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## *Mark Your Calendar*

### Regulatory Cooperation Council Progress Reports: Financial Protection for Produce Sellers

The Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) is helping Canadian and U.S. agricultural industries by aligning regulatory systems, reducing trade barriers and preventing misalignments in the future. The RCC process has made solid progress in finding common ground to protect fresh fruit and vegetable growers and other sellers on both sides of the border from financial risk associated with issues involving payment.

At this point, the Government of Canada has agreed to consider the development of a one-licensing approach. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is intending to initiate a process to publicly consult on new food regulations for Canada. This consultation will cover licensing requirements for produce dealers for the purposes of fair and ethical trade. These consultations are expected to be launched later this spring and will provide an opportunity for comments to be submitted.

The Government of Canada also recognizes the possibility for greater risk mitigation in the fresh produce sector. For this reason, they are undertaking further analysis on risk mitigation measures beyond licensing changes. The Government of Canada fully expects the outcome of this process will lead to improvements to the financial risk mitigation tools available to fresh produce sellers.

### AAFC Associate Deputy Minister Announced

Prime Minister Stephen Harper recently announced changes in the senior ranks of the Public Service, including Timothy Sargent as Associate Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, effective April 29, 2013. He previously served as Acting Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Operations), Privy Council Office.

### 2013 NAPPO Annual Meeting Details Announced, RSPM 36 Approved

The 2013 North American Plant Protection Organization's (NAPPO) annual meeting will be held in Guelph, Ontario, from October 28 - November 1. The topic for the 2013 symposium is "Using science and technology to support phytosanitary work". This year's meeting will provide a forum to discuss various Regional Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (RSPM, which are applicable among the three North American Countries (Canada, USA and Mexico). The most recently approved RSPM, is RSPM 36: Phytosanitary Guidelines for the Movement of Seed. The full text of this and all other NAPPO RSPMs are available online.

For more information on the 2013 annual meeting or the recently announced RSPM standards contact Craig Anderson [canderson@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:canderson@hortcouncil.ca).

### Survey on the Environmental Performance of Canada's Horticulture Value Chain

The Energy and Environment Working Group (EEWG) of the Horticulture Value Chain Roundtable (HVCRT) with cooperation from AAFC has developed the following survey on the Environmental Performance of Canada's Horticulture Value Chain. This survey will gather valuable information to establish a baseline of the environmental performance of Canada's horticulture value chain. By understanding the activities and priorities of the horticultural sector, we will be better equipped to develop information a tools for the sector, to meet the environmental demands of the market. The work that is derived from this survey will be used cooperatively with the work taking place in the US with their own horticultural industry.

Please take the time to fill out the survey and forward it to your industry members across the country. The EEWG will later distribute the survey results and lessons learned to the HVCRT, so it may be further distributed to industry stakeholders. The survey will take about 10 minutes maximum 15 minutes to fill it out. Please follow the link below to find the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7PL5ZGS>

## **CPMA Annual Awards Presented**

Hugh Bowman, chief executive officer and owner of Bayshore Vegetable Shippers, received the Fresh Health Award from Melanie Richer of The Produce News. The award was presented to Mr. Bowman and Learning Tree Canada's Joni Bowman, a top-selling curriculum writer. The April 19, 2013 awards breakfast honored three other industry members: Adrian Huisman received the 2013 CPMA Lifetime Achievement Award; Jane Proctor was recognized by The Packer as the Canadian Produce Person of the Year Award and Stephanie Lariviere received the Mary Fitzgerald Award.

## **COMMODITY CORNER**

### **Ontario greenhouse growers launch local buy program**

CBC.ca

Ontario greenhouse growers have launched an ambitious marketing program in an effort to boost sales and convince people to buy local. The Naturally Fresh Inside campaign consists of aggressive marketing, in-store sampling and a social media blitz paid for by the Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association. The campaign starts just as the offshore and import vegetable supplies tail off.

Each year, Ontario's 224 greenhouses on 2,272 acres produce:

- 300 million English cucumbers
- 165 million pounds of bell peppers
- 420 million pounds of tomatoes

Greenhouse growers in Ontario produce 300 million English cucumbers, 165 million pounds of bell peppers and 420 million pounds of tomatoes each year.

