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Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 Receives AAFC Approval

Minister Ritz has advised the Canadian Horticultural Council of an allocation of \$7 million dollars in response to the CHC's Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 proposal submitted to the AgriInnovation Program under Growing Forward 2. While this is less than the \$12,114,000 total value of the proposals submitted it is a significant contribution to the sector.

The \$7 million dollars is comprised of \$5,600,000 in Contribution Agreement (CA) funding and \$1,400,000 in Collaborative Research and Development Agreement (CRDA) funding.

CHC President, Keith Kuhl notes "We appreciate the commitment of \$7 million dollars over the next 5 years to horticulture and the CHC will aggressively seek opportunities and alternatives for those commodities and viable projects brought forward to address their respective priorities. Over the coming months the Board of Directors will be discussing ways to take on a more strategic and proactive role regarding research and innovation for the sector and in so doing ensure that the sector advances."

According to AAFC the heaviest demand to the AgriInnovation Program, including agri-science clusters and agri-science projects, was from horticulture.

Discussions among the CHC's Science Advisory Committee and various commodity groups are underway to formalize next steps for those projects which were approved as well as for those which were not. **Proposed projects not included will be resubmitted as Agri-Science Projects under the AgriInnovation Program.**

For further information regarding the Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2, please contact Amy Argentino at aargentino@hortcouncil.ca or 613-226-4880 (ext. 208).

Canadian Food Inspection Agency Undertakes Beyond the Border Agrifood Pilot

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is undertaking an initiative resulting from the Beyond the Border Action Plans, the objectives of which were to improve Canada's and the United States ability to manage security risks, make regulations more compatible and to facilitate the legitimate flow of people, goods and services across the border.

The CFIA, Agrifood Division is responsible for exploring product specific pilots aimed at lowering inspection rates for the agrifood industry while the United States will lead a pilot in the pharmaceutical sector. The intent of the CFIA initiative is to determine whether it is feasible to reduce quality inspection frequencies for apples, onions, and/or potatoes imported from the United States, and whether industry can manage the risks related to quality standards on its own without significant reliance on CFIA and USDA inspections. The CFIA is hopeful this change would expedite the movement of certain products and allow the CFIA to shift inspection resources from quality to food safety inspection.

CFIA has made clear that the intent of this project is not to remove regulatory grade standards for apples, onions and potatoes but to explore the potential to reduce or remove the mandatory inspection/certification requirements for every load of apples, onions and potatoes being imported from the United States.

The initiative will be conducted through 3 phases, the first of which will be completed by the end of May, 2013. The CFIA plans to meet with the USDA in June 2013 to review the feasibility of the reduced inspections and to discuss the upcoming onion pilot and US/Canada reciprocity.

Ontario Farmers Pay Higher Crop Protection Prices than Competitors

According to recent analysis done by the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association (OFVGA), Ontario farmers are paying an estimated \$22 million more every year for crop protection products than their competitors in the United States. This is "Although product mix and volumes vary by crop and region, these numbers represent a disturbing amount of extra costs borne by Ontario farmers compared to our competitors south of the border," says Ray Duc, a grape grower and Chair of the OFVGA.

The analysis was completed using data from the 2012 University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus survey of averages prices for key agricultural inputs in the US and Ontario, which includes fuel, fertilizer and 28 crop protection products; as well as the results of the latest Pesticide Use Survey conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF).

OFVGA analysis shows only three products of the 28 with a lower price in Ontario – RoundUp Weather Max, Guthion Solupac and Dithane DG Rainshield. All other products are more expensive in Ontario than for growers in the United States. The 28 products surveyed by the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus represent approximately 85 per cent by volume of the total crop protection products used in Ontario.

The remaining 15 per cent is made up of over 200 other products, including some with prices up to seven times higher in Canada than the United States, which means the total cost difference could even be higher if these were taken into account. "Crop protection is a significant input cost for our growers and since we compete against global producers of fruits and vegetables, these are extra costs that we cannot recoup from the marketplace," adds Duc. "We need a more level playing field if our industry is to remain competitive."

Ontario fruit and vegetable farmers grow over 120 different crops and account for 30,000 non-family on-farm jobs in rural Ontario, as well as a further 8,700 jobs in specialty processing.

