



**OKANAGAN BRANCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023-2024**

Thursday February 15, 2024 at 2:30pm
Coast Capri Hotel, Kelowna, BC

AGENDA

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	PRESENTER
2:30pm	Traditional Territory Acknowledgement	Maureen Grainger
2:40pm	Welcome & Call to Order	Theresa Loewen
2:40pm	Confirmation of Notice and Quorum	Theresa Loewen
2:40pm	Motion to Approve the Agenda	Theresa Loewen
2:45pm	Motion to Approve Minutes Past (2023)	Theresa Loewen
2:45pm	Branch Executive Reports <input type="checkbox"/> President’s Report <input type="checkbox"/> Articling Coordinator’s Report <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Development Coordinator’s Report <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer’s Report	Theresa Loewen Catherine Hayes Adrian Arts & Lindsay King Paige Munro
3:15pm	Provincial Report – CEO & Registrar	Ryan O’Grady/Jessica Morgan
3:30pm	Articling Introductions and Graduate Ethics Oaths	Catherine Hayes
4:00pm	Branch Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Achievement Award <input type="checkbox"/> Farm Family of the Year Award <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Year Recognition <input type="checkbox"/> 50 Year Recognition	Andrew Kuiper
4:15pm	Election of Officers <input type="checkbox"/> President Elect <input type="checkbox"/> PD Coordinators <input type="checkbox"/> Articling Coordinator <input type="checkbox"/> Directors North, South, Central <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Members at Large <input type="checkbox"/> Student Representative	Theresa Loewen
4:30pm	Adjournment	Theresa Loewen

1. **Call to order:** Theresa called to Order at 6:42pm
2. **Introductions & Traditional Territory Acknowledgement**
 - Quorum confirmed - 82 members registered and attending AGM
 - Territorial acknowledgement led by Maureen Grainger
 - Thank you to sponsors for the event
3. **Review and approve agenda for this meeting**

(AK, CW) Agenda adopted
4. **Review and approve minutes from last year AGM**

(AK, SL) Minutes accepted
5. **Reports of Officers**
 - a. **President’s Report - Theresa Loewen**
 - i. 231 members in Okanagan Branch
 - ii. Report posted in AGM package, year has included learning about right to practice, etc,
 - b. **Articling Coordinator - Gisele Rehe**
 - i. Report provided in AGM package
 - c. **Professional Development (PD) Coordinators - Adrian Arts & Lyndsay King**
 - i. Able to do face to face PD events again; have hosted a number of events. Report provided as part of AGM package.
 - d. **Treasurer’s Report - Paige Munro**
 - i. Account balance not accurate because sponsorships not shown on balance and was missing information from head office. Presented 2022 and proposed 2023 budget. Reports in AGM package.

Motion to Accept 2023 budget - AK - motion carried
6. **Presentation from BCIA CEO JP Ellson**
 - District 2 representatives for Board - Jessica Morgan and William Shaw
 - Provincial AGM - Kamloops - April 20-22, 2023 - Pre-conference events include ethics workshop and last chance to do required Indigenous training - Apr 22 is field trips and AGM
 - Importance of definition and meaning of “reserved practice”
 - 12 areas of practice
 - New designation of LLAg - Limited Licence Agrologist
 - Working on curriculum for Level 2 Indigenous training
 - Board working on new strategic plan for 2024

7. Branch Awards - Andrew Kuiper

- 25 year Recognition Award - Phil Croteau, PAg
- 50 year Recognition Award - Richard King, PAg (Retired)
- Lifetime Achievement Award - George Geldart, PAg
- Farm Family Award - Lidder Family

8. PAg Certificate Presentations and Oath

- 8 new PAgS completed Oath and received certificates presented by Gisele Rehe

9. Elections for 2023 Executive

- Automatic Transitional
 - President Theresa Loewen & President Elect - Andrew Kuiper
 - District 2 Board Members - Jessica Morgan & William Shaw
- Nominations for 2023 Executive - by Acclamation:
 - PD Coordinators - Adrian Arts, Lindsay King, & Loren Price
 - Secretary - Melissa Graydon
 - Treasurer - Paige Munro
 - Director South - Christina Forbes
 - Director Central - Maureen Grainger
 - Director North - Giele Rehe
 - Articling Coordinator - Catherine Hayes
 - Student Representative - Zailie Hoff
 - Members at Large - Carl Withler, Harmanjit Dhadli, & Alana Crump

Motion carried to Elect members to executive by acclamation as listed above

Adjourn: 8:27pm



BCIA Okanagan Branch President's Report – 2024

Welcome everyone, it's wonderful to meet in person again this year!