### **Arctic apple enters second US public comment period**

Non-browning Golden Delicious and Granny Smith apples could gain U.S. market access as early as fall of this year. As the fruit approaches its second U.S. public commenting period in June, the genetically modified Arctic apple continues to provoke debate on arctic apples food safety. Arctic apples have already finished their first public commenting period in the U.S. and Canada, where the product was developed. Combined, the two periods brought in around 5,000 comments

### **British Columbia looks to big blueberry growth**

Fresh Fruit Portal

Canada ranks as the second biggest blueberry producer in world, just behind the United States. In 2012, Canada produced 112,363 MT of blueberries, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. The biggest producing regions were Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia, the largest production zone with 9,326 hectares and 883 growers. Production in British Columbia has risen steadily over the last few years, with about 60% of blueberries currently going to processing.

To expand on production even more, growers in the province are trying out new varieties to push the season even longer. Top planted varieties are Duke, Bluecrop and Elliot with interest as well in Hardy Blue, Reka, Draper and Liberty varieties.

Productivity and quality control have made it possible for Canada and British Columbia in particular to establish international trade partners. The country's biggest buyers right now are the U.S., Japan and the U.K.

China will soon become the next big market and it is estimated that China would accept Canadian blueberries in 12 to 24 months. If Canada can strike a deal with China, the North American nation will come onto the market at the same time as China's harvest celebration or Moon Festival, typically in September or early October.

## **CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION**

### **Crop Protection Advisory Committee Meets**

The Crop Protection Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened via conference call on April 11, 2013. The CPAC's new Chair Charles Stevens lead the Committee through discussions of new CPAC priorities for the coming year, and was proud to welcome CPAC's Past Chair, Gary Brown as Vice Chair. Priorities for the CPAC in the coming year include the upcoming re-evaluation of Mancozeb, invasive species, and harmonization of labels, pricing and maximum residue limits (MRLs). A list of Action Items was created to address these identified priorities and the CPAC members were quick to send a letter to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency's Dr. Richard Aucoin in advance of the upcoming CODEX meetings in Beijing indicating the horticultural industries priorities when it comes to the establishment of global MRLs. For more information on the Crop Protection Advisory Committee, its priorities and work plan, please contact Craig Anderson [canderson@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:canderson@hortcouncil.ca).

### **CHC-PMC Invasive Alien Species Coordination Group Update**

The Invasive Alien Species Coordination Group held a conference call on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April to discuss the success of the symposium and to identify objectives moving forward. The Technical Working Groups (SWD and BMSB) will proceed with the proposed actions in the work plans shared during the IAS Symposium held in conjunction with the CHC AGM. Next steps include looking for funding opportunities, promoting communication and surveillance throughout the growing season and looking to funding for projects which were submitted through the Agri-Science Cluster. Outreach activities, including trapping and scouting, will progress through the season and will continue to generate more information which will be shared with growers.

## **SPS measures holding back U.S. produce exports to Asia**

Fresh Fruit Portal 4/17/13

From “burdensome” processes for approving pesticides in some countries to lengthy pest risk assessments in others, the U.S. Trade Representative has listed several barriers affecting produce exports. The “2013 Report on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures” offers an in-depth explanation of how these issues are affecting U.S. business around the world.

A common theme throughout the report was the issue of maximum residue limits (MRLs) and pesticide or fungicide approval. The products mentioned that were affected by slow MRL processes were cherries, apples, wheat, barley, potatoes, strawberries, almonds and corn. The paper also made note of a “unique and complicated” deferral process when no MRLs were established.

Officials from both countries have been negotiating alternative options since 2008, and the report said they continued to work on the issue.

Another important matter raised in the report was the amount of time taken by authorities to conduct PRAs on U.S.-grown broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, and celery, which were requested to be made in 2006. The U.S. also asked for a PRA on its potatoes in 2009.

Elsewhere in South East Asia, the report raised concerns about exporter registration requirements, sampling rates and the coverage of MRLs in Vietnam.

## **TRADE**

### **Launch of VCM International - Global Advisory Group in Value Chain Management**

Reflecting a growing recognition that value chain management is a distinct management strategy that increases the competitiveness and profitability of all businesses, regardless of the industry sector or country in which they operate, the Value Chain Management Centre (formerly a part of the George Morris Centre in Guelph, Ontario) has partnered with leading international experts to form the global advisory group VCM International (VCMI). VCMI's head office is located in Oakville, Canada.

