

# HORTSHORTS

May 2016



Canadian Horticultural Council | Conseil canadien de l'horticulture  
The voice of Canadian horticulture

hortcouncil.ca



## THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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- CHC staff changes announced
- CHC presents to House of Commons Standing Committee on PACA
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## HEADLINES

### CHC launches new website

Today, CHC has launched a new website. The goal of the new website is to showcase Canada's dynamic and diverse horticultural sector with a bold and colourful website that provides a wide range of information on CHC and Canadian horticulture. The website will be regularly updated with news and features to help members and visitors

stay up-to-date on information that affects their work. As with the previous website, the new site will have a member only section where CHC members are able to access member notes, minutes, standing policy and more. We are very proud of the new website and hope you visit it soon and often. [Visit the new site](#)



## Staff changes

Long-time Canadian Horticultural Council EVP, Anne Fowlie, has advised the Board of Directors that she will be leaving the CHC after nearly 18 years. “It has been a privilege and a wonderful opportunity and much has been accomplished, including establishment of the Dispute Resolution Corporation, AAFC Pest Management Centre and CanadaGAP. The organization is well positioned for someone new to come in and lead the organization.” Fowlie says she plans continue to working and will look for ways to remain active within and contribute to agriculture.

K. Kuhl, President thanks Anne for her dedication and leadership over the past 18 years and wishes her success in all future endeavors. The search for a new EVP will begin shortly. Her last day will be June 30 and in the interim she will assist with the transition.

In other staff news, André Bourbonnière, Manager Policy Development and Research, has recently resigned from his position at the CHC in order to pursue other opportunities. He joined the CHC in November 2013 and during his time with CHC he was a valued member of the team.

## CHC presents to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food

On May 9, 2016, CHC Executive Vice-President Anne Fowlie, joined Ron Lemaire, President of the Canadian Produce Marketing Association and George Gilvesy, Chairman, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers in presenting to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture and Agri-Food. The presentation was part of the Standing Committee’s study on Canada’s Preferential Status under the *United States Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA)*. CHC has been advocating on behalf of Canada's horticultural industry on the lack of financial protection faced by Canadian produce growers and sellers and recently made it our main issue in the lead up to the 2015 federal election. We were pleased to see the [Liberal government promise](#) to restore PACA access to fruit and vegetable growers and hope this study is a step in fulfilling that promise. [Read the presentation](#)

## CHC Science Cluster Profiled at Conference

In April, CHC’s Manager of Projects and Programs, Amy Argentino presented to the Agricultural Institute of Canada’s 2016 Conference - Disseminating Agricultural Research: Bridging the Gap Between Idea and Adoption. Her presentation “Looking Back and Growing Forward: Lessons Learned in Knowledge Transfer” provided insight into the CHC experiences with coordinating and managing cluster projects. The presentation was part of the Maximizing Technology Transfer workshop portion of the conference, which encouraged end-users to engage in research projects and participate in knowledge mobilization activities. The stated workshop objectives were to:

1. Examine key challenges facing tech transfer in agricultural research
2. Compare best practices and lessons learned
3. Identify opportunities to maximize the impact of new info, processes, products and technologies

To view the presentation, [click here](#). For more information please contact Amy Argentino at [aargentino@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:aargentino@hortcouncil.ca) or 613-226-4880 (ext. 208). Click here for more [AIC conference information](#)

## Federal budget supports genomics research to benefit agriculture

As part of the Government of Canada's new Innovation Agenda, Budget 2016 announced \$30 million over six years to support advanced research in agricultural genomics to mitigate biological threats to agriculture. The funding will allow AAFC scientists to build on this important work by enabling them to 'DNA fingerprint' and digitize specimens of pests, weeds, and diseases from AAFC's current physical collections containing over 17 million physical specimens of insects, plants, fungi, bacteria and nematodes, and create reference collections that will be used to identify high-risk organisms. [Read more](#)

## Next Agricultural Policy Framework – Share Your Experience and Ideas

*Growing Forward 2* (GF2) is the current federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) agricultural policy framework and will be in place until 2018. Now at the midway point of GF2, FPT governments are working in partnership to develop the next framework and are seeking feedback to better understand where GF2 is working well, and where challenges could be addressed.

AAFC wants to hear about your experience. Your feedback is important and will help shape the direction of future policy and programs for the agriculture and agri-food sector. There will be more opportunities to share your ideas and priorities in the coming months.

