



## Headlines

- ✚ Fall Harvest: Meetings on the Hill
- ✚ CHC President presents to House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

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## Mark Your Calendar!



*Happy Holidays!*

*Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season.*

**Please note: The CHC Office will be closed from December 24, 2014 to January 1, 2015**

### Canadian produce industry has successful meetings on Parliament Hill

On November 18 and 19, industry leaders representing the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) and met with over 40 Parliamentarians and civil servants in Ottawa to discuss the key issues currently affecting the Canadian fresh fruit and vegetable sector.

Some of the key issues addressed included financial protection for produce sellers and a national fruit and vegetable nutrition policy. These meetings were essential for the industry to address key areas that impact the health of the industry and of Canadian consumers. The CHC and CPMA also hosted a reception at the Three Brewers for MPs and staff which was well attended. Participants were given a bag of fresh produce to bring home as a *Thank You*.



“All Canadians benefit from a strong and vibrant produce sector, which ensures the health and variety of our fruits and vegetables. Members of Parliament understood this and were very committed to continuing their work with both industry associations and those growers or shippers who operate within their ridings,” stated Bernadette Hamel, Chair, Canadian Produce Marketing Association.

“Many key officials were keen to discuss our issues, which show the importance of our industry at the national level. We re-emphasized at every meeting that the federal government needs to implement a PACA-like trust in response to the United States’ removal of PACA preferential Canadian access in order to protect the wellbeing of the industry,” Keith Kuhl, President, Canadian Horticultural Council. “We also discussed the need for a national fruit and vegetable nutrition policy to drive Canadians to eat more fruits and vegetables. Most Canadians aren’t eating enough produce and we need the federal government to take leadership in establishing a policy to improve the health of our population.”

In addition to providing a diverse supply of healthy food for Canadian consumers, Canada’s fresh fruit and vegetable sector makes an important contribution to national economic output and employment. In 2013, the fresh fruit and vegetable sector supported 147,900 jobs and created \$11.4 billion in real GDP.



After another successful event, planning for 2015 has already begun. The CHC and the CPMA look forward to yet another successful partnership for Fall Harvest 2015.

## CHC President presents to House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

On December 4, 2014 CHC President, Keith Kuhl, presented to House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Forestry in the context of their "Order of Reference dealing with international market access priorities for the Canadian agricultural and agri-food sector".

This provided an opportunity to highlight the horticulture sector's expectations and concerns, including:

- Financial protection for produce sellers as a means to achieve a competitive parity with our colleagues and competitors from the United States; through the *US Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)*
- Access to a reliable and consistent workforce.
- Market Access
- Timely access to new technologies
- Standardization of Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) and sanitary/phytosanitary issues as potential barriers to trade
- Competitiveness and profitability of Canada's horticulture producers

For a copy of the presentation please contact Anne Fowle ([afowle@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:afowle@hortcouncil.ca)).

## GENERAL NEWS

### Agri-info, AAFC's new e-newsletter

AAFC is launching a new e-newsletter <Agri-info> that will feature news and information on programs and services of interest to producers and the agriculture sector. You are invited to subscribe to receive Agri-info four times a year, along with regular updates, announcements and important notices about programs and services that are relevant to you. The first issue will be sent out early in 2015.

If you currently receive Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)'s Program News emails as a subscribed member of the PROGRAMME-NEWS-NOUVELLES-PROD distribution list, we will be retiring this list in the near future and will no longer use it to distribute information about our programs. Until then, you will continue to receive information on our programs. SUBSCRIBE TODAY - Visit the [AAFC subscription page](#) at [www.agr.gc.ca/agriinfo](http://www.agr.gc.ca/agriinfo) and enter your e-mail address, topic of interest, and province. If you change your mind, you can easily unsubscribe at any time.

## CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

### Crop Protection Advisory Committee Meets

The CHC's Crop Protection Advisory Committee's (CPAC) face-to-face meeting was held on December 4 and 5, 2014 in Ottawa. During these meetings CPAC members spent time on planning for the committee's activities for the coming year. Also, the CPAC had the opportunity to meet with representatives from the PMRA and the PMC.

CPAC members had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Richard Aucoin, PMRA Executive Director and his immediate staff to discuss the status of the GROU program and potential improvements, the need for enhanced collaboration in product reevaluations, next steps for the NAFTA TWG and also obtain updates regarding the process related to pollinators both at the federal and Ontario level.

