

## From the OFVGA:

### Workplace Health and Safety Guidance

- Workplace Safety and Prevention Services (WSPS) has launched [Health and Safety Guidance for Agricultural Workers during COVID-19](#) document for employers.
- Employers are encouraged to review the best practices in the document and implement the solutions that work on their operations.
- Employers are obligated to protect workers from hazards in the workplace as set out in the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) and its regulations – including the risks presented by COVID-19.

### Bunkhouse Capacity

- Similar to during the 14-day non-working mandatory isolation period, each local public health agency is providing direction to growers regarding bunkhouse capacity once the isolation period has ended.
- If growers have questions about bunkhouse capacity, they should contact their [local public health agency](#).

### Business Risk Management Programs

- The OFVGA anticipates that [Agricorp](#) will be sending out a communication soon that highlights existing business risk management programs and how they can assist farmers during these uncertain times.
- In the meantime, growers are encouraged to investigate program options including production insurance, AgriStability, etc. [Agricorp](#) is operating during this time and is able to discuss programs with individual growers.
- The enrollment deadline for AgriStability has been extended to July 3, 2020.
- The OFA has developed a comprehensive document outlining funding programs, including existing ones, and new ones that have been announced in relation to the government's pandemic relief efforts. This document can be [accessed here](#).

### Inspections

- Growers are likely aware that earlier this week the Ministry of Labour launched an inspection initiative for employers of temporary foreign agricultural workers. Details of this initiative can be [accessed here](#). The OFVGA continues to work with government to ensure that farms are not put at undue risk of contamination as a result of inspectors entering the farm property.
- In addition, Economic and Social Development Canada launched its own inspections of bunkhouses. These inspections will be done virtually; more details on the initiative and new requirements are available [here](#).
- The OFVGA recognizes that these are very stressful times for growers, especially those who are short workers and/or behind schedule due to delays in worker arrivals and the mandatory non-working isolation period. It is recommended that growers cooperate with enforcement officers during inspections. Should growers find themselves in situations where enforcement officers are suggesting significant actions are required to be compliant, and/or where direction goes against previous direction from local public health units, please make your commodity board and/or the OFVGA aware.