Learn more about [Growing Forward 2](#).

### Contributing Your Comments

You can provide your comments by:

- completing this [questionnaire](#)
- e-mail to [aafc.npf-pcs.aac@canada.ca](mailto:aafc.npf-pcs.aac@canada.ca)
- mail to the address on the right

### Next Policy Framework

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
1341 Baseline Road, Tower 7  
Floor 5, Room 300  
Ottawa ON  
K1A 0C5

## Census of Agriculture out now

The Census of Agriculture is now available on-line. Released once every five years, the census will provide valuable information for decision-makers and Canada's agriculture industry. Please take the time to fill out and return your census. Good input leads to credible results. More information is available [here](#).

## COMMODITY CORNER

### 2016 CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meeting

**July 26 & 27, 2016**

**Moncton, NB – Delta Beausejour Hotel**

**July 26** – Apple Industry Meeting followed by a group dinner

**July 27** – Orchard Tour and BBQ - More details to follow very shortly!

[www.deltahotels.com/Hotels/Delta-Beausejour-Hotel](http://www.deltahotels.com/Hotels/Delta-Beausejour-Hotel)

Reservations (managed by Marriott reservations): 1-844-496-8551

While it is preferable to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible, they can be made at any time before June 27, 2016. Hope you can make it!

### **AAFC A New Method for Wireworm Control presentation available on-line**

On May 12, Christine Noronha from the AAFC's Charlottetown Research and Development Centre gave a webinar on a new method for wireworm control. The Noronha Elaterid Light Trap (NELT) is proving successful in the capture and reduction of wireworm in test locations. [See the presentation](#)

## **CROP PROTECTION**

### **CHC Crop Protection Advisory Committee busy with PMRA Proposed Re-evaluation Decision Documents**

The CHC's Crop Protection Advisory Committee (CPAC) is busy preparing submissions on a series of PMRA Proposed Re-evaluation Decision Documents which include important fungicides such Chlorothalonil, (Bravo), Captan and Thiram. CPAC Chair, Charles Stevens, stresses the importance of member associations and growers completing the product-specific for the requested deadlines as the information is "critical to contributing to value discussions as well as and potential misconceptions about actual use and little knowledge of real world field conditions. The information provided certainly helps refine the risk assessment. That, coupled with additional scientific data from the registrants can change the outcome of the re-evaluations." For additional information, please contact Anne Fowlie (afowlie@hortcouncil.ca)

### **Late Blight project underway**

The Ontario Potato Board and Dr. Eugenia Banks are collaborating on a two-year project to evaluate late blight management technologies new to Ontario. The goal of the project is to help growers take late blight management to the next level by using state-of-the-art spore traps placed in potato fields and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) technology to identify late blight spores before visual symptoms develop in plants. Also, drone technology will be used to validate the performance and effectiveness of spore traps. This project is funded in part through Growing Forward 2. The Agricultural Adaptation Council assists in the delivery of Growing Forward 2 in Ontario.

### **AAFC Minor Use Crop and Pest Problems 2016 Priority Setting Workshop**

During the past winter, growers and other stakeholders worked with provincial minor use coordinators to identify crop/pest problems and potential solutions for these problems. These problems are grouped into three disciplines: weeds and growth regulators, insects (entomology) and diseases (pathology). These selected priorities will become projects within the Minor Use Pesticides Program for the 2017 growing season. [Read more](#)

- [Entomology](#)

- [Weeds/Growth Regulators](#)
- [Pathology](#)
- [Regional and Organic Production](#)

## **Glyphosate “unlikely” to pose cancer risk, claims WHO/FAO**

A joint committee formed by two of the United Nations’ (UN) leading agencies has said a chemical compound used in the herbicide Roundup is unlikely to pose a carcinogenic risk to humans through exposure in their diets.

In contrast to a report released last year by the [International Agency for Research on Cancer \(IARC\)](#), a joint panel of experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have determined glyphosate is “unlikely to be genotoxic at anticipated dietary exposures”.

The meeting also concluded the pesticides diazinon and malathion were unlikely to be carcinogenic. The announcement comes six months after the [European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#) determined the pesticide was “unlikely to pose a carcinogenic hazard to humans”.

