



## HEADLINES

*Canadian Agricultural Growth Act Tabled*

*Canada's Produce Industry Cultivates Support on Parliament Hill*

*Ted Menzies to Lead CropLife Canada*

*2014 Named International Year of Family Farming*



## Regular Features

- Commodity Corner
- Crop Protection
- Trade
- Food Safety
- 2014 CHC AGM

## Mark Your Calendar



## Season's Greetings

*Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season.*

**Please note: The CHC Office will be closed from December 23-27, 2013.**

### Bill C-18:

#### **Canadian Agricultural Growth Act Tabled**

On December 9, 2013 Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, Gerry Ritz, announced that legislation Bill C-18, the *Canadian Agricultural Growth Act*, was introduced and given First Reading in the House of Commons. The Bill contains amendments to Canada's *Plant Breeders' Rights Act* to bring it into conformity with to the 1991 convention of the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV).



"As farms work to match production with the growing global population it becomes increasingly important that they have the tools needed to continue to increase production. New varieties are an important segment of this growth. Ensuring that our plant breeders' rights regulations are aligned with our global trading partners is imperative," said Keith Kuhl, President of the Canadian Horticultural Council. Kuhl attended the Winnipeg announcement and had an opportunity to meet with Minister Ritz following the announcement.

#### **Canada's Produce Industry Cultivates Support on Parliament Hill: Fall Harvest Event 2013**

Representatives from the fresh produce industry met with nearly 40 Members of Parliament on November 19-20, during the third annual Fall Harvest Event hosted by the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association (CPMA).



On the agenda for discussion were three key areas of focus for industry including the (RCC) financial protection for produce sellers, the role of fruit and vegetables in the health of Canadians and food safety and traceability.

With produce industry representatives and supply chain stakeholders from across Canada participating, meetings with parliamentarians and senior government officials during the two day event provided opportunities to build a better understanding of key concerns for industry was the goal. Participants were pleased with the results from the 2013 Fall Harvest Event.

Don Taylor, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers, noted that "with very few exceptions, every MP we met was extremely motivated by our messages of Health, Financial Risk Mitigation and Food Safety. That really helped fuel us for each subsequent handshake."

This year was especially important, as there are many changes in the works within the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) as well as international trade.

CPMA's Ron Lemaire pointed out how "important it is to be involved with regulation changes from the beginning. Cooperation with the various organizations from the get-go allows for a more streamlined approach, better information and leads to buy-in from all stakeholders. That's a win-win-win situation from our standpoint."

Keith Kuhl, CHC President and President and CEO of Southern Manitoba Potato Co. Ltd., gave the organizers a fond "thank you to the staff of CHC and CPMA for setting up the many appointments that we had with Members of Parliament and senior bureaucrats. We had many extremely successful meetings over the two days which allowed us to continue to deliver the key messages of our industry. We found that the people we met with were willing to engage and often willing to assist us in carrying the messages forward in government."

### **Ted Menzies to Lead CropLife Canada**

Crop Life Canada has announced that Ted Menzies, long-time Alberta farmer and former Member of Parliament, will be the new president and CEO of CropLife Canada. He will join the organization January 1, 2014 and will work out of the head office in Ottawa.

First elected to represent the Alberta Constituency of Macleod in 2004, Menzies held several federal positions including Federal Minister of State for Finance and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Finance. Prior to entering federal politics he was involved in several farm organizations, including the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance, Grain Growers of Canada and Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association.

Menzies owned and operated a 5,000-acre farm from 1974-2003 where he produced grain, oilseeds, pulses and spices. He succeeds long-time President, Lorne Hepworth, who announced his upcoming retirement earlier this year.

### **U.N. launches International Year of Family Farming**

The United Nations has launched the International Year of Family Farming (2014) in an effort to highlight the potential family farmers have to eradicate hunger, preserve natural resources and promote sustainable development. There are an estimated 500 million family farms - those that rely primarily on family members for labor and management - across the developed and developing world, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

### **CFIA Electronic Survey Delivery Platform – Industry Consultation Committee**

The CHC, along with representatives of other plant and animal sectors on the Industry Consultation Committee, met with the CFIA in Ottawa on November 6 for an update on the progress on the development of an Electronic Service Delivery Platform (ESDP). The ESDP is an electronic system that will enable industry to more readily access CFIA programs and conduct regular business transactions with the Agency, using secure information exchange protocols. The focus is on export certificates for food, animal and plant sectors.