Every year when I write this report, I reflect on the events of the previous year and take stock, considering the main issues facing agrologists. Looking back over the last three years there have been incredible challenges. Pandemics, flooding, drought, wildfires – it sounds like the premise for an apocalyptic blockbuster film. Yet these are the everyday challenges that face agrologists today. My hope is that by gathering together and supporting each other, sharing ideas and participating in discussions such as our panel today, that we are stronger together and can collaboratively create solutions to better improve our resiliency as individuals and as members of the agrology community.

In the spirit of this, Professional Development opportunities are one of the ways that we as the Okanagan Branch can help facilitate opportunities for learning and networking in our community. Some highlights from last year include Grazing for fine fuel management pilot site field tour, a collaboration with the BC Cattlemen's Association, Kalamalka Forestry Centre tour and social at Marten's Brew Pub, and many Lunch and Learn sessions.

Membership in the Okanagan Branch has grown. Since last year's AGM, we have 255 members, which represents an increase of 24 members from the previous year. This includes 168 Professional Agrologists, 24 Articling Agrologists, 8 Technical Agrologists, 13 Articling Technical Agrologists, 11 Student Members, 1 Limited Licence Member, 9 Agrologists on Leave, and 21 Retired Agrologists.

I would like to thank the 2023 executive members for their volunteered time, hard work, and dedication to the Okanagan Branch: Andrew Kuiper (President Elect), Adrian Arts and Lindsay King (PD Coordinators), Catherine Hayes (Articling Coordinator), Melissa Graydon (Secretary), Paige Munro (Treasurer), Maureen Grainger (Director Central), Christina Forbes (Director South), Gisele Rehe (Director North), and Alana Crump, Carl Withler and Harmanjit Dhadli (Members at Large). Thank you all, I have enjoyed working with each and every one of you, and truly appreciate your contributions to the Okanagan Branch!

The Okanagan Branch is also lucky to have District 2 Board Member William Shaw and BCIA PD Coordinator Jasmine Wong – thank you both! And a final thanks to the BCIA Head Office for supporting our branch, answering our many questions, and guiding us through the year.

I am so grateful for the opportunity you have given me to lead this branch these past three years, and I look forward now to passing the torch to our incoming President, Andrew Kuiper!

Respectfully submitted.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Loewen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Theresa Loewen, P.Ag.

**ARTICLING REPORT
BCIA OKANAGAN BRANCH AGM
FEBRUARY 15, 2024**

It was another successful year for our Articling members, with the addition of new AAgs, ATAs, and student members, and with a number of new graduates moving on to receive their P.Ag and RTAg designations. The Branch also added its first LLAgs this year. The BCIA Okanagan Branch now has 255 members, including student members.

Statistics:

14 New Articling Members since last Branch AGM			16 New Graduates since last Branch AGM			6 New Student Member since last Branch AGM	
Reese	Bechtloff	ATAg	Ayalign	Adal	PAg	Chris	Batbatan
Jeffry	Corrie	ATAg	Jason	Azzam	PAg	Teya	Grenier
Luke	Dimler	ATAg	Tobin	Benedict	PAg	Zailie	Hoff
Joshua	Enns	ATAg	Lewys	Bevan	PAg	Ainsley	Lirondelle
Elisa	Godard	AAg	Geoffrey	Bradley	PAg	Sally	Ruoss
John	Hubensky	AAg	Richard	de Jong	TAg	Rebecca	Sketchley
Anna	Hynd	AAg	Aaron	Godin	PAg		
Renee	Larsen	AAg	David	Lee	PAg		
Ahmed	Lasisi	AAg	Heidi	Lorch	TAg		
Kris	Needham	ATAg	Taylor	McRae	PAg		
Samantha	Nicholls	AAg	Andrew	Midwood	PAg		
Sarah	O'Brien	AAg	Heather	Short	PAg		
Shay	Steiger	ATAg	Douglas	Stevenson	TAg		
Sarah	Trillo	ATAg	Stanley	Swales	PAg		
			Jessica	Washtock	PAg		

The PD coordinators organized and held several webinars and in person events over 2023 including the Kalamalka Forestry Centre and Vernon Seed Orchard Company tour and two holiday social gathering events.

We look forward to another year of new membership and PD events!

