

CROSS-COMMODITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Date:	November 27, 2025
Time:	10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Location:	In Person or Virtual: RDCO Woodhaven Boardroom (1450 KLO Rd, Kelowna) Join the meeting now Meeting ID: 254 111 941 442 Passcode: 2yC28hn9

MEETING AGENDA

1. WELCOME & HOUSEKEEPING

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Recommended Motion

"THAT the November 27, 2025, meeting agenda be adopted as presented."

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (Page 3)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the June 24, 2025, meeting minutes be adopted as presented."

4. MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

5. REGULAR BUSINESS

5.1 CCLSP Committees and Communications (Page 8)

5.2 Stabilization Fund Report (Page 9)

5.3 Current Cross-Commodity Projects (Page 10)

a) BC DAS Expansion to Wine Grapes: Progress Report (Attachment 1)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the BC DAS Expansion to Wine Grapes Project Progress Report submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program and recommends proceeding with an interim payment of \$46,200."

5.4 Cross-Commodity Project Development and Funding Applications

a) Coordinated Regional Labour Strategy, Policies, and Programs (Attachment 2)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Coordinated Regional Labour Strategy, Policies, and Programs TFISP application submitted by the BC Fruit Growers' Association with a maximum funding contribution of \$352,550 and a project timeline of December 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027."

b) Industry Association Bylaw Review (*Attachment 3*)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Bylaw Review for Tree Fruit and Wine Grape Industry Associations TFISP application submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program with a maximum funding contribution of \$100,800 and a project timeline of January 5, 2026, to July 15, 2026.

c) PAC Point Tracking Modernization (*Attachment 4*)

Recommended Motion

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the PAC Point Tracking Modernization TFISP application submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program with a maximum funding contribution of \$55,125 and a project timeline of December 1, 2025, to August 31, 2026."

6. OTHER BUSINESS

a) 2026 Meeting Schedule

All meetings will be held from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm with lunch provided. In-person attendance is encouraged but a virtual option will be available.

Thursday, January 29, 2026

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

Tuesday, June 30, 2026

Tuesday, December 8, 2026

7. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be held on January 29, 2026, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.

CROSS-COMMODITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
November 27, 2025
Agenda No. 3.0

Minutes of the **Cross-Commodity Advisory Council** held virtually via MS Teams on June 24, 2025.

PRESENT

Adrian Arts
Alan Gatzke
Dapinder Gill
Kate Durisek
Madeleine van Roechoudt
Michelle Cook
Nikki Callaway
Philip Gyug
Sukhpaul Bal
Tyrion Miskell
Walter Makepeace

BC Fruit Growers' Association
BC Fruit Growers' Association
BC Grapegrowers' Association
BC Wine Grape Council
Grower at Large
Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program
BC Wine Grape Council
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
BC Cherry Association
BC Grapegrowers' Association
Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program

REGRETS

Beth Cavers
Gord Morrison
Jesse MacDonald
Karen Yeung
Ryan Ostertag

BC Cherry Association
Consolidated Fruit Packers
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
BC Wine Grape Council
Consolidated Fruit Packers

STAFF

Kellie Garcia
Shelby Austen

CCLSP Project Director
CCLSP Administration & Communications Manager

GUESTS

Cooper Clayton McGeough
Kaelan Watson
Kent Mullinix
Kristi Tatebe
Morgan Game

Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Kwantlen Polytechnic University
Kwantlen Polytechnic University

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by: Madeleine van Roechoudt

"THAT the June 24, 2025, meeting agenda be approved as presented."

Seconded by: Kate Durisek

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by: Walter Makepeace

Seconded by: Sukhpaul Bal

“THAT the May 29, 2025, meeting minutes be adopted as presented.”

CARRIED

4. GUEST PRESENTATION

4.1 Labour Supply Research Project, KPU Research Team

The KPU Research Team shared their findings, with Kristi outlining key recommendations for all stakeholders. Housing, worker amenities, and challenges with recruitment and retention were identified as the most significant barriers by both workers and employers. The team is now finalizing their full report and stakeholder-specific briefs.