The Committee was informed that the original concept of the EDSP as an export certification system has been expanded to include the merging of both export certification and inspection processes. Under the proposed process, export applications would be submitted electronically to a central National Export Service Centre (NESC) operating on extended hours of service. Export certification not requiring a local inspection/document review would be issued directly by the NESC and requests requiring local inspection/document review would be sent to the local CFIA office for action. All information required for a particular export (such as licencing, documentation, inspection, laboratory test results) would be electronically merged. Templates for export requirements will be developed and ESDP would use country/commodity-specific business rules to facilitate processing of an export request. Service delivery standards will be developed for each specific commodity export requirement. Export certificates would be forwarded based upon the foreign trading partner's requirement (original certificate, scanned certificate or e-certificate).

The CFIA has received authority from Treasury Board to proceed with the next stage of the project which includes identifying detailed business requirements, options analysis, fit/gap analysis, roll-out strategy, training strategy, and operational costs/tools. Actual platform development is expected to commence in October 2014 and is scheduled for implementation in April 2016. Implementation will occur as a phased-in approach, and the CFIA indicated that the implementation roll-out plan could be identified within the next six months.

The CFIA and the Industry Consultation Committee will next meet by conference call early in 2014.

### **CHC Presents to House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture**

The CHC had an opportunity to appear as a witness before the Standing Committee on Agriculture on December 10, 2013 as they concluded their review of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Effects of it on the Canadian Agriculture Sector. CHC President, Keith Kuhl, focused his remarks on food safety and traceability, regulatory alignment of crop protection technologies and standardized MRLs, SPS and appropriate dispute resolution mechanisms and non-tariff trade barriers.

### **Amendments to *Plant Breeders' Rights Act* Introduced**

The Government of Canada introduced a new bill that will stimulate investment and innovation in Canada's agriculture sector and give Canadian farmers more tools to compete and thrive in world markets and at home.

The *Agricultural Growth Act* will increase farmers' access to new crop varieties, enhance trade opportunities and the safety of agricultural products, reduce red tape and contribute to Canada's overall economic growth.

Among the key changes being proposed in this bill are amendments to the *Plant Breeders' Rights Act* (PBR Act) to align with the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV '91) which would update Canada's legislation from the outdated UPOV '78 framework. The amendments would include Farmer's Privilege which allows farmers to use seeds from the crops they grow.

"The Canadian Potato Council is pleased to see the amendments to the Plant Breeders' Rights Act. We will now be conforming to international standards of plant variety protection that have been adopted by virtually all developed countries," said Joe Brennan, Chair of the Canadian Potato Council. "The proposed amendments will encourage the development and availability of superior potato varieties that will further enhance the competitiveness of the Canadian potato industry."

Strengthening the intellectual property rights for plant breeding in Canada will encourage investment in Canadian research and development. That will give Canadian farmers more access to new and innovative seed varieties, which could enhance crop yield, improve disease and drought resistance, and meet specific global trade demands.

### Partners in Innovation

A group of leading Canadian farmer and agricultural organizations are joining forces to support Canadian government legislation intended to improve Plant Breeders' Rights in Canada.



Partners in Innovation, which represents farmer and agricultural groups across Canada, believes expanded seed variety protection for plant breeders will promote further investment in seed research and innovation to benefit farmers and the economy.