Respectfully,

Catherine Hayes, P.Ag, EP, BC-CESCL, Okanagan Branch Articling Coordinator

**Professional Development Coordinators' Report
BCIA Okanagan Branch AGM
February 15, 2024**

Over the past year, the Okanagan Branch has made efforts to provide members with a variety of meaningful professional development and networking opportunities. Including:

Networking Events – See Appendix A for event Posters

- **Socials** – In person events held in conjunction with technical sessions or field tours. Participation has been great at these events with 15-30 people attending each event.
 - I. Kalamalka Forestry Centre tour and social at Marten's Brew Pub: October 3, 2023
 - II. North Okanagan Christmas apple discussion and social at Cambium Cider Co in Vernon: December 07, 2023
 - III. South Okanagan Christmas apple discussion and social at Summerland Heritage Cider Co: December 14, 2023

Online Technical Sessions - See Appendix B for event Posters

- **Lunch and Learn** (anywhere between 20-200 registered participants per session)
 - i. Root rot and wilting complex of raspberry: February 8, 2023
 - ii. The Challenge of Accidentally Introduced Insect Natural Enemies for the Practice of Biological Control: March 8, 2023
 - iii. Dams and gas – exploring through B.C.: May 10, 2023
 - iv. The BC soil information finder tool/SIFT: February 8, 2024

Field Visits - See Appendix C for event Posters

- I. Okanagan Branch bus tour to visit the OgoGrow compost facility, the Glenmore methane capture facility and Jealous Fruits cherry packing house: February 11, 2023
- II. Grazing for fine fuel management pilot site field tour – collaboration with the BC Cattlemen's Association: June 28, 2023

While we continued to offer some online sessions in 2023, we were happy to see members out at in-person social events and field sessions. The Networking events were a great opportunity to get to know other agrologists in the Branch in a less formal context. The PD and social events at Cambium Cider and Summerland Heritage Cider were a great excuse to learn about the local apple and cider industries and support local businesses while networking with colleagues.

In 2023 we continued with the Lunch and Learn series through collaboration with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Food. We offered four Lunch and Learn sessions over 2023/24. Participation was excellent for these events, with 20-40 participants per session.

We hosted two tours, including a tour of the Kalamalka Forestry Centre and a bus tour in the Kelowna area, featuring the OgoGrow compost facility, the Glenmore methane capture facility and the Jealous Fruits cherry packing facility. We also collaborated with the BC Cattlemen's Association to host a field visit at the BCCA's grazing for fine fuel management pilot site in Kelowna. The tour of the Kalamalka Forestry Centre showcased advances in forest management in B.C., including provincial breeding programs and seed production. The bus tour featured advances in local waste management and a state-of-the-art cherry production and packing facility. We were excited to collaborate with the BCCA and show members how livestock grazing of fine fuels is being utilized to lower wildfire risk in high-value Interface areas. The beef on a bun was a perk!

Thank you to Okanagan members who participated in PD events this year and many thanks also to those who provided PD event suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrian Arts, P.Ag and Lindsay King, P.Ag

Appendix A - Networking Events

Kalamalka Forestry Centre Tour and Social at Marten's Brew Pub

October 3, 2023, 2 - 4pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

3401 Reservoir Rd, Vernon, BC V1B 2C7

Join BCIA at the Kalamalka Forestry Centre and Vernon Seed Orchard Company for a tour and behind the scenes look at the forest breeding programs, seed orchards and seed extraction facility. Meet at the parking lot on 3401 Reservoir Rd.

Following the tour, meet at Marten Brewing Co. (2933a 30th Ave, Vernon) for an optional informal social. Snacks will be provided; drinks will be at the expense of attendees. If you are an AAg, this will be an excellent opportunity to network and meet with other members of the Okanagan Branch.

Okanagan North Christmas social – Cambium Cider Co transition to organic and SIR program

December 7, 2023, 12 - 3pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

Cambium Cider Co, 4667 E Vernon Rd, Vernon, BC V1B 3H9

Join us for an afternoon of festive fun, food, cider and enlightening discussions at Cambium Cider Co for the Okanagan Branch North Christmas Social. Immerse yourself in the holiday cheer while gaining valuable insights into the transition to organic farming and the sterile moth program.

Cambium Cider Co's journey to organic farming involves a fundamental rethinking of agricultural practices, emphasizing ecological balance, soil health, and the reduction of synthetic inputs. Farmers transitioning to organic methods commit to eschewing synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and genetically modified organisms, instead embracing natural alternatives and sustainable farming techniques.

Melissa Dobernigg (Owner and Cidermaker) and Dave Dobernigg (Orchardist) will discuss the benefits of transitioning to organic farming. Organic practices coupled with the implementation of the Sterile Moth Program for pest management, offers a compelling case study at the intersection of ecology, agriculture, and innovation. These practices contribute to soil fertility, reduce water pollution, and promote biodiversity by avoiding the use of harmful chemicals. Additionally, organic farms often foster healthier ecosystems, leading to improved resilience against pests and diseases.

