

March
2009

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Monthly Newsletter

NO CHANGE TO
LEVIES IN 2009

COMMISSION
2009 AGM

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2009 COMMISSION LEVY RATES REMAIN UNCHANGED COMPARED TO 2008

Planning for 2009 Commission operations included completing the annual work plan in late 2008 and finalizing the budget. Establishing levies is a key part of the budget making process.

For 2009 the VMC levy structure is to remain unchanged compared to what was in place for 2008. With this the case the General Order does not need to be amended.

All Designated Agencies will be informed of the 2009 levy structure by separate communication.

If you wish to view *Schedule IV – BCVMC Levies and Charges* - of the General Order the quickest way for doing so is to visit the Commission's web site - www.bveg.com. Navigate to the General Order by clicking on the "Orders and Decisions" button, click "General Order" and when the document appears go to Page 43.

If you wish to have a copy of Schedule IV sent to you by facsimile please contact the office for making that arrangement.

VMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the VMC was held March 26 in Langley. During the meeting David Taylor delivered remarks as VMC Chair; a summary of 2008 annual operations was presented; and the audited financial statement was reviewed and received. The 2008 operations report can be obtained by visiting the VMC website. Click on the "News & Notes" button.

Guest speaker Helmut Pastrick, Chief Economist of Central 1 Credit Union, addressed the audience. His comments about the current economic situation and what to expect in the next 12 - 18 months generated a number of questions about the Canadian and British Columbia general economies and how producers might be impacted.

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OVERBASE DELIVERY
ALLOCATION
POLICY SOON TO
BECOME
PERMANENT

OVER BASE DELIVERY ALLOCATION

In December 2007 the Commission established a temporary policy for the awarding of Over Base Delivery Allocation. The temporary policy provides for a method of awarding over base delivery allocation that respects the mix of producer interests when over base Delivery Allocation is to be awarded. This occurs when all producers have shipped 100% of their Delivery Allocation for a specific Delivery Allocation period.

For the first time the Commission directed a storage crop designated agency to use the temporary policy in December 2007 for awarding over base Delivery Allocation. The method is different to what was at the time and currently continues to be set out in the General Order. Since December 2007, and as was directed by the Commission when the temporary policy was first used, it has been used on two other occasions.

Relying on the advice received from the Storage Crop Advisory Group on this policy matter and through other consultative avenues, during its March 26 regular meeting the Commission reached a decision for making the temporary policy permanent.

The next step is for the Commission to formally amend the General Order. It is expected that this will occur shortly.

ON-FARM FOOD SAFETY

CHC ON-FARM
FOOD SAFETY
PROGRAM
TO BE RENAMED
"CANADAGAP

Under the auspices of the Canadian Horticultural Council over the past few years a horticulture On-Farm Food Safety Program has been developed for use by Canadian farmers and packers. The program consists of cost effective national food safety standards and a certification system for the safe production, storage and packaging of fresh fruit and vegetables.

There is growing acceptance among Canadian retail and food service stakeholders of the CHC Food Safety Program and in the future this is expected to become ever more so when a planned benchmarking of the CHC program to internationally recognized Global Food

Safety Initiative (GFSI) and GlobalGAP standards is completed. Along with its planned benchmarking, the CHC On-Farm Food Safety program is also to be re-named "**CanadaGAP - On-Farm Food Safety for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables**".

CanadaGAP is to have a status which is equivalent with other internationally recognized food safety programs in use in North America and around the world. Using CanadaGAP will result in Canadian fruit and vegetable producers and packers being well positioned to meet customer food safety requirements that are based on GFSI or GlobalGAP standards.