A meeting with Dr. Manjeet Sethi and the Pest Management Centre team allowed for an update of their activities (Vineland lab, Budget, Joint Projects, Laboratory Capacity). Additional items discussed included an update for the Invasive Alien Species Coordination Group, and the status for the next Global Minor Use Meeting.

### Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Authority (PMRA) releases 2011 Pesticide Sales Report

On November 15, 2006, Pest Control Products Sales Information Reporting Regulations were published. The Regulations require registrants of pesticides to report the quantity of every product they make available for sales each year. Sales information will contribute to Health Canada's ability to assess health and the environmental risks, particularly during the re-evaluation of older pesticides. Registrants are required to submit sales information to the Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) on or before June 1 of each year to report their sales for the previous calendar year. The newly released 2011 report can be found here: <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/cps-spc/pest/registrant-titulaire/reporting-declaration/sales-ventes/index-eng.php>

## RESEARCH

### Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2: Activity Overview

The CHC's Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 (Cluster 2), 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 several issues of HortShorts, we will highlight the ten activities of Cluster 2, by providing an overview and the objectives, focusing on one apple and one potato activity. We have covered the 4 apple activities, and below are the 2 remaining potato activities. The December issue of Hort

Shorts will feature interim updates for each Cluster 2 activity.

## Potato Activities

### **Nitrogen for Improved Yield, Quality, and Profitability of Potato**

**Lead Researcher:** Mario Tenuta, University of Manitoba

**Description of activity:** This study examines the nitrogen fertilizer practices of timing, placement and form, to improve nitrogen use efficiency and economics of potato production. It will be done in two phases with Phase 1 evaluating treatments encompassing a range of timing, placement and nitrogen source practices, and Phase 2, taking the most effective of the treatments and improving on the combination of timing, placement and form practices. The objectives of this activity are:

- 1) Determine optimal timing, placement and source of N fertilizers for irrigated potato
- 2) Determine the impact of N mineralization of soil on potato response to fertilizer additions
- 3) Evaluate the effectiveness of monitoring plant N status to adjust fertigation additions.



### **Canadian Potato Variety Evaluation Program**

**Activity Lead:** Mary Kay Sonier, PEI Potato Board

**Description of activity:** This activity includes 7 areas of sub-activity:

*PEI - Variety evaluation: adaptation and yield trials & development of management profile of selected promising varieties.*

- Conduct yield and adaptation trials of promising clones and new varieties under PEI conditions and select promising entries
- Develop management profile (best management practices) of selecting promising clones and varieties for recommendations to the growers

*QC – Potato varieties and line evaluation*

- Evaluate agronomic performance of varieties and advance lines under QC conditions;
- Determine susceptibility to common scab of varieties and advanced lines under evaluation;
- Determine tolerance to low fertilization of varieties and advanced lines under evaluation;
- Determine tolerance to main potato diseases of varieties and advanced lines under evaluation;
- Evaluate quality and culinary skills for fresh market of varieties and advanced lines under evaluation;
- Evaluate cooking quality for process market of varieties and advanced lines under evaluation;
- Bring diversity in the gene pool under evaluation;
- Transfer valuable information to growers, crop consultant and extension personnel.



*ON – Variety Development*

- Identify and evaluate potato very early maturing selections for use by processing industry;
- Identify and evaluate processing potato selections with long term storage potential;
- Identify and evaluate table stock lines for value added traits such as early maturity, coloured skin and flesh, and specialty market potential;
- Determine the health benefits of potatoes by measuring antioxidant potential and starch quality in elite lines.

*ON – Nutrient Quality Evaluation of Processing and Table Stock Potatoes*

- Screening processing and table stock varieties for nutritional qualities – assessment of protein, bioactives, antioxidant potential, and resistant starch content to meet consumer needs/preferences
  - Identify promising processing and table stock varieties with high protein content
  - Identify promising processing and table stock varieties with high polyphenol and anthocyanin contents
  - Determine the antioxidant potential of promising varieties
  - Identify promising processing and table stock varieties high in resistant starch (fiber content)
- Screening processing and table stock varieties for canning, soups and stews
  - Identify promising processing and table stock varieties by screening for specific gravity with low sloughing and higher nutritional content
  - Characterize the starch composition and structure of identified varieties
- Screening the chip processing varieties for quality parameters for low temperature storage;
  - Identify promising varieties suitable for Ontario conditions for low temperature by assessing the chip quality, color and reducing sugar content as a function of storage (time and temperature).