- Alan asked whether the research explored visa extension models, such as Australia’s system where travellers can extend their stay by working in specific sectors like agriculture. The team agreed to investigate whether a similar approach could be adapted locally.
- Sukhpaul expressed support for incentive-based strategies to retain workers and attract younger people to the sector. He suggested a government-led framework that could include tuition credits, infrastructure funding or reimbursements, and Employment Insurance changes - such as counting industry-specific hours as double for insurable time.
- Madeleine recommended that the stakeholder briefs be tailored to each level of government (federal, provincial, and local) based on their respective areas of responsibility.

5. MEMBER ROUNDTABLE

Not all members were able to provide updates due to time constraints.

- Kate shared that the Wine Grape Industry Task Force has entered the implementation phase, with six working groups including one focused on organizational alignment. The climate change working group is being formed around innovation clusters for key issues like drought and cold mitigation to develop holistic solutions. SWBC will be hosting field days in partnership with the BCGA and Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The BC Wine Grape Council’s AGM will be held virtually in August.
- Sukhpaul reported that the BCCA is currently hosting a delegation of buyers from China, who are touring packing houses, farms, and marketers. The association is also exploring trade opportunities with the Philippines and working toward an agreement with CFIA.
- Adrian noted that BCFGA will host the Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Canada’s Apple Working Group on July 9 and 10, with tours planned at the Summerland Research and Development Centre and the SIR Program’s rearing facility in Osoyoos. BCFGA and the BC Cherry Association have jointly written to Minister Popham regarding Tier 3 diesel engine restrictions under the Tree Fruit Climate Resiliency Program. Adrian will also be meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Sandhu to discuss potential labour policy changes.
- Philip shared that payments for the Climate Change Response Fund were issued this week. He also noted the recent departure of the Ministry’s Plant Pathologist.
 - In response, the group discussed drafting a joint letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food’s Plant and Animal Health Branch to emphasize the importance of this role to the industry.

- Michelle mentioned the upcoming vote on the proposed Apple Marketing Commission.
- Alan shared that during recent visits to farms and packing houses across the valley, he observed a high level of optimism among producers—a welcome and refreshing change.

6. REGULAR BUSINESS

6.1 CCLSP Committees & Communications

Shelby provided an update on the recent BC Fruit Works marketing campaign. Updates included removing job matching language from the website and launching a new Jobs page linking job seekers to regional employment directories. A “Worker’s Guide to Okanagan Agriculture” was also developed to help job seekers understand what to expect when working in the tree fruit and wine grape sectors. The campaign is now underway to promote seasonal opportunities and drive traffic to the Jobs page, where applicants can connect directly with employers.

6.2 Current Cross-Commodity Projects

Kellie directed council members to her memo for updates on current CCLSP projects. She noted that the BC DAS Operations project is over budget by \$13,440 due to high exchange rates and requested a budget increase to cover the shortfall.

Moved by: Adrian Arts

Seconded by: Tyrion Miskell

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves a budget uplift of \$13,440 for the BC DAS Operations project to cover the additional cost incurred for the Washington State University contract due to the high US dollar exchange rate.”

CARRIED

Philip abstained from voting on the motion.

6.3 Cross-Commodity Project Development & Funding Applications

Kellie reviewed the stabilization fund, outlining allocations to date and proposing funding allocations for the remainder of the budget.

a) Local Government Education & Outreach

The application was tabled so that funding could be directed to the Production Guide Modernization project (submitted as a late agenda item). Local government engagement will proceed under the general CCLSP operating budget instead.

Moved by: Madeleine van Roechoudt

Seconded by: Alan Gatzke

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council acknowledges that a TFISP application was not submitted for the Local Government Education and Outreach project and approves the initiative to proceed under the CCLSP general budget instead.”

CARRIED

Philip abstained from voting on the motion.

b) Sterile Insect Release Program Operations and Research

Michelle walked the Council through the application. The SIR Program is requesting bridge funding to supplement grower contributions to operations while the SIR Board and staff continue to boost sales revenue and increase tax rates. SIR staff will also complete a high-level review of sterile insect techniques (SIT) available for other pests of concern and share that information with the advisory council.

