



## Headlines

- ✚ CHC President and AAFC Deputy Minister Lyon meet
- ✚ *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* consultations launched
- ✚ New office construction begins
- ✚ Send us your photos!

## Regular Features

- ✚ Crop and Plant Protection
- ✚ Research
- ✚ Trade
- ✚ Link of the Month

## Mark Your Calendar!



### CHC President and AAFC Deputy Minister Lyon meet



Keith Kuhl and Deputy-Minister Lyon

CHC President Keith Kuhl and newly appointed AAFC Deputy Minister, Andrea Lyon, met on May 6, 2014 in Ottawa. The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to introduce the Canadian Horticultural Council and key issues early in her tenure. A range of issues were discussed including RCC Financial Protection for Produce Sellers, Seed Potato Tuber Quality Management Program, food safety and traceability and market access.

### *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* consultations launched

On May 16, 2014 Industry Canada launched consultations on the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act and the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, with the goal of ensuring that the Acts remain effective, efficient, foster competitiveness, support entrepreneurial activity and instil investor and business confidence. The CHC, through the Fresh Produce Alliance, will be submitting comments and will also be reaching out to members to comment. This is seen as an important step in addressing the Financial Protection for Produce Sellers action item. The comment period is sixty days. The consultation paper is available at <http://tiny.cc/insolvency>.

### Construction begins on CHC's new offices

CHC is on the move! Construction has begun at 2200 Prince of Wales, the future site of the Canadian Horticultural Council's new offices. Only a few short blocks away from current office at 9 Corvus Court, the new offices will be housed in the [Chambers of Prince of Wales](#) complex. CHC's move to the new site is tentatively scheduled for late November, 2014.



Illustration courtesy Springress Inc.

### Horticulture photo contest!

We need your help! The CHC is looking to substantially enhance our inventory of photos highlighting every facet of Canada's horticulture industry, including all commodities and all seasons. Photos including people are of particular interest. Those submitting photos on or before November 30, 2014 will be eligible to win a complimentary 2015 AGM registration. The winning photo will be revealed during the 2015 AGM and the submitter will be awarded an iPad. Photos should be in high resolution format and will be used in CHC publications and on the website, citing source. Please send questions and entries to [communications@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:communications@hortcouncil.ca). If your photo is too large to email, please contact us for upload information.



## GENERAL NEWS

### Art Smith retires after 12 years at the helm of OFVGA

Art Smith is retiring this month after 12 years as CEO of the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association (OFVGA). Horticulture has been a lifetime commitment from his early years in the Niagara peninsula. His family's fruit farm specialized in cherries, pears, peaches and later grape production and cherry processing.

After he graduated in horticulture from the University of Guelph in 1973, he returned to the home farm before starting his own grape vineyard on the bench of the Niagara Escarpment. He was a member, director and eventually chair of the Grape Growers' Marketing Board. He also held the position of executive director of this board before joining the OFVGA as CEO in 2002.

Since then, he has returned the OFVGA to a healthy financial position while lobbying for government-funded, financial security and insurance programs. His most recent efforts have focused on the effect of rising minimum wage rates on horticulture. The industry wishes him well in his retirement.

### Private Insurance Models for the fresh produce industry: Report released

A recently completed report on the feasibility of Private Insurance Models for the Fresh Produce Industry in Canada has been released. Conducted by IAO Actuarial Consulting Services Inc., at the direction of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). The purpose of the report was to assist AAFC in evaluating the feasibility of establishing private insurance models under a payment protection scheme which would ensure payment to sellers of fresh produce in the event of buyer insolvency or bankruptcy. This is part of the efforts under the President Obama-Prime Minister Harper Regulatory Cooperation Council (RCC) Agreement to examine the potential to find a solution that would offer U.S. shippers to Canada the same financial protection afforded Canadian shippers to the U.S.

AAFC asked AON to analyze the frequency and severity of bankruptcies of buyers, to estimate the risk of buyer insolvency and bankruptcy among Canadian buyers of fresh produce and to look at what possible solutions would be available in the Canadian credit insurance market. More specifically they asked Aon to look at the feasibility and cost of implementing buyer or seller funded models with focus on the buyer model.

