

December
2006

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter

Village Farms
Agency
designation and
Millennium
agency transfer
decisions
appealed

BC success story
celebrated

DA by type
explained and
discussed

Two Commission Decisions Appealed

Two recent Commission decisions have been appealed to the Farm Industry Review Board (FIRB) by BC HotHouse Foods Inc. The subjects of the appeals are the Commission decision approving the application by Village Farms Canada LP to be a designated agency and the decision approving the application by Millennium Pacific Greenhouse Partnership to transfer between

agencies.

The appeals will be heard by the FIRB on December 20th and 21st 2006 at the Delta Town and Country Inn with the proceedings on both days beginning at 9:30 AM. The first day will deal with the agency approval and the second day will deal with the transfer approval.

BC Greenhouse Receives Two Awards

BCVMC Commissioner William Cheuk, President of Origin Organics, recently received a prestigious award recognizing innovation. The Canadian Agri-Food Award for Excellence in Innovation recognizes Origin's unique development of organic nutrients, fertilizers, growing media and organic techniques for a greenhouse. Origin is now the largest organic greenhouse vegetable operator in North America producing over 15 million pounds of organic cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes annually.

Origin Organics was also recognized by the British Columbia Ministry of Economic Development in its annual BC Export Awards where it was one of the three finalists in the "Sustainability" category. This award recognizes unique approaches and the contributions of BC exporting companies.

Potato Producers Meet

Potato producers gathered on Dec 5th to hear the Commission explain how the new "by type" Delivery Allocation system will work for the 2007 crop. Producers of fresh, processing and seed potatoes attended the meeting and discussed their perceptions of the likely outcomes of the new program.

The changes were made to bring equity

amongst growers and to ensure that production is aligned with market requirements.

Commission representatives confirmed that the impact of the changes would be assessed after one year with the ability at that time to make further refinements as may be needed.

Levy amounts unchanged for 2007

Snow arrives at just the wrong time and damages greenhouses

Missing the CAIS deadline can be expensive

Commission 2007 Levies

Commission 2007 levy rates have been set for all crops. Greenhouse industry levies are being restructured by eliminating all case charges and relying only on area based fees. The structural change is revenue neutral to the Commission. Levies on all other crops are unchanged from 2006.

November Snows Damage Greenhouses

The heavy winter snows that began arriving Nov 26th resulted in damage to several greenhouses in the Fraser Valley. Normally snow melts on the greenhouse roof as a result of the heat in the building but this snowfall came just as several growers were pulling their crops and the heat was turned off. Without a snow melt the weight resulted in a load that stressed some buildings beyond their structural capacities. In some cases to minimize structural damage, producers broke glass in selective spots reducing the load factor. There are some reports of probable delays in planting times for next year's crops as greenhouse repairs are being made. No estimate has yet been compiled on the total damage sustained by the industry.

CAIS Deadlines

Producers are reminded of the filing deadlines for the Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program. Producers have until December 31 to file your 2005 CAIS Harmonized forms and pay your CAIS 2006 program fee without penalty.

Late filing results in a reduction of \$500 per month on any payments otherwise due to a producer.

Holiday Greetings

Commissioners and Staff wish all Producers, Friends and Colleagues in the vegetable industry the very best of the holiday season and our best wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2007.