After the PD discussion, you will have the opportunity to try some branch to bottle cider and indulge in a delightful farm to table lunch. Cambium Cider Co. offers a variety of menu options,

including vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free choices. Please make sure you let us know of any dietary concerns and allergies when you register for this event.

Okanagan South Christmas social – Summerland Heritage Cider Co apple growing systems and cider production

December 14, 2023, 3:30 - 8pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

Summerland Heritage Cider Co. 3113 Johnson St, Summerland

Join us at Summerland Cider for a fun holiday social gathering and an evening of education and exploration in the art and science of orcharding and cider crafting. Attendees will gain a deep understanding of the scientific principles governing orchard management and cider crafting, contributing to the advancement of the industry and the cultivation of excellence in apple-related enterprises.

The roots of Summerland Heritage Cider Company go back over 20 years to three friends, all orchardists growing apples in Summerland, British Columbia. As is common in the apple business, the end of each season saw a considerable number of apples left on the trees after the harvest was finished. Some of these apples were blemished, some lacked colour, and some were simply missed by the picking crew. Rather than let these apples fall to the ground, they decided to use them for something productive, and what's more productive than cider? Come and hear the rest of their story whilst enjoying a buffet-style artisanal charcuterie spread and snacks. Drinks will be available for purchase.

Appendix B – Technical Sessions

Lunch and Learn Series

1. **Root rot and wilting complex of raspberry: Insight into pathogen biology and management option.**

February 8, 2023, 12 - 1pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

Online_ Zoom

Cost: Free; pre-registration is required (BCIA Registrants)

Location: Virtual - Preregistration required for BCIA Registrants

Join Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) and the Ministry of Land Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS), and BCIA in a series of professional talks. These sessions are held virtually on the second Wednesday of each month, 12–1 PM.

This presentation will provide an overview of the root rot and complex wilting problem in B.C. and other raspberry-growing areas of the world. We present our research findings on pathogen genotypic diversity, phenotypic diversity, host resistance, and management options to protect crops from this disease complex.

Dr. Rishi Burlakoti is a Research Scientist - Plant Pathology at Agassiz Research and Development Center, Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC). His research programs focus on diseases of high-value horticultural crops, including berry crops and field and greenhouse vegetable crops of British Columbia. Dr. Burlakoti is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Land and Food System, University of British Columbia (UBC), and in Plant Agriculture, University of Guelph. Dr. Burlakoti is a President of the Professional Pest Management Association of British Columbia. Dr. Burlakoti serves on the editorial boards of several journals, including 'Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology' and Frontiers in Plant Science. Dr. Burlakoti is a member of the Canadian Phytopathological Society, the American Phytopathological Society, and the International Society for Horticultural Sciences. Dr. Burlakoti earned Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from North Dakota State University, USA. Before joining AAFC, Dr. Burlakoti worked as a Plant Pathologist at World Vegetable Center and led the Mycology and Bacteriology units at the Center's headquarters in Taiwan. He also worked as a Research Lead for an Agricultural Consulting Company, Weather Innovations Consulting LP, in Canada. Dr. Burlakoti led several applied research projects on diversified crops, including vegetables, field crops, and fruits, to improve disease/pest management capacity and increase crop productivity.

Sanjib Sapkota, a Ph.D. candidate at Simon Fraser University (SFU), Sanjib, has been working in Agassiz Research and Development Centre under the co-supervision of Dr. Rishi R. Burlakoti (AAFC) and Dr. Zamir K. Punja (SFU). Mr. Sapkota has been working on red raspberry's root rot and wilting complex (RRWC). His Ph.D. research focuses on identifying and characterizing root

rot pathogens, developing screening techniques for RRWC resistance, and identifying management options for the disease complex.

Sanjib received Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Research Foundation Award from the American Phytopathological Society (APS) and John Yorston Graduate.

2. The Challenge of Accidentally Introduced Insect Natural Enemies for the Practice of Biological Control

March 8, 2023, 12 - 1pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

Online- Zoom

Cost: Free; pre-registration is required (BCIA Registrants)

Zoom Coordinates for this series:

<https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/69640108245?pwd=MlowYWxQYXBDbUlwY0VpZ2FObEgrdz09>

Join Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (AF) and the Ministry of Land Water and Resource Stewardship (LWRS), and BCIA in a series of professional talks. These sessions are held virtually on the second Wednesday of each month, 12–1 PM.

Biological control has long been an option for sustainable management of invasive insect crop pests, taking years of careful research to determine which candidate natural enemies of the pest may be most appropriate to import and release in invaded areas. However, in several recent cases, natural enemies of invasive pests have been spontaneously established in new areas of the world without their intentional release having taken place. I'll discuss this issue using two horticultural pests of BC crops – the brown marmorated stink bug and spotted wing Drosophila – as case studies.



