

October  
2007

# Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter  
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New projects  
aimed at  
assisting the  
processing  
vegetable sector

Preparations pay  
off as producers  
score well

## ***Processing Vegetable Trust Fund***

What can we do to help develop the processing vegetable sector? This is the question the Committee, under the Chairmanship of Commissioner Hugh Reynolds, is examining.

The Processing Vegetable Development Fund, established at the termination of the Farm Insurance Plan, provides partial funding for a range of initiatives including research, education and market development, all aimed at developing the processing vegetable sector. Peas, beans, corn and cole crops are the commodities covered. Projects must be vetted and approved by the Advisory Committee and some industry funding is required.

The fund was established by a formal agreement between the BC Vegetable Marketing Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture and includes the structure of the Advisory

Committee.

The Committee approved research project proposals totalling \$47,500 dealing with cabbage root maggot, club root and row covers.

The Chairman suggested that market development may be best addressed through the opportunity to remind consumers of the quality, “freshness” and off-season availability of frozen vegetables. Agreement was reached to provide funding to engage a professional to develop a plan for promoting frozen vegetables which the Committee intends to review early in 2008

The Committee also developed a Work Plan for 2008 identifying research needs, new technology requirements and grower education options.

## ***Food Safety Audits Successful***

BC Fresh producers were well prepared for the recent food safety audits conducted by SGS Ltd. Scores were generally high as producers met and often exceeded customer requirements.

Commission Food Safety advisors have been working with producers for some time using the CFIA approved Canadian Horticultural Council standards and manuals in preparation for third party audits.

### **SP Delta Limited Partnership Decision**

On October 25 2007 the Commission released its Decision (short form) on the application by SP Delta Limited Partnership for its intended crop mix on its 2008 production. The facility is the former BC Veg I greenhouse in Delta.

The Commission went through an extensive consultative process including a Public Hearing prior to reaching a decision. The Commission expects to release the complete decision including written reasons on November 9 2007.

Commission decision released Oct 25 2007

### **Root Crop Harvest**

A tough patch of weather in the mid fall period made for a very difficult time in the root crop harvest. Heavy rains flooded fields as hundreds of acres of potatoes, rutabagas and carrots were un-harvested at the time and were in jeopardy. Fortunately dry weather returned and stayed long enough so that most of the harvest was completed.

Late season dry weather spells relief

### **Recycling Agricultural Plastics**

The BC Agricultural Council is sponsoring a one-day program dealing with Agricultural Plastic Recycling in Abbotsford on Thursday November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2007. The program is open to producers and there is no

charge but you must pre-register.

For further information call the BCAC at 604 866 7006 or 250 763 9790.

Learn how to dispose of a problem at the BCAC seminar

### **Bush Bean Yields**

2007 turned out to be a very good year for bush bean yields. Normally producers expect a crop in the range of 4 tons per acre but for 2007 there are several reports in the 6 ton range and even some 7 ton yields were achieved. Processor capacities were stretched thin during peak harvest times.

Best year in many for bush bean yields

### **Greenhouse Producer Licenses**

All current Greenhouse producer Licenses expire on November 1 2007. Your application and payment must arrive on or before the license expiry

date or a Class II license will be issued. If you have not renewed and wish to do so please call Dianne at the office immediately.

Deadline is only a few days away