

NEWSLETTER OF THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

# CHC HORTSHORTS

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Canadian  
Horticultural  
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Conseil  
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l'horticulture

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## HEADLINES

### CHC Board of Directors Convenes for Semi-Annual Meeting

The Board of Directors met recently at CHC's new offices in Ottawa. The agenda included discussions strategic direction and advocacy initiatives. The Board entertained presentations from each member of the CHC's Management Team. Additional presentations were received from CropLife Canada Senior Communications Office, Jillian Bender, on the Bees Matter Initiative (<http://www.beesmatter.ca/>) and from David McInnis, Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute ([www.capi-icpa.ca](http://www.capi-icpa.ca)) on recent Forum on Canada's Agri-



Food Future: Positioning Canada's Agri-Food Sector for Success. The meeting also included a conference call with Committee Chairs.

In addition to the Annual General Meeting the Board meets in January and July. The summer meeting and tour will be held in July in BC's Lower Mainland.

### **Bee Health Roundtable Meets**

The Bee Health Roundtable (BHRT) is committed to producing, through inclusive discussion, an increased understanding of the risks involved where agriculture and apiculture intersect, and undertaking timely activities aimed at reducing or eliminating these risks. The BHRT met again in Ottawa on January 21.

Representatives of honey producers, grower organizations (including CHC), other industry stakeholders, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Pest Management Regulatory Agency and provincial governments reviewed updates on the four pillars of bee health identified by the Roundtable. Updates on the pillars included Pollinator Strategy (control of pesticide exposure; control of Varroa Mite; bee health surveillance, harmonization of Best Management Practices; habitat and environment; nutrition); Products and Solutions Pillar (new active ingredients; minor use products; pest predictor models); Research Pillar (gap analysis and strategy development); Knowledge Transfer (projections of demand for pollinators; communications). Working Groups will continue progress in these areas. Information on the BHRT and the National Bee Health Action Plan are available at:

<http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/industry-markets-and-trade/value-chain-roundtables/bee-health/?id=1409832956249>

### **PMRA Pesticide Label Mobile App Now Available**

Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency has launched a new mobile application that help homeowners, farmers, industry, as well as provincial and federal organizations look up specific details of the pesticides they use from their smartphone or tablet. [Learn more](#)

### **AAFC Annual Market Access and Development Meeting**

The Annual Market Access and Development meeting was held in Ottawa on January 12-13, 2016 and covered a wide range of updates and included an updated from Assistant Deputy Minister, Fred Gorrell, on behalf of the Federal Market Access Team (AAFC, CFIA, Global Affairs Canada and the Canadian Grain Commission). Presentations touched on the following: International Standard Setting Bodies: Positioning Canada for Success; Opportunities provided by CETA; Strengthening our Pan-Canadian approach. For additional information, contact A. Bourbonnière ([abourbonniere@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:abourbonniere@hortcouncil.ca)) or A. Fowlie ([afowlie@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:afowlie@hortcouncil.ca)) or visit: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/industry-markets-and-trade/market-access/market-access-secretariat/?id=1257798989228>

### **Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council**

On January 14, 2016 the USDA-CFIA jointly presented an update to the Regulatory Partnerships and Work Plan under the Canada-United State Regulatory Cooperation Council. The update was provided in a conference call with interested stakeholders in both countries. The RCC Joint Forward Plan Seeks to foster new approaches to regulatory cooperation. The initiative maintains two independent systems, but works

towards greater alignment and collaboration. The co-chairs were Dan Christensen (USDA) and Paul Mayers (CFIA) and updates were delivered on Animal Health, Plant Health and Meat Inspection.

Plant Health update :

**ISPM 15 :**

- Develop and implement harmonized, trade-sensitive regulatory requirements for wood packaging moving between Canada and the U.S. in keeping with ISPM 15, *Regulation of wood packaging in international trade*.
- Stakeholders will benefit from coordinated implementation of the requirements leading to greater compliance at full enforcement.
- Phasing in the ISPM requirements for WPM moving in trade between Canada and the U.S. over 24 months will allow industry to transition and thus minimize trade disruptions, while preventing the spread of invasive alien species within North America.

**Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ):**

- Develop and implement a process for plant taxa grown in Canada requiring post-entry quarantine to be recognized by the United States as meeting phytosanitary import requirements.
- This would facilitate trade in these plant taxa and provide U.S. with additional assurance of product safety.
- The PEQ working group anticipates they will be able to resume this initiative now that the GCP is entering the final review and approval phase

**Electronic phytosanitary certification (eCert):**

- Undertake cooperative discussions to ensure compatibility between the systems.

For additional details: <http://pco-bcp.gc.ca/index.asp?lang=eng&page=action&doc=coop/index-eng.htm>

**CHC Literature Review: El Niño and the effects on horticulture in North America**

Currently, two major climate factors will shape global weather. In the tropics is a strong El Niño event that some headlines have described as a “Godzilla El Niño.” To the north, swirling in the Arctic air is the sulfuric debris from the giant eruption of Iceland’s Bárðarbunga volcano. The tropics and summer in the Southern Hemisphere will be shaped by the El Niño. Winter in the Northern Hemisphere could be shaped by the combined impact of both events.

