

CANADIAN HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL

CanadaGAP Program under new ownership

CanadaGAP, the national food safety program for fresh fruit and vegetable suppliers, is now operated by CanAgPlus, a new Canadian not-for-profit corporation that will operate CanadaGAP independently of the program's founding organization, the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC).

CanadaGAP was first launched as a food safety certification program in 2008 and has achieved international recognition. More than 2,000 fresh produce suppliers are currently enrolled for CanadaGAP certification.

Under the new corporation, CanadaGAP Program requirements and the audit and certification process will remain the same for program participants and for certification bodies delivering third party audits. However, the change in ownership has created new opportunities for those enrolled in CanadaGAP. Program participants will become members of CanAgPlus, offering new rights and privileges to attend annual

general meetings, submit resolutions, elect the Board of Directors, etc.

CanAgPlus was formed in a move to integrate CanadaGAP and the Canadian Produce Marketing Association's (CPMA) Repacking and Wholesale Food Safety Program (RWSP). Integration of the two food safety programs will extend the stakeholder base and contribute to lower costs and greater efficiency for industry and for companies involved in growing, packing, storage, repacking and wholesale. The fully integrated program is not yet available, although work is actively progressing and will continue into 2013.

Governance

Management of the CanadaGAP Program will be overseen by the CanAgPlus Board of Directors, appointed in August 2012 by CHC and CPMA, the two founding organizations:

Chair of the Board: Tom Bytynen, Thomas Fresh Inc.

Vice-Chair: Jack Bates, Tecarte Farms
Directors: Hugh Bowman, Bayshore Vegetable Shippers Ltd. Claude Laniel, Conseil québécois de l'horticulture

Grant Hackman, Peak of the Market
Beth Pattillo, Kings Produce

The first Annual General Meeting for CanAgPlus is planned for November 2013, at which time members will elect a full board of eight directors. The general operating by-law and articles of incorporation are available to members upon request.

Under the new corporate structure, the On-Farm Food Safety Technical Working Group previously named by the CHC will be replaced by the CanadaGAP Stakeholder Advisory Committee. Appointments to the Committee will be made by the Board of Directors through an

open call for nominations from interested stakeholders.

Check out our new website

The CanadaGAP Program has a new look! Visit our new website at www.canadagap.ca.

CanadaGAP staff will continue to be located at the same office in Ottawa. Our mailing address, fax, phone and extension numbers remain the same. Email addresses have changed. Please contact us at:

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RCC Crop Protection Working Group

The RCC Crop Protection Working Group held a stakeholder meeting on October 24 in Ottawa, the event was well attended and the overall mood seemed positive. The Pest Management Regulatory Agency and the Environmental Protection Agency assured the participants that the will to address a complex set of issues was there and that they were actively working

towards achieving the RCC objective.

The goal of the working group is to facilitate equal access to products and uses in both countries, align maximum residue limits and tolerances where possible. The working group is moving ahead with work to identify mechanisms to encourage registrants and applicants to submit applications for joint regulatory

review to the United States and Canada that include increased numbers of minor uses. There are four action items which have been identified to achieve this goal.

1. Encourage joint submission of use expansions and fully aligned labels.
2. Develop joint guidelines for residue trials.

3. Address obstacles to joint registration.
4. Align data collection processes/procedures for residue trials.

PMRA and the EPA are currently working on a pilot application for aligned joint submissions, new uses and MRLs/tolerances, as well as developing a harmonized Confidential Statement of Product Specifications (CSPS)

form. The PMRA is considering U.S. timelines and application categories as well as streamlining their value assessment process to focus more on value rather than efficacy.

The PMRA and the EPA have begun initiating joint work plan meetings with industry. <http://actionplan.gc.ca/page/rcc-ccr/crop-protection-products-work-plan>

US Food Safety Initiatives Update – FDA Facility Registration Process now open

The U.S. FDA has announced that its facility registration

process is now open. Biennial registration of domestic and for-

eign facilities (on even numbered years - 2012, 2014, etc.) is a

requirement of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Initially slated to start on October 1st, the registration process was officially postponed at the end of September.

This FSMA requirement includes all Canadian food facili-

ties exporting to the U.S.

Information about the registration process and requirements can be found at: www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/FSMA/ucm314178.htm



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