



Canadian  
Horticultural  
Council



# HORT SHORTS

May 2015

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

[HortCouncil.ca](http://HortCouncil.ca)

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## HEADLINES

### Canadian Potato Council releases fact sheet on Best Management Practices for the Application of *Thimet 15-G*

*Thimet 15-G* containing the active ingredient phorate is an important management tool to reduce wireworm feeding damage on potato tubers and to reduce wireworm populations present in a field. The fact sheet created by the Canadian Potato Council shows potato growers best management practices when applying *Thimet 15-G* during planting in 2015 to reduce environmental risk. [Read Fact Sheet](#)

### The CFIA to consult micro and small businesses until June 30, 2015

On April 17, 2015, the CFIA launched a targeted consultation with micro and small businesses across Canada. CFIA is seeking feedback from micro and small businesses on options that could reduce the burden associated with some requirements being considered. This will supplement the previous two rounds of consultations held in 2013 and 2014 on a new regulatory framework and approach for bringing the *Safe*

*Food for Canadians Act (SFCA)* into force. Learn more and participate in the consultation by reading the discussion paper and completing the questionnaire. [www.inspection.gc.ca/safefood](http://www.inspection.gc.ca/safefood)

The consultation package includes a complete draft of the proposed SFCA regulations plus a large number of related and incorporated documents. This is an exceptional step and a positive development in many regards. The draft regulations include reference to the DRC. This may be found on Page 12, Division 2, Trade of Fresh Fruits or Vegetables, 22.(2)(a). This is a major achievement achieved over time through concerted collaboration and is component of horticulture's vision of a comprehensive solution to address financial protection for produce sellers. Of the four pillars, three have now been achieved: Dispute Resolution Corporation, Destination Inspection Service and the DRC in regulation. The documents may be accessed at:

- [Consolidation of food regulations – Progress to date](#)
- [Consultation on reducing regulatory burden on micro and small businesses](#)

### **Health Canada looks to re-label Roundup**

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency is recommending a number of changes to the label of glyphosate, more commonly known as Roundup, including recommended spray buffer zones to protect land and aquatic habitats from unintended exposure and a 12-hour restricted entry period for agricultural uses to better protect agricultural workers. Health Canada has begun a public consultation on the Proposed Re-evaluation Decision that will run until June 12. [Read more](#)



## **CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION**

### **CHC Pest Management Centre Invasive Alien Species Coordination Group adds info on Spotted Wing Drosophila**

The Pest Management Centre has recently updated their website to include a page dedicated to the Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) Technical Working Group (TWG) to provide readers with reports of ongoing activities of the TWG. Included within the website are a brief mention of the two AAFC research projects underway concerning SWD. For the link to the Coordination Group webpage which includes an imbedded link to the SWD TWG page click [here](#).



### **FMC Corporation acquires Cheminova A/S**

FMC Corporation recently announced that it has completed the closing of its acquisition of Cheminova A/S, a multinational crop protection company based in Denmark and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Auriga Industries A/S. The companies announced



the signing of a definitive acquisition agreement on September 8, 2014, and have now satisfied all necessary conditions and regulatory approvals.

FMC completed the acquisition of Cheminova for an aggregate purchase price of approximately \$1.8 billion, including assumption of debt. FMC expects the transaction to be accretive to adjusted earnings in the first full year following the acquisition. [Read more](#)

## TRADE AND MARKETING

### **Regulations Amending Certain Regulations Administered and Enforced by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

These regulatory amendments repeal the regulatory requirements concerning standard weights and container sizes under the *Dairy Products Regulations* (DPR), the *Maple Products Regulations* (MPR), and the *Fish Inspection Regulations* (FIR). The amendments address a Government of Canada Budget 2012 commitment to repeal regulatory requirements related to standard weights and container sizes.

The regulatory amendments for maple, dairy and fish products are now [available online](#).

These amendments are considered as Phase 1 of the overall initiative. Phase 2, which relates to processed products, honey and fruits and vegetables will not proceed until late 2015-early 2016 with publication in Canada Gazette 2 at that time. It is expected that approximately one third of the regulations will be deregulated with two thirds maintained.