Dr. Paul Abram

Research Scientist – Biological Control of Insect Pests,
Agassiz Research and Development Center,
Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC).

Bio: Dr. Paul Abram is a Research Scientist at the Agassiz Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. His research program is focused on understanding the ecology of invasive pests and their natural enemies to support the development of effective and environmentally responsible biological control programs.

3. Dams and gas – exploring through B.C.

May 10, 2023, 12 - 1pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

Zoom Webinar

BCIA Okanagan Branch is excited to present two short talks for the May Lunch and Learn. The Okanagan branch welcomes registrants of any other branch to attend.

In the first half of our Lunch session, Maureen Grainger, PAg will provide an overview of FortisBC Electric then drill down into an overview of the Kootenay System from a hydroelectric dam perspective. A brief history of the dams and West Kootenay Power (FortisBC Electric) will lead into the intricacies of the Columbia River Treaty, the International Joint Commission Order, Grohman Narrows, the Canal Plant Agreement and how this impacts fisheries in the Kootenay System. Maureen has been working in the Environmental field since 1986. A graduate of BCIT (Civil Engineering Technology - Water Resources, 1986) and Royal Roads University (BSc Environmental Science 1997; Masters in Environmental Management 2005; Grad Cert Values Based Leadership 2017; Climate Change Adaptation 2019, 2022) her career has taken her from working for the BC Ministry of Environment to consulting and more recently with FortisBC where she is an Environment Manager on the Electric side of the company. Maureen's number one is her pup Gracie who shares her passion of being outdoors throughout the year.

The second half of the session, Catherine Hayes, PAg will provide an introduction to a project on a natural gas transmission line and what it can look like. We will dig into steps required to support environmental management on projects with several different sensitivities within the project footprint including an active corn field, First Nations Reserve land and instream work. Catherine has been working in the environmental field since 2006. She holds a BA(Hons) from Queen's University in Environmental Science and Geography and a Certificate of Technology in Sustainable Resource Management from BCIT. Catherine worked in environmental consulting for a number of years with experience in a wide range of topics and has been with FortisBC's Sustainability and Environment team for almost 5 years now, primarily supporting natural gas operations.

4. The B.C. Soil Information Finder Tool/SIFT

February 8, 2024, 12 - 2pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

BCIA Zoom

The [BC Soil Information Finder tool](#) or SIFT is an interactive story map and mapping application that provides easy access to soil survey maps, soil attributes, and agriculture capability mapping in British Columbia. This lunch-and-learn presentation will cover an overview of SIFT and the

kinds of information that you can access through the tool. There will be a live demo of some of the functions and tabs available in the application followed by a question and answer period.

The presenter, Deepa Spaeth Filatow, is a P.Ag and P.Geo. She is the Provincial Bioterrain Specialist and Terrestrial Ecosystem Information Unithead in the newly minted Ministry of Land Water and Resource Stewardship, in the Knowledge Management Branch. She is one of the co-creators of SIFT and has extensive experience and knowledge about British Columbia's soils information and data.

Pre-session questions:

What features of SIFT do you use the most?

Which ones would you like to learn more about?

Do you have any improvements to SIFT to suggest?

Appendix C – Field Visits

Okanagan Branch Bus Tour

Start Location: Orchard Park Shopping Centre Parking Lot

Date: February 11, 2023

Time: 8:30 AM -2:30 PM

Fee: no charge

Pre-Registration is required before February 3, 2023, capacity limited to 14 participants.

The BCIA Okanagan Branch invites Registrants to a guided tour of the OgoGrow Compost Facility, Glenmore Landfill Methane Capture Facility, and Jealous Fruits.

Transportation and lunch for this event will be provided. The bus will be leaving at 8:30 AM SHARP from the North-East end of the Orchard Park Shopping Centre parking Lot (by Milestones) in Kelowna. Please arrive 15 minutes early. All participants are required to have the following PPE:

(Steel-toed boots, Cotton or fire-resistant Hi-Vis vest, Safety glasses, and a hard hat).

Glenmore Landfill Methane Capture Facility:

FortisBC has been working with the Kelowna Landfill to create carbon-neutral energy through methane capture. Renewable natural gas has been created through the methane capture facility at the Glenmore landfill for almost ten years. This gas is being used to fuel ~700 homes in Kelowna, and they have plans to expand.

Tour Duration: **1.5hours**

OgoGrow:

Ogogrow is a compost made using an aerobic (with oxygen) treatment process called the Extended Aerated Static Pile Composting Method. Produced by combining biosolids and hog fuel: a byproduct of the local lumber mills.

