

September  
2007

# Commission Report

BC Vegetable Marketing Commission Newsletter  
15252 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave Surrey BC V3S 0R7 Ph 604 542 9734

Commission  
decision to  
assign  
Greenhouse  
Production  
Allocation  
appealed

Commission  
uses its powers  
to assist Long  
English  
cucumber  
growers

## ***Appeal to the FIRB***

Country Fresh Produce Inc, BC HotHouse Foods Inc and Greenhouse Grown Foods Inc together have appealed a Commission decision to the Farm Industry Review Board. An appeal may result in a Hearing before a FIRB Panel where the appellant describes the problem and his reasons for disagreement, the Commission is given the opportunity to defend its decision and other interested parties may comment with relevant information.

The appealed Commission decision provided for any purchaser of the

assets of BC Veg 1 to have 165,312 square metres of Production Allocation assigned partly to Long English Cucumbers and partly to a mix of bell peppers and tomatoes. The decision was conditional on a number of criteria.

All parties to the appeal have agreed to enter into mediation. Mediation provides the opportunity to reach a solution and if that is successful the Hearing, scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, would not be required.

## ***Minimum Pricing for Long English Cucumbers***

On learning there was industry consensus to proceed, the Commission instituted minimum pricing for No 1 Standard Long English cucumbers on September 15, 2007.

Commission minimum pricing establishes a floor price for all sales whether for domestic or export markets and is applicable to all Agencies, Producer Shippers and other Producers not required to market through an Agency. Minimum pricing is effective for Long English cucumbers because of market differentiation and because of the market share held by BC producers. The Commission institutes minimum pricing to help ensure BC producers avoid unacceptably low prices.

Minimum prices are established in consultation with all agencies authorized to market the commodity. The minimum price period is 7 days beginning on Saturday and ending on the following Friday.

## Amending Order Number 12

Minimum pricing broadened

At its September 2007 meeting the Commission approved Amending Order No 12 updating the General Order to revise the definition of “marketing”; eliminate the “Commission Salesperson”, “Producer Processor” and “Packing House” license categories; and broaden the minimum pricing authority to include all regulated crops.

The previous definition of “marketing” in the Order was not consistent with wording in the Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act. The “Commission Salesperson”, “Producer Processor” and “Packing House” license categories have not been used for many years and broadening the ability to apply minimum prices (floor prices) ensures the Commission is able to respond in a timely manner when there is industry consensus for establishing a minimum price for a specific crop. Broadening the scope of minimum price coverage does not mean that minimum prices will be applied to all commodities rather it means that if it is requested and it would be effective, the Commission may institute minimum pricing for the commodity.

## Processor Licensing

Health standards now a factor

The Commission recently resolved to strengthen the qualifying criteria for processor licenses by requiring all renewals and new applicants to demonstrate compliance with applicable health standards. This can be accomplished by demonstrating a

valid and subsisting certification or permit issued by the Provincial Government, a regional health authority, or the Canada Food Inspection Agency.

## Normal Values for Imported Potatoes

Anti Dumping duties applied in August and September

“Normal Values” are now in effect for potatoes imported from the United States for use or consumption in BC. Normal values are the deemed costs of production in Washington State and are intended to set the benchmark for fair competition for BC producers.

Normal values do not apply during the excluded period May 1 to July 31. Unlike 2006, early reports from the Canadian Border Service Agency (CBSA) for August and September 2007 confirms that dumping duties are now being applied on some packed potatoes entering BC from Washington State.

The Canadian International Trade Tribunal (CITT) potato anti dumping order was renewed in 2005 for a further 5 year period. In addition to the exclusion period, coloured potatoes and size graded potatoes are no longer subject to the order.

## Greenhouse Vegetable Producer Licensing

License renewals due next month

In advance of their expiration on November 1 2007, the Commission will soon undertake renewals of Greenhouse producer licenses. All greenhouse producers can expect to receive information from the Commission shortly advising of the assigned Production Allocation for 2008, the designated agency, if applicable, along with the License Renewal Application.

Growers are reminded that to be issued a Class I license an application and license fee payment must be received before November 2, 2007. The new licensing period ends November 1 2008.

Renewals issued after the expiry date are automatically issued as Class II licenses.