*MB – Evaluation and Adaptation of French Fry Potato Varieties*

- Test processing potato varieties for their potential as replacement varieties for those presently grown in Manitoba
- Determine yield, grade and quality of three potato varieties to three N levels and three seed spacing.
- Evaluate interaction between variety, seed piece spacing and N fertility.
- Develop management strategies for each variety under Manitoba conditions.

*AB – Variety Evaluation*

- Pool resources and evaluate potential potato varieties for industry adoption, from a range of sources, using a cooperative approach

*BC – Variety Evaluation*

- Evaluate the agronomic and culinary qualities of new varieties under BC growing conditions

The Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2 is generously funded by nearly 50 industry partners and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriInnovation Program, a Growing Forward 2 initiative.



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

Growing Forward 2

## COMMODITY CORNER

### Notice to Industry - Government of Canada and Canadian greenhouse, nursery and floriculture sectors partner to protect Canada's plant resources

Biosecurity protects the economy and the environment from the damage caused by plant pests. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has come together with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), provincial governments and sector organizations to develop a biosecurity standard that will protect Canada's greenhouse, nursery and floriculture sectors from plant pests. The CFIA, AAFC and partners have established the Greenhouse, Nursery and Floriculture Biosecurity Advisory Committee (GNFBAC) to develop a farm-level biosecurity standard by fall 2016. This standard will provide clear guidelines for effective biosecurity to producers and growers.

The voluntary greenhouse, nursery and floriculture biosecurity standard will help producers develop biosecurity plans for their farms. It will:

- Provide guidelines for biosecurity, including prevention and integrated pest management;
- Promote a consistent approach for managing risks of plant pests;
- Improve the greenhouse, nursery and floriculture sector's knowledge of the risks associated with plant pests; and
- Help identify gaps in current biosecurity procedures.

Once developed, the standard can be adopted in its entirety or can supplement existing biosecurity programs. Biosecurity standards take up to two years to develop through a formalized process and participation from a broad cross-section of stakeholders, including industry organizations, federal and provincial governments, and academic institutions. Stakeholders are notified at the beginning of the development process, and committee members will be encouraged to communicate with their respective stakeholders for input. Stakeholders are also notified when development is complete and the standard is available. Funding to develop this standard has been provided under the Growing Forward 2 Agricultural Policy Framework.

Learn more about biosecurity : <http://inspection.gc.ca/plants/plant-protection/biosecurity/eng/1323475203667/1323475279124>

### Canadian Potato Council Meetings in Washington DC

The Canadian Potato Council (CPC) held a series of meetings in Washington DC on November 12 to 14. Eighteen CPC members from seven provinces met with CFIA, AAFC and Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick provincial government staff at the Canadian Embassy to discuss trade, phytosanitary and regulatory issues of interest to the industry. The following day, the CPC participated in the Canada – United States Potato Committee meeting along with the US National Potato Council, the CFIA, AAFC and USDA-APHIS. These discussions furthered understanding and cooperation on areas of common interest to the potato industries in both countries. In addition, the Potato Task Force that is co-chaired by the CPC and AAFC met during this time in Washington to continue working towards resolution of seed potato tuber inspection for exports destined for the US market.



L to R: Canadian Potato Council Chair, John Bareman (AB) and US National Potato Council Co-Chair, Dan Moss (ID)

### Potato Selection Release Open House

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

#### Fredericton Potato Research Centre Schedule

- 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (AST) • View Selections
- New AR2015 Accelerated Release selections from the Lethbridge Research Centre and the Potato Research Centre available for two years of non-exclusive evaluation.
- AR2013 series Accelerated Release selections available for three years of exclusive evaluation and the option to negotiate a commercial licence agreement (cash bid process).
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. • Welcome • Potato Tasting
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. • Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. • Video Link with Lethbridge for presentations by various potato industry and research specialists

#### Lethbridge Research Centre Schedule

- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (MST) • Video Link with Fredericton for presentations by various potato industry and research specialists
- 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. • Lunch
- 12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. • View potato selections
- New AR2015 Accelerated Release selections from the Lethbridge Research Centre and the Potato Research Centre available for two years of non-exclusive evaluation.
- AR2013 series Accelerated Release selections available for three years of exclusive evaluation and the option to negotiate a commercial licence agreement (cash bid process).

