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The Canadian Horticultural Council Holds 91st Annual General Meeting

The Canadian Horticultural Council held its 91st Annual General Meeting at the Westin Ottawa Hotel from March 13-15, 2013. The week was well attended and members enjoyed the opportunity to converse with industry partners from across the country and to come together to deal with the challenges and opportunities facing Canada's horticultural industry.

The Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada provided the keynote address. In his remarks the Minister made reference to: CanadaGAP; finding solid ground for payment through the Regulatory Cooperation Council; minor use pesticides and increasing grower competitiveness; the Pesticide Risk Reduction Program; invasive alien species, science cluster, the value of the potato and greenhouse sectors, opportunities for the creation of National Promotion and Research Agencies, Horticulture Value Chain Roundtable working groups; market development, food safety, water usage, apple benchmarking and the labour task group. He acknowledged the diversity of the horticulture sector's 120 commodities.



He also highlighted features of the new Agricultural Policy Framework – Growing Forward 2 – to be launched on April 1, 2013. The framework includes programs for innovation, marketing competitiveness and agri-marketing. In closing, the Minister noted that 2012 was best year ever for agriculture exports, citing the greenhouse sector as an innovation leader and that at 8% of the GDP, the Canadian economy depends on agriculture. The Minister responded to questions related to cherry exports to China and the cost of PCN testing fees was in attendance, giving a short speech and taking a few questions from CHC members.

Her Excellency Sheila I. Sealy Monteith, High Commissioner for Jamaica to Canada was the guest of honour at the opening luncheon. Canada has enjoyed a decades-long relationship with Jamaica and the Seasonal agricultural Worker program is vitally important to both countries.

During the business sessions delegates also heard from CropLife Canada, the CFIA, Health Canada, the Pest Management Centre, AAFC, Farm Credit Canada, PMRA, Vineland Research and Innovation Centre, the DRC, CPMA and CanadaGAP. For further information on the AGM or for copies of presentations, please contact Craig Anderson (canderson@hortcouncil.ca)

Keith Kuhl Elected CHC President

Keith Kuhl, a Winkler, Manitoba potato farmer is the new President of the Canadian Horticultural Council. Kuhl was elected during the 91st Annual General Meeting. He owns and operates Southern Manitoba Potato with his two sons and is also chair of the board of directors at Peak of the Market. Kuhl served as Chair of the Potato Committee and Potato Council for nearly 9 years and currently Vice-Chair of the Horticultural Value Chain Roundtable. Keith's father, John, was actively involved with the CHC for many years and served as President in 1987.

Committee Chairs for 2013 were also elected during the AGM:

- Human Resources Committee – Murray Porteous (Chair), Ken Forth (Vice-Chair)
- Research and Technology Committee – Claude Laniel
- Finance and Marketing Committee – Mark Wales
- Trade and Industry Standards Committee – Ken Forth (Chair), Dave Jeffries (Vice-Chair)
- Crop, Plant Protection and Environment Committee – Charles Stevens
- Potato Committee – Joe Brennan (Chair), Tony Kirkland (Vice-Chair)
 - National Seed Potato Sub-Committee – Bob Watson (Chair), Gord Visser (Vice-Chair)
- Apple and Fruit Committee – Brian Gilroy
 - Blueberry Section – Jack Bates
 - Tender Fruit Section – Phil Tregunno

AGM Sponsors Recognized

Sponsors are integral to the success of an organization and events. The Canadian Horticultural Council wished to acknowledge and thank the following sponsors for their generous support of the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

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COMMODITY CORNER

CHC Submits Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 application to AAFC

On February 1, 2013 CHC submitted an application to AAFC's AgriInnovation Program for the Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2. The application included 17 proposed activities under the themes of apple, fruit, greenhouse, vegetable and potato with a total value of \$16 million over five years (2013-2018).

In early March, AAFC informed CHC that the initial review of the application had been completed and the application was moving onto the next stage: technical/scientific review. At this stage, CHC is unsure as to when the review will be completed or when we can expect to receive notice of approval. CHC staff is in constant contact with AAFC and has provided further information and clarification throughout the initial review process.

