

INDUSTRY UPDATES

Prince Edward Island to Benefit from New UPEI Research Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation

July 5, 2019 - Investments in climate change research, scientific innovation and post-secondary education are essential for providing increased access to higher learning for Canadians, and to develop meaningful collaboration with communities, industry leaders, researchers and regional governments.

Today, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, and Member of Parliament for Cardigan, on behalf of the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities; the Honourable Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island; and Dr. Alaa Abdel-Aziz, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Prince Edward Island, announced funding for the Canadian Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation at the University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI).

The project consists of constructing a 45,000 square foot research facility in the town of St. Peter's Bay, PEI. The facility will house state-of-the-art research centres, including the internationally recognized UPEI Climate Research Lab. It will also serve as a living laboratory that allows for unlimited access to nearby wetlands, forests and coastal habitats directly affected by climate change.

Once complete, this facility will support key learning programs like UPEI's Bachelor of Science in Applied Climate Change and Adaptation, and proposed Master's program in Climate Change and Adaptation, preparing graduates to continue the important work of mitigating the effects of climate change after graduation.

The governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island are investing over \$9.7 million in this project through the New Building Canada Fund – Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component. The University of Prince Edward Island is also contributing over \$4.8 million. *(Editor's note: local potato farmers Ray and Alvin Keenan also supported this investment via the donation of land for the new centre.)*

CPMA Names Member of Parliament Wayne Easter 2019 Produce Champion

July 4, 2019 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA) is proud to honour its 2019 Produce Champion: Member of Parliament Wayne Easter. CPMA's annual Produce Champion award is given to one or

more Member(s) of Parliament and/or Senator(s) who have been supportive of the produce industry and effective at bringing industry issues to the forefront on Parliament Hill.

The Honourable Wayne Easter, CPMA's 2019 Produce Champion, received his award at a celebration hosted by CPMA in his home riding of Malpeque, Prince Edward Island. The event featured live culinary demonstrations by CPMA Half Your Plate Ambassador Chef Michael Smith. "MP Wayne Easter has shown a passion for a safe and thriving produce industry in Canada which aligns clearly with our vision," said CPMA President Ron Lemaire.

"It is an honour and privilege having been chosen as the Produce Champion this year by the Canadian Produce Marketing Association. Having farmed, and serving farmers in various capacities in the farm movement, I can attest that - from coast to coast - Canadian farmers and producers grow the best quality fruits and vegetables in the world that we get to enjoy," said MP Easter. "Our agricultural sector consistently meets the highest standards anywhere, ensuring we have nutritious food in abundance, and we have the CPMA to make sure it gets from the farm gate to the dinner plate in an efficient and effective manner. Thank you for this award and the opportunity to highlight the work of our producers in Canada."

The Produce Champion award was inaugurated in 2018 and was awarded to Members of Parliament Pat Finnigan, Ruth Ellen Brosseau and Bev Shipley. CPMA congratulates MP Easter and looks forward to continuing development of the produce industry, working with him and his fellow MPs, Senators and all parliamentarians.

CanadaGAP® AGM to be Held in Charlottetown

CanadaGAP® is excited to announce that the Annual General Meeting of CanAgPlus, the corporation that owns and operates the food safety program, is coming to Charlottetown, PEI. The 2019 AGM will be held on Thursday, November 28 at 2:00 p.m. AST at the Red Shores Racetrack and Casino. We hope to see lots of local growers in attendance!

This is the first time that the CanadaGAP AGM is being held outside of Ottawa. The decision was made by the Board of Directors to move the AGM to a different location each year, in order for program participants to have the opportunity to attend and participate fully in the meeting. PEI was chosen as the first stop on the schedule.

AGM business begins at 2 p.m. and will be immediately

followed by an interactive “Town Hall”-style session, during which program participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback and ask any questions about the CanadaGAP program. The day will wrap up with a dinner at the Top of the Park restaurant, generously sponsored by Syngenta. All members attending the AGM are invited to join us for dinner. Advance registration is required by October 14, 2019. Contact the CanadaGAP office or visit our website <https://www.canadagap.ca/events/annual-general-meeting/> for more information.