The report validates the horticulture sector's belief that an industry-wide insurance model is not a viable solution to sellers of fresh produce in the event of buyer insolvency or bankruptcy. The CHC, CPMA and DRC continue to work with allied partners to ensure government adopts a similar model to the PACA framework available in the U.S. For a copy of the report, please contact A. Fowlie at [afowlie@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:afowlie@hortcouncil.ca).

### Federal agencies update CPMA working group on key issues

CPMA's Government Issues Management Working Group (CGIM) met in Ottawa on May 8, 2014 to hear updates from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), Health Canada and the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) on files important to the produce industry.

**CBSA** updated the working group on the Agency's eManifest project, including regulations introduced on the highway mode, a solution to allow multiple cargo control numbers on shipments into Canada and that they are currently examining internally to determine the timing on the next phase in order to allow for alignment with other CBSA projects. **Health Canada** provided an update on the Single Ingredient Nutrient Database and on health claims for fruit and vegetables. **CFIA** offered updates on the multiple issues, including the following:

- Status of the regulatory modernization under the *Safe Food for Canadians Act*. Draft regulations on trade, licensing, preventative control plans and traceability are being released over the next week, after which industry will have the opportunity to comment. Comments are likely to be open until the end of July
- Comments from plant health representatives on the draft best practices document CGIM is working on addressing soil on produce during importation
- Beyond the Border initiatives, including the ongoing pilot removing the requirement for inspection of US onions, as well as the planned pilot for US apples
- CFIA's online labelling tool to assist industry in ensuring they follow labelling requirements
- the Canada Organic Regime

The next meeting will be held in Ottawa in November.

## CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

### CHC addresses CropLife Canada Interface Day

On May 8, 2014 Anne Fowlie, CHC Executive Vice President, participated in a panel presentation on xxx during the Interface Day portion of 2014 CropLife Canada Spring Dialogue Days held in Ottawa. As part of a thematic panel on Global Joint Reviews she spoke to the importance of global joint reviews to horticulture from a grower perspective. Other panel members included Marion Law, PMRA Chief

Registrar (regulatory perspective) and Roy Lidstone on behalf of CropLife Canada (industry perspective). The presentation included an overview of the CHC's Mandate and legacy of accomplishment, key industry statistics, and an outline of producer concerns including disparity in the availability of new technologies, the threat of the loss of chemistry through re-evaluation decisions with no viable alternative available, lack of (Canada-U.S) harmonization of Re-Entry Intervals (REI's), Pre-Harvest Interval's (PHI's) and Maximum Residue Limitations (MRLs) and non-tariff trade barriers as a result of differing MRLs among trading partners. The other thematic areas completing the day's agenda were Politics and Pollinators and Endocrine Disruptors. Please contact Anne Fowlie for a copy of the presentation (afowlie@hortcouncil.ca).

## CFIA and USDA adopt revised potato cyst nematode guidelines

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have adopted revised guidelines to manage potato cyst nematode (PCN). Effective immediately, seed potato growers can be eligible to export three crops without any additional soil sampling and testing, if their fields have been tested twice and determined not to be infested with PCN. In the past, seed potato growers were required to undergo sampling and testing for every crop of seed potatoes destined for the U.S.

Small potato tuber samples may now be exported to the U.S. without any additional soil sampling and testing if they were produced in a field that has been tested and determined not to be infested with PCN. Overall, the revised PCN guidelines will help farmers take advantage of trade opportunities with less paperwork, fewer delays and lower costs, said CFIA officials in a press release dated May 20, 2014.

While PCN does not pose a risk to human health, it is recognized internationally as a destructive plant pest of economic importance and, therefore, a quarantine pest for the United States and Canada. Growers who intend to ship seed potatoes to the U.S. are encouraged to contact their local CFIA office for more information and to schedule any soil sampling and testing that may be required.

