representatives
July 19	Western Liberal Caucus	Fred Steele and Glen Lucas
July 22-23	CHC Apple Working Group	Fred Steele
August 11	BCFGA Executive meeting	