

Agriculture in Action: Bridging Policy & Practice

Bus Tour

Wednesday, November 6, 2024, Lake Country, BC

Why are we holding the tour?

Local policies and regulations greatly impact how farms can operate, but communication between farmers and local government staff is not always clear or open. The tour will bring these two groups together to help strengthen relationships and make connections. By spending quality time together at the orchards and vineyards, we'll gain a deeper understanding of the challenges we're facing and can talk about possible solutions and opportunities to collaborate.

Who organized the tour?

Staff from the Cross-Commodity Leadership Support Project (CCLSP) organized the tour. The CCLSP is a pilot partnership of the BC Fruit Growers' Association, BC Cherry Association, BC Grapegrowers' Association, BC Wine Grape Council, and Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program. The project is funded by the Government of British Columbia through programs delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.

What can you expect from the day?

The tour will begin at Winfield Memorial Hall with refreshments and a welcome and opening presentation to set the stage for the day, followed by guided visits to local orchards and vineyards. Participants will hear directly from growers about challenges such as obtaining permits, managing seasonal worker housing, navigating land use regulations, managing water and wastewater, and coping with climate impacts. Planners will also be asked to talk about the challenges they face with preparing and enforcing land and water use policies and regulations. We'll break mid-day and refuel with a delicious lunch at the hall from Made in India. The day will conclude with reflections on what we've learned and a discussion about next steps. **Attendees should dress appropriately for outdoor conditions and bring a water bottle.**

What are the next steps?

After the tour, participants will receive a report summarizing the discussions and insights shared throughout the day. This report will outline action items and collaborative opportunities identified during the tour. Keep an eye on your inbox for this report, which will provide a roadmap for ongoing engagement and solutions-focused dialogue in support of our agricultural community.



AGENDA

Morning

- 8:00 am** **Registration**
Winfield Memorial Hall
10130 Bottom Wood Lake Road
- Come early to register, have some refreshments, and chat with the other attendees before we get started.
- 8:30 am** **Welcome, Introductions & Opening Comments**
- Thanks for coming! Let's meet the people in the room, hear about the purpose of the tour, and set the tone for the day.
- 9:00 am** **Board Bus & Depart**
Narrator: Alan Gatzke
- Learn about the history of farming in Lake Country and other interesting info from Alan Gatzke while we travel to and from Royal Fruit Packers.
- 9:30 am** **Royal Fruit Packers**
4381 Old Vernon Road
Host: Dave Sandher
- S. Sundher Orchards is a multi-generational apple and cherry farm in the Okanagan Valley, with its sister company, Royal Fruit Packers, handling cherry processing for export. This stop will cover the challenges of securing permits and managing wastewater, and the regulatory hurdles farmers can face when expanding operations.
- 11:00 am** **Jealous Fruits**
4133 Shanks Road
Host: Alex Geen
- Jealous Fruits, owned and operated by the Geen family, is a top cherry producer known for its commitment to supporting seasonal workers. During our visit, we'll tour their worker housing site and explore the local government regulations involved in setting up and maintaining these facilities.

LUNCH

- 12:15 pm** **Lunch**
Winfield Memorial Hall
10130 Bottom Wood Lake Road
- We'll head back to the hall for a catered lunch from Made in India. Meat and vegetarian options will be available.

Afternoon

- 1:15 pm** **Board Bus & Depart**
- Off to the second half of our tour!
- 1:30 pm** **Dorenberg Orchards**
1919 Goldie Road
Host: Madeleine van Roechoudt
- The van Roechoudt family has grown apples at Dorenberg Orchards since 1949! They also have 10 acres of wine grapes and had their first harvest in 2010. Here, we'll explore land use planning, zoning, and the challenges of diversifying farm operations. We'll also discuss how community projects and climate change affect farmland use, water, and pest management.
- 2:45 pm** **Intrigue Wines**
2291 Goldie Road
Host: Roger Wong
- Founded in 2008 by the Wong and Davis families, Intrigue Wines brings together their passion for winemaking. Here, we'll look at the challenges of building a new production facility and the hurdles of managing winter damage and waste disposal—plus, you might get a taste!
- 4:00 pm** **Reflections and Next Steps**
Winfield Memorial Hall
10130 Bottom Wood Lake Road
- We'll spend the last half hour of the day reflecting on what we heard, gathering additional thoughts, and talking about next steps. Please complete our brief survey so we know what was on target and where we missed the mark!
- 4:30 pm** **Finish**
- Thanks for coming! Keep an eye on your inbox for a final report to summarize our discussions and suggest actions for future collaboration.

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Participant Survey

We'd love your feedback! Complete the survey below or scan the QR code to fill it out online.



- 1.) What did you like most about the tour and why?

- 2.) What did you like least about the tour and why? What could we improve for future tours?

- 3.) Which tour stop did you find most valuable and why?

- 4.) What other topics would you like to see covered at future events?

- 5.) Do you have any other feedback to share?

This event is funded by the Government of British Columbia through programs and initiatives delivered by the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC.



The Government of British Columbia and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC are pleased to participate in the delivery of this event. We are committed to working with our industry partners to address issues of importance to the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia. Opinions expressed at this event are those of the host and not necessarily those of the Investment Agriculture Foundation or the Government of British Columbia.