

CHC HORTSHORTS

March 2016



Canadian Horticultural Council

Conseil canadien de l'horticulture

hortcouncil.ca



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Keith Kuhl (left) with Minister MacAulay



Keith Kuhl with Dawn Kobayashi from FCC, AGM Corporate Sponsor

HEADLINES

Minister MacAulay attends successful CHC AGM

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Minister Lawrence MacAulay attended and spoke at the CHC 94th AGM Welcome Reception held in Ottawa on Tuesday, March 8. "You are driving our economy and keeping us healthy," said Minister MacAulay to a full room of CHC members, industry partners and other MPs, including Bev Shipley, Tracey Ramsey, Francis Drouin, Chris Warkentin and Pat Finnigan, Chair of the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-food.



CHC Board of Directors (L to R): Peter Swetnam, Adrian Huisman, Brian Gilroy, Alvin Keenan, Keith Kuhl, Bar Hayre, Jocelyn St-Denis, Ernie Van Boom, Fred Steele, Anne Fowlie, Stéphanie Levasseur

On the following day, Sydney-Victoria MP, Mark Eyking spoke during lunch about the Liberals promise to develop a PACA-like trust in Canada saying that he has reminded the Prime Minister and they are still working on it. He asked CHC members to reach out to their individual MPs to encourage them to lend their voice.

The 2016 AGM being held in Ottawa this year provided numerous opportunities for CHC to engage with government officials including MPs and staff from governmental agencies. Mostly all of the committee sessions were filled with presentations by representatives from agencies, organizations and departments such as CFIA, Pest Management Regulatory Agency and AAFC.

A total of 22 resolutions were addressed on issues including the Temporary Foreign Worker Program, a National Clean Plant Health Program and improved weather prediction capabilities. To see all resolutions, visit our website. CHC members also elected a new Board of Directors and re-elected Keith Kuhl as President for an unprecedented fourth term. The 2016-2016 Board of Directors and their bios are available on the CHC website.

[Click here for pictures](#)



Mark Eyking, MP Sydney-Victoria, speaks at Wednesday's lunch

CHC meets with Immigration Minister McCallum and Agriculture Parliamentary Secretary Poissant to discuss labour

On February 8, CHC President Keith Kuhl and CHC Labour Committee Co-Vice Chairs, Ken Forth and Denis Hamel met with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Minister McCallum and AAFC Parliamentary Secretary Jean-Claude Poissant to discuss labour and changes to the Agriculture Stream of the Temporary Foreign Worker Program. The meeting was designed to highlight the problems that Canada's agricultural producers face in ensuring



L to R: Ken Forth, Keith Kuhl, Immigration Minister McCallum, Agriculture Parliamentary Secretary Poissant, Denis Hamel

sufficient labour is accessible for each growing season. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is committed to developing efficiencies way to process files for agricultural workers.

CHC supports the development of CFIA biosecurity standards for the greenhouse, nursery and floriculture Industries and for the fruit and tree nut industry

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), in conjunction with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and industry organizations, such as the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC), has completed two new voluntary biosecurity standards: one to help protect Canada's greenhouse, nursery and floriculture sectors from plant pests and another for the fruit and tree nut industry.

CHC contributed significantly to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) initiative to develop these standards. We were joined in this effort by representatives from across Canada and from grower groups, provincial government and academics alike.

[National Voluntary Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Fruit and Tree Nut Industries](#)

[National Voluntary Farm-Level Biosecurity Standard for the Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture Sectors](#)

NDP press conference stresses need for resolution to financial payment protection for produce growers and sellers

CHC members Ken Forth, George Gilvesy and Jason Verkaik joined NDP Agriculture Critic, Ruth Ellen Brosseau, and NDP Trade Critic, Tracey Ramsey, at a press conference on March 10, 2016. Earlier in the day the NDP Trade Critic tabled a motion in the House of Commons demanding the federal government develop a payment protection program for produce growers similar to the American Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA). PACA is

administered by the U.S. Agriculture Department's Agricultural Marketing Service. According to the motion, the payment protection program must be in place by September 30, 2016. The government would also need to negotiate with the United States to restore Canada's preferential status under PACA by December 31, 2016.

"This legislation will complete the financial security tools our sector has long pursued," said CHC Trade and Marketing Chair, Ken Forth. "A deemed trust will protect our vulnerable producers here at home and reopen our privileged access to programs in the United States."

