

November  
2006

# Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter

## ***Commission Approves Agency Designation***

In a Decision released on Nov 17<sup>th</sup> 2006 the Commission announced approval of the application by Village Farms Canada Limited Partnership (“Village Farms”) to become a designated agency. Village Farms recently expanded its operations to include the former Hot House Growers Inc. The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board must provide the Commission with its written approval of the decision before Village Farms may commence operations as an agency.

Commission Chair George Leroux led a Panel including John Savage, Doug Gourley, Robert Spetifore and John Slater to hear the agency application on November 14 2006. Interveners at the Hearing included BC HotHouse Foods Inc, Country

Fresh Produce Inc and Greenhouse Grown Foods Inc.

If confirmed by the FIRB, the agency may commence operations no earlier than Jan 1 2007 and will be authorized to market greenhouse vegetables.

The Commission Decision is posted on the Commission’s website ([www.bcveg.com](http://www.bcveg.com) – click on “Orders and Decisions” and follow the links). A complete copy of the Decision may be obtained from the Commission office.

Any person aggrieved or dissatisfied by the Commission Decision may appeal to the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board. ([www.firb.gov.bc.ca](http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca))

Village Farms to  
be a designated  
agency

Official  
Recognition for  
CHC Food  
Safety Plan

## ***Potato Food Safety Plan Approved***

The On Farm Food Safety Plan (OFFS) proposed by the Canadian potato industry through the Canadian Horticultural Council (CHC) has been given the official “green light” by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and has received official “recognition”.

The CHC has worked hard and effectively to bring this component to completion on behalf of the Canadian

industry. The industry’s expectation is that an officially recognized plan will negate the need for individual corporate customer requirements.

The next steps, already begun by the CHC, involve the plan’s delivery. Similar to the Plan itself, CHC must now devise and submit a delivery plan for CFIA approval.

## **District Boundary Policy**

The Commission will be undertaking a consultative process over the next three months to develop its ongoing policies with respect to District Boundaries. The BC Farm Industry Review Board directed the Commission to review its District Boundary and report by January 31 2007 (this has now been extended to March 31 2007).

In developing its policies the Commission will circulate a “Backgrounder” describing the current policy, some options and potential implications of those options; convene three regional producer meetings (one in each District); and, convene a meeting of the Storage Crop Agency Boards of Directors.

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Consultations set to establish new policy

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Millenium Pacific authorized to change agencies

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Michell Brothers receives Minister’s Award

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Producers meeting to explain Delivery Allocation by type

## **Application for Agency Transfer**

The Commission received an application from Millenium Pacific Greenhouses Partnership (Millenium) to transfer between designated agencies for 2007. For 2006 Millenium marketed through BC Hothouse Foods Inc and wishes to market through Country Fresh Products Inc for 2007. On learning that the transfer would be contested the Commission held a public Hearing to receive all relevant information. On November 17 2006 the Commission released its Decision approving the transfer application but imposed terms and conditions that must be met prior to the transfer being finalized.

A short form of the Commission Decision is posted on the Commission’s website ([www.bcveg.com](http://www.bcveg.com)) by clicking on “Orders and Decisions” and following the links. A complete copy of the Decision may be obtained from the Commission office.

Any person aggrieved or dissatisfied by the Commission Decision may appeal to the British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board. ([www.firb.gov.bc.ca](http://www.firb.gov.bc.ca)).

## **District II Vegetable Producer Receives Award**

The BC Vegetable Marketing Commission congratulates Michell Brothers Farm of Saanich on its receipt of the Minister of Agriculture and Lands (Hon Pat Bell) Award of Excellence for the farm’s contribution to BC’s agriculture industry.

## **Potato Industry Meeting (District I)**

A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Delta Town and Country to explain the implementation of the new *Potato Allocation by Type* policy. On September 18 2006 the Commission passed Amending Order # 7 which changed the fresh Potato Production Allocation system in District I to include both “russets” and “all others”. Prior to the change fresh Potato production allocation was not differentiated. The

division by type is based on market requirements and is intended to insure that all producers equitably share the complete market.

Producers have already received preliminary information describing their individual Production Allocation by type for 2007. Final numbers will be circulated as 2006/7 delivery data is received from the Storage Crop Agencies.