- The group identified oriental fruit moth, climbing cutworms, and spotted lanternfly as additional pests worth researching for SIT.
- Madeleine voiced strong support for SIR, noting she has not needed to spray for codling moth in six years. She emphasized the program's success lies in its mandatory, area-wide approach. She also highlighted the challenges U.S. competitors have faced in developing their own rearing facility due to a shift away from nuclear sources - resulting in Washington purchasing from SIR instead.
- Walter expressed his support for SIR as an organic grower.
- Alan asked about SIR's five-year financial plan. Michelle explained that the requested funding would help SIR continue to build reserves for a large capital expenditure coming up in 2028 while still offering full services to the growers.
- Kate recommended the Government of Canada's Agri-Assurance Program as a potential funding source after 2028.
- Adrian asked whether SIR has considered the implementation of previously suggested diversification initiatives, such as servicing BCDAS weather stations, starling control, and trap monitoring for cherries. Michelle said the current focus is on expanding sales in the Pacific Northwest but welcomed further discussion on those ideas.
- Sukhpaul asked about barriers to increasing U.S. sales. Michelle explained that a contractor is supporting 2025 sales efforts, and although they are currently working with a single distributor, sales are steadily growing. She noted that orders are placed each fall for the following growing season, and because sales occur only once per year, demand must be confirmed well in advance. While the facility has capacity to produce more sterile moths, current demand has not yet reached that level.

Moved by: Madeleine van Roechoudt

Seconded by: Adrian Arts

"THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Financial Support for Producer Portion of SIR Program Costs TFISP application submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program with a maximum funding contribution of \$400,000 and a project timeline of July 1, 2025, to November 30, 2026."

CARRIED

Michelle and Philip abstained from voting on the motion.

c) ABAsyne Abiotic Stress Demonstration Trials for Cherries

Kellie walked the Council through the project application and due diligence form, noting it was originally submitted in May but required additional information before moving forward. Sukhpaul provided an update on BCCA's follow-up meeting with ABAsyne Bioscience. The company has already conducted significant research on grapes in Ontario and is now looking to focus on cherries. The application proposes funding the first two years of the project, with the BC Cherry Association funding the remaining two years.

- Kellie recommended confirming at the beginning of the project whether a research agreement is needed.
- Philip asked if participants for the trials have been identified. Kellie responded that this would be done during the project start-up phase.
- Kate suggested establishing a formal agreement with ABZyne Bioscience that includes an option to withdraw after the first two years. She expressed concern about BCCA committing to fund the final two years if the initial phase is not successful.
- Adrian voiced support for funding research that delivers practical benefits to growers, particularly in terms of cost savings and increased resiliency.

Moved by: Walter Makepeace

Seconded by: Adrian Arts

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the ABZyne Abiotic Stress Demonstration Trials for Cherries TFISP application submitted by the Okanagan-Kootenay Sterile Insect Release Program with a maximum funding contribution of \$131,250 and a project timeline of July 1, 2025, to November 30, 2026.”

CARRIED

Phil abstained from voting on the motion.

d) Tree Fruit Production Guide Modernization

Kellie presented the application submitted by the BC Fruit Growers' Association. Adrian provided background on the Production Guide, noting it is a joint initiative between industry and the Ministry. The guide needs a major overhaul and also requires regular updates, a dedicated steering committee, and a new memorandum of understanding with the province to clarify responsibilities.

- Kate expressed support for the project and emphasized the importance of aligning it with the Grape Production Guide. Adrian agreed, noting the need for consistency and functional alignment across guides.
- Michelle reminded Adrian to ensure the guide is fully integrated with BCDAS.
- Alan suggested including chemical cost data to enable per-acre analysis and support informed decision-making. Adrian replied that the BCFGa is looking into providing this service to its members.

Moved by: Madeleine van Roehoudt

Seconded by: Kate Durisek

“THAT the Cross-Commodity Advisory Council approves the Tree Fruit Production Guide Modernization TFISP application submitted by the BC Fruit Growers' Association with a maximum funding contribution of \$100,000 and a project timeline of July 15, 2025, to March 31, 2026.”