[Read more](#)



L to R: Jason Verkaik, Ruth Ellen Brosseau, Tracey Ramsey, Ken Forth, George Gilvesy

Claude Laniel honoured with 2016 Doug Connery Award

Claude Laniel has been named the recipient of the CHC's 2016 Doug Connery Award. This self-described "rural economist" served as the Executive Director of the Quebec Horticultural Council from 2000 – 2015 and as a member of the CHC Board for nearly ten years. He contributed to the development of the CanadaGAP program and has a keen interest in research and innovation.



Claude Laniel receives the 2016 Doug Connery Award from Keith Kuhl at the AGM banquet

CHC congratulates 2016 Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers of the Year

CHC extends our congratulations to Andrew and Jennifer Lovell for their recent recognition as 2016 Atlantic Outstanding Young Farmers of the Year, an event sponsored by Farm Credit Canada. They are now in the running for the national competition and we wish them the best of luck. Andrew has been a very active member of the CHC Apple Working Group and has recently been elected as the Chair of CHC's Industry Standards and Food Safety Committee. He is also Chair of the New Brunswick Apple Growers, a long-time member of the CHC.



Andrew Lovell (centre) and Jennifer Lovell (right)

Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers Program (OYF) is a unique program designed to recognize farmers and farm couples who exemplify excellence in their profession. The program was founded in 1979 by the Canadian Junior Chamber/Jay-ces and is open to farmers or couples who derive at least two-thirds of their income from farming operations. The Atlantic Region of the OYF is one of seven regional programs. Each region holds an event where local nominees are judged on specific criteria. All regional winners represent their areas at an annual national event where they compete to be named Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers.

IR-4's Efforts to Help Our Honey Bees

Maintaining hive health is critically important to control the effects of Varroa mites on Honey Bees which are, of course, critically important to horticulture. The IR-4 Project of the US-EPA recognizes this reality and has supported many EPA product registrations to control Varroa mites, one of the leading threats to overall Honey Bee health. [Read more](#)

CHC presenting on Cluster 2 at AIC 2016 Conference

CHC's Manager of Projects and Programs, Amy Argentino will be presenting on CHC's experiences with the Cluster Projects alongside Dr. Bronwynne Wilton, Consulting Project Lead, Synthesis Agri-Food Network at the upcoming Agricultural Institute of Canada 2016 Conference in Ottawa. The conference, running from April 13 – 14 looks to create a "national dialogue to further the discussion on various aspects of agricultural research dissemination." [To register](#)

AAFC: Alberta is leading on climate change and creating jobs with solar power

As part of its *Climate Leadership Plan*, the Alberta government is investing over \$5 million to help municipalities and farmers harness the power of the sun and support good local jobs. Five million dollars is earmarked for the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre for a solar energy incentive program – the Alberta Municipal Solar Program. This program will provide rebates of up to \$0.75 per watt, to a maximum of \$300,000 per project, to municipalities for installing solar on municipal buildings, such as offices, fire halls, community centres and more.

A new solar program for agricultural producers – On-Farm Solar Management – will provide \$500,000 in provincial and federal funding towards solar energy systems on Alberta farms. The program will help producers generate their own electricity and reduce their carbon emissions [Read more](#)

AAFC: Government of Canada Improves Access to Cash Advances for Producers

Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Lawrence MacAulay has confirmed that new regulations are now in place that simplify access to cash advances under the Advance Payments Program (APP) and make the program more flexible for farmers. The regulatory changes were made possible as a result of amendments made to the *Agricultural Marketing Programs Act* in February 2015.

The regulatory changes, in place for the 2016 program year, allow for several new changes, which include:

- New commodities now qualify for advances under the program, including specific classes of breeding cattle, hog, sheep, and goats intended for market.
- Producers can now use more types of security to obtain an advance such as private or other types of insurance.
- A new streamlined application process reduces paper burden for returning clients.
- Simplified access for companies with multiple shareholders. [Read more](#)

Subscribe to Agriculture and Agri-food Canada's quarterly e-newsletter

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada issues a quarterly e-newsletter: Agri-info, which features up-to-date information on:

- Programs and deadlines
- Modern farming practices
- Market trends and opportunities
- Science and innovation

To subscribe, visit the subscription page at: www.agr.gc.ca/agriinfo.

COMMODITY CORNER

Emergency Food Standards for Imported Frozen Berry

On December 10, 2015, following reported cases of Hepatitis A, New Zealand notified the World Trade Organization indicating they have imposed an Emergency Food Standard for testing of imported frozen berries, e.g. strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, boysenberries, black, white or red currants, or any mixtures of these. Freeze dried berries and product shipped in retort pouches, cans and in jars e.g., jams, are not affected by this new measure.