Tour Duration: **1 hour**

Jealous Fruits:

A cherry orchard with a state-of-the-art sorting and packaging facility on site. The farm is tied into an efficient transportation network, enabling astonishingly fresh cherries to reach domestic and international markets in record time.

Grazing for fine fuel management pilot site field tour – collaboration with the BC Cattlemen’s Association

June 28, 2023, 10am - 2:15pm

Branch

Okanagan-District 2

Location

SE Kelowna

Please join us on June 28th at 10:00 am to see the results of an initiative started in partnership with BC Wildfire Service, Ministry of Forest, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and BC Cattlemen's Association. BC Cattlemen's Association (BCCA) is excited to invite you to attend and participate in a tour of our SE Kelowna Targeted Grazing Pilot Site.

Following the 2017 Wildfire season, three Pilot sites in Southern BC were developed to utilize livestock grazing of fine fuels to lower wildfire risk in high-value Interface areas. This very successful Pilot has shown the value of landscape-level planning incorporating livestock grazing as a tool for fire mitigation.

We have set this tour up primarily for Ministers of the BC Government and BC Institute of Agrologists to understand how utilizing livestock to graze fine fuels is a positive step in future wildfire management. We welcome all Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and Assistant Deputy Ministers to participate in this event. Beef on a bun lunch is provided. While this is free, please register so we can account for lunch.

Please download the Agenda with an outline for the event and directions to get to the site [HERE](#)

BC Institute of Agrologists - Branch Financials
Okanagan
2023

Bank Balance as at January 1st	\$3,360.00												
Annual Branch Allocation	\$3,840.00												
Net Income	-\$6,296.62												
Current Account Balance	\$903.38												
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept	October	November	December	Total
REVENUE													
Branch AGM		\$48.00											\$48.00
Branch AGM Sponsorship		\$750.00	\$250.00	\$750.00									\$1,750.00
Other (donations, sponsorships)													\$0.00
Professional Development Events											\$165.00	\$405.00	\$570.00
TOTAL MONTHLY REVENUE	\$0.00	\$798.00	\$250.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$165.00	\$405.00	\$2,368.00
EXPENSES													
Branch Executive Meetings													\$0.00
A.Ag. /Mentor Events													\$0.00
Member Travel Subsidies													\$0.00
Non-PD Activities/Outreach												\$1,808.81	\$1,808.81
Donations/Sponsorships													\$0.00
Other (supplies, awards, etc)													\$0.00
Credit Card / Bank Fees												\$35.63	\$35.63
<u>Branch AGM</u>													
Credit card / bank fees													\$0.00
Catering/Food/Venue		\$5,098.65											\$5,098.65
Materials/Gifts/Supplies/Awards/Other		\$232.40											\$232.40
PD at AGM	\$826.88	\$111.43											\$938.31
<u>Professional Development</u>													
Presenter Expenses/Honorariums/Gifts													\$0.00
Catering/Food											\$550.82		\$550.82
Transportation (Bus/Parking)													\$0.00
Partnering/PD Subsidy													\$0.00
PD Organizer Travel													\$0.00
TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENSES	\$826.88	\$5,442.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$550.82	\$1,844.44	\$8,664.62

BC Institute of Agrologists						
Okanagan Branch						
2024 Budget						
2024 Branch Subsidy	\$4,200.00	210 registrants at \$20.00 per registrant				
Balance of funds remaining at Dec 31/23	\$903.38	carry forward allowed				
Funds available for 2024	\$5,103.38					
Revenues	\$1,900.00					
			<i>Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024</i>	<i>Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024</i>		
			2024 Budget (Projected)	2023 Account Statement		Guidelines
Items	Expenses	Revenues	Explanation / Breakdown of Expenditures and Revenues	Expenses	Revenues	
Reference Branch Budgets & Expenditures Guidelines						
Professional Development	\$2,000.00			\$550.82		Branches may choose to break down projected PD expenses under this category or simply provide a projection of total PD expenses and revenues. (See PD Plan template)
Presenter expenses /honorariums/venue /gifts/supplies/materials			For presenter expenses, honorariums,venue, catering, supplies, transportation, partnering			E. #1 a) & b)Presenter fees, travel, honorariums, gifts, light refreshments, supplies, venue expenses (Most PD expenses will be under this line)
Catering/food						E. #1. c) Activities with a lunch/dinner over \$12 pp expense (should include revenue)
Transportation (bus, parking)						E. #1 d) rented transportation such as bus/van (should include revenue)
Partnering/PD subsidy						E. #1 f) Non-branch organized PD or PD subsidies.
PD Organizer Travel						E. #1 g)
Branch AGM					\$48.00	Branches must provide breakdown of projected revenues, expenses under this category
Catering/Food/Venue	\$2,000.00	\$900.00		\$5,098.65		E. #4. b) If lunch/dinner over \$12 pp expense, should include revenues
supplies/awards	\$250.00			\$232.40		E. #4 a) venue, AV, materials, awards
PD at AGM	\$1,500.00			\$938.31	\$570.00	E. #3 c) Presenter fees, travel, honorariums, gifts
Sponsorships revenues		\$1,000.00			\$1,750.00	E. #8. b)
Branch Executive Meetings	\$200.00					E. # 5 - Note the estimated number of meetings and expected total charges incurred ie refreshments, mileage. Note: Cannot exceed \$500 under this category.
A.Ag./Mentor Workshops	\$100.00					E. #2 a) & b) Expenses to deliver AAg workshops, presentations & Mentor recognition ie. venue, light refreshments
Non-PD Activities/Outreach	\$100.00			\$1,808.81		E. 7. Non-PD activities such as awards recognition, socials, networking
Registrant Travel Subsidies	\$200.00		i.e. Carpooling to Provincial AGM for A.Ags			E. # 3 a) Travel subsidies to BCIA AGM for Registrants, or carpooling Registrants
Youth Donations/Sponsorships	\$200.00		i.e. Science fair award			E. #6 - Donations /awards to agrology related youth groups. Note: Should not exceed \$300 under this category.
Miscellaneous	\$200.00		credit card bank fees	\$35.63		May include other supplies, awards, etc
Total	\$6,750.00	\$7,003.38		\$8,664.62	\$2,368.00	
Net Balance		\$253.38			-\$6,296.62	

