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Mark Your Calendar!



Keith Kuhl re-elected as CHC President

Canadian Horticultural Council president Keith Kuhl was re-elected to a second term at the 92nd Annual CHC Annual General Meeting held March 4-6, 2014 in Kelowna, BC. Kuhl is the first CHC president elected to a second term. The rule change permitting successive term presidencies was part of an update of the CHC's bylaws in 2012. The by-laws were further amended in 2013 to fully comply with the new federal Not-for-Profit Corporations Act 2010.



Kuhl is well-known in the industry as owner and operator of Southern Manitoba Potato in Winkler, MB, which he runs with his two sons. He chaired the CHC Potato Committee and the Canadian Potato Council for nearly nine years, and currently serves as Chair of the board of directors at Peak of the Market and Vice-Chair of the Horticultural Value Chain Roundtable. Keith's father, John, was actively involved with the CHC for many years and served as President in 1987.

CHC committee structure revised; committee chairs named

During the course of the Annual General Meeting members adopted a recommendation to reduce the number of permanent standing committees from six to five. Changes included the sunset of the Food Safety Committee, which had been anticipated once CanAg Plus completed a 12-month cycle post incorporation.

The new committee structure is outlined below. There were no changes to the Commodity Committee structure.

| Standing Committees | Chair / Co-Chair | Vice-Chair(s) |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Human Resources | Murray Porteous | Ken Forth / Denis Hamel |
| Finance and Business Management | Mark Wales | Claude Lanier |
| Trade and Marketing | Ken Forth | Dave Jeffries |
| Industry Standards and Food Safety | Paul Leblanc | |
| Crop, Plant Protection and the Environment | Charles Stevens | |
| Commodity Committees | Chair | Vice-Chair |
| Potato | John Bareman | |
| Canadian Potato Council | John Bareman | Brenda Simmons |
| National Seed Potato Sub-Committee | Bob Watson | Gord Visser |
| Apple and Fruit | Brian Gilroy | |
| Blueberry Co-Chair | Jack Bates | |
| Tender Fruit Co-Chair | Phil Tregunno | |
| Grape Co-Chair | Bill George | |
| Apple Working Group (AWG) | Brian Gilroy | |
| Blueberry Working Group (BWG) | Jack Bates | |
| Vegetable | André Plante | |
| Greenhouse | Linda Delli Santi | |
| Greenhouse Working Group (GWG) | Linda Delli Santi | |

2015 CHC AGM to be held in Québec City

In March 2015 fruit and vegetable growers, scientists, policy makers and legislators from across the country will converge on la belle province to take part in the Canadian Horticultural Council's 93rd Annual General Meeting. The meeting will take place on March 10-12, 2015 and further details will be available later on in the spring of 2014.

\$4 million federal investment in Farm Management Canada to enhance farm management capacity

In early March, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada announced a five-year investment of more than \$4 million to Farm Management Canada (FMC) to help them strengthen producers' business skills and build farm management capacity.

FMC will use the funding to enhance farm business management knowledge and skills development in Canada by delivering leading-edge resources and tools through various print and online channels and by working with industry and provinces/territories to identify and fill gaps in farm business development information and resources.

"Managing business information and knowledge is critical to a farm's successful and efficient operation," said Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture Pierre Lemieux. "This support will allow Farm Management Canada to continue to provide farmers with the information and tools they need to succeed." For more information: <http://tiny.cc/4millionFMC>

Agricultural Growth Act (Bill C-18) reaches Second Reading

Canada's farming industry is one step closer to gaining a broad suite of new tools that will help them remain competitive in the global marketplace and grow their markets at home. The *Agricultural Growth Act* will modernize nine statutes that regulate Canada's agriculture sector. Some of the key improvements include stronger intellectual property rights for plant varieties, which will enhance farmers' access to new varieties, and making farmer payment programs simpler, faster and more flexible. Entrenched in the Act is the right of farmers to save, condition and replant seed that is personally saved from crops grown on their own land. The Act was first introduced on December 9, 2013. Read more at <http://tiny.cc/billc-18>

CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

Canadian Potato Council leads the way in anti-pest research

According to an article in the Winter, 2014 issue of *SpudSmart* Magazine, potato growers in Canada and around the world could soon have some much-needed help in their relentless battle against in-season pests and disease, thanks to a comprehensive new research project being co-ordinated by the Canadian Potato Council.

The five-year project is being funded by potato producers, industry partners and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Growing Forward 2 program through the Canadian Horticultural Council's Canadian Agri-Science Cluster for Horticulture 2. As part of the agri-science cluster project, researchers from across the country will conduct pest- and disease-specific research in these four key subject areas that have been identified as having a significant impact on the Canadian potato industry:

- Zebra chip/psyllids
- Wireworms
- Early dying/Verticillium wilt
- Potato virus Y

Researchers began their work earlier this year and are scheduled to wrap up their efforts in 2018. The aim of the project is to provide growers with additional knowledge that will enable them to implement more effective pest management strategies. Read the rest of this article at <http://tiny.cc/potatoresearch>



Dr. Mathuresh Singh of Potatoes New Brunswick is studying Potato Virus Y under a comprehensive new potato pest and disease research project. Article and photo courtesy *SpudSmart* Magazine.

