



Headlines

- ✚ Public Hearings into the Proposal for a National Promotion and Research Agency
- ✚ AAFC welcomes new Deputy Minister
- ✚ CHC appears before Standing Committee
- ✚ CFIA's "Single Food Program" restructuring hits milestone



Public Hearings into the Proposal for a National Promotion and Research Agency

Public hearings to examine the merits for the establishment of a National Promotion and Research Agency for Strawberries concluded in Montreal on April 23. The day-long session included presentations from registered interveners supporting the application submitted by the applicant, Association des producteurs de fraises et framboises du Québec, including: Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA), Ontario Berry Growers Association, McGill University, Université Laval and the Canadian Horticultural Council. Those speaking in opposition included the California Strawberry Commission and the Retail Council of Canada. The panel will now consider the proposal and comments and provide a recommendation to the Farm Products Council for consideration. In his closing remarks, panel Chair Timothy O'Connor noted that a number of options will be considered, including accepting parts of the proposal, suggesting changes or declining the proposal. A previous public hearing was held in Vancouver on April 1.

AAFC welcomes new Deputy Minister

Andrea Lyon assumed the position of Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada on April 28, succeeding Suzanne Vinet, who held the post for nearly two hectic years. Ms. Vinet has retired after 28 years in the federal civil service including several stints in agriculture as well as senior executive posts at Transport and Health Canada. Andrea Lyon is not new to the AAFC portfolio and was the Associate Deputy Minister of Agriculture from 2009 to 2011, and has a lengthy background in trade matters with Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

CHC appears before Standing Committee

CHC Executive Vice President, Anne Fowlie, appeared before the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food on April 30, 2014. The presentation included reference to the success and challenges of the important science cluster program, market access, the critical need for a well-resourced and effective Canadian Food Inspection Agency to support market access and phytosanitary matters, MRL and pesticide harmonization, succession planning and the need for changes to the small business tax limit and challenges of competing with the US Farm Bill. The presentation was in response to a request to appear as part of the committee's study of Innovation and Competitiveness. For a copy of the presentation, please contact Anne Fowlie (afowlie@hortcouncil.ca)

CFIA's "Single Food Program" restructuring hits milestone

April 1, 2014 was a significant milestone for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) food directorates. In a letter to major stakeholders, Paul Mayer, VP of the Agency's Policy and Programs Branch, outlined initial steps taken in a year-long plan to implement a single food program.

Until recently, CFIA operated eight separate food programs: dairy, egg, fish and seafood, fresh fruits and vegetables, imported and manufactured food, maple, meat, and processed products such as honey. This structure presented challenges in managing risks consistently across different types of establishments and different foods; creating situations in which foods of similar risks may be inspected at different frequencies or in different ways; and requiring industry to meet multiple and different requirements that can be difficult to address.



Regular Features

- ✚ Crop and Plant Protection
- ✚ Commodity Corner
- ✚ Food Safety
- ✚ Link of the Month

Mark Your Calendar!



As part of a global modernization agenda, CFIA is transitioning away from commodity-based approaches toward a horizontal, single food program design. This includes the new food inspection model, developed in consultation with industry over the past two years, and the implementation of new food regulations that will bring the *Safe Food for Canadians Act* into force.

Though Mayer stresses that the move to a single food program does not change the CFIA's core role and responsibilities, the transition may change the program and policy contacts stakeholders have traditionally dealt with, and will also affect the way the Agency currently consults with stakeholders. As of April 1, some CFIA staff in food-related areas began to transition to a new reporting structure. For the moment, stakeholders should continue to use their regular contacts for information and enquiries, but CFIA will shortly send out advisories with new points of contact.

For more information about the single food program, or to share ideas, issues or concerns, email CFIA-Modernisation-ACIA@inspection.gc.ca.

GENERAL NEWS

Bayer CropScience opens North American Bee Care Center

On April 15, Bayer CropScience opened the North American Bee Care Center, located at the company's North American headquarters at Research Triangle Park, North Carolina. The \$2.4 million center brings together significant technological, scientific and academic resources, with goals of promoting improved honey bee health, product stewardship and sustainable agriculture. A 6,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility, the Center will complement the Eastern Bee Care Technology Station in Clayton, N.C., and a Bee Care Center at the joint global headquarters campus of Bayer CropScience and Bayer Animal Health in Monheim, Germany.

According to a company press release, the Center, part of the company's \$12 million investment in bee health in 2014, brings together some of the brightest minds in agriculture and apiology to develop comprehensive solutions for bee health. This includes entomologists, apiarists and graduate researchers, among others.

CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

Nunhems unit rebrands as Bayer CropScience Vegetable Seeds

The Nunhems unit of global agriscience giant Bayer CropScience changed its name and visual identity in early April, to become Bayer CropScience Vegetable Seeds. The rebranded business unit will be responsible for all of Bayer CropScience's vegetable seed activities worldwide, from research to after-sales, the company said. The "Nunhems" name will be retained as the product brand, but its new visual identity will be aligned with Bayer CropScience Seeds and Crop Protection product brands. Packaging, advertisements, brochures and internet presences have also been redesigned and will be rolled out gradually.

"The new visual identity for the brand Nunhems reflects the overall company strategy of Bayer to significantly increase the value of its portfolio in fruit and vegetables," said Bayer CropScience in a press release.

