

October
2006

Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter

New elections
policy to take
effect for 2007

Apply by March
15 for transfers
to take effect in
that year

Commission Election Policy

With the looming expiration of the current Elections Policy, Commissioners have completed their review of appropriate procedures. As the current policy expires prior to the 2007 elections, a new policy, approved by the FIRB, must be in place before the next round of elections can be conducted.

Commissioners felt that no major departures were needed from currently used election procedures. The number of elected Commissioners will remain at 8; voter and candidate eligibility will continue to be limited to "Commercial Producers" and balloting will be conducted by mail.

Nomination papers will require the signatures of three eligible voters and an indication of acceptance from the nominee. Confirmation that a Producer is a Commercial Producer may be made by an Agency or personal affidavit. A number of safeguards have been included to ensure the process is independent, fair and transparent.

The new policy, when finalized will no longer be part of the General Orders but will instead become a stand alone BCVMC policy document. The Commission proposes the new policy will be in effect until the 2010 elections.

Storage Crop DA Transfer Applications

Applications to transfer storage crop delivery allocations must be received by the Commission no later than March 15th if the requested transfer is to take effect for the forthcoming growing season. Application may be made at any time prior to the deadline date.

With the introduction of potato delivery allocation "by type" for the 2007 season some additional transfers may be requested and producers are encouraged to make applications at the earliest convenient date. In addition to the "type" change the former 10% holdback on transfers has been eliminated.

The *Storage Crop Delivery Allocation Transfer Request Form* is available on the Commission's website (www.bcveg.com). Please follow the instructions carefully and make sure both parties to the transfer sign before it's submitted to the Commission.

Amending Order Number 8

Re-formatted
levy schedule
now in effect

The 8th amendment to the General Order was enacted by the Commission on Oct 18 2006 and took effect that day. The Order replaces the former Schedule IV which includes all levies and charges, with a new Schedule. A description of the use of the funds for each levy is now included and a number of levies were transferred to contracts between growers and processors. The complete Amending Order can be found on the Commission's website. (click on "Orders" and follow the links).

November 1st
deadline for
greenhouse
vegetable
producers

Greenhouse Vegetable License Renewals

Greenhouse vegetable producers are reminded that the new deadline for license renewal is now November 1st. You will have received a Notice of renewal some time ago and if you have not already done so, you should complete and mail it along with your license payment at the earliest opportunity. In view of the fact the 2006 license was valid for less than a full year, 2007 license fees were reduced from \$50.00 to \$40.00 for greenhouse vegetable producers.

License renewal applications received after the deadline date will be assessed a Class II category. The Class II license fee is \$100.00.

Producers
meeting Good
Agricultural
Practices

Food Safety Report

Commission food safety inspectors Dave Ormrod and Sheri Nielson reported that good progress continues to be made by producers in meeting food safety standards and good agricultural practices. The Commission program aimed at helping producers identify potential risks and finding ways to minimize those risks, is now in its sixth year. Some isolated concerns have been reported with pesticide storage facilities and specific requests for improvements have been made in those instances. Visits to both storage crop producers and process crop producers are continuing and will be completed in the next few days. Greenhouse vegetable producers not required to ship to a District I agency, were visited earlier in the season.

Association sets
priorities and
programs

United Potato Growers of Canada

The organization continues to develop for the benefit of Canadian potato producers. Incorporated in February 2006, an association priority is to develop programs to limit acreage to balance market demand. Additionally it is focussing on two areas firstly compiling reliable data from the potato industry on the storage holdings (table, processing and seed) and product movement and secondly developing a system to give producers timely market information.