PMRA host webinars and invites comments on Pesticide Cost Recovery

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) has invited stakeholders and the public to submit written comments on *Pesticide Cost Recovery Consultation, A Consultation Document in Advance of Parliamentary Proposal*.

This document was created to provide an opportunity to review the proposed new cost recovery regime. It outlines the regulatory requirements for establishing user fees, a rationale for fee increases, the proposed changes to fees and regulatory charges, and an overview of spending priorities.

This consultation is open for a 45-day comment period. Interested parties are encouraged to provide written comments by **28 April 2014**. You can find the consultation document at <http://tiny.cc/cost-rec>

The PMRA will host two webinars to provide an overview of the Pesticide Cost Recovery Consultation document, to be held on **Wednesday, 19 March 2014** from 1:00-3:00 (EDT) and repeated on **Thursday 17 April 2014** from 1:00-3:00 (EDT). If you wish to participate in one of the live webinar presentations, please contact cr_rc_pesticide@hc-sc.gc.ca by 18 March 2014 to reserve for the first webinar or by 14 April 2014 for the second webinar. The webinar will be broadcast in English and if requested, French copies of the presentation will be sent via e-mail. **Cont'd on next page →**

The Process:

- Input will be considered and if required, further discussions with interested parties will be coordinated before the development of the Pre-Proposal Notification.
- The Pre-Proposal Notification is a requirement of the User Fees Act and will be published on the Health Canada website for public comment. It will closely resemble this document, taking into account any changes resulting from this consultation as well as additional information required by the User Fees Act.
- Subsequent to the Pre-Proposal Notification and processes prescribed by the User Fees Act to address comments received, the user fee proposal for pesticides will be tabled in Parliament.

What can you do to protect pollinators? A reminder from CropLife Canada

Just a reminder that as we get closer to spring planting, please ensure the Best Management Practices for the use of insecticide-treated seed in 2014 are widely distributed. Download the PDF document from <http://tiny.cc/protectpol>.

Report from the Ontario Government's Bee Health Working Group

In response to reported bee mortality incidents, the Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food established the Ontario Bee Health Working Group in July 2013 with the specific mandate to support the development and implementation of strategies to mitigate the risk to honey bees from exposure to neonicotinoid seed treatments on corn and soybeans. The thirty-three members of the Working Group represent the apiary sector, research institutions, grain growers, agri-business industry and government. The Working Group met throughout the summer and fall and identified a range of options to mitigate the risk to honey bees from neonicotinoid treated corn and soybean seeds. The Ontario Government's Bee Health Working Group report is now available at:

<http://tiny.cc/ontariobees>.



Canadian Horticultural Council appears before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry

On March 25, 2015 CHC Executive Vice-President, Anne Fowlie, appeared as a witness before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry as part of their study on the importance of bees and bee health in the production of honey, food and seed in Canada. She spoke to the Council's commitment to ensuring a more innovative, profitable and sustainable horticultural industry for future generations and that horticulture is an "exemplary model for coexistence between farmers, production and a robust pollinator population. This coexistence is an absolute must: no bees – no food; and conversely, no crop management products – no food." Good management practices and communication among all stakeholders are key. There are real opportunities for growth in the sector for producers and the pollinator industry and the growth can only be achieved through close collaboration and appropriate research where required. "A ban of products such as neonicotinoids, is not the answer and not science-based. "For an industry that already struggles with a limited number of crop protection products, any outright ban would be devastating." For a copy of the presentation, please contact Anne Fowlie at afowlie@hortcouncil.ca.

Canadian Biopesticides and Minor Use Pesticides Priority Setting Workshop

Hosted by the PMC this year's 12th annual Canadian Biopesticides and Minor Use Pesticides Priority Setting Workshop took place from March 25 to 27 in Gatineau, QC. This year's meeting combined biopesticides and conventional minor use workshops for weeds, entomology and plant pathology. Through a three round process that includes discussions with registrants, the listed products are eventually reduced to priority A products within each of the categories.

PMC's work is driven by the priorities set during these annual priority setting workshops and the goal is to give Canadian growers greater pest management choices through the work carried out toward new regulatory submissions, and through technology and information transfer of the latest developments in sustainable crop protection. Over 200 participants from the crop science community, government, and growers were in attendance. CHC's Crop Protection Advisory Committee members present during the workshop were Charles Stevens, Gary Brown, Jean-Bernard Van Winden, Peter Isaacson, Iris Bitterlich, Anne Desrochers, Peter Swetnam, and Craig Hunter who served as the meeting's primary facilitator.

