

January  
2006

# Commission Report

**BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter**

Greenhouse industry maps its future – is it time for change?

Growers in cost squeeze- 2006 negotiations at hand

March 21 2006 at the Town & Country

## ***BC Greenhouse Industry Votes***

To complete the “Needs Assessment” begun in 2004 and to assist producers in identifying and understanding the regulatory issues and options, the Commission recently completed a series of greenhouse industry meetings. Subsequent to the meetings an “expression of opinion” ballot was sent to each licensed greenhouse producer. The ballot provides the opportunity for greenhouse producers to indicate if they wish to continue the current regulatory pattern, to continue as a regulated industry but with changes;

or to discontinue greenhouse industry regulations altogether. Producers wishing to continue with regulations but with changes are asked a further series of questions identifying the nature of the changes they envision.

Completed ballots must be returned to the Commission office postmarked by Feb 8 2006. If you are a licensed greenhouse producer and have not received your ballot please contact the Commission office ASAP.

## ***Processing Crops***

BCVMC Commissioner John Savage attended the annual North American Processing industry conference in January. He observed that current industry circumstances appear difficult for growers and is having the effect of casting a negative overtone to growers’ discussions. Growers are facing large cost increases for fuel, fertilizer and crop protection materials while at the same time early indications from US processors point to a reluctance to fairly accommodate those cost increases.

Annual meetings have been scheduled for the process crop growers associations for Feb 2 2006. Crop negotiations begin on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and except for strawberries, conclude on Feb 24. The 2006 strawberry negotiations are scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>.

## ***BCVMC 2006 AGM***

The Commission’s 2006 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup> at the Delta Town and Country Inn beginning at 7:00 PM. The meeting will include

reports from the Chair and the General Manager and may hear candidates standing for election to the Commission. The meeting is open to everyone -plan to attend.

US potato growers organized to improve markets – Canada's efforts taking shape

Free disposal offered for unwanted chemicals

2006 Forms ready – information meetings scheduled

Nomination forms out early Feb – Four positions open.

## Potato Growers (New) Day

The BC Potato and Vegetable Growers Association is holding its AGM Growers Day on Feb 15th 2006. The meeting will hear about the development of the United Potato Growers of America and the parallel actions being taken in Canada to create a national potato producers organization. The US organization, under the banner "*it's a new day for potato growers*" has the support of about 80% of the US industry. The organization has programs and policies aimed at bringing a supply balance to the market place and stabilizing grower prices at a level that can sustain their farm businesses. After years of depressed prices there appears to be a strong desire to work together and to collectively implement the disciplines and programs necessary to make some meaningful changes for a brighter future. In Canada growers are currently working on the structure of a nation-wide organization that could achieve similar results and could be part of, or could work closely with, the US organization to achieve North American results.

## Return of Agricultural Chemicals

BC agricultural producers can return unwanted and obsolete agricultural herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, barn and livestock pesticides, rodenticides, growth regulators and other pesticides to one of two collection sites in the Fraser Valley for 4 days in February and March 2006. The collection is only for the noted chemicals and does not

include solvents, paints, antifreeze or empty pesticide containers.

Fraser Valley dates are February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> in Delta and March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Abbotsford. There will be collections in the Okanagan in the fall of 2006. Currently there are no other collection events planned for other parts of BC.

## CAIS Information

The new CAIS Harmonized Forms and Guide are now available for BC. The deadline for submission is June 15 2006 for individuals and June 30 2006 for corporations. A series of 14 information meetings are scheduled throughout the Province

beginning in Dawson Creek on Feb 6 2006 and completing in Cranbrook on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. For more information call 1 866 367 8506 or visit the CAIS website on the internet at [www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram](http://www.agr.gc.ca/caisprogram).

## Commissioner Election Reminder

The 2006 Commission elections include a Storage Crop representative for District I; a Storage Crop representative for Districts II and III (combined); a Greenhouse Tomato Producer representative for Districts I and II (combined); and, a Greenhouse Pepper Producer representative for Districts I and II (combined). Notices of Election and nomination forms will be mailed on February 3 2006 for return to the Commission office by February 24<sup>th</sup>.