

CRANBERRY WEB

The Newsletter of the BC Cranberry Marketing Commission and BC Cranberry Growers Association

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CHAIR'S REPORT

Since our last Newsletter, there have been several meetings. In April all the Boards and Commission Chairs met with the BC Farm Industry Review Board's Chair, John Les and Vice Chair, Andy Dolberg to discuss our various issues and to seek solutions to them. All Boards and Commissions were present and it was very interesting to hear of some of the issues that concern other commodities. We had a good discussion with the BC FIRB about how we can move forward together within the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act.

The Chairs and Managers met in Abbotsford with the BC Council of Marketing Boards. These meetings happen twice a year to discuss the various challenges we are all facing. There was good discussion on social media and how it can effect our efforts to produce quality, safe food for BC consumers.

The Commission continues to support Ag in the Classroom. This program has seen great growth over the past few years - this growth would not be possible without the support of our agricultural industry. While we are thinking in terms of education, the recipient of this year's BC Cranberry Marketing Commission's Scholarship grant is Amy Guliker. Amy is finishing Grade Twelve this year and her plans include going to Trinity Western University to pursue her Bachelor of Arts degree.

The Commission is reviewing our work plan as well as our Election Policy. Progress is also being made on the Communications Plan for the BC cranberry industry. At the last Commission meeting we reviewed all of our standing Committees - representatives remain the same with some new grower representatives. If by chance we have any other growers that have a burning desire to become involved with the Commission, please let the office know.

The Commission and the Grower's Association have once again committed funds to support the Cranberry Institute's health research initiatives. We believe this type of research will be invaluable for the future marketing of cranberries.

I would like to compliment all our growers for keeping their acreage statistics up to date with the office, this is a legal requirement and we appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

The planning for the 2015 Cranberry Field Day is well underway, it will be great to have this event at the Research Farm, which is looking great. So be sure to mark September 8th on your calendar.

I look forward to seeing you at the Field Day!

Jack Brown, Chairman
BC Cranberry Marketing Commission

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 14 - 17, 2015: **FARSHA: Pesticide Applicators Certificate course**
- August 19, 2015: **FARSHA: Confined Spaces Awareness Training Session**
- August 18 & 19, 2015: **US Cranberry Marketing Committee Meetings**
- Sept. 8, 2015: **BC Cranberry Field Day**
- Oct. 21 - 23, 2015: **Western Forum on Pest Management**

BC CRANBERRY FIELD DAY - SEPTEMBER 8, 2015



The BC Cranberry Marketing Commission and the BC Cranberry Growers Association are very pleased to host the 2015 BC Cranberry Field Day.

Date: **Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

Time: **9:30 am – 2:30 pm**

Location: **BC CRANBERRY RESEARCH FARM**

5455 – 72nd Street, Delta

It's difficult to choose what will be the highlight of the day as there are so many events you won't want to miss, including

- **Meet and Greet**, coffee and doughnuts – sponsored by Farm Credit Canada
- **On-Site Displays from BC cranberry allied trades and related companies including:**

Bayer CropScience	Exova
Biobest	FARSHA
Campbell's Gold Honey Farm and Meadery	Hortau
Corix	Lange Installations
Crop Sensors	Nelson Irrigation
Direct Solutions	Riverside Welding
Engage Agro	Terralink Horticulture
ES Crop Consult Ltd.	Water Tec
- **On-Site Demonstrations:**
 - ❖ Irrigation Management and Monitoring Systems
 - ❖ Beehives – what should you be looking for?
 - ❖ Life stages and monitoring for Tipworm
 - ❖ Irrigation sprinkler demonstrations
 - ❖ Opportunity to view the cranberry fields, fruit displays and learn more about the varieties planted

BC CRANBERRY FIELD DAY - CONTINUED

- **Guest Speakers:**

- ❖ **Dr. Nick Vorsa, Rutgers University – The Genetic Potential of Cranberry: Cultivars for the 21st Century**
- ❖ **Dr. Kim Patten, Washington State University – BC Cranberry Research Farm: Research Progress to Date and Plans for the Future**
- ❖ **Invited Guest Bill Frantz, Senior Manager, Ag Economist & Gov't Affairs, Ocean Spray**

- **Barbecue Lunch**

Most importantly, the Cranberry Field Day will provide cranberry growers and other industry stakeholders the opportunity to meet with each other in an informal setting.

Mark your calendarsyou don't want to miss this important grower event!