Dr. Martin Gooch, VCMI's Chief Executive Officer, has been a proponent of value chain management (VCM) practices for over fifteen years. Applying VCM methodology, he has helped businesses develop closer strategic relationships with customers and suppliers, resulting in their being able to learn and adapt more effectively and to realize greater profits than if operating unilaterally. With the incorporation of VCMI, Martin has brought together a unique team of specialists possessing complementary skills to address the challenges and risks that businesses face by not working together in closely aligned value chains.

VCMI International — [www.vcm-international.com](http://www.vcm-international.com) — enables businesses to compete more effectively by creating environmentally and financially sustainable value chains. Its global consulting team is located in Canada, Europe, and Australasia and comprises world leaders in experiential management training, commercial-focused environmental sustainability, and value chain innovation. VCM International owns and operates the Value Chain Management Centre - [www.valuechains.ca](http://www.valuechains.ca).

### **Canada Gazette Notice for Free Trade Agreement with Thailand, Comments due May 22, 2013.**

The Government of Canada is seeking the views of Canadians on the scope of a potential free trade agreement between Canada and Thailand. This notice is part of the Government of Canada's domestic consultation process with business, citizen-based organizations and individual Canadians, as well as with provincial and territorial governments, to obtain advice and views on priorities, objectives and concerns to help outline the parameters of this initiative.

Please find below the link for your information: <http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-03-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html>

### **Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA): eManifest Highway Carrier Informed Compliance Period Extended**

The eManifest Portal is an option developed by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) to allow the trade community to electronically transmit their pre-arrival information via the Internet. The eManifest Portal was developed primarily for small to medium sized enterprises to facilitate their compliance and ease the transition from paper reporting to pre-arrival electronic data transmission. In May 2012, the CBSA deployed electronic systems for rail carriers to transmit cargo and conveyance data, and had set its implementation date for highway carriers to May 2013.

The CBSA is extending the eManifest informed compliance period for highway carriers as a result of the timelines associated with the regulatory process. Regulations to enforce eManifest requirements for highway carriers are expected to be in place in Fall 2013. The CBSA anticipates being able to provide carriers as much as 45 days advance notice of the mandatory compliance date and strongly encourages all carriers to adopt eManifest requirements before they become mandatory. Once regulations are in place, non-compliant carriers could be subject to penalties.

### **Proposed Agriculture Labor Reform for the US**

In the US there is widespread support for the agriculture labor provisions included in the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act following the bill's introduction on Wednesday. The landmark legislation, which was introduced in the (US) Senate on April 17, 2013 includes provisions based on agreements made by the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC), United Farm Workers, and key lawmakers. For years industry has fought to achieve meaningful immigration reform to provide a legal and stable workforce for fruit and vegetable growers

## North American Produce Transportation Working Group Publishes Spanish Resources

The North American Produce Transportation Working Group (NAPTWG) has announced the posting of a Spanish version of the NAPTWG website. The site offers best practice documents pertaining to the handling and transport of fresh produce to facilitate a seamless, safe, and sustainable global supply-chain. The transportation resources are intended for shippers, receivers and carriers. For more information, please visit the [NAPTWG website](#), which is now available in [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

## FOOD SAFETY

### FDA Grants Extension for Proposed FSMA Rules Comment Period

In response to a request by United Fresh and other industry groups, including the Canadian Horticultural Council, to extend the comment period for the FSMA proposed rules, FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg announced that FDA intends to extend the comment period by another 120 days. The comment period was originally set to end May 16.

### Food safety certification required for Metro suppliers

Metro has announced that they are requiring all their produce suppliers to be certified under a recognized food safety program. Effective December 31, 2013, all produce vendors who provide produce to Metro will be required to be certified under one of the Global Food Safety Initiatives (GFSI) recognized food safety standards.

### RPC Task Force to Reconvene

The CPMA RPC Task Force will reconvene to further review industry concerns pertaining to reusable plastic container as a potential pathway for potential food safety and phytosanitary pathogens.

## REGULATORY UPDATES

### FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) – UPDATE

#### Comment Period Extensions

FDA today issued Federal Register notices to extend the comment periods on the proposed rules for *Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food* (the Preventive Controls proposed rule) and *Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption* (the Produce Safety proposed rule) until September 16, 2013.

The comment period for the [Draft Qualitative Risk Assessment of Risk of Activity/Food Combinations for Activities \(Outside the Farm Definition\) Conducted in a Facility Co-Located on a Farm \(PDF: 660KB\)](#) is also extended.