CARRIED

Adrian and Philip abstained from voting on the motion.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

The next Advisory Council meeting will be held in person on November 27, 2025, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm.

MEMORANDUM

CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
November 27, 2025
Agenda No. 5.1

To: Cross-Commodity Advisory Council

November 10, 2025

From: Shelby Austen, CCLSP Admin. & Comms. Manager

Subject: Update on CCLSP Committees and Communications

Advisory Council & Committees:

After reviewing alternate meeting locations to help share the travel burden for Advisory Council members who live outside of Kelowna, we determined that RDCO remains the most practical option. Other venues would increase costs by approximately \$600 and offer limited capacity for hybrid participation.

We recently decided to merge the Extension and Innovation & Technology committees to reduce duplication, minimize meeting fatigue, and improve alignment across industry initiatives. The newly combined committee held its first meeting on November 4, with 21 participants in attendance. The session focused on roundtable updates following a busy season and initial planning for the 2026 roadmap workshop. This workshop will build on the 2025 roadmap and support a more coordinated approach to extension across organizations and commodities. The in-person meeting will take place on January 13 in Kelowna, replacing the previously held two-day Extension Practitioners Conference.

Communications:

Over the past few months, my communications efforts have focused on completing the Labour Research Project with KPU. All final deliverables are included in item 5.3. A news release highlighting key findings has also been prepared and will be issued along with the announcement of the Regional Labour Coordinator application, if approved.

I also completed research and drafted a template letter of support related to Health Canada's review of the Pest Control Products Regulations. The consultation addressed proposed amendments that would exclude Class 3B lasers from authorization. In our submission, we encouraged the Pest Management Regulatory Agency to reconsider this exclusion and explore a conditional authorization pathway to reduce confusion and barriers for producers. Letters were submitted by the BC Fruit Growers' Association, BC Wine Grape Council, and BC Poultry Association.

In addition, we completed a [progress report](#) for the first two quarters of 2025 and developed a [stakeholder survey](#) to assess CCLSP's impact and reach. The survey will be circulated to all stakeholders later this month, and the feedback will help inform the 2025 Annual Review, which we'll begin work on in December.

We have also maintained a strong presence at industry events, including Cherry Day at AAFC, the BCFGA Grower Town Halls in Oliver and Lake Country, and Grape Day at UBCO.

Lastly, we were approached by the City of Kelowna to collaborate on another local government bus tour. The event will take place in April 2026.

CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
November 27, 2025
Agenda No. 5.2

MEMORANDUM

To: Cross-Commodity Advisory Council

November 14, 2025

From: Kellie Garcia, Project Director

Subject: Stabilization Fund: Financial Update and Proposed Allocations

In July 2025, IAF provided me with a current account reconciliation that shows a balance of **\$666,952.65**.

TFISP Account Reconciliation			
Balance in Investment Account Mar 31 2025			3,121,397.96
Less Payment Transfers April - July 15 2025			(712,531.03)
Add Interest earned April - July 31 2025			23,868.84
Balance in Investment Account July 15 2025			2,432,735.77
Tree Fruit Marketing Program			758,853.12
OKSIR Balance July 15, 2025			1,673,882.65
Outstanding Commitments			
OKSIR			808,930.00
BCFGA			73,000.00
Total Outstanding Commitments			881,930.00
Administration Fee @ 4%			125,000.00
Remaining Funds Available for 2025/26			\$ 666,952.65

If the Advisory Council approves the applications before you today the remaining balance will be **\$158,478**.