2015 BC CRANBERRY SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

The Commission is pleased to award it's 2015 student scholarship to Amy Guliker of Chilliwack, BC. Amy's family operate Tri R Cranberries producing cranberries, blueberries and Brussels sprouts.

Amy completed high school this year with very strong grades and will be enrolling in Trinity Western University. She will be working for her Bachelor of Arts degree in social sciences along with a human services certificate. Along with spending after school hours working on the family farm, Amy has shown her leadership abilities skills in school and outreach projects.



BC HYDRO'S RATE DESIGN APPLICATION

Commission directors met recently with BC Hydro representatives regarding their Rate Design Application submission being prepared for the BC Utilities Commission. The Agenda included: Background on BC Hydro's 2015 Rate Design Application, Farm and irrigation customers' statistics, characteristics and rates, Issues to consider as part of the RDA and Next Steps. More information on the RDA can be found at: https://www.bchydro.com/about/planning_regulatory/2015-rate-design.html or by contacting Fay Thompson at 604-623-3651 or Dani Ryan at 604-623-4246 or by email at: bchydroregulatorygroup@bchydro.com.

LICENSING

LICENSING – 2015

All growers, producer vendors and agencies should now have received their respective license covering the period from April 1, 2015 – March 31, 2016. Along with your license, you were asked to confirm acreage. Please call, or email, Dianne if you have not received your license or if your acreage is incorrect. The 4 licensed agencies will be receiving a list of growers and producer vendors licensed with the Commission. Agencies will be reminded that they are not to accept cranberries from a grower unless that grower has a valid license issued by the Commission.

BC CRANBERRY RESEARCH FARM - UPDATE GRANT KEEFER



The spring heat is upon us here in BC. It's been much warmer and drier than normal and the upcoming summer months appear to hold steady with the same weather pattern. Keeping water on the trials in a timely manner has been a priority for the Research Farm Team as it is for all growers. Water management, monitoring, interpretation of that information and application is an area of ongoing and future focus at the Research Farm.

The past months have been busy for Dr. Renee Prasad, our Field Technician and her E.S. Cropconsult team at the Farm. In addition to bumble bee monitoring and regular IPM management, there have been two new Varietal Trials which were planted. The first were the Gryleski Trials. The second being the next generation of Rutger Varieties. Dr. Nick Vorsa came out from New Jersey to work with her team as they planted these plots. Additionally, Dr. Vorsa collected and reviewed data from the previous year's plot trials.

Fruit quality is a priority for BC. The Research Farm is an ideal location to run controlled fungicide

trials at different stages of bloom and on different varieties. As we move forward we hope to demonstrate the best products, timing and application method for the different varieties to ensure the best fruit quality.

Nutrient management is also critical moving forward. The different varieties will possibly require a different fertilizer regime than our typical nutrient programs in BC. Working with Dr. Vorsa and Dr. Patten we have a fertilizer plan in place that will show different levels of Nitrogen on the plots. In the long term, this will hopefully help us better



understand the nutrient requirements for these new cultivars.

If you have any questions about the BCCRF, please do not hesitate to contact the BCCMC office where we can best direct your inquiries. Enjoy the summer and hope to see you at the Field Day on September 8th.
The BC Cranberry Research Team

This project was funded in part
by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
and the BC Ministry of Agriculture
through programs delivered by the
Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC



CCGC HEALTH RESEARCH FUNDING FOR 2015 - MIKE WALLIS

The Canadian Cranberry Growers Coalition continues to fund Health Research Projects vetted by the Cranberry Institute even though the current cranberry economic climate makes funding projects a challenge. This year's project is titled: **“Microbiota diversity, composition and polyphenol bioavailability: a controlled feeding trial with a plant free diet containing whole cranberry powder”**.

The Principal Investigator is Oliver Chen at Tufts University, Boston MA.

The CCGC is contributing \$32,000 in total funding, of which BC is contributing \$15,000 CDN through equal payments by the BCCGA and the BCCMC.