FOOD SAFETY

CanadaGAP announces new certification option for repackers and wholesalers

CanadaGAP, a food safety certification program for fresh fruits and vegetables, is pleased to announce the availability of Option D, a new certification for companies that repack and wholesale fresh fruits and vegetables.

Option D entails an annual on-site audit by a CanadaGAP-licensed certification body. The requirements are based on the Repacking and Wholesale Food Safety Program developed by the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA). The program was technically reviewed and deemed sound by federal and provincial governments.

"This is an exciting development for the Canadian produce industry," commented Tom Bytynen, past chair of the CanadaGAP Board and CEO of Thomas Fresh Inc., a Calgary-based produce distribution and repacking company. "CanadaGAP certification for the repacking and wholesale segment of the supply chain has been long-awaited, and will improve consistency and harmonization of food safety practices across our sector."

Requirements for repacking and wholesale have been incorporated into the 2014 CanadaGAP manuals (Version 6.2). Users apply the requirements only from the sections of the manual that are relevant to them.

To be certified under Option D, repacking and wholesale operations must develop and maintain a site-specific HACCP Plan. A generic HACCP model is available from CanadaGAP as is guidance on creating a HACCP Plan. Visit the webpage at <http://www.canadagap.ca/becoming-certified/certification-options/certification-option-d/> for more information.

CanadaGAP-approved certification bodies will begin offering Option D audits effective April 1, 2014. To enrol in Option D, download the CanadaGAP program enrolment form at: www.canadagap.ca. Please direct any questions to info@canadagap.ca.

CFIA's Destination Inspection Service entering final phase of a three-year process to implement full cost recovery

The Destination Inspection Service (DIS) is entering its final phase of a three-year process to implement full cost recovery. In line with this three year plan, the third year will see us increase the overall rate of recovery to 100 percent.

There are two primary changes to the fees that come into effect April 1, 2014:

- 1.The hourly inspection rate increases to \$171 (from \$145 in 2012/13 and \$99 in 2011/12);
- 2.The call-out fee in the amount of \$50 per inspection will no longer be applied.

MORE NEWS FROM THE AGM

AGM delegates pass 13 resolutions on everything from clean plants, to CFIA program cuts to the definition of "greenhouse"

Delegates to the Canadian Horticultural Council's 2014 Annual General Assembly, which took place March 4 - 9 in Kelowna, BC, passed 13 resolutions on significant issues affecting Canada's fruit and vegetable growers.

| Number | Name | Status | | |
|------------|---|-----------|---------|---------|
| | | Defeated | Amended | Carried |
| 2014-01 | National Clean Plant Program | | | ✓ |
| 2014-02 | Lack of Consultation with the Potato Industry Prior to Specific CFIA Program Cuts Made in the 2012 Federal Budget | | | ✓ |
| 2014-03 | Timing of Approval and Signing of Agreements under Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's AgriInnovation and AgriMarketing Growing Forward 2 Programs | | ✓ | |
| 2014-04 | Cooperation Required to Assist Growers in Dealing with Wireworm Pressure | | | ✓ |
| 2014-05 | Licensing and Registration by the CFIA pursuant to the new Safe Food for Canadians Act | | ✓ | |
| 2014-06 | Limited Stay for Temporary Foreign Workers | | ✓ | |
| 2014-07 | AgriInnovation Program's Agri-Science Project | | | ✓ |
| 2014-08 | Accessible Weather Data for all Canadian Horticultural Producers | | | ✓ |
| 2014-09 | Phytosanitary Certificate Requirements for Leek Moth | | | ✓ |
| 2014-10 | Updating the <u>Re-Tain</u> label to maximize returns for Canadian Apple Growers | | | ✓ |
| LR 2014-11 | Single Licensing for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Sector | | | ✓ |
| LR 2014-12 | Foreign Worker Mobility | | ✓ | |
| LR 2014-13 | Definition of "Greenhouse" | | | ✓ |
| LR 2014-14 | Deep Geothermal Energy | WITHDRAWN | | |

LINKS OF THE MONTH

Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) decisions, updates and reports:

<http://tiny.cc/PMRAdecisions>

Subscribe to Pesticide and Pest Management (and other health-related) RSS feeds from Health Canada:

<http://tiny.cc/healthcanadaRSS>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|--|
| APRIL | 2-4 | CPMA Convention and Trade Show, Vancouver, BC http://tiny.cc/CPMA2014 |
| MAY | 6-8 | CropLife Canada Spring Dialogue Days, The Westin Ottawa, Ottawa, ON http://tiny.cc/dialoguedays14 |
| JUNE | 21-24 | International Federation for Produce Standards, Auckland, NZ |
| | 26-28 | Fresh Connections: PMA Australia-New Zealand, Auckland, NZ |
| JULY | 21-22 | Canadian Horticultural Council Midsummer Apple Meeting, Penticton, BC |
| | 23-24 | Canadian Horticultural Council Board of Directors Summer Meeting and Tour, Winnipeg, Portage-la-Prairie, Winkler, MB |

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