If you have any questions regarding the application, AAFC's review process, or any aspect of CHC's Cluster projects, please contact Amy Argentino at 613-226-4880 ext. 208 or argentino@hortcouncil.ca

CROP PROTECTION

Invasive Alien Species Symposium a Huge Success

The CHC-hosted Invasive Alien Species Symposium, held in conjunction with 91st Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, was a resounding success. The Symposium was attended by a wide cross section of stakeholders including CHC members, Canadian Government officials from CFIA, AAFC, PMC and PMRA, Provincial officials from OMAFRA and the BC Agriculture Ministry, U.S. government officials from USDA, as well as officials from NAPPO and academics from across North America. Seating was limited and the presentations were extremely informative, leading to an engaging question and answer session. The Symposium provided an opportunity to showcase the ongoing collaborative work of the CHC/PMC Invasive Alien Species Coordination Group and their technical working groups on Spotted Wing Drosophila and Brown Marmorated Stink Bug.

Special thanks to the outstanding speakers:

- Trent Herman, National Manager, Greenhouse and Nursery Section, CFIA, Ottawa
- Hannah Burrack, Assistant Professor of Entomology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
- Tracy Leskey, Research Entomologist, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Kearneysville, WV
- Tracy Hueppelsheuser, Entomologist, Plant Health Unit, BCMA, Abbotsford, BC
- Hannah Fraser, Entomology Program Lead, Agriculture Development Branch, OMAFRA, Vineland Station, ON
- Bar Hayre, blueberry producer, Abbotsford, BC
- Moderators: Gary Brown (Collingwood, NS) and Dr. Tracy Shinnars-Carnelley (Carman, MB)

For more information on the Invasive Alien Species working groups or the Symposium, please contact Craig Anderson at canderson@hortcouncil.ca

10th National Minor Use Priority Setting Workshop

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Pest Management Centre hosted the 10th national minor use priority setting workshop at the Hilton Lac Leamy, Gatineau Quebec, from March 18-21. The meeting brought participants from across the

agricultural industry including producers, federal and provincial government officials, researchers, registrants as well as participants from the U.S. IR-4 program. During the four day workshop participants selected the priority needs for the various commodities and disciplines. For additional information and summary table listing priorities and project statuses, please contact Craig Anderson: canderson@hortcouncil.ca.

TRADE

U.S.-Mexico Tomato Suspension Agreement

The United States and Mexico have reached a tentative agreement on cross-border trade in tomatoes. On March 4, 2013, the US Department of Commerce and producers/exporters accounting for substantially all imports of fresh tomatoes from Mexico signed an agreement suspending the antidumping investigation on fresh tomatoes from Mexico. The basis for the agreement was a commitment by each signatory producer/exporter to sell the subject merchandise at or above the reference price, which will eliminate completely the injurious effects of exports of fresh tomatoes to the United States.

For a complete text of the 2013 Suspension Agreement, list of signatories, sample and suggested forms, and box weight charts follow the link: <http://ia.ita.doc.gov/tomato/2013-agreement/2013-agreement.html>

Minister Flaherty Delivers 2013 Budget, Gives Nod to the Regulatory Cooperation Council

Canada's Finance Minister, Hon. Jim Flaherty, delivered the 2103 federal budget on March 21. This is the Minister's eighth budget and it stays the course with dramatic cuts to program spending, very little new spending or major policy announcements, and is targeted to achieve a balanced budget in 2015. The true extent of cuts to program funding in the budget is so far unknown, however there are some promising investments in agriculture. Growing Forward 2 programs have been earmarked for \$3 billion in funding for investments in research and innovation. In terms of trade, the 2013 federal budget gave a nod to the Canada-United States Regulatory Cooperation Council. The budget noted "the launch of pilot projects for simultaneous submissions to regulators in both countries for crop protection products" and that "Canada will continue to work closely with the United States to implement both the Beyond the Border and Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plans to ensure timely benefits for people and business on both sides of the border." It is worth noting that the Regulatory Cooperation Council Action Plan has as one of its objectives the development of a comparable financial risk mitigation tool to "protect Canadian and U.S. fruit and vegetable suppliers from buyers that default on their payment obligations." A report on next steps for the RCC Action Items was due on March 31.

FOOD SAFETY

Corrections to Proposed Rules in the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act

FDA is correcting technical errors in the proposed rules published January 16, 2013.

