

BC Fruit Growers' Association

Friday File

May 19, 2017



Temporary Farm Worker Housing Bylaw

City of Kelowna

The City of Kelowna has deferred the proposed bylaw on temporary farm worker housing. The BCFGGA agrees that a bylaw is needed, but has asked for some changes in the proposed bylaw.

BCFGGA and BC Cherry Growers Association have been working together to come up with workable solutions for the TFWH Bylaw. The decision to defer the bylaw was made at the City of Kelowna Council meeting on May 2.

The BCFGGA is following up with meetings with City staff, gathering further data, and establishing a grower committee.

Winfield BC Tree Fruit Cooperative building permit - APPROVED

Winfield Council helps Co-operative move forward with improvement

The District of Lake Country re-considered its decision to implement road improvement charges on an addition to the cooperative building, with only 3% of the addition in Lake Country.

From the Kelowna Daily Courier:

A major expansion of a fruit packing house can proceed now that Lake Country council has reversed an earlier decision that had stalled the \$1-million project. Town council this week unanimously waived a requirement that BC Tree Fruits spend a further \$230,000 on upgrades to Bottom Wood Lake Road. Instead, the municipality and BCTF will discuss ways in which the road can be made safer for drivers and pedestrians while work on the expansion project resumes. "I think this is a very amicable resolution to the issue," Lake Country Mayor James Baker said Thursday.

Thank you to all of the growers in Lake Country who reached out to their Councillors and helped Council reach a good decision.

BC Election, May 8

What's next?

BC could be headed to a fragile majority or a minority or a coalition government, depending on counting of absentee ballots and re-counts in some ridings, as well as negotiations between the party leaders. It may be several more weeks before the dust settles. More uncertainty may follow in the coming months.

Replant Update

Some funds set to be released

Brenda Jorde from the BCFGA office has been calling growers with approved replant projects to find out if they are planning on going ahead with their plantings as planned. Some growers are not proceeding with their projects, and this releases funds for those on the waitlist.

Some funds have been released, and we will now be following up with the province to seek approval of a number of the projects on the waitlist. Projects are considered in order of their rating for quality of replant plan.

Apple Clearwing Moth Update

Second year plan modified

The Apple Clearwing Moth project is entering its second year of operation in 2017. After the first year, we discovered that the manufacturer only assures pheromone effectiveness for a single season (in designing the project, we had understood and assumed two-year coverage for the pheromone). When sent to a laboratory for testing, the Isomate-P dispenser-lures set in orchards last year have 16 to 27% of pheromone remaining after 303 days in the field. A second year effectiveness would be low or not existent. We have changed the design of the project since we cannot now rely on Isomate-P for two years. Unfortunately, new areas for pheromone deployment cannot be added to the project in 2017 and 2018.

A reminder that the area-wide Isomate-P project is experimental, so growers need to continue monitoring and applying conventional treatments to their orchards even where Isomate-P is placed. Bucket traps were also deployed in 2016, to help monitor ACM. For areas where Isomate-P was placed, the trap will only detect whether the pheromone is working (which was the case), and there are no trap counts for these treatment areas. Maps will be available on the [OKSIR.org website](http://OKSIR.org),

Zone 1 (West Kelowna and South) will see the same test areas receive pheromones for a second year - these growers will hang their own pheromones. It is essential that all growers (whether or not Isomate-P is applied) continue to monitor and apply conventional treatment for Apple Clearwing Moth.

Zone 2 (Kelowna to Winfield, but not including Winfield). The original plan was to set out Isomate-P (SIR hangs the lures) on one-half of the acreage in 2016 and the other half in 2017. However, due to budget limitations and the need to place pheromones every year, instead of every other year, only Belgo and Ellison will receive pheromones this year. It is essential that all growers (whether or not Isomate-P is applied) continue to monitor and apply conventional treatment for Apple Clearwing Moth.

Zone 3 (North of Kelowna) is an area of low Apple Clearwing Moth populations. Tamara Richardson, a pest management consultant, is assisting growers who have low populations try to keep populations from growing with the use of Kairomones (an attractant trap) and conventional treatments. Pheromones will also be used in 'border areas'. It is essential that all growers (whether or not Isomate-P is applied) continue to monitor and apply conventional treatment for Apple Clearwing Moth.

Contact your horticultural advisor or consult [the on-line Tree Fruit Production Guide for treatment options for Apple Clearwing Moth](#).

Agriculture Census 2016

Statistics Canada releases information on May 9

The 2016 Agriculture Census shows more consolidation of farms into larger operations and an increase in the number of young farmers, compared to five years earlier. The BCFGGA issued [a press release on changes in the tree fruit sector of BC between 2011 and 2016](#). The [summary for the tree fruit sector is here](#).

Tractor Tickets

BCFGGA will help members to appeal

WorksafeBC

WorksafeBC has recently issued warnings and tickets for tractors travelling on roads (especially highways) without their Roll Over Protection System (ROPS) engaged. Tractors travelling on roads must have ROPS engaged and the driver must wear a seatbelt when the ROPS is deployed. Avoid driving on soft shoulders - tractors have a right to be on the roadway.

Motor Vehicle Act Traffic Violation

In the Kelowna area, an apparently overzealous RCMP officer has been issuing traffic violation tickets to tractor drivers who are travelling on roads. There are some highways that are more restrictive in the rules, but our understanding is that tractor insurance and the warning diamond are the basics of being in compliance when driving a tractor on a road. However, several tickets have been issued by the RCMP when tractor operation met these conditions.

We will prepare a full report on requirements for driving tractors on roads in a future edition of this newsletter.

The BCFGGA is offering to aid members who have received a ticket to prepare appeals. If you received a ticket, please contact Glen Lucas at 250-762-5226 ext. 2 to let us know what your situation is and so that we may offer you assistance in appealing the ticket.

Grants for Student Workers

Some funding available if you have a 'green job'

The Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative has been approved for a 2 year period. Applications will be accepted starting April 26, 2017.

For an application form and more details on the program, please visit: [Agricultural Youth Green Jobs Initiative](#)

The program is designed to hire youth aged 15 to 30 for internships of up to 12 months. It will be of interest to producers and organizations working in the agriculture industry and interested in implementing agriculture projects that are environmentally beneficial.

Right to Farm

A Message from the Strengthening Farming Branch, BC Ministry of Agriculture


Please take care to follow best management practices while operating sprayers. Using accepted and defensible farm practices will help to protect you in any dispute.

- Shut off spray when turning where it might spray into a neighbour’s property or onto roads.
- Monitor your spray drift, particularly with changes in wind direction or speed.
- Help neighbours to understand farming; if they have concerns or want to know what is being sprayed or why you can’t just work 9-5 like they do.
- Open communication, cooperation and a friendly attitude can go a long way to minimize conflict.
- Common sense, courtesy and consideration are needed on both sides of the fence.
- 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 /cell# 250-309-2478

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

Date	Meeting	
June 6	Okanagan Basin Water Board / Okanagan Water Stewardship Committee	Kevin Day
June 6	BCFGA Executive	

How to contact the BCFGa Office

<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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