

Professional Development Coordinator's Report - 2022

Dear Registrants of the BCIA FV Branch:

The branch hosted 4PD events in 2022; 3 in person events and one virtual event.

1) Impact of Catastrophic Flooding on Certification of Affected CanadaGAP Program Participants- March 3, 2022 (18 Registrants)

CanadaGAP representatives presented their perspective on how the CanadaGAP Food Safety Program would expect affected growers to respond to catastrophic flooding events in 2021, to mitigate the potential food safety risks.

Presenters:

Heather Gale, Executive Director for CandaGap

Amber Bailey, Technical Manager for CanadaGAP

2) Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School Learning Tour- June 15, 2022 (18 Registrants)

Tsawwassen First Nation Farm School (TFNFS) is a partnership between Kwantlen Polytechnic University and the Tsawwassen First Nation. It is a 20-acre certified organic vegetable and livestock farm located on Tsawwassen First Nation treaty land.

Each year, the farm hosts a cohort of 15 aspiring farmers for an immersive 7-month educational program that combines theory with practical application to create a unique learning environment. The goal of this program is to prepare students for a successful career in regenerative agriculture.

Farm Tour Guide: Anna Westhaver, TFNFS Education program assistant

3) Qualitree Nursery Tour- August 27, 2022 (14 Registrants)

Qualitree encompasses just over 95 acres of land with almost 17 acres of greenhouse production area. Qualitree utilizes industry-leading planting machines, computer-controlled irrigation, and cutting-edge climate control systems. They specialize in floriculture. The event included a presentation provided by the nursery and followed by a tour of the operation.

Presenter:

Gerrit Rozendaal, Chief Executive Officer and his team

4) 2021 Atmospheric River Disaster Impacts on the Sumas Prairie and Lessons Learned - Nov 5, 2022 (79 Registrants)

Professional Development Coordinator's Report – Fraser Valley Branch

The Vancouver and Fraser-Valley Branch co-hosted their first in-person all-day PD event since the start of the pandemic. The event consisted of a series of panel sessions on changing climate conditions and the impacts and lessons learned from the disastrous atmospheric river event that flooded Abbotsford's Sumas Prairie.

Session topics focused on:

- What atmospheric river events are and future climate condition projections for BC
- Impacts of flood water on surface water and soil
- Impacts on blueberry plantings and their recovery
- Emergency mass carcass disposal

Presenters included:

- **Dr. Elizaveta Malinina (Liza), Research Scientist**, Canadian Centre for Climate Modeling and Analysis (CCCma), Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- **Carrington Pomeroy, Physical Scientist**, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- **Liz Freyman R.P.Bio.**, Water Quality Section Head, Regional Operations Branch, Environmental Protection Division, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- **Geoff Hughes-Games, Associate, Senior Soil Scientist, and Regulatory Specialist**, McTavish Resource & Management Consultants
- **Eric Gerbrandt, Research Director** BC Blueberry Council
- **Jake Turek, Waste Management Engineer**, Agriculture Resource Division, Ministry of Agriculture and Food

On behalf of the branch executive, I would like to thank all the speakers/presenters who accepted our invitation and shared their knowledge. If registrants have ideas for a PD event or topics you would be interested in learning more about please reach out to your branch executive committee.

Thank you

Submitted by:

Rashmi Gaire, PAg

Professional Development Coordinator – Fraser Valley Branch