Balance at Jul 31, 2025	\$ 666,953
Proposed project	Cost
Regional labour coordination	\$ 352,550
PAC points tracking modernization	\$ 55,125
Bylaw review for industry associations	\$ 100,800
Remaining balance	\$ 158,478

MEMORANDUM

CCLSP
Advisory Council Meeting
November 27, 2025
Agenda No. 5.3

To: Cross-Commodity Advisory Council

November 14, 2025

From: Kellie Garcia, Project Director & Shelby Austen, Admin and Comms Manager

Subject: Update on Cross-Commodity Projects

Report on Budgets

CCLSP General Operating Expenses

	2025 EXPENSES						
	2025 Projected Budget	Q1 (Jan to Mar)	Q2 (April to June)	Q3 (Jul to Sep)	Q4 (Oct to Dec)	To Date	Budget Remaining
Communications	\$ 4,000	\$ 143	\$ 5,405	\$ 2,416	\$ 187	\$ 7,965	-\$ 3,965
Meetings & Travel	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,983	\$ 1,506	\$ 3,915	\$ 567	\$ 8,404	\$ 1,596
Employee Expenses	\$ 213,650	\$ 46,530	\$ 56,612	\$ 52,792	\$ 29,898	\$ 155,934	\$ 57,716
Supplies, Software & Subscriptions	\$ 4,000	\$ 195	\$ 122	\$ 90	\$ 1,036	\$ 408	\$ 3,592
Rent	\$ 3,000	\$ -	\$ 2,959	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,959	\$ 41
Contract Services	\$ 10,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000
Contract Admin (SIR 8.5 %)	\$ 20,795	\$ 4,237	\$ 5,661	\$ 5,033	\$ 2,694	\$ 14,932	\$ 5,863
TOTAL	\$ 265,445	\$ 54,089	\$ 72,266	\$ 64,246	\$ 34,382	\$ 190,601	\$ 74,844

Current Administered Projects

	2025 EXPENSES							
	Budget	2024	Q1 (Jan to Mar)	Q2 (April to June)	Q3 (Jul to Sep)	Q4 (Oct to Dec)	To Date	Budget Remaining
Agriculture Tours	\$ 14,517	\$ 6,407	\$ 8,109	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,517	\$ -
BC DAS Operations	\$ 300,545	\$ 18	\$ 66,825	\$ 6,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -	\$ 90,843	\$ 209,702
BC DAS to Wine Grapes	\$ 115,500	\$ -	\$ 4,318	\$ 5,682	\$ 4,125	\$ 8,972	\$ 23,097	\$ 92,403
BC Fruit Works	\$ 143,302	\$ 104,107	\$ 39,195	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 143,302	\$ -
2025 Extension Conference	\$ 31,555	\$ 1,000	\$ 30,555	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 31,555	\$ -
Labour Supply Research	\$ 109,270	\$ 64,631	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 44,640	\$ -	\$ 109,270	\$ -
Global Club Variety Access	\$ 45,714	\$ 17,143	\$ 28,571	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45,714	\$ -
Research Briefs	\$ 143,850	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27,400	\$ 27,400	\$ 54,800	\$ 89,050
Herbicide Tech. & Extension	\$ 36,750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,750
ABAzyme Trials	\$ 131,250	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ -	\$ 60,000	\$ 71,250
Bird Deterrents	\$ 15,407	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,407
TOTAL	\$ 1,087,660	\$ 193,305	\$ 177,573	\$ 11,682	\$ 154,165	\$ 36,372	\$ 573,097	\$ 514,562

Total Cross-Commodity Funding (includes current and completed projects)

	Total Revenue	Received to date	Remaining
CCLSP	\$ 855,658	\$ 599,730	\$ 255,928
Agriculture Tours	\$ 14,517	\$ 14,517	\$ -
BC DAS	\$ 300,545	\$ 200,000	\$ 100,545
BC DAS to Wine Grapes	\$ 115,500	\$ 46,200	\$ 69,300
BC Fruit Works	\$ 143,302	\$ 143,302	\$ -
Extension Conference	\$ 31,555	\$ 31,555	\$ -
Labour Supply Research	\$ 109,270	\$ 91,488	\$ 17,782
Global Club Variety Access	\$ 45,714	\$ 45,714	\$ -
Research Briefs	\$ 143,850	\$ 57,540	\$ 86,310
Herbicide Tech. & Extension	\$ 36,750	\$ -	\$ 36,750
ABAzyme Trials	\$ 131,250	\$ 60,000	\$ 71,250
Bird Deterrents	\$ 15,407	\$ -	\$ 15,407
TOTAL	\$ 1,943,318	\$ 1,290,046	\$ 653,272