Partners include:

- Alberta Barley Commission
- Barley Council of Canada
- Canadian Horticultural Council
- Canadian Ornamental Horticulture Alliance
- Canadian Potato Council
- Canadian Seed Trade Association
- Fédération des Producteurs de Cultures Commerciales du Québec
- Grain Farmers of Ontario
- Grain Growers of Canada
- Manitoba Pulse Growers Association
- The Prairie Oat Growers Association
- Western Canadian Wheat Growers Association

## CROP AND PLANT PROTECTION

### Canada Hosts NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides

On November 14, 2013 Canada hosted the 2013 NAFTA Technical Working Group on Pesticides meeting in Ottawa. The meeting provided updates on work conducted by each of the participating countries. Dr. Richard Aucoin (PMRA) and Dr. Steven Bradley (US EPA) provided a joint presentation on the status of the working group's efforts in relation to joint reviews of new chemicals, the further alignment of expanded use reviews, and the harmonization of MRLs and tolerance levels in both countries. An additional update on the subject of Pollinator Protection was also provided. During the meeting participants also provided input in the areas of further MRL Alignment, Data Requirements and Science Policy Alignment, as well as future requirements and priorities regarding regulatory cooperation. The general consensus was that considerable advancement had been made towards the technical working group's action items.

### Crop Protection Advisory Committee Meets

The CHC's Crop Protection Advisory Committee's (CPAC) face-to-face meeting was held on November 25-27 in Ottawa, and included:

- November 25: CHC Mancozeb Presentation to staff from PMRA's Health Evaluation Directorate, the Environmental Evaluation Directorate, and the Value Assessment and Re-evaluation Directorate
- November 26: CHC CPAC / PMRA Joint meeting with Dr. Richard Aucoin (Executive Director)
- November 26: CHC CPAC / Crop Life Canada meeting with Pierre Petelle, Vice President, Chemistry
- November 27: CHC CPAC / PMC Joint meeting with Dr. Manjeet Sethi (Executive Director)

The first day of this very busy agenda included a CHC presentation to PMRA staff from the Health Evaluation Directorate, the Environmental Evaluation Directorate, and the Value Assessment and Re-evaluation Directorate, titled "The Critical Importance of Mancozeb to Canada's Horticultural Sector" in support of the formal written submission. On day two of the agenda 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 the active Notice of Intent process related to Pollinators. The committee thereafter met with Pierre Petelle, VP Chemistry, CropLife Canada and obtained further background information related to pollinator issue. The last day of the agenda was devoted to a meeting with Dr. Manjeet Sethi and the Pest Management Centre team where an

update of their activities was provided for the group (Vineland lab, Budget, Joint Projects, Laboratory Capacity). Additional items discussed included crop profiles and crop groupings, the status of DFR studies, an update for the Invasive Alien Species Coordination Group, and the status for the next Global Minor Use Meeting.

### **PMRA Notice of Intent:**

#### **NOI2013-0, Action to Protect Bees from Exposure to Neonicotinoid Pesticides**

The Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) invited stakeholders and the public to submit written comments on Notice of Intent NOI2013-01, Action to Protect Bees from Exposure to Neonicotinoid Pesticides. The PMRA has determined that current agricultural practices related to the use of neonicotinoid treated corn and soybean seed are affecting the environment due to their impacts on bees and other pollinators. This notice outlined intended actions and provided interested parties an opportunity to comment. The CHC submitted formal comments for the December 12, 2013 deadline.

A broad ideological attack on modern agriculture practices was instigated by environmental organizations using their networks and social media and these generated thousands of letters in response to PMRA's NOI calling on PMRA to ban the use of all neonicotinoids for all uses in all regions of the country.

In response to this initiative CHC, led by your Crop Protection Advisory Committee and in cooperation with CropLife Canada and their consultant Summa Strategies, developed a coordinated effort to members and their individual constituents to counteract the public's request for an all-out ban requesting that PMRA continue its practice of a science based review. As a result of this initiative, and in addition to a formal submission by CHC and others, we understand that close to 1,000 responses were generated from industry participants. This is an excellent example of industry collaboration.

#### **Updated International Crop Protection and MRL Database Homologa™ Available**

The Canadian annual subscription to the Homologa™ database has recently been renewed through a cost-share partnership between Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC) and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA). As a result, Canadians can access, for free, services offered by Homologa for the period November 2013 - November 2014.

Homologa is a comprehensive web-based resource of up-to-date information pertaining to crop protection products and Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for 66 countries across the globe, including Canada and the USA. A product of Agrobases-Logigram of France, Homologa gathers data concerning registered crop protection products, such as registration restrictions, approved methods of application and residue limits from the member countries and makes the information available to subscribers.