Further discussion related to Test Market Authorizations (TMAs) will continue later on this calendar year as part of the SFCA consultations. There will be no change to ministerial exemptions (apple, potato, carrot) as they are not in the scope of changes under consideration. Standard containers for onions will be dropped under Phase 2, however, bulk onions will require a ME for grade.

CFIA has made also available the results of [2012-2013 CFIA and AAFC discussions with stakeholders](#) regarding standard container sizes and next steps going forward.

### **Beyond the Border Agri-food Pilot for Apples**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is launching a three-year agri-food pilot to reduce grade verification inspection rates for bulk shipments of apples grown in, and imported directly from, the United States (US). Specifically, apples in containers greater than 200 kg (440 lb) that are subject to CFIA's Ministerial Exemption Procedures will see reduced grade verification inspections. This pilot project is being done under the under the Beyond the Border Action Plan.

The pilot will gradually reduce inspection rates over three years. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will continue to do grade verification inspections on behalf of the CFIA and oversee the tracking of bulk loads (greater than 440 lb) shipped under a Ministerial Exemption contract. However, it will do so on a predetermined schedule, which shows the gradual reduction in the inspection rate.

The USDA will continue to issue inspection certificates for shipments that do not require an inspection due to this reduction. The USDA will not do an inspection but will issue a Certificate of Inspection for Canadian Destinations (FV-205), which will include a statement highlighting “This FV-205 is issued without inspection as per the Canada-US Beyond the Border Agri-Food Pilot for Apples”. The Guidelines for Requesting and Administering Ministerial Exemptions for Bulk Apples (Section 7.2) have been revised to reflect the conditions of the apple pilot.

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/fresh-fruits-and-vegetables/imports-and-interprovincial-trade/ministerial-exemptions-apples/eng/1352494295645/1352494372468>

US-grown apples imported in containers less than or equal to 200 kg (440 lb) will still require inspection, as per Canadian import requirements (and the US Export Apple Act for apples in containers of 100 lb or less). If a bulk load arrives at the border and is not accompanied by proper USDA documentation, the load will be refused entry. If you require more information, please contact your local CFIA inspection office.

## **Exemptions Under the Test Marketing Provision of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations**

Effective April 20, 2015, an exemption from the requirements of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Regulations to allow the test marketing of onions and potatoes in reusable plastic shipping containers (RPCs) that are clean and in sanitary condition was implemented on a national basis. This test market, which applies to onions and potatoes marketed in import or interprovincial trade, has been added to the list. [Read more](#)

## **BIOSECURITY**

### **Grapevine consultations**

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is conducting a stakeholder consultation on draft *D-15-02: Canadian Grapevine Export Program* and *D-94-34: Import and Domestic Movement Requirements for Grapevine Propagative Material*. These directives outline the export and import requirements for grapevine propagative material. The deadline for submission of comments is Monday, June 15, 2015. You may submit comments or questions regarding these directives by responding to [horticulture@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:horticulture@inspection.gc.ca)

## INDUSTRY STANDARDS AND FOOD SAFETY

### Important Changes to the CanadaGAP Certification Program effective April 1, 2015

1. Brokers can now become CanadaGAP-certified. CanadaGAP certification Option D is available as of April 1, 2015 to fresh produce brokers seeking certification in response to customer requirements. The [CanadaGAP manuals](#) can now be used for brokerage operations implementing best practices in supplier management and product traceability.
2. CanadaGAP-certified packers, repackers, brokers, storage and wholesale operators are required to [source product](#) from third-party audited/certified suppliers.
3. CanadaGAP audits will include a new, scored question regarding ongoing program maintenance.
4. Companies that fail the CanadaGAP audit will have 60 days to close out Corrective Action Requests.

## COMMODITY CORNER

### AAFC's Accelerated Release Program for Potatoes - Successful Cash Bids for AR2013 Potato Selections

The Successful Cash Bids for AR2013 Potato Selections – Offered for Exclusive Testing in 2015 are now available on the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada web site at [www.agr.gc.ca/potato-cultivars](http://www.agr.gc.ca/potato-cultivars).