The town-hall sessions are being organized to allow members to engage directly with the CanAgPlus Board of

Directors and CanadaGAP staff on specific topics, and we hope that all members take this opportunity to share their input on a variety of issues. As the program continues to grow and develop, new concerns are always being brought to light by program participants who are invested in the integrity of the program as a whole. One of the central tenets of the program is that it is designed to be responsive to both emerging science as well as new practices in the horticultural sector. The goal of this collaborative effort—participants, staff, academia, and industry working together—has always been a ready-to-use food safety program for participants that meets customer requirements.

O’Leary Potato Blossom Festival 2019



Several Industry Awards were presented at the O’Leary Potato Blossom Festival Annual Farmers Banquet on July 19, 2019. Award winners were (left to right): Sherwin, Barry and John Phillips of Westcountry Farms were Producers of the Year; the PEI Potato Ambassador title was awarded to Brittany Peters of Kinkora; Carson Adams accepted the award as Future Farmer of the Year while his father Bruce Adams was recognized for winning an Environmental Stewardship award earlier in the year. Wendy Harris (far right), an employee of Triple S Farms, won the award for Hired Hand of the Year. Congratulations to all the Award winners and to the Festival Committee for hosting another successful week of activities to celebrate the contribution of the PEI Potato Industry to the local community.

Crop Signs

As you drive around the province during the remainder of the season you should see the results of a joint project between the Potato Board and Farm & Food Care PEI. A number of signs have been placed in agricultural fields with the name of the crop being grown there. Many of the tourists who visit our province and even locals not involved in agriculture are often curious about what is being grown in the fields they drive by. The signs are being placed in high traffic areas and identify crops such as potatoes, soybeans, barley, carrots and more. Owners of the fields in which signs are being placed have been very cooperative and supportive of this initiative. The signs also have a web address (PEIFarmTour.ca) that folks can visit to learn more about the diversity of the crops grown on Prince Edward Island.



2019 AgriExpo Postponed to 2021

June 18, 2019. Grand Falls, NB – AgriExpo, a major agricultural trade show and conference held in Grand Falls, New Brunswick, has announced revised show dates of August 11 & 12, 2021. Initially scheduled for August 2019, considerable discussion with major exhibitors and industry leaders has led organizers to move the event forward two years.

The move comes after indications that buyers and sellers will be in a better position to support an industry event of this nature at the later date. Likewise, the expedited planning process required to produce the event in 2019, combined with upcoming related agricultural events happening in the region strengthened the belief that deferring the event was the right choice. Master Promotions Ltd. and Valley Chamber of Commerce have big plans for AgriExpo, and look forward welcoming the agricultural industry together across New Brunswick, Maine and Eastern Canada in two years' time on August 11th and 12th, 2021. Please stay tuned to the show website for additional information and updates on the event: www.AgriExpo.ca

Upcoming Events

Please call the Board at (902) 892-6551 for further information on any of these events.

August 2019

- Aug 6 **Summer Grower Social.** Fox Island Elite Seed Farm, Alberton. 2 PM - 5 PM (including a tour of the Elite Seed Farm)
- Aug 7 **Summer Grower Social.** R&L Farms, Kinkora. 2 PM - 5 PM
- Aug 8 **Summer Grower Social.** Townshend Potato Company, Rollo Bay. 2 PM - 5 PM
- Aug. 29 **PEI Variety Field Day,** AAFC Harrington Research Station.
- Aug 30 **Application Deadline for AgriRecovery.**

September 2019

- Sept. 6 **Toe Taps 'n Taters Fall Flavours Signature Event.** Canoe Cove, PEI.
- Sept. 15 **Open Farm Day** across PEI.

October 2019

- Oct. 6 **Farm Day in the City Presented by the PEI Potato Growers.** Charlottetown, PEI.
- Oct. 17-19 **Produce Marketing Association Fresh Summit.** Anaheim, CA.

November 2019

- Nov. 1-10 **Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.** Toronto, ON
- TBA **PEI Potato Board Annual Meeting.**
- Nov 28 **CanAgPlus (CanadaGAP) Annual Meeting.** Red Shores, Charlottetown.