AAFC and Health Canada – PMRA use this information to deliver their mandates pertaining to pesticide risk reduction and international harmonization. At the same time, this information is required by Canadian agri-food stakeholders to enable them to develop strategic approaches to pest management which will mitigate the risk of MRL violations and potential negative consequences for international trade.

To set up your free account to access this database, visit [www.homologa.com](http://www.homologa.com) and request an account through the Contact Form.

## **COMMODITY CORNER**

### **Apple**

#### **Meeting of the National Apple Promotion and Research Agency Steering Committee**

Earlier this fall, members of the Canadian apple industry formed the National Apple Promotion and Research Agency Steering Committee, tasked with the following:

- To develop an Action Plan towards the establishment of a National Promotion & Research agency for the Canadian apple industry;
- To facilitate and promote discussions on the subject among industry stakeholders;
- To engage key national and provincial industry associations that could contribute to or may be impacted by this initiative;
- To develop advice and recommendations on the feasibility of this initiative to be taken to the CHC Apple and Fruit Committee.

The Steering Committee is set to meet at the CHC national office in Ottawa on January 7, 2014. For more information, please contact Amy Argentino at [aargentino@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:aargentino@hortcouncil.ca) or 613-226-4880 ext. 208.

### **Blueberry**

#### **Canada: B.C. farmers to benefit from \$4.3 million agrifoods export program**

The B.C. Agrifoods Export Program will provide matching funds to support industry participation at international tradeshows, promotional events, incoming and outgoing trade missions, and to develop marketing materials for international audiences.

"These investments will assist B.C. agrifood producers and processors to take full advantage of new opportunities that the government is creating through the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union," said MP Kerry Lynne Findlay on behalf of federal Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz.

The program will build on B.C.'s export success. Each year, the province exports about \$2.5 billion of agrifood products to more



than 130 countries.

### **Governments of Canada and Nova Scotia Help Strawberry Producers**

Strawberry producers whose fields were impacted by a virus complex will receive assistance, thanks to a new federal-provincial jointly funded AgriRecovery initiative. The welcome announcement was made in Kentville, Nova Scotia on December 6, 2013 by Member of Parliament for West Nova Greg Kerr, on behalf of federal agriculture minister Gerry Ritz, and Nova Scotia Minister of Agriculture Keith Colwell.

AgriRecovery is intended to help strawberry producers recover and resume operations for the next planting season. The industry- developed 2013 Canada-Nova Scotia Strawberry Assistance Initiative will provide up to \$2.3 million to assist strawberry producers in Nova Scotia affected by a strawberry virus complex with the one-time extraordinary cost of removing and replacing plants to help manage the virus complex. Producers will be eligible for a payment depending on the production system in use on their farm. This payment will help to purchase new plants to replace those removed as part of the industry-led strategy. Payments will be made once producers begin replanting their strawberry crops. This federal-provincial initiative is being delivered under the AgriRecovery Framework.

Further information regarding details of this AgriRecovery initiative and how to apply can be found at [www.AgPal.ca](http://www.AgPal.ca).

### **Potato**

#### **Canada – United States Potato Committee Meets**

Over 35 representatives of the Canadian Potato Council, CFIA, US National Potato Council and USDA-APHIS met in Toronto on November 1, 2013 for the Canada – United States Potato Committee Meeting. This first meeting of the Committee since 2011 provided the opportunity for individuals from provincial and state potato organizations to discuss issues of related to trade, marketing and plant health of common importance with government officials from both countries. The productive discussions identified areas for collaborative work to further the competitiveness of the potato industry in Canada and the US.

### **FOOD SAFETY**

#### **Vote on CanadaGAP special resolution**

CanadaGAP Program Participants will soon be receiving a package in the mail containing a Special Resolution to amend the quorum requirement for members' meetings. The CanadaGAP Board is proposing a change since we did not achieve quorum for the Annual General Meeting planned for November 18<sup>th</sup>.

CanadaGAP needs you to vote on the resolution by January 7, 2014.

To vote online, click on this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RFSN8CP>

Alternatively, you may vote by mailed-in ballot when you receive your package.