Scientists are warning that recent events could signify that big changes may be underway in the Earth’s climate system, driven by rising surface temperatures and changes in major atmospheric and oceanic circulation systems such as those which give rise to El Niño. The combination of record warmth one year followed by an El Niño the next is unique and the climatic implications are uncertain. If 2016 follows a similar pattern we are entering uncharted waters. [Read more](#)

**Call for nominations: Doug Connery Award**

The Doug Connery Award seeks to formally honour the commitment and passion he brought to the Canadian Horticultural Council and its initiatives. The award will publicly recognize person(s) who, in the course of their association with the CHC and Canada’s horticulture sector, have made outstanding

contributions to the improvement and advancement of the industry. Nominees will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Innovative Contributions
2. National Impact
3. Provincial Impact
4. Local/Regional Impact
5. International Impact (as applicable)
6. Service to Horticulture
7. Lasting Influence

The recipient will be honoured at during the banquet at the 2016 CHC AGM.

The deadline for entries is February 26, 2016. The nomination form, accompanied by all letters of endorsement and pertinent information must be included with the submission. The submission may be forwarded electronically to [afowlie@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:afowlie@hortcouncil.ca). Access the nomination form [here](#)

### **2016 Census of Agriculture coming soon**

A new, shorter version of the Census on Agriculture will be sent to all Canadian farm operators at the beginning of May 2016. CHC encourages growers from across Canada to respond as its findings are instrumental in CHC's policy and research endeavours. [Read more](#)

### **University of Guelph releases 2016 Food Price Report**

The average Canadian household paid an average of \$325 more for food in 2015. Lower crude oil prices, lower interest rates and a Canadian dollar that dropped \$.14 in 2015 are all key factors. Also, important to fruit and vegetable prices in Canada is the fact that 81% of fruit and vegetables consumed in Canada are imported. The University of Guelph's report goes into detail on why prices rose and offers a forecast for 2016. [Read the report](#)

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## **COMMODITY CORNER**

### **AAFC Potato Selection Release Open House**

On February 10, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will be hosting a Potato Selection Release Open House at the Fredericton, Guelph and Lethbridge Research and Development Centres. The open house will include a video link to presentations by various potato industry and research specialists and more. For further information visit: [www.agr.gc.ca/potato-cultivars](http://www.agr.gc.ca/potato-cultivars)

### **PMC: Updated Peach Crop Profile Available**

A new [Crop Profile for Peach in Canada, 2013](#) is available free to download from the [Government of Canada Publications](#) web site or through the [Peach crop profile webpage](#).

There are over thirty [Crop Profiles](#) created and maintained by the [Pesticide Risk Reduction Program](#) that are accessible for download on the Government of Canada Publications web site.

## CROP PROTECTION

### AAFC's Pest Management Centre - Website updates

The Pest Management Centre (PMC) at Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC) Canada has new information available on its website. Two status reports have been updated: the [Status Report for Biopesticide Projects and Submissions](#) is up-to-date as of December 14th, the [Minor Use Pesticides Submissions](#) is up-to-date as of December 1st.

The [Sustainable Crop Protection Factsheet Series](#) has a new addition: [Exclusion fence technique for cabbage maggot management in Brassica vegetable crops](#). A new [Pesticide Risk Reduction Strategy](#) from the Risk Reduction Program has been added: [Reduced-Risk Strategy for Foliar Insect Pests of Prairie Field Crops](#). In addition the strategy for [Cabbage Maggot Management](#) in Brassica Crops has been updated.

New information is available about the following three projects on the PMC website. Visit the Pesticide Risk Reduction [Approved Projects](#) section or click on the links below.

[Apple](#) [Tomato](#) [Greenhouse vegetables](#)

## BIOSECURITY

### CHC provides support for the National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Industries

The CHC on behalf of Canadian fruit producers has provided its support for the National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Industries. Likewise, the CHC on behalf of Canadian greenhouse producers has provided its support for the National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Greenhouse, Nursery, and Floriculture sectors. The CHC, through representation on the Biosecurity Advisory Committees for both sectors, has contributed significantly to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) initiative to develop a voluntary National Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Industries and the Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture industries. We were joined in this effort by representatives from across Canada and from grower groups, provincial government and academics alike. [Read more](#)

### CFIA International Plant Protection Convention Annual Report

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is the primary international treaty for protecting the world's natural and cultivated plant resources from plant pests and for facilitating the safe movement of \$1.1 trillion worth of plants and plant products in international trade. The CFIA IPPC Annual Reports highlight the significant contribution the CFIA has made to the IPPC during a specific year. The annual reports provide an overview of CFIA's international engagement which contributes to achieving Canada's objectives under the IPPC, including activities related to the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and the Plant Health Quads (PH Quads), and bilateral engagement with the United States, the

European Union, China and India. As well, the reports highlight current IPPC challenges and priorities, including the strategic direction and the leadership role that CFIA intends to play on these issues. [Read the report](#)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>28 – 30</b>	<a href="#">Pacific Agricultural Show</a> Abbotsford, BC
	<b>29 – 30</b>	<a href="#">BC Fruit Growers' Association AGM</a> Kelowna, BC
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>16</b>	<a href="#">Ontario Berry Growers' Association AGM</a> Niagara Falls, ON
	<b>17 – 18</b>	<a href="#">Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention</a> Niagara Falls, ON
	<b>25 – 26</b>	<a href="#">Alberta Farm Fresh School</a> Olds, AB
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>8 – 10</b>	<a href="#">CHC Annual General Meeting</a> Ottawa, ON
	<b>14 – 16</b>	<a href="#">Growing the AgriWorkforce (CAHRC)</a> Winnipeg, MB

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