- Federal Register Notice of Corrections to the Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food Proposed Rule (<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/03/20/2013-06356/current-good-manufacturing-practice-and-hazard-analysis-and-risk-based-preventive-controls-for-human?source=govdelivery>)
- Federal Register Notice of Corrections to the Standards for Growing, Harvesting, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption Proposed Rule (<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/03/20/2013-06357/standards-for-the-growing-harvesting-packing-and-holding-of-produce-for-human-consumption-correction?source=govdelivery>)

Additional Information Concerning the Proposed Rules

- Overview of the Proposed Rules (<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334120.htm?source=govdelivery>)
- Preventive Controls for Human Food: Fact Sheet on the Proposed Rule (<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334115.htm?source=govdelivery>)
- Standards for Produce Safety: Fact Sheet on the Proposed Rule (<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334114.htm?source=govdelivery>)

REGULATORY UPDATES

Proposed Amendments to Seeds Regulations Pre-Published in Canada Gazette Part I

Proposed Amendments to the Seeds Regulations which would move oilseed soybeans and forage species from Part I to Part III of Schedule III have been pre-published in the Canada Gazette, Part I. An additional amendment would remove the suspension and reinstatement of seed variety registration, and the Regulations would only provide for its cancellation.

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-03-09/html/reg1-eng.html>

<http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-03-09/pdf/g1-14710.pdf>

During the 75-day comment period, questions and comments can be submitted to:

Michael Scheffel, National Manager, Seed Section, Field Crops and Inputs Division, Plant Health and Biosecurity Directorate, Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Email: seedsement@inspection.gc.ca

Consultation on proposed amendments to the New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms) regarding field and greenhouse agricultural research trials with micro-organisms.

On March 21, 2013, the New Substances Program held a Web based multi-stakeholder consultation to obtain feedback on proposed amendments to the New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms) [NSNR (Organisms)]. For those who were unable to attend this first session, we would like to invite you to take part in another session being held on April 5, 2013 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EDT. This web based multi-stakeholder consultation will be held in English, and will present the proposed amendments and answer any questions you may have, with the ultimate goal of obtaining your feedback on these proposed amendments, which could affect you or anyone within your organization who conducts research trials on agricultural land with naturally occurring micro-organisms.

All those interested in participating in the web based consultation on April 5, 2013, are requested to confirm their attendance by sending an email to Heather.Darch@ec.gc.ca no later than April 3, 2013.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Arash Shahsavarani (Environment Canada) at 819-934-1002 or George Arvanitakis (Health Canada) at 613-960-0941. Any written comments regarding the proposed amendments may be sent to biotech@ec.gc.ca

Alternative Service Delivery of Seed Crop Inspection

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is working with industry to transfer seed crop inspection services to an alternate delivery mechanism as one of the Government of Canada's decisions under Budget 2012. This initiative focuses on the direct delivery of seed crop inspection by the private sector. The CFIA will maintain its role as Canada's national seed authority and will continue to be involved in activities in support of seed crop inspection and certification, including licensing and oversight of private sector delivery of seed crop inspection.

CFIA recently issued information directed at prospective Authorized Seed Crop Inspection Services (ASCIS) and Licensed Seed Crop Inspectors (LSCI) for the alternative service delivery (ASD) of seed crop inspection. Applications for licensing as an ASCIS or LSCI are requested by April 22th, 2013. If there are any questions or comments, please email SeedSemence@inspection.gc.ca.

LINK OF THE MONTH

DRC launches new website: www.FVDRC.com

With a renewed focus on dispute prevention education and membership recruitment, the new site is designed to better align with recent rebranding and marketing efforts. Easier to navigate, the site is based on core pillars, Education, Mediation, Arbitration and Networking. DRC members will now have better access to key information to help prevent disputes from happening in the first place. The new site will now allow industry to quickly call up reference tools such as DRC guidelines and templates. Visitors will find an active members list, a history of DRC prepared by Cornell University, access to the DRC Help Desk for confidential consultation and more.

Mark Your Calendar

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| APRIL | 17-19 | CPMA Convention and Trade Show – Fresh Success, Direct Energy Centre, Toronto |
| MAY | 14-16 | United Fresh, San Diego Convention centre, San Diego CA |
| | 30 | 4H Canada 100th Anniversary Gala Celebration http://www.4-h-canada.ca/core/en/celebrate-2013 |

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