The [Notice of Special Meeting](#) and the full text of the [Special Resolution and Amending By-law](#) are attached. Currently, the by-law requires that 20% of Members must participate in meetings. Instead, the Board is proposing to remove the minimum number of members required so that members who wish to vote can do so even if a significant proportion of the membership does not participate. Thank you for voting.



The 2014 Canadian Horticultural Council's Annual General Meeting will soon be here. Your BC hosts are preparing a first-class event based on the theme Growing a Healthy Organization and are looking forward to welcoming you to Kelowna.

#### **Registration**

Delegates are urged to complete the registration forms and return it to the CHC National Office as soon as possible. Please visit [www.hortcouncil.ca/annual-general-meeting/annual-general-meeting-2014.aspx](http://www.hortcouncil.ca/annual-general-meeting/annual-general-meeting-2014.aspx) for registration details.

#### **Accommodations**

To make your reservation, please contact the Delta Grand Okanagan at the following link <https://www.deltahotels.com/Groups/Delta-Grand-Okanagan-Groups/Canadian-Horticultural-Council-AGM-2014>, reservation line at 1-888-890-3222 and ask for the Canadian Horticultural Council rate. Rates for standard rooms are: \$159 single/double occupancy. A block of rooms is being held by the hotel for CHC delegates until February 3, 2014. Please note neither the

special conference rate nor availability are guaranteed after February 3, 2014.

### Resolutions

Resolutions are to be submitted to CHC before January 31, 2014. A notice was recently sent to all Members with details on submission. For more information, please contact Amy Argentino at [aargentino@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:aargentino@hortcouncil.ca) or 613-226-4880 ext. 208.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

Be recognized as a supporting partner and contributor to Canada's horticultural industry. As a CHC AGM sponsor, you will be recognized at the AGM, in our annual report and on our website, in addition to a host of other benefits varying by level of partnership. Please call the CHC National Office today at (613) 226-4880 Ext. 208 or email [aargentino@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:aargentino@hortcouncil.ca) to discuss the option best suited to your organization. We can tailor a package specifically for you!

### Call for Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the **Doug Connery Award**: Celebrating Leadership Excellence. The award honours exemplary passion, commitment and dedication to advancing the interests of Canada's horticultural industry. Past honourees include Steve Levasseur, Keith Kuhl and Ken Forth.

Nominations should be sent to the attention of Anne Fowlie ([afowlie@hortcouncil.ca](mailto:afowlie@hortcouncil.ca)) on or before February 21, 2014. The recipient will be announced and honoured at the CHC Annual Banquet on March 5 at The Delta Grand Okanagan, in Kelowna, BC.

## Mark Your Calendar...

JANUARY	8-10	Potato Expo, San Antonio Texas <a href="http://www.potato-expo.com/">http://www.potato-expo.com/</a>
	13-14	Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers Annual Meeting, Niagara Falls
	21-22	Invasive Species Council of British Columbia (ISCBC) Public Forum & AGM: Invasives 2014, Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond, BC Maggie Cahoon (205-305-1003 x34)
	27-28	Scotia Horticultural Congress 2014, Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, NS - For more information contact <a href="mailto:Marlene@horticulturens.ca">Marlene@horticulturens.ca</a>
	28-30	Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association Annual Convention, Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville, NS <a href="http://www.nsfgaconvention.com/">http://www.nsfgaconvention.com/</a>
FEBRUARY	19-20	Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention, Niagara Falls, Ontario <a href="http://www.ofvc.ca">www.ofvc.ca</a>
	21-22	International Potato Technology Expo, Charlottetown, PE <a href="http://www.masterpromotions.ca/Previous-Events/international-potato-technology-expo-2014/">http://www.masterpromotions.ca/Previous-Events/international-potato-technology-expo-2014/</a>
MARCH	4-6	Canadian Horticultural Council Annual General Meeting, Kelowna, BC <a href="http://www.hortcouncil.ca/annual-general-meeting/annual-general-meeting-2014.aspx">www.hortcouncil.ca/annual-general-meeting/annual-general-meeting-2014.aspx</a>
	25-27	Canadian Biopesticides and Minor Use Pesticides Priority Setting Workshops, The Hilton Lac-Leamy Hotel, Gatineau, Québec

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