Information is available on-line at: [www.agr.gc.ca/potato-cultivars](http://www.agr.gc.ca/potato-cultivars)

## TRADE

### Canada-Japan organic standards equivalency agreement reached

As of next year, Canada and Japan will be able to trade organic fruits and vegetables with each other under their own national certifications. The two countries recently signed an equivalency agreement which was announced on September 24 AAFC Minister Gerry Ritz. It is due to come into

effect on January 1, 2015

Under the deal, the organic production and certification systems in each country will be fully recognized. In April 2013 Canada announced it had achieved an organic equivalency agreement with Costa Rica. Work is also underway on establishing an agreement with Mexico following the recent 9th Mexico-Canada Alliance (AMC) meeting. The AMC was established in 2004 in a bid to bolster bilateral trade opportunities and promote high-level dialogue between the public and private sectors.

### Mexico and Canada work to strengthen agri-trade alliance

Mexican and Canadian officials have agreed to strengthen their trade relationship by building a dedicated distribution center in the province of Manitoba for produce from the Hispanic country, and by working toward an organic equivalency arrangement. The development is part of the Mexico-Canada Alliance (AMC) that was established in 2004 in a bid to bolster bilateral trade opportunities and promote high-level dialogue between the public and private sectors. At the recent 9th AMC Agribusiness Meeting, officials from Mexico's National Service for Agricultural Health, Safety and Quality (SENASICA) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) agreed to undertake more joint venture projects and increase investment.

SENASICA and CFIA officials also agreed on the need to establish an organic equivalency deal, whereby organic produce from either country could be labeled as such in the other country without the need for further certification. A meeting is due to be held in Ottawa this November where working groups from both nations will discuss a range of topics including the appropriate use of new technologies, the promotion of strategic alliances for technological exchange, and farm innovations.

Canada and Mexico will also examine a list of non-tariff barriers like the movement of goods across the U.S., country of origin labeling, and inspection fees from the U.S. Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). In addition, a joint inventory will be prepared detailing agricultural research projects, and officials will also identify areas for further collaborative research.

<http://www.freshfruitportal.com/2014/09/23/mexico-and-canada-work-to-strengthen-agri-trade-alliance/?country=canada>

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2015

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>7-9</b>	Potato Expo 2015, Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando, FL <a href="http://www.potato-expo.com">www.potato-expo.com</a>
	<b>13</b>	- Ontario Apple Growers AGM, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Niagara Falls, ON <a href="http://www.onapples.com">www.onapples.com</a> - Fresh Vegetable Growers of Ontario AGM, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Niagara Falls, ON <a href="http://www.freshvegetablesontario.com">www.freshvegetablesontario.com</a>
	<b>13-14</b>	Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association AGM, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Niagara Falls, ON <a href="http://www.ofvga.org/events">www.ofvga.org/events</a>
	<b>22</b>	Fédération des producteurs de pommes du Québec AGM, Club de golf de La Prairie (Espace Rive Sud)
	<b>26-27</b>	Scotia Horticultural Congress, Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, NS <a href="http://www.horticulurens.ca/event/scotia-horticultural-congress">www.horticulurens.ca/event/scotia-horticultural-congress</a>
	<b>27-28</b>	- Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association Annual Convention, Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, NS <a href="http://www.nsfgaconvention.com">www.nsfgaconvention.com</a> - Manitoba Potato Production Days, Brandon, MB
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>9-12</b>	Conseil québécois de l'horticulture Semaine horticole, Hôtel Mortagne, Boucherville, QC <a href="http://www.cqh.ca/semaine-horticole">www.cqh.ca/semaine-horticole</a>
	<b>18-19</b>	Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Conference, Niagara Falls <a href="http://www.ofvc.ca">www.ofvc.ca</a>
	<b>20-21</b>	BC Fruit Growers' Association Annual General Meeting, Penticton, BC <a href="http://www.bcfqa.com">www.bcfqa.com</a>
	<b>21-25</b>	57 <sup>th</sup> Annual International Fruit Tree Association (IFTA) Conference <a href="http://www.ifruittree.org">www.ifruittree.org</a>



### CHC's 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting – Register today!

The 2015 Canadian Horticultural Council's Annual General Meeting will soon be here. Your QC hosts are preparing a first-class event based on the theme **Healthy You** and are looking forward to welcoming you to Quebec City.

Delegates to the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting will gather in Quebec City from March 10 - 12, 2015 at the Fairmont Chateau Frontenac.

For more information and to register for the AGM, please visit our website:

<http://www.hortcouncil.ca/annual-general-meeting/annual-general-meeting-2015.aspx>