NEW BCCGA WEBSITE DEBUTING SOON - MIKE WALLIS

The BCCGA website www.bcccranberrygrowers.com is being updated and made more user friendly for growers on the go. Revisions include a fresh new look, content and a responsive mobile design (website changes shape to adjust layout for mobile device viewing). Content includes the BC Cranberry Insect Pest Identification Guide produced by the BC Cranberry Research Society and the Member Login site includes the current Canadian Cranberry Pesticide Chart, AAFC Pest Management Centre Updates, Cranberry Production and Irrigation Management Resources, as well as BCCGA Bylaws, Director Meeting Minutes and other posts of interest to growers. The site is also designed to link seamlessly to the BCCMC site for consumers looking for cranberries. The site will be launching in early July; BCCGA members in good standing will receive an email with login information to access the member site, so if you have changed your email or you are not receiving email updates from the BCCGA, email Mike at info@bcccranberrygrowers.com to be added to the list.

COMMISSION ATTENDS DIETITIANS OF CANADA NATIONAL CONFERENCE - GERALDINE AUSTON

BC Cranberry Marketing Commission once again represented the BC cranberry industry at the Dietitians of Canada National Conference in Quebec City. This event is the educational event of the year for Canada's registered Dietitians and attracts approximately 700 professionals from across the country. Registered Dietitians work in all aspects of food in our country from health awareness, retail, foodservice, hospitals, extended care and more and the opportunity to have one-on-one conversations about cranberry products and our industry is very valuable. Over 400 Dietitians visited the Commission's booth and sampled the new reduced sugar Craisins. The Commission also had English and French versions of our new rack card "Because it's all about the taste" developed with Patricia Chuey. Cranberry products were also featured in the "Walk-About Lunch". As always, Dietitians were very engaged in conversation about cranberries and there was excellent feedback from them.



CRANBERRY FIELD DECLINE PROJECT UPDATE - REBECCA HARBUT

The Cranberry Field Decline Project is a three year research project focused on characterizing a set of symptoms in the field that has been termed Cranberry Field Decline. (This term was suggested by growers to ensure that it is not confused with Dieback). The BCCMC and Ocean Spray have both contributed funds to the project to complete the first year of field work. This project builds on previous projects carried out evaluating potential causes of CFD. Drs. Sheila Fitzpatrick, Agriculture and AgriFood Canada and Siva Sabaratnum, BC Ministry of Agriculture have investigated the impact of insects, disease and nematodes on the beds and Dr. Bob Martin, USDA-ARS, is currently conducting a survey to identify potential viruses. These studies have not identified a consistent or clear relationship between CFD or pest pressure, therefore this project is focused on understanding the physical and physiological conditions that exist in affected fields to better understand the symptoms.



There are three primary objectives for this project:

1. Examine, map and describe the distribution and spread of cranberry field decline over the past 10 years. The spatial and temporal spread of cranberry decline is currently unknown. We know, anecdotally, that the condition is increasing however the specific rate and pattern of change has not been quantified. The first step in this research will be to detect and quantify cranberry decline using current imagery. Once it is possible to reliably identify affected canopies we will map the distribution over a wide area within the BC cranberry growing region. Next, we will utilize current and historical imagery to develop a time series representing the development of cranberry decline over time and investigate what landscape factors may be involved.
2. Conduct a detailed characterization of plant growth and soils in selected cranberry beds to evaluate factors that may be correlated with cranberry field decline symptoms. The proposed work is focused on developing an understanding of the specific soil characteristics associated with fields exhibiting CFD. This work will serve two functions 1) provide ground truthing for the satellite imagery analysis and ground penetrating radar and 2) provide extensive analysis of the soil conditions and plant growth in beds with and without CFD to identify contributing factors. The data generated will be used to determine the potential of using the digital imagery as a diagnostic tool. The soil data will be analyzed with the plant growth data to identify possible relationships between the soil conditions and plant growth characteristics.
3. Conduct field trials to evaluate management techniques on beds affected by Cranberry Field Decline. A demonstration trial will be established in year 2 of the project to evaluate the impact of different management techniques. The treatments included in this trial will be informed by the data collected during the 2015 summer and designed to address some of the potential causes that have been identified over the course of this seasons work.

CRANBERRY FIELD DECLINE PROJECT UPDATE - REBECCA HARBUT - CONTINUED

Meet the Research Team! The research team leading the project is Dr. Rebecca Harbut, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Dr. Peter Oudemans, Rutgers University, Dr. Les Lavkulich, University of British Columbia and Brian Mauza, Ocean Spray. We also have three summer Research Assistants that you will see around the cranberry bogs all summer collecting data, Taku Someya and Riley Riddell are on KPU's research staff for the summer and Leanne Ejack is working at Ocean Spray with Brian this summer and will be assisting with the project as well.