See:

- Federal Register Notice: [Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food: Extension of Comment Period](#)
- Federal Register Notice: [Standards for Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption: Extension of Comment Period](#)
- Federal Register Notice: [Draft Qualitative Risk Assessment of Risk of Activity/Food Combinations for Activities \(Outside the Farm Definition\) Conducted in Facility Co-Located on Farm; Availability: Extension of Comment Period](#)
- [Overview of the FSMA Proposed Rules on Produce Safety Standards and Preventive Controls for Human Food](#)

### China: WTO Notification G/SPS/N/CHN 602

China notified its World Trade Organization (WTO) trading partners of a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) notification related to uses of food additives. The Ministry of Health in China is notifying trading partners about changes to the National Food Safety Standard: Standards for Uses of Food Additives. This standard sets the principles for the use of food additives and covers different varieties of food additives, food categories, the maximum use levels for food additives and amounts of residue.

For more information or a translated version of the notice please contact Craig Anderson [canderson@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:canderson@hortcouncil.ca)

### Implementation of the United States new NAPPRA (Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis) rule

The United States Department of Agriculture has published its Not Authorized Pending Pest Risk Analysis (NAPPRA) rule, which will be implemented on May 20, 2013.

The purpose of the NAPPRA rule is to mitigate pest risk. As a result, the United States (U.S.) has implemented a new list of prohibited plant taxa from specified origins that are not authorized for importation into the U.S. without the completion of a Pest Risk Analysis (PRA). There are cases where genera from a certain origin are approved for entry into Canada, but cannot be re-exported to the U.S. from Canada. According to the U.S., in these cases, plants entering Canada after the May 20, 2013 implementation date will not be able to be considered as Canadian origin regardless of how long they have been grown in Canada. This determination also applies to all progeny.

Exporters are required to declare the origin of their product when applying for a phytosanitary certificate, and may be asked

to provide documentation to verify the origin of material that is destined for the U.S.. If origin cannot be verified to the satisfaction of the inspector, a phytosanitary certificate cannot be issued. Exporters who obtain material from a domestic source, and who may want to export the product to the U.S., should ask for origin information/documentation when purchasing the product in order to support the phytosanitary certification process when they wish to export.

You can view the NAPPPRA Final Notice at:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import\\_export/plants/plant\\_imports/Q37/nappra/index.shtml](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/import_export/plants/plant_imports/Q37/nappra/index.shtml)

## LINKS OF THE MONTH

### Innovation Express, AAFC's Science Newsletter

Welcome to the first electronic notice for Innovation Express! Learn about new developments, discoveries and partnerships in agricultural science.

The newest issue contains these stories and more:

- Barley is 'In' When it Comes to Heart Health
- Soil Microorganisms Hold Potential to Boost Crop Yields
- Satellite Monitors Soil Moisture from Space
- Bees: The New Pest Control Applicators
- Bioreactor Reduces Nitrates in Tile Drainage Water

View the entire issue on-line at: [www.agr.ca.ca/innovationexpressmagazine](http://www.agr.ca.ca/innovationexpressmagazine)

The Innovation Express Team, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada [Innovationexpress@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Innovationexpress@agr.gc.ca)

### New research call from Canadian International Food Security Research Fund to focus on improving food production and distribution

Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of International Cooperation and MP for Newmarket-Aurora, Lois Brown, announced in early April, that Canada will invest an additional \$62.5 million to make food more secure and nutritious in developing countries through its flagship [Canadian International Food Security Research Fund \(CIFSRF\)](#). Ms. Brown made the announcement at the University of Guelph alongside some of the Canadian researchers already supported by the fund. She also launched CIFSRF's 2013 call for new research projects.

Through this call, the Fund is looking to harness the best of the private, public and non-governmental sectors to expand its research portfolio and lay the groundwork for scaling-up research results and innovations – within a country, across a region, and possibly, across continents.

**The deadline for submission of concept notes is June 5, 2013.** Project budgets under this call will be in the range of CA\$1 to CA\$5 million. To read the Call for Concept Notes and associated documents and to access the application form, visit the [Competitions page](#).

## *Mark Your Calendar*

<b>MAY</b>	<b>14-16</b>	United Fresh, San Diego Convention centre, San Diego CA
	<b>30</b>	4H Canada 100th Anniversary Gala Celebration <a href="http://www.4-h-canada.ca/core/en/celebrate-2013">http://www.4-h-canada.ca/core/en/celebrate-2013</a>
<b>July</b>	<b>22</b>	CHC Apple Working Group Mid-Summer Meeting – July 22, 2013, St. Catharines, ON

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