

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

June 9, 2017



BCFGA Summer Labour Project - 2017

Contact Ron Forrest

The BCFGAs summer labour project has started. Ron Forrest provides safety orientation sessions for staff (before the season starts and as work starts on your farm). Ron is away for a short period of time to attend to a family situation, but you may call Ron to arrange a workshop on your farm when he returns: **250-859-7503**. Ron can also let workers know of available work at your farm - call him to let him know when you need workers.

Right to Farm

An Update from the Strengthening Farming Branch,
BC Ministry of Agriculture

If you have difficulties with a neighbour or could use some assistance communicating information to them, please give Ministry of Agriculture, Anne Skinner a call at: 250-861-7272 or cell: 250-309-2478.

BC Agriculture Council News

An Update

Reminder for Employers of Seasonal Workers using SAWP and other :

[Avoid delays with early applications](#) with significant growth in the volume of people coming to Canada, applying early is more important than ever. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada reminds employers who hire seasonal agricultural workers to ensure [work permit applications](#) are submitted as far as possible in advance to help avoid delays.

Apple Clearwing Moth

Spraying demonstration for trunk application

Date: **June 14, 2017**

Time: **9:00 AM**

Place: **9011 Shanks Rd, Lake Country BC**

Tamara Richardson with Cornucopia Consulting, who is conducting Apple Clearwing Moth trials in Lake Country and monitoring in other areas of the Okanagan, will be on hand to describe spraying techniques and larvae identification.

It is of vital importance that we learn how to monitor and control this pest ASAP.

Agriculture Canada Closely Monitoring AgrilInvest Balances

Use it or Lose it

(Article Courtesy of Canadian Horticulture Council)

It has recently come to light that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has been tracking the use of Business Risk Management tools by farmers. In particular, AAFC has been interested in knowing when an AgriStability claim has been submitted, and whether these growers have been accessing their AgrilInvest accounts first when they have a serious loss of reference margin.

In government's view, when disaster strikes, a grower should first access AgrilInsurance, if they have it, and then AgrilInvest. A grower should only submit an AgriStability claim once these two resources have been leveraged.

The tracking suggests that the opposite is occurring. AAFC officials are increasingly concerned that many growers who trigger AgriStability do not use money in their AgrilInvest accounts first. This situation is broad across various crop types and sectors. At present, AgrilInvest account balances are at \$2 billion, which includes grower and government funds. The fund balances appear to have stabilized for now but, if they resume growing, there is a risk to the program continuing.

For those who remember, we lost the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) program in 2009 when account balances reached \$3 billion. CHC would also like to point out that it is very difficult to request that government return AgriStability and AgrilInvest contributions to previous levels if the programs are not used adequately. AAFC is flagging this issue.

Please review carefully how you are using these tools, and consider that there may be better investment opportunities than storing funds in AgrilInvest, and take action as you deem appropriate.

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

Date	Meeting	
June 12	Starling Control	Peter Simonsen
June 13	2017 BC SAWP Housing Improvement Meeting- Langley, BC	
June 13-14	"Growing the Tree Fruit Sector in Canada" proposal	Fred Steele and Glen Lucas

Farm and Food Care - Real Dirt Photo Contest

Promoting Farming to the Public - Get your camera ready!

Farm & Food Care is launching a nation-wide farm photo contest with \$4,000 in cash prizes available for winners in six categories.

Winning photos will be used in the updated 2017 edition of The Real Dirt on Farming, a publication that answers common questions about food and farming practices in Canada. For more information on this publication and to view the 2014 edition, visit www.RealDirtOnFarming.org. Photos may also be used in other Farm & Food Care initiatives.

Categories include:

Canadian Farm Scenes – Capture the beauty of Canada’s rural landscape	Farm Innovation – Technology at work on Canadian farms
Farm Faces – Unique farm family photos, farm friends or a photo of farmers at work	Crazy about Crops – Photos of crops being grown in fields, orchards or greenhouses
All about Animals – Farm animals in the barn or field	Farm Fun – Be creative! We’re looking for photos of people having fun while farming

Prizes:

- ✓ \$350 first prize in each category
 - ✓ \$200 second prize in each category
 - ✓ \$100 third prize in each category
- * Non - winning entries used in The Real Dirt on Farming booklet will receive \$50 per photo.

Eligibility

- ✓ All entries must be photographs taken in Canada.
- ✓ Entrants must own the rights to the photos they submit.
- ✓ The contest is open to all residents of Canada.

Submit entries to contests@farmfoodcare.org

More information: <http://www.realdirtonfarming.ca/photo-contest.php>

Deadline July 14, 2017

How to contact the BCFGA Office

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



- 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.

The BCFGA Labour Orientation and Safety Program

Contact Ron Forrest
250-859-7503
Email: rforrest.bcfga@gmail.com