

March
2005

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Monthly Newsletter

March 23 2005
Commission
AGM

Four
Commission
Officers up for
election –
Nomination
deadline March
9 2005.

“Bank” supports
new entrants and
industry growth

2005 Commission AGM

The 2005 Commission AGM is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at the Delta Town and Country Inn in Delta starting at 7:00 PM.

The meeting will receive reports from the Chair, the General Manager and the Auditor and will address a number of industry issues.

Commission Elections

The next cycle of elections for Commissioners is now underway. Four positions are open; the Processing Crop representative for District I, the Greenhouse Cucumber representative for Districts I and II, the Greenhouse Vegetable representative for District III and one of the two Storage Crop representatives for District I.

All commercial producers, as defined in the Scheme, are eligible to vote and to stand for election.

The deadline for receiving completed Nomination Forms at the Commission’s office is Wednesday, March 9th, 2005. After nominations are received, elections will be held, as required, with ballots mailed to producers on March 11th, 2005 for return to the Commission no later than March 30th, 2005.

As required by the FIRB, the election process, including the counting of ballots, will be handled by the Independent Elections Officer, John Pankratz, CGA, of Friesen, Pankratz & Associates.

Storage Crop Quota Bank

The Commission has established a “Storage Crop Quota Bank” (SCQB) to support and enhance industry access for new entrants and to encourage industry growth. The Commission’s policy on storage crop quota transfers has long included a 10% reduction in most cases. The accumulated “reductions” will now be deposited into the SCQB.

To give the Bank a meaningful start, the policy is implemented with 5 years retro-activity. Guidelines outlining the criteria under which allocations from the quota bank will be awarded are now being developed.

Potato Anti Dumping Action Update

The process leading to a determination of the Commission's request to continue the anti dumping duties on US potato imports is progressing on schedule. Case replies were filed by the Feb 28th deadline with the Canadian Border Services Agency, one by the Commission and one by the Washington State Potato Commission. A decision on this

phase is expected on April 14 with written reasons to follow on April 28.

In anticipation of a positive decision, the Commission will now begin preparing for the material injury phase. The next meeting of the steering committee is scheduled for April 4th.

New Greenhouse Agency Application

A group of District I greenhouse vegetable producers have joined together to make application to the Commission to become a designated agency. Operating under the name "Country Fresh Produce", the group proposes to market greenhouse tomatoes, greenhouse peppers and greenhouse cucumbers through a contractual arrangement with a distributor.

A Commission Panel has been selected and will hold a public hearing on March 22 and 23rd 2005 to receive and discuss the application and to hear from registered interveners.

Storage Crop Quota Policy

Storage crop producers were asked for their views on Commission policy regarding producer allocation after 100% of quota is reached. The District I policy has been "ton for ton" once quota reaches 100%, while the District II and III policy has been to "roll over" quota and start again.

Part of the Potato Forum held on Feb 16th 2005 was set aside to discuss this

subject. The meeting also received an update on the potato anti dumping case and reviewed the latest AC Nielson market information.

A report on the discussions at that meeting is now being written and will be discussed at the next Commission meeting.

Processing Crop Negotiations

Negotiations leading to 2005 contracts in the cole crop sector have been completed. Producer prices are essentially unchanged from 2004. Contracts can be viewed and downloaded from the Commissions' website.

Negotiations on peas are scheduled for March 8th; beans March 16th; corn March 18th and strawberries May 11th.

Reply submissions filed – Next decision April 14th

"Country Fresh Produce" applies for agency status

How should producer allocations be handled after 100% of quota has been reached?

More negotiations set for March and May