

December
2005

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter

Terms expire for
Cheuk, Gourley,
Delli Santi, and
Spetifore

Industry
meetings to
discuss
greenhouse
regulatory
framework

Applications for
License renewal
required by
deadline date

2006 Commission Elections

The spring 2006 cycle of Commission elections will soon be underway.

Terms will expire at the end of March 2006 for William Cheuk, (representing tomato producers in Districts I and II); Doug Gourley (representing storage crop producers in District I); Linda Delli Santi (representing pepper producers in District I and II); and Robert Spetifore

(representing storage crop producers in Districts II and III).

A formal Notice of Election with Nomination Forms will be mailed to eligible voters on February 3rd 2006. Nominations must be received by February 24th and ballots will be mailed on March 3rd. Ballots will be counted on March 29th with the results announced on March 31 2006.

BC Greenhouse Industry Structure

The Commission is undertaking a review of the regulatory framework applicable to the BC greenhouse vegetable industry. The initiation of the review follows the recommendations of the 2004 "Needs Assessment" which called on the Commission to examine the regulatory framework and more recently some grower petitions asking the Commission to deregulate the sector.

The Commission's Greenhouse Advisory Group has recommended the Commission draft and circulate a discussion document identifying some of the pros and cons of regulated marketing, hold a series of meetings where producers have the opportunity to discuss the options and exchange views followed by an "expression of opinion" vote. The meetings will help shape the questions to be asked on the ballot. The Commission accepted the Advisory Group's recommendations and has scheduled information meetings in Delta on January 10th; in Kelowna on Jan 11th; in Abbotsford on January 12th; and in Nanaimo on January 13th 2006.

On the completion of the information meetings an industry vote will be conducted. The results of the ballot are not binding on the Commission; nonetheless, they will be very influential in shaping and reforming the present day regulatory environment for the production and marketing of greenhouse vegetables. The entire process is to be monitored by the Farm Industry Review Board.

Producer License Due Dates

Beginning in 2006 growers will be reminded early of the requirement to renew the annual Producer license issued by the Commission. The deadline date for license renewal is Jan 14th for greenhouse producers and May 14th for all other

producers.

Growers who do not obtain a license by the deadline date will be required to apply for a Class II license.

FIRB Appeal on Mini Cucumbers

Commission decision upheld

FIRB has dismissed the appeal of the Commission's decision concerning mini cucumber production allocation for 2006. The FIRB ruled that "the 2006 allocation for mini-cucumbers was based on sound

marketing policy arrived at through a fair and transparent hearing process where all parties had the opportunity to be heard".

Processing Vegetables

Statistics for some of the 2005 processing vegetable crops are now available.

Beans up, peas stable, corn and strawberries decline.

Farm gate value of bean production matched a 10 year high at \$2.7 million as acreage topped 1,700 for the first time. Producer prices have remained essentially flat for the past four years. Pea acreage remained at the 10 year average of just over 2,000 while corn acreage dropped by 50% from the previous year. Processing strawberry contracted tonnage continued to decline, dropping below 2,000 for the first time as gross farm gate value dipped below \$2 million.

Storage Crop Advisory Group

Commission establishes advisory bodies

The Commission has decided to formalize and make permanent, producer advisory groups for each of the three sectors it regulates, the processing vegetable sector, the storage crop sector

and the greenhouse sector. A structure and terms of reference for the Storage Crop sector have now been finalized and the group's first meeting will be held in January.

Amendments to the General Orders

Amendment Number 1 on the website

At its December meeting the Commission passed amendments to the General Orders. Changes were made to Section 7 of Part I; Section 6 of Part IV; Section 16 of Part VII; Section 15 of Subpart C of Part XVIII; and, to Schedule I. The Unofficial Consolidated Version of the General Orders is posted on the Commission's website at www.bcveg.com.

Greenhouse Pepper Production Allocation

Pepper Allocations approved with options

After a public hearing, the Commission approved the applications to build new greenhouse pepper production area for 2007 but has also given each applicant

the opportunity to defer the construction for one year. The Decision is posted on the Commission's website.

Commissioners Serving in Other ways

John Slater and William Cheuk have other public roles

Congratulations to John Slater (representing District 3 Greenhouse producers) who was recently re-elected as the Mayor of Osoyoos.

Congratulations also to William Cheuk (representing tomato producers in Districts I and II) who was recently appointed by the Federal Government to the Canadian Wheat Board.