1. Jonas Bateman, A.Ag.



Biography:

- Jonas was born and raised in Armstrong BC and obtained a BSc in Sustainable Agricultural Systems from the University of Alberta.
- He works for Forage Based Solutions as a crop and livestock agrologist, on-farm work, seed sales, soil mapping, sampling, and analysis. This position covers the following practice areas:
 - Food and Agricultural Products Development, Production and Processing
 - Land Evaluation, Classification, Mapping, Conservation, and Management
 - Protection and Management of Environmental Resources
 - Invasive Species and Pest Management
- He has 6 years of professional experience in crop production: including row crops and vegetable production.

2. Reese Betchloff, A.TAg.



Biography:

Reese originally grew up in New Sarepta, AB on a small farm and frequently visited her family's remote vacation cabin in Athabasca. Her passion for environmental science started at a young age learning how to identify plants from her mom. In grade four she decided she would pursue Oil and Gas Reclamation/Remediation after a pumpjack broke on the vacation property killing majority of the vegetation on the land. Her areas of interest include land conservation, water resources, land reclamation/remediation, restoration and invasive species. Reese's professional experience includes oil and gas reclamation/remediation, forestry, invasive species management, water quality monitoring, agriculture impact assessments, contaminated sites (BC), and land evaluation.

3. Cole Schweb, A.Ag.



Biography:

Cole was raised on a cattle ranch where crop production became his passion. Now working as a crop and livestock agrologist Cole works to increase the yield and quality of forage crops in the beef and dairy sectors. He enjoys the complexity and diversity of working in the agriculture industry. On his time off he enjoys traveling, backpacking, and snowboarding.

4. Logan Pay, A.TAg



Biography:

Logan a ~~professional fruit toucher~~ an outdoorsy person who doesn't have enough projects yet. He is currently a Growers Support Tech with Growers Supply. He graduated in 2022 with a B.Sc. in Environmental Chemistry and has previously worked for BC Tree Fruits as a Quality Standards Tech. His practice areas and areas of interest include crop development, production, and management, mapping / geospatial analysis and nutrient management. Logan's hobbies include photo / video production, woodworking / crafting, programming / database design, and mountain biking / backcountry hiking

5. Elisa Godard, A.Ag.



Biography:

Elisa has a Bachelor of Natural Resource Science from Thompson Rivers University. Her areas of practice and interest include land evaluation, classification, mapping, conservation, and management, and rangeland and grazing management.

6. Lauren Bevandick, A.Ag.



Biography:

Lauren's mentor is Theresa Loewen. Lauren has an Academic Background in Earth and Environmental Science. Her core courses included, earth and land formation processes (geomorphology, sedimentology, hydrology). More contemporary agriculture courses included agroecology, introduction to soil, and soil ecology. She has worked for Cabin Resource MGMT for the past 7 years and has been working in wildfire fuel mitigation for the past 3 years. Wildfire Mitigation prescriptions, which include considerations for riparian management, soil and invasive plant management, and sometimes rangeland management. Field assessments include vegetation inventory, determining surface fuel loading (of grass and woody fuels), digging soil pits to determine soil texture and soil hazard ratings, and riparian assessments to determine stream class and applicable management considerations. Lauren also has a small market lamb enterprise on my six acres. She is learning to integrate agroecological and regenerative agriculture practices. They produce 2 cuts of hay, and keep the third cut for winterstock pile, she bales graze on top of the snow in the winter, and sometimes do a quick strip graze between her first and second cut.