Report on Progress

ABAzyme Research and Trials

CCLSP is administering this project on behalf of the BC Cherry Association. The project provides funding to ABAzyme Bioscience to investigate the efficacy of natural ABA and tetralone ABA analogs in regulating sweet cherry dormancy, manipulating bud phenology, and mitigating cold damage. Kellie continues to meet monthly with Jerome, company CEO. The first instalment of funding is being used to manufacture and scale up the product in preparation for field trials next year. The research team is in discussions with Mitacs to bring on a post-doc for the project. Researchers at Cornell University have agreed to include the product in their field studies and discussions are happening with Penn State. Product certification is required before the research team can do trials in actual orchards; the team is expecting word on that certification at the end of January. ABAzyme Bioscience is also completing research work for wine grapes and peaches with separate investments and funding sources.

BC Access to Plant Materials

A request has been submitted to IAF to extend this project to January 31, 2026. Most deliverables have been completed, and the consultant is finalizing outstanding communications materials, including an importation infographic and oriental fruit moth articles for the BC DAS website. Two activities remain: a follow-up call with Cameron Nursery, LLC to confirm potential participation in 2026, and site visits to nurseries in Wenatchee. Both will be completed by year-end. The final project report will be presented at the January Advisory Council meeting.

BC DAS Operations

The BC DAS core project team held a debrief meeting on October 21 and the steering committee is meeting on November 3. The 2025 season went well overall, with no weather station outages or issues. Model delivery was generally smooth, except for missing spray table information due to the outdated production guide, particularly for phenology models. Kellie and Molly are working on an operations and staffing plan for next year. Shelby has compiled key performance indicators for the 2025 season, including adoption and usage, top models, and station coverage. These results provide insight into how the system

is being used and will be summarized to track impact and inform next steps. Feedback from BC DAS users will also be collected over the next couple of months via phone interviews and a survey.

BC DAS Expansion to Wine Grapes

See Attachment 1.

Bird Deterrent Education and Outreach

The bird deterrent project has been transferred from BCGA to CCLSP and has been rescoped to strengthen deliverables. ACARN will be contracted to complete a regulatory review of products approved for use in BC (including any proposed changes) and to develop a resource book and practical guidelines for producers, which will also include revamped starling control resources. Twirling Umbrellas will be contracted to produce short videos and social media content to extend the project's reach. The deliverables also include a "workshop segment" on bird deterrent methods and project findings for use in partnership with other important industry initiatives such as BC DAS and Sustainable Winegrowing BC.

Herbicide Best Practices, Technology, and Extension

The purpose of this project is to investigate and share technological advances and best practices to improve herbicide application and product understanding and use. Molly Thurston is working with Ken Sapsford to deliver demonstration trials, outreach and extension activities, and a new sprayer technology.

Labour Supply Research Project

The final report and briefs for this project can be found [here](#). The report contains 35 recommendations to improve conditions and outcomes for employers and workers in the industry. Any future work on regional labour should consider these recommendations.

Research Briefs and Videos

Shelby continues to meet monthly with ACARN, most recently on November 6. Nine research brief topics have been confirmed for development, with four completed and reviewed for research accuracy, three in draft stage with ongoing coordination with researchers, and two remaining to be initiated. Topics include extreme temperature tolerance, rootstock optimization, fruit quality, diseases, and pest management. A video strategy is also in development, with planned topics such as sunburned apples, smoke taint in grapes, sprayable products for extreme temperatures, leafhoppers, and grapevine trunk disease. The next step involves working with commodity leads to identify producers willing to participate, with filming scheduled to begin in spring and summer 2026.

Tree Fruit Production Guide Modernization

The Tree Fruit Production Guide has long served as a trusted horticultural reference. While its content remains relevant, the current format no longer aligns with user expectations shaped by today's digital information landscape. The vision of this project, managed by the BCFGa, is to transform the Guide into a centralized, digital platform that meets the evolving needs of growers, advisors, and industry stakeholders. The update will include assessing and reorganizing content, identifying gaps, improving backend maintenance, redesign of layout and interface, and establishing a long-term maintenance plan.