## RESEARCH

### CHC's Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2: Activity overview

The CHC's Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 (Cluster 2), an initiative funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under Growing Forward 2, is an initiative intended to provide coordinated research serving the strategic needs of the horticultural sector.

Over the next 5 issues of HortShorts, we will be introducing the 10 activities of Cluster 2, providing an overview and the objectives, focusing on one apple and one potato activity each issue.

#### Apple Activity



#### ***Optimizing Storage Technologies to Improve Efficiency, Reduce Energy Consumption, and Extend the Availability of Canadian Apples for Domestic and Export Markets***

**Lead Researcher:** Dr. Jennifer DeEll, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food

**Project Location:** Simcoe, ON

**Description of activity:** This activity will generate essential knowledge for the Canadian apple industry, pertaining to the major storage issues as below:

- 1) Methods to control CO<sub>2</sub> injury without using diphenylamine (DPA)
- 2) Determination of DPA residues throughout storage facilities

3) Optimizing storage regimes for 'Honeycrisp' and 'Gala'

4) Effects of cooling rate on apple quality after storage

By optimizing storage regimes and utilizing multiple storage technologies available, results should improve efficiency, reduce energy consumption, and extend the availability of Canada apples for domestic and export markets.

#### Potato Activity



#### ***Understanding of Potato virus Y complex in Canada and development of a comprehensive on-farm management strategy***

**Lead Researcher:** Dr. Mathuresh Singh, Agricultural Certification Services

**Project Location:** Fredericton, NB

**Description of activity:**

1. The strain status and variant population of PVY (Potato Virus Y) will be unveiled in Canadian potatoes using molecular, serological and biological methodologies. This activity will not only provide essential information on this economically important virus to potato crops in Canada, but also enable the industry to manage the virus more effectively. In case a novel strain/isolate that has not been

reported in Canada is encountered, studies will be carried out to characterize the strain/isolate thoroughly and to develop methodology for its detection.

2. The response of commonly grown potato cultivars to various strains of PVY that are widely distributed in North America will be investigated, characterized and documented in both primary infection and secondary infection. The knowledge and information generated in this activity will not only help the potato growers/inspectors to recognize foliar symptoms in each cultivar and thus to effectively manage the virus, but also help to understand the potential yield loss due to the PVY strains in the cultivar. In addition, the study will also reveal whether the tested cultivars possess various formats of resistance including the strain-specific hypersensitive resistance (HR) and the strain-non-specific extreme resistance (ER).

3. The effect of mineral oil applied at different rates and times, and in combination with insecticides, against PVY transmission by aphids will be investigated and assessed. Seed potato growers across Canada will benefit from having new tools developed for reducing PVY incidence in seed potatoes. This in turn would increase the quality and yield of potatoes, which would increase profit by increasing their marketable yields. More specific products would be:

- A BMP package could be developed to help growers to reduce virus inoculums.
- Data on current season spread in different cultivars at different locations.
- A model could be developed to predict virus load in a particular lot based on current season spread, aphid population and management practices used.
- A management tool could be developed to help growers to reduce virus inoculum and making decision on their crop to top kill/not to top kill in case of low or high virus situations.



Agriculture and  
Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et  
Agroalimentaire Canada



## Quebec-Ontario Cooperation for Agri-Food Research Competition: Call for Proposals

The Quebec-Ontario Cooperation for Agri-Food Research Competition offers funding for joint Ontario-Quebec projects supporting water management and integrated pest management research issues of interest to both provinces. The competition's goals are to develop solutions to agri-food issues shared by Quebec and Ontario; encourage partnerships between Quebec and Ontario researchers and enhance graduate student training through internships in the cooperating province.

Proposals that will generate new knowledge and technologies in integrated pest management and water management are now being actively solicited. Awards of up to \$250,000 per project are available, to be shared equally between an Ontario and Quebec applicant. Projects can be up to three years in length. The application deadline is **Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at 4 p.m.**

For detailed guidelines: <http://tiny.cc/ON-QCresearch> (English) or <http://tiny.cc/rechercheON-QC> (French)

## TRADE

### USDA proposes changes to AQI fees at U.S. points of entry: Comments requested

On April 24, 2014, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced proposed changes to the fees it charges to conduct agricultural quarantine inspections (AQI) at U.S. ports of entry. Please note that these are conveyance-specific fees (e.g. "commercial truck"), not fees based on the import of specific commodities into the United States.