## **Pest Management Centre (PMC): Updated Grape Crop Profile available**

A new [Crop Profile for Grape in Canada, 2013](#) is available free to download from the [Government of Canada Publications](#) web site or through the [Grape crop profile webpage](#). There are thirty-two [Crop Profiles](#) covering 38 crops created and maintained by the [Pesticide Risk Reduction Program](#) that are accessible for download on the Government of Canada Publications web site.

Click [here](#) to see the Pest Management Centre Crop Profiles.

## **FOOD SAFETY**

### **CFIA, Health Canada and USDA sign food safety systems recognition arrangement**

At the end of April 2016, CFIA, Health Canada and the USDA signed a food safety system recognition agreement which aims to recognize that US and Canadian food safety control systems provide similar levels of protection. The recognition arrangement offers benefits to Canada and the U.S. by enabling the importing country to take into consideration the oversight of the exporting country when prioritizing its inspection activities. Furthermore, importers will have greater confidence that a product meets the country’s requirements. Imports into Canada must continue to meet Canadian requirements, and imports into the U.S. must continue to meet all applicable U.S. requirements. [Read more](#)

## OTHER NEWS

### Helping Canada Grow

CropLife Canada recently commissioned [a study by RIAS Inc.](#) to help quantify the benefits pesticides and biotech crops deliver to the environment, the economy and communities across Canada.



The results of this study demonstrate that there are many benefits. These tools help farmers be more productive on existing farmland, which leaves natural habitats in place and protects biodiversity. They help farmers protect the soil, reduce fuel use and limit greenhouse gas emissions. Pesticides and plant biotechnology help farmers grow more crops, which helps drive the economy and create jobs. They also help keep food costs affordable and ensure Canadian families have year-round access to healthy foods. Here are a few facts to consider:

- Without pesticides and plant biotechnology, we'd pay about 55% more for food – roughly \$4,400 more per family.
- The plant science industry contributes \$9.8 billion to Canada's GDP every year.
- Without pesticides and biotech crops, Canada would need to farm almost 50% more land to grow the same amount of food – that's more than the total area of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I. combined.

A new [microsite](#) has been created as a one-stop shop for finding out more about how plant science innovations are helping Canada grow. The site includes fact sheets, infographics and [videos](#) that can be downloaded and shared. A [French version of the site](#) is also available.

CropLife Canada is also able to deliver presentations, live or via webinar, on the findings of Helping Canada Grow.

### Celebrating 20 years of biotech crops

In 1996, farmers planted the first commercially-approved biotech crop. CropLife Canada, as part of a CropLife International initiative, hosted a Table for Twenty event roundtable dinner discussion in Ottawa on April 25, as part of a global Celebration of 20 years of biotech innovation initiative.

Table for Twenty brings together people with an interest in agriculture and food for a discussion on the role of plant biotechnology and the benefits it has delivered to Canadian farmers and consumers and what's in store for the future. CHC EVP, Anne Fowlie, represented CHC at the event.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Question of the month helps CHC and our members get a better understanding of your opinions on issues affecting fruit and vegetable production in Canada.

Please click on the question below.

[What issue is of the greatest concern to you to be addressed in Growing Forward 3?](#)

Question  
of the month



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE	3	<a href="#">Vineland Research and Innovation Centre Greenhouse Open House</a> Vineland Station, ON
	20 – 23	<a href="#">United Fresh</a> Chicago, Ill
	23 – 24	<a href="#">International Federation for Produce Standards</a> Chicago, Ill
JULY	6 – 7	<a href="#">CHC Board of Directors Summer Meeting and Tour</a> Lower Mainland, BC
	15	<a href="#">Canadian Potato Council Meeting</a> Winnipeg, Manitoba
	26 – 27	<a href="#">CHC Mid-Summer Apple Meetings</a> Moncton, NB
AUGUST	18 – 20	<a href="#">Quebec Produce Marketing Association Annual Convention</a> Montreal, QC
SEPTEMBER	13 – 14	<a href="#">Canada's Outdoor Farm Show</a> Woodstock, ON
OCTOBER	5 – 6	<a href="#">Canadian Greenhouse Conference</a> Niagara Falls, ON
	14 – 16	<a href="#">Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit Conference and Expo</a> Orlando, FL
NOVEMBER	21 – 23	<a href="#">50th Annual Alberta Potato Conference and Trade Show</a> Banff, AB
	21 – 23	<a href="#">CHC/CPMA Fall Harvest Event</a> Ottawa, ON

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