## POLLINATORS

### New reports point to strong honey bee production and no neonicotinoid impact on bee colony health

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service has released results of their [2014 U.S. honey production survey](#) which show a 19% increase in honey production over 2013. This also shows a 2.74 million increase the number of U.S. managed bee colonies.

Just days prior to the release of this report, a new [peer-reviewed research article](#) was published in PLOS One. The article, based on



a three-year study by researchers from the USDA, the University of Maryland and EPA, indicated that no impact to colony health was observed due to field-relevant levels of exposure to neonicotinoid insecticides.

## **Video released: Protecting Bees and Pollinators: What Horticulture Needs to Know**

The Horticulture Research Institute has released a seven-minute educational video entitled [Protecting Bees and Pollinators: What Horticulture Needs to Know](#). The video gives information on factors that impact pollinators and their environment and how horticulture plays a beneficial role in providing healthy and nurturing pollinator ecosystems.



## **United States Environmental Protection Agency ‘unlikely’ to approve new neonicotinoid pesticide uses**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced it is unlikely to approve new outdoor neonicotinoid pesticide uses due to concerns over the chemicals’ effects on bee populations. [Read more](#)

### **INDUSTRY INFO**

#### **PMRA releases 2013 – 2014 Annual Report**

This report details PMRA’s accomplishments and activities over the past fiscal year. Included in the report are new active ingredients under joint review, re-evaluations of older products, an overview of a compliance and enforcement program and more. [Read the report](#)

#### **AAFC releases Overview of Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food Systems 2015**

This report gives an economic overview of the Canadian agriculture and agri-food system. It offers a view of Canada’s agriculture and agri-food system in the context of the Canadian economy and international markets. It also shows the composition and performance of the agriculture and agri-food system as it evolves in response to challenges, opportunities and market developments. [Read the report](#)

## Farm Credit Canada releases Farmland Values Report

The FCC Farmland Values Report provides an annual provincial and national overview of recent land value trends across Canada. [Read the 2014 report](#) to gain insight through videos and commentary from agriculture economic experts and access historical land values.



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Executive Director for CanadaGAP recipient of the Food Safety Leadership Award

Hosted by NSF-GFTC, the Safe Food Canada Symposium provided insights on the food industry's regulatory landscape, global supply chains and business ethics. NSF-GFTC's Food Safety Recognition Awards are designed to highlight success stories in the Canadian food safety landscape such as scientific contribution, public education advancement, and technology or process innovations as they apply to food safety. The Food Safety Leadership Award is presented to an individual who drives food safety excellence and inspires others through their passion and actions.

The Food Safety Leadership Award was presented to Heather Gale, Executive Director of CanadaGAP for her active role in introducing successful food safety initiatives within the fresh produce industry.

The development of the CanadaGAP program began through the CHC and Heather led the program through CFIA Technical Review, GFSI benchmarking and the program's successful transition to CanAgPlus and integration of the CPMA's wholesale and repack program into the CanadaGAP program.



*Stephanie Lariviere (CanadaGAP Board Member), Amber Bailey (CanadaGAP Technical Manager), Heather Gale, and Avia Eek (CanadaGAP Board Member)*

## NEW CHC MEMBERS

CHC welcomes the following new members:

[Agrian](#), LaSalle, Manitoba

[FMC Agricultural Solutions](#), Moffatt, Ontario

[IFCO](#), Whitby, Ontario

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2015

<b>MAY</b>	<b>5 – 7</b>	<a href="#">CropLife Spring Dialogue Days</a> Ottawa, ON
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>	<a href="#">United Fresh 2015</a> Chicago, Ill
<b>JULY</b>	<b>8 – 9</b>	CHC Summer Tour Niagara Region, Ontario
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>4 – 5</b>	CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meetings Nova Scotia
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	<b>20 – 22</b>	<a href="#">First Global Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop</a> Chicago, Ill
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>17 - 19</b>	<a href="#">Alberta Potato Conference and Trade Show</a> Red Deer, AB
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>1 – 3</b>	<a href="#">GrowCanada Conference</a> Calgary, AB

***To list your event in HortShorts, please submit details to [question@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:question@hortcouncil.ca)***