This would represent the first changes to AQI user fees in nearly a decade to ensure funds are available to recover costs in conducting its programs aimed at protecting against risks from foreign animal diseases and plant pests and diseases that can enter the country.

In addition to the Federal Register notice on user fees a related notice on changes to overtime provisions was also published. Both are open for a 60-day comment period, ending on June 24, 2014.

Comments can be provided directly to USDA APHIS through the Federal Register through the links below. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has requested cc's of any comments submitted to the USDA at MAS-SAM@AGR.GC.CA.

Full APHIS Fee Announcement: <http://goo.gl/dKquKm>

Inspection Fee Increase Proposal in US Federal Register: <http://tiny.cc/AQIfees>

Overtime Fee Increase Proposal in US Federal Register: <http://tiny.cc/overtimefees>

## LINK OF THE MONTH

The Quebec Horticultural Council has recently updated the "Crop Protection/Plant Health (i.e. Phytosanitary)" section of their website: <http://www.cqh.ca/phytosanitaire/prioritees>. The site includes two sections: Priorities and Registrations. The "Priorities" section includes a list of Quebec provincial priorities identified during priority-setting meetings. Also included is a list of the selected national priorities originating from the Biopesticides and Minor Use priority setting workshop over the recent years.

The "Registration" subsection includes the lists of approved new uses by commodity since 2012 as well as the list of emergency registrations approved for the current growing season in Quebec.

While published in French only, Anne Desrochers, who is also a member of CHC's Crop Protection Advisory Committee, would be pleased to guide you through these changes and updates if you require additional information. Anne may be reached at 514 448-8355 or by email at <mailto:adesrochers@upa.qc.ca>.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2014

<b>JUNE</b>	<b>10-12</b>	United Fresh 2014 McCormick Place Convention Center, Chicago, IL Info: <a href="http://www.unitedfreshshow.org">www.unitedfreshshow.org</a>
	<b>17-18</b>	CFIA Health and Safety Food Forum 2014, Palais des congrès de Gatineau, Gatineau, QC
	<b>21-24</b>	International Federation for Produce Standards, Auckland, NZ
	<b>26-28</b>	Fresh Connections: PMA Australia-New Zealand, Auckland, NZ
<b>JULY</b>	<b>21-22</b>	Canadian Horticultural Council Mid-Summer Apple Meeting, Penticton, BC. Info: <a href="mailto:aargentino@hortcouncil.ca">aargentino@hortcouncil.ca</a>
	<b>13-15</b>	Potato Marketing Association of North America Summer Meeting, Delta Prince Edward, Charlottetown, PEI. Info: <a href="http://www.peipotato.org/PMANA2014/">www.peipotato.org/PMANA2014/</a>
	<b>23-24</b>	Canadian Horticultural Council Board of Directors Summer Meeting and Tour, Winnipeg, Portage-la-Prairie, Winkler, MB
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>17-19</b>	Fall Harvest 2014 – Meetings on the Hill, Ottawa, ON. Info: <a href="mailto:communications@hortcouncil.ca">communications@hortcouncil.ca</a>
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>2-4</b>	Grow Canada Conference, Ottawa, ON. Info: <a href="http://www.croplife.ca/events">www.croplife.ca/events</a>
	<b>5</b>	CanadaGAP Annual General Meeting, Canadian Federation of Agriculture Boardroom, 21 Florence Street, Ottawa, ON

### 2015

<b>MARCH</b>	<b>10-12</b>	The 93 <sup>rd</sup> Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting, Fairmont Le Château Frontenac, Quebec City. Info: <a href="mailto:lvinokuroff@hortcouncil.ca">lvinokuroff@hortcouncil.ca</a>
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*To list your event in HortShorts, please submit details to [question@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:question@hortcouncil.ca)*