Reusable Plastic Container (RPC) Taskforce Reconvenes

On May 8, 2013 the CPMA RPC Taskforce held its first conference call since being reconvened due to continuing concerns in the horticulture industry regarding the plant health risks from unclean containers, which were put forward as a resolution during the CHC's 2013 Annual General Meeting.

The main concern from industry is regarding the introduction of plant pathogens which may be carried via the RPC into the production process. The next conference call is scheduled for early June and the Taskforce will be exploring the potential for a study into RPC cleanliness.

RCC Stakeholder Dialogue Session

The Canada-U.S. Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) has announced a broad stakeholder session to review progress on the implementation of the Joint Action Plan and seek input on the next phase of regulatory cooperation. This event will take place in Washington, D.C., on June 20, 2013.

The RCC Joint Action Plan was released by Prime Minister Harper and President Obama in December 2011 and followed by a Progress Report a year later in December 2012.

Throughout the RCC mandate, engaging with stakeholders has been a cornerstone of our work -- from helping to shape the initial Joint Action Plan, to providing input into the work plans at the first stakeholder engagement session in January 2012, to the ongoing engagement at the working group level. Input from stakeholders has been, and will continue to be, critical to our success.

Further information on the agenda, location and how to register will be sent to you once the details have been confirmed. Information will also be made available at www.actionplan.gc.ca/rcc.

In addition, the December 2011 RCC Action Plan, individual work-plans for the 29 initiatives (released in 2012), the December 2012 RCC Progress Report to Leaders and related announcements and updates are posted on this website.

COMMODITY CORNER

Health Canada Releases Measuring the Food Environment in Canada Report

On May 14th, Health Canada announced the release of the Measuring the Food Environment in Canada Report. The report was prepared for the Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion, Health Canada, in collaboration with a working group of the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Group on Nutrition. The purpose of the report is to describe current Canadian evidence on geographical access to nutritious food and associations between food environments and diet-related health outcomes; to explore current research initiatives aimed at measuring the food environment in Canada; and to highlight the limitations and gaps in current research related to the food environment.

Health Canada is unable to post the report on the Health Canada website at this time, however to obtain a copy please contact Craig Anderson: canderson@hortcouncil.ca

Review of the Canadian Partners in Quality (C-PIQ) Program

The Canadian Potato Council Quality Assurance Working Group has been cooperating with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on a review of the Canadian Partners in Quality (C-PIQ) Program to provide greater flexibility potato packers and shippers. The voluntary C-PIQ Program is an integrated inspection system, which provides an alternative to the traditional hands on inspection by the CFIA for tablestock potatoes exported to the United States.

A first amendment to the Program will come into effect June 3, 2013 under Section 5.3.1, *Suspension of Registration*. This amendment removes a clause that allowed minor non-conformities to cumulatively linger for potentially a number of years, long after the non-conformity had been corrected by the packer or shipper.

Additional amendments to the Program have been agreed to by the Working Group and the CFIA and are pending agreement by the United States Department of Agriculture prior to implementation.

The revised C-PIQ Program Manual is available at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/fssa/frefra/qual/cpiqman/cpiqmane.shtml>

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/francais/fssa/frefra/qual/cpiqman/cpiqmanf.shtml>

CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

Consultation on Draft NAPPO Strategic Plan

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is requesting comments on the 2013-2015 NAPPO Strategic Plan which is currently undergoing consultation among the three NAPPO member countries. NAPPO is effective in coordinating the efforts among Canada, the United States and Mexico to protect their plant resources from the entry, establishment and spread of regulated plant pests, while facilitating intraregional and interregional trade. A key component of the NAPPO's draft strategic goals is to significantly improve awareness and communication regarding the importance and activities of the NAPPO. The strategic goals and the means for accomplishing them over the next 3 years are described in the document.

To receive a copy of the 2013-2015 NAPPO Strategic Plan or submit comments please contact Craig Anderson:

canderson@hortcouncil.ca.

Pest Management Regulatory Agency Releases Re-evaluation Summary for Stakeholders

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency's Value Assessment and Re-Evaluation Management Directorate (VRD) intends to provide its stakeholders with an updated summary of proposed and/or final decisions made with respect to the re-evaluation of active ingredients.