Taku Someya and Riley Riddell take 1 meter soil cores and characterize the peat layers in fields affected by CFD



Grower Advisory Board. A grower advisory board has been formed to assist the research team with the project. The board met in April prior to the implementation of field data collection. The project was reviewed and input from growers about the project. The Advisory Committee will meet again in July, Sept, Nov, Jan, March). Thank you to the 11 growers that are serving on the committee!

Progress Report:

Satellite Images. Dr. Oudemans has been working on collecting data from satellite images that will be used to determine the spatial and temporal spread of CFD.

Field Data Collection. Taku and Riley have been spending a lot of time in the cranberry beds collecting data on the sites. Data collected includes:

- Generation of GIS maps of the research beds that can be used to correlate with the satellite images and additional image data collected.
- Upright and flower counts - 7 sqft. Samples at each of the 5 research beds have been counted for vegetative and flowering uprights, flower number, canopy depth
- Soil cores - approx. 20 soil cores at each bed, about 1 meter depth. Core data collected: depth of peat and mineral layers, Van Post scale of humification (degradation) rating of peat at different depths (will be completed by July 10)
- Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) - on June 17, the GPR crew and Dr. Lavkulich's group was out testing the GPR to collect data on the bed. This data will be analyzed to determine the utility of GPR to characterize cranberry bed soil profiles.

CRANBERRY FIELD DECLINE PROJECT UPDATE - REBECCA HARBUT - CONTINUED

Crews run ground penetrating radar equipment over cranberry bed to collect data on soil profile.



Upcoming Data Collection in July: Soil samples will be collected from each of the 5 study sites with samples from affected and unaffected areas. Samples will be used for detailed analysis in Dr. Lavkulich's soils lab at UBC.

We are very grateful to the growers that have been so willing to let us establish research plots on their beds and collect data. If you have any comments/questions/suggestions about the project, please don't hesitate to contact me (rebecca.harbut@kpu.ca).

Funding for this project has been provided by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the BC Ministry of Agriculture through the Canada-BC Agri-Innovation Program under *Growing Forward 2*, a federal-provincial-territorial initiative. The program is delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.



During the third week of June, a group of Agricultural Scientists from Ocean Spray came out to BC to learn about production here in BC and to develop a better understanding of the cranberry field decline that has been showing up in BC cranberry beds. While they were here, Brian Mauza had them going non-stop visiting beds and having meetings. They spent a lot of time visiting cranberry beds that are exhibiting symptoms of cranberry field decline and also came out to observe the ground penetrating radar data collection. There was also time spent discussing the cranberry field decline research project and getting their feedback and input. Thanks to all of you for taking the time to come out!

Rebecca Harbut



Left to right: Leroy Kummer (Wisconsin), Dan Schiffhauer (New Jersey), Rod Serres (Massachusetts), Rebecca Harbut (KPU), Jean Pierre Deland (Quebec) and Brian Mauza

Pesticide Applicators Certificate Course: July 14 - 17, 2015

This is four day course including 3 days of training and 1 day to write the exam. Course will be held at the BC Ministry of Agriculture, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford. For more information and to register contact David Nguyen, Senior Safety Officer, FARSHA at 604-996-0927 or david.nguyen@farsha.bc.ca.

Confined Spaces Training for Agriculture, Berry and Vegetable Farming: August 19, 2015

WorkSafe BC and FARSHA have partnered to produce a confined spaces safety awareness training session for agricultural employers. The training session will be held at Delta Town & Country Inn, 6005 Hwy 17A, Delta. For more information and to register contact David Nguyen, Senior Safety Officer, FARSHA at 604-996-0927 or david.nguyen@farsha.bc.ca

New Ag Sprayer Resource: www.sprayers101.com

Dr. Jason Deveau, Application Technology Specialist with OMAFRA along with Dr. Tom Wolf have launched an ag sprayer resource website: www.sprayers101.com. Sprayers 101 describes best practices in the safe, efficient and effective operation of agricultural sprayers. It's a library of articles, fact sheets, videos, lectures and apps.



Western Forum on Pest Management: October 21, 22 and 23, 2015

The Western Forum on Pest Management takes place at the Sandman Hotel, 32720 Simon Avenue, Abbotsford, BC and begins with a reception on the evening of October 21st. Registration and Agenda will be made available at a later date. In the meantime, if you wish to receive any further information please contact Dr. Siva Sabaratnam at 604-556-3029 or by email at: Siva.Sabaratnam@gov.bc.ca.

Your industry representatives

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