Regulated area expanded for plum pox virus in the Niagara region

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has expanded the current regulated area for plum pox virus in the Niagara region to better prevent the spread of the plant disease and protect the area's tender fruit trees and industry. This expansion is in response to the confirmed finding of the disease approximately 900 meters inside the western edge of the existing regulated area. The regulated area has been expanded by 800 meters based on international standards to control the disease.

It is forbidden to move potentially infested material, such as infected wood and nursery stock, out of regulated areas. The CFIA will continue its surveillance and monitoring activities across Canada to prevent the spread of the plum pox virus. The Agency will adjust its approach to address new findings should they occur. Additional details are available at: <http://news.gc.ca/web/1836699>

CFIA requests stakeholder feedback on grapevine moth Risk Management Documents

The CFIA has circulated two Risk Management Documents for *Lobesia botrana* (European grapevine moth) which examines the risk associated with the introduction this pest into Canada, and outlines risk management options. *Lobesia botrana* is predominantly a pest of grapes and reduces both grape yields and quality in all areas of the world where it is present. The larvae feed directly on the fruit; this increases the fruits' susceptibility to fungi, particularly to *Aspergillus spp.* and *Botrytis cinerea*. *Lobesia botrana* could survive in Canada's major grape-growing areas (southern Ontario and parts of British Columbia) where it is anticipated that it would have a significant negative impact on grape yields. If this insect were to establish in Canada, it would also impact Canada's ability to export *L. botrana* host material to countries where *L. botrana* is a regulated pest. Written comments may be sent by email to horticulture@inspection.gc.ca or by fax to (613) 773-7163. Deadline is **June 10, 2014**.

Download Risk Management Documents: **English:** <http://goo.gl/KLYUOX> -- **French:** <http://goo.gl/QIQ9Zb>

COMMODITY CORNER

Revised US Import requirements for red-skinned potatoes

The United States (U.S.) have modified their import requirements related to the quality of red-skinned round type potatoes due to a corresponding change in U.S. domestic requirements. As a result, red-skinned round type potatoes imported into the U.S. are now exempt from U.S. potato import regulations and, as such, are exempt from minimum grade, size, quality, maturity, as well as inspection requirements in place under 7 CFR Part 980.

The CFIA recently advised industry that:

1. Round reds imported into the U.S. are exempt from minimum grade, size, quality and maturity requirements
2. Round reds imported into the U.S. are also exempt from the quality inspection/certification requirement
3. Since round reds are exempt from U.S. Import Regulations, the Importer's Exempt Commodity Form (FV-6) is not required for round reds imported into the U.S.
4. Perishable agricultural commodities are not required to be labelled under PACA; however any labelling that is used must be truthful

The CFIA is still assessing the impact of this change with respect to:

- requests for traditional CFIA inspection and certification of red-skinned round type potatoes, when an inspection is not required by USDA, and
- the Canadian Partners in Quality (C-PIQ) Program

USDA plant health requirements are unchanged and still apply. For more information, please contact Manon Dicaire, Program Specialist, Standards of Identity, Composition & Grades, CFIA (613) 773-6204 | manon.dicaire@inspection.gc.ca.

AAFC invests \$2 million in wine grape sector

Canada's wine grape sector has gained support in its efforts to become more competitive and sustainable with a \$2 million investment from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriInnovation Program. According to an AAFC press release, the British Columbia Wine Grape Council (BCWGC) will now be able to better compete on domestic and international markets, meet evolving consumer demands and tastes and boost producers' bottom line by improving quality and yields, while reducing losses from pests and diseases. This investment builds on previous support of \$2 million provided to BCWGC under the Developing Innovative Agri-Products (DIAP) initiative, for a project to help improve irrigation and nutrient management to achieve the highest vine and fruit quality.

LINK OF THE MONTH

Canadian Agri-Food Policy Institute (CAPI) <http://www.capi-icpa.ca/>

As an independent, non-partisan policy catalyst, CAPI brings insight, evidence and balance to emerging issues. CAPI provides a neutral place to hold dialogues and generate perspectives among leaders across the food system.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2014

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---|
| MAY | 6-8 | CropLife Canada Spring Dialogue Days, The Westin Ottawa, Ottawa, ON http://tiny.cc/dialoguedays14 |
| JUNE | 17-18 21-24 26-28 | CFIA Health and Safety Food Forum 2014, Palais des congrès de Gatineau, Gatineau, QC International Federation for Produce Standards, Auckland, NZ Fresh Connections: PMA Australia-New Zealand, Auckland, NZ |
| JULY | 21-22 23-24 | Canadian Horticultural Council Mid-Summer Apple Meeting, Penticton, BC. Info: aargentino@hortcouncil.ca Canadian Horticultural Council Board of Directors Summer Meeting and Tour, Winnipeg, Portage-la-Prairie, Winkler, MB |
| NOVEMBER | 17-19 | Fall Harvest 2014 – Meetings on the Hill, Ottawa, ON. Info: communications@hortcouncil.ca |

2015

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| MARCH | 10-12 | The 93 rd Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, Quebec City. Info: lvinokuroff@hortcouncil.ca |
|--------------|--------------|--|

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