The following chemicals were updated as of March 2013 in this version:

- Malathion
- Ethalfuralin
- Triophanate-methyl

To obtain a copy of the Re-evaluation Summary Table for Stakeholders, please contact Craig Anderson:

canderson@hortcouncil.ca

Pest Management Center Releases Biopesticides and Minor Use Priorities

At the beginning of May, the Pest Management Center released the priorities selected at the Canadian Bio-pesticides & Minor Use Pesticides Priorities Setting Workshops on March 18-21, 2013 in Gatineau, Quebec.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the released priorities please contact Craig Anderson: canderson@hortcouncil.ca

To subscribe to Pest Management Center email notifications please follow the link: [e-mail notifications](#)

TRADE

Florida Tomato Growers File Lawsuit over New Tomato Pact

Florida's tomato growers are challenging the suspension agreement which sets a floor price on imports, in the US Court of International Trade. The Florida Tomato Exchange filed the lawsuit to ensure that the agreement complies with federal trade laws. The renewed suspension agreement went into effect in March and set different prices for field and greenhouse grown product.

CFIA to define "Local" Food Claims

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency is undertaking an initiative to modernize its food labelling approach. The CFIA will conduct a review of food labelling regulations, guidelines and policies including claims such as use of the term "local" In the interim, the CFIA is adopting an interim policy which recognizes "local" as:

- food produced in the province or territory in which it is sold, or
- food sold across provincial borders within 50 km of the originating province or territory

The CFIA recognizes that this is a broad interpretation of the current policy and there are a variety of views on how the term "local" should be defined. This is an interim policy which will be implemented immediately and will remain in effect until the CFIA's labelling review is complete. Consultations during the modernization of its food labelling approach will help inform CFIA on future direction. The use of the claim "local" is still subject to prohibitions relating to false and misleading claims of the ***Food and Drugs Act*** as well as the ***Consumer Packaging and Labelling Act***.

Under the previous policy, the CFIA interpreted the terms "local", "locally grown", or any similar term to mean that:

- the food originated within a 50 km radius of the place where it was sold,
- or the food sold originated within the same local government unit (e.g. municipality) or adjacent government unit.

The CFIA recognizes that this approach is outdated and does not reflect current food production practices or consumer needs and expectations. It is important to note that claims such as "local" are voluntary and industry are encouraged to add qualifiers such as the name of a city to provide consumers with additional information. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the regulated party to comply with applicable legislation and regulations.

FOOD SAFETY

Meeting Transcripts Now Available

Transcripts from the FSMA Public Meeting concerning proposed rules for Preventive Controls in Human Food and Produce Safety Standards, held in Washington, DC, are now available. Visit the [FSMA meeting page](#) to view them and other materials.

For more information on FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act, visit <http://www.fda.gov/fsma>.

REGULATORY UPDATES

European Union Bans Neonicotinoid on Plants and Cereals that Attract Bees

The European Union has approved a ban on neonicotinoid's to enter into force by December 2013. The ban follows a deal agreed to last month which restricted neonicotinoids use. The ban will last for two years or until new information become available.

Statutory Review of the *Pest Control Products Act*

The Pest Control Products Act protects human health and safety and the environment by regulating products used for the control of pests. The current Act came into force in 2006 and contains a requirement for a Statutory Review every 7 years. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency invites stakeholders and the public to identify any substantive concerns with the Act and its administration for consideration during the upcoming review.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide written comments by June 15, 2013. Written comments should be submitted to the [PMRA's Regulatory Affairs](#) section, or to submitted to the Canadian Horticultural Council, through Craig Anderson: canderson@hortcouncil.ca

LINKS OF THE MONTH

Pesticide Risk Reduction News Alert

Please note that the Guidelines on Prevention and Management of Pesticide Resistance, published in January 2013 in English only, have recently been translated in French and Spanish.

- [Guidelines on Prevention and Management of Pesticide Resistance](#)
- [Directives pour la prévention et la gestion de la résistance aux pesticides](#)
- [Directrices sobre la Prevención y Manejo de la Resistencia a los Plaguicidas](#)

To receive future news alerts from FAO, register online for the E-newsletter by sending an email to: Pesticide-Management@fao.org

Mark Your Calendar

July	22	CHC Apple Working Group Mid-Summer Meeting, St. Catharines, ON aargentino@hortcouncil.ca
	25-26	CHC Board of Directors Semi-Annual Meeting, Charlottetown, PEI
	28- Aug 1	Potato Association of America 97 th Annual Meeting, Québec City http://www.paa2013.com/
August	21	Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Summer Meeting & Tour, Bowmanville, ON DHutton@ofvga.org

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