7. Kris Needham, A.Tag.



Biography:

Kris Needham works as a Field Service and Quality Control Advisor for Consolidated Fruit Packers. He has a diploma in Water Engineering Technology, as well as a diploma in Horticulture. He was raised working on his family's cherry orchard in East Kelowna where he began working in the industry during the summers when he was 11 years old. In his early 20's he worked as an Environmental Consultant in northern Alberta for about 4 years. Eventually, he found his way back to the Okanagan where he began working in the tree fruit industry again, where it all started. His mentor is Hank Markgraf, and his areas of practice include Crop Development Production and Management, and Invasive Species and Pest Management.

8. Samantha Nicholls, A.TAg.



Biography:

Samantha is primarily interested in crop production and processing, as well as agricultural product production and distribution. In 2021-2022 she worked as a student in the Fruit Tree Breeding and Post-Harvest Storage programs at the Summerland Agriculture and Agri-Foods Research Center. This past summer and fall she worked at Braden Hill Orchard & Farm as a farm hand.

9. Sarah O'Brien, A.Ag.



Biography:

Sarah (she/they) holds Bachelors of Science in Biology and Ecology from the University of Guelph (2023). Lindsay King is Sarah's mentor. Sarah currently works as a 'Jr. Agrologist' at SIR. Other work experience includes AAFC in Harrow Ontario with Dr. Lori A. Phillips in Soil Microbial Ecology (summers 2019-2021), and, AAFC in Summerland British Columbia with Mehdi Sharifi in Soil Agroecology (summers 2022-2023 and fall 2023). Sarah's areas of practice include Crop Development, Production, and Management, and Agroforestry.

10. Bailey Wellman, A.Ag



Biography:

Bailey has been an articling agrologist since mid 2021 and has been working in agrology for roughly 3 years. She is currently working for Associated Environmental as an environmental scientist in contaminated sites.

11. Shay-Lyn Steiger, A.Ag



Biography:

Shay-Lyn was born & raised on a beef farm in BC. She has been involved in 4H being a member a leader & volunteering for 12 years. She stays involved in the local fair & stock show in her area as well. She attended Olds College where she took Agriculture Management majoring in marketing. She then went on to become involved in a different aspect of agriculture in the crop inputs business in Alberta, then went back to the cattle side and currently am a Dairy Feed Sales Rep in BC. In her spare time she loves being outside, camping, fishing, hunting & being involved on her family's beef farm.

12. Amanda Brown, A.Ag.



Biography:

Amanda is currently a Biobest IPM Technical Lead. She is an insect enthusiast who hopes to be a Master Melittologist one day. Her areas of practice/interest include invasive species and pest management. She has an MSc from UBC in Plant Science. Amanda's professional experience includes biological control technical sales with Plant Products (Biobest), The Bug Factory, compliance and enforcement with PMRA and as a Scout with ES Crop Consult.

13. Sarah Trillo, A.TAg.



Biography:

Alana Crump is Sarah's mentor, and is a former coworker. Her educational background includes completing a diploma from Sir Sandford Fleming College in Ontario as an Earth Resource Technician, followed by a diploma from Okanagan College in Kelowna as a Water Engineering Technician, with a specialization in Environmental Monitoring. Currently, she is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree at UBC Okanagan, majoring in Freshwater Science and minoring in Geographic Information Science. Her areas of expertise lie in the protection and management of environmental resources, as well as in land restoration, reclamation, and remediation. Sarah's professional experience includes over two years at Caro Analytical, initially as a co-op student and later in a permanent full-time position as a Laboratory Technician. Additionally, she briefly served as an Invasive Species Action Team Member for the Invasive Species Council of BC and worked for two summers as a Field Biologist for her current employer, A.E.W. Limited Partnership. Presently, Sarah is employed as a Geographic Information Systems Technician at A.E.W. Limited Partnership, where she contributes to various projects spanning archaeology, environmental work, and wildlife protection.



Lifetime Achievement Award: *Greg Tegart, P.Ag.*

Okanagan Branch Awards:



Farm Family Award: *Thompson Family*

25 Year Recognition:

- *Michele Fitzgerald, P.Ag.*
- *James Anthony, P.Ag. (Retired)*

50 Year Recognition:

- *Al Dean, P.Ag. (Retired)*
- *David Gartrell, P.Ag. (Retired)*