Sample testing applies ONLY to the first five consignments imported from each country. This Emergency Food Standard will expire on February 29, 2016. [Read more](#)

Statistics Canada: 2015 Fruit and Vegetable Production

Some highlights:

- Farm-gate value of Canadian fruits and vegetables rose 3.9% from 2014 to \$1.9 billion in 2015,

- Ontario accounted for 43.2% of the total value of vegetables grown in Canada in 2015, while Quebec accounted for 40.1%,
- For the first time, the value of vegetables leaving the farm gate reached the \$1 billion mark, up 8.8%,
- Blueberries are the largest fruit commodity and accounted for 28.7% of the value of all fruits in 2015, and
- The total value of Canadian fruits edged down 1.2% to \$912 million in 2015. [Read more](#)

CROP PROTECTION

New field guide available for grape growers in Eastern Canada

A new technical bulletin authored by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada scientists and their collaborators was recently published online. The bulletin *Biology and integrated management of leafhoppers and phytoplasma diseases of vineyards in eastern Canada* is now available through the [Government of Canada Publications website](#) and is also found under Pest Management Field Guides on the [Publications](#) page of the Pest Management Centre website.

This bulletin is intended to be used as a guide to aid growers and pest management practitioners in the identification of major leafhopper species and their host plants, and in the detection of phytoplasma diseases in the vineyards of eastern Canada. It highlights various methods to reduce the risk of transmission of phytoplasmas through proper management of leafhopper populations. The bulletin also includes a brief description of the analytical methods used in the study of grape-leafhopper-phytoplasma interactions.

PMC Progress Status Report for Biopesticide Projects and Submissions

AAFC's Pest Management Centre has released their February Progress Status Report for Biopesticide Projects and Submissions. [Read more](#)

Pest Management Centre: Updated Raspberry Crop Profile available

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

FOOD SAFETY

CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals updated for 2016

Updated versions of the CanadaGAP Food Safety Manuals have been released and are available on the CanadaGAP website. The updated versions include:

1. Fruit and Vegetable Manual, Version 6.4
2. Greenhouse Manual, Version 6.4

Main Changes

- Okra is included in the scope for all operations.
- Section 2 Premises: operations will only use production sites where sewage sludge has not been applied.
- Section 6 Agricultural Chemicals: only exporters of product are responsible for Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs).
- Section 15 Water (for Fluming and Cleaning): Exemptions have been made regarding potable water for Cucumbers and Peppers sent for pickling.
- Section 17 Packaging Materials: Appropriate packaging materials must be used for repacking of mushrooms. [Read More](#)

CanadaGAP releases Audit Checklist

Now available on the CanadaGAP website is Version 6.5 of the CanadaGAP Audit Checklist for 2016. A revisions document showing the changes between Versions 6.4 and 6.5 is available for download [here](#). Version 6.5 of the CanadaGAP Audit Checklist comes into effect April 1st, 2016. CanadaGAP has also released updated versions of:

- [The CanadaGAP Self-Declaration and Self-Assessment checklist](#)
- [Group Management System Checklist Version 6.2](#)

CFIA publishes Private Certification Policy

The policy will enable the CFIA to enhance its risk-based oversight by considering private certification schemes as one of several factors when planning its activities, and allow the Agency to target its inspection activities in areas of highest risk.

Private certification schemes are formal, documented food safety systems that are developed and administered by the private sector. The policy does not require a change of regulations and does not replace regulatory oversight. The CFIA will continue to verify compliance with regulatory requirements.

The CFIA will not recognize or endorse any private certification schemes. All private certification schemes will be assessed individually. An establishment certified by a private certification scheme that the CFIA has assessed may see adjustments in inspection frequencies as the Agency focuses on areas of greatest risk.

Industry remains responsible for choosing certification schemes that suit their needs. [Read more](#)

OTHER NEWS

The Buzz Canada

Bayer CropScience has released the inaugural edition of The Buzz Canada, a new Bayer newsletter that aims to share stories about the latest projects and research underway at Bayer to help honey bees.

populations thriving both at home and abroad. For more information, visit: cropsscience.Bayer.ca/en/Our-Company/Bee-Care

NAPPO Secretariat officially opens in Raleigh, North Carolina

The NAPPO Secretariat is currently moving from Ottawa, Canada to Raleigh, North Carolina and the move is set to be completed by the end of June. The new offices are on the Centennial Campus of North Carolina State University, at 1730 Varsity Drive, Suite 145, Raleigh, NC 27606.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL	12 – 14	CPMA Conference and Trade Show Calgary, AB
	13 – 14	Agricultural Institute of Canada 2016 Conference Ottawa, ON

To list your event in HortShorts, please submit details to question@hortcouncil.ca