

Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers

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NEWSLETTER

Nº 10 - 2003

November 10, 2003

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

The dates of the upcoming district annual meetings are as follows:

DISTRICT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
DISTRICT 1 (Essex, Kent)	Fri., November 28th	1:30 pm	Wheels Inn Chatham, ON
DISTRICT 2 (Bruce, Huron, Lambton, Middlesex, Oxford, Perth, Hastings, Northumberland, Prince Edward and the Regional Municipality of Durham)	Thurs., November 27th	12 Noon (Lunch will be provided)	Four Points Sheraton 1150 Wellington Rd. S. London, ON
DISTRICT 3 (Brant, Elgin and the Regional Municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara)	Wed., November 26th	6:00 pm Supper 7:00 pm Meeting	Simcoe Research Stn. Simcoe, ON

ONTARIO PROCESSING VEGETABLE INDUSTRY - 2003 BURSARY AWARDS

This past year, due to the participation of industry members at the Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference six \$2,000 bursaries have been awarded to the following students:

Stephanie Laramie from McGregor, Ontario is a 4th year student at the University of Guelph in the Agricultural Sciences program. Over the past three years Stephanie has taken courses in all areas of agriculture with an emphasis on plant science. Upon graduation next spring Stephanie hopes to write her Certified Crop Advisor exams with hopes of beginning a career as a consultant in either the horticulture industry or a combination of cash crop/processing vegetable crop production.

Mike Lenders from Denfield, Ontario is currently enrolled at the University of Guelph in the Agricultural Diploma program. On completion in 2004 Mike will continue his education at the University of Guelph by pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Degree, majoring in Agronomy. Mike worked this past year as a field assistant for Strathroy Foods Ltd. as well as at his family farm.

Melissa Yungblut from the Niagara Region is a 4th year student at the University of Guelph in the horticultural science program. Melissa has currently undertaken an independent research project as part of her last year of study on processing tomatoes in Ontario and the effect of coloured mulches on the quality and level of yields. After graduation, Melissa hopes to pursue a career in the processing vegetable industry.

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OPVIC - 2003 Bursary Awards - Continued

Alison Sinclair is a third year student in the University of Waterloo honours biology program. Alison has a particular interest in genetic techniques as it relates to plant yields, disease and pest resistance, and improving fruit quality. Alison hopes to advance her studies of the genetics of plants and, upon graduation, apply her laboratory skills to developing farm crops.

Jason Lenders is a 4th year student at the University of Guelph majoring in agronomy. Following graduation Jason hopes to pursue a career in either research or an outreach role as advisor helping other growers or working for a processor in an agronomic capacity.

Toni Herrington is from Kerwood, Ontario and enrolled in the agriculture program at Ridgetown College. This past summer Toni worked as a pest and disease management advisor for A.I.M.S. and in the future hopes to enhance her studies pertaining to the Ontario processing vegetable industry.

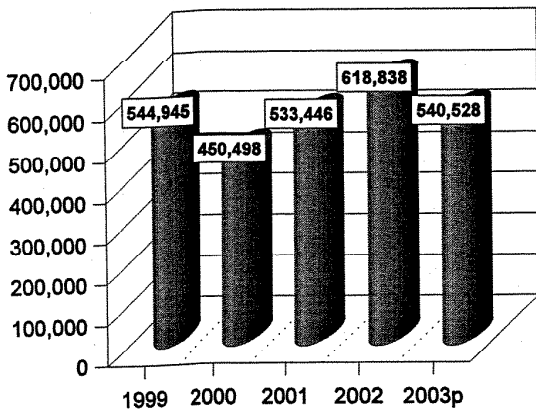
DRIP IRRIGATION UPDATE

Growers with Healthy Futures - Drip Irrigation projects underway are reminded that their projects should be completed by December 31, 2003. Please forward the required documentation in the proper form to the board office as soon as possible. While applications for new projects are no longer being accepted, it should be noted that there will be unspent funds remaining if the program ends as scheduled. Given the relatively short duration of the Drip Irrigation project, the board has requested an extension of the program for one year. We are presently awaiting a response.

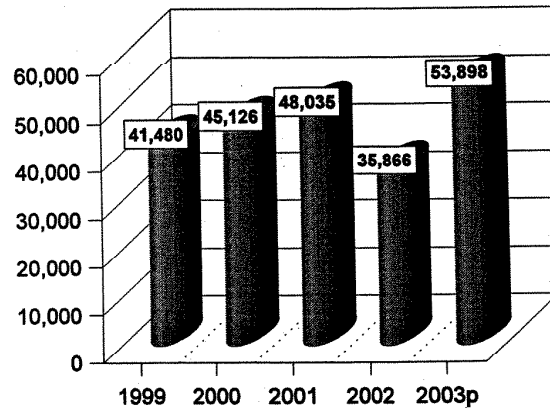
PRELIMINARY HARVEST REPORTS

Harvest reports from Ontario processors indicate a preliminary tonnage of 540,528 for tomatoes and 53,898 preliminary tonnage for green peas.

Tomato Harvest Tonnage Comparison



Green Pea Harvest Tonnage Comparison



PMRA

A recent report by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development on the Pest Management Regulatory Agency serves to show once again why pesticide harmonization is the only long term solution to pesticide registration in Canada.

The report has generated headlines in a number of publications, including the Globe and Mail, for the concerns it has raised. Of note, the implication that the failure of PMRA to meet its targets for review of older chemistry has resulted in Canadians eating unsafe food, has been soundly criticized. Irrespective of the validity of such an assertion, it could be dealt with through harmonization.

In addition, the report also decried the heavy use of temporary and emergency registrations and the impact on Canadian farmers' ability to compete as a result of lack of access to new products and approaches. On these points, we share the very same concerns and, again, harmonization would address them.

The reality of the situation is that given the size of the Canadian marketplace, Canada is not going to be the place where significant resources are devoted by manufacturers to pesticide registration. Rather, this will happen in the U.S., where the Environmental Protection Agency oversees pesticide registration. Presumably, the EPA has the same interest in protecting its citizens as PMRA does here in Canada. Yet, every day products enter Canada legally from countries such as U.S. having been treated with pesticides that Canadian growers are not allowed to use. In utilizing up to date products, these growers have access to the best tools available. The result is a competitive advantage to growers in the U.S. who operate under an enlightened pesticide registration system. The fact that these products, which PMRA has proven itself unable to approve in a timely manner are, in all likelihood, even safer, more effective and more environmentally friendly than the products they replaced, is the final irony that makes the case for harmonization even more compelling.

Harmonization is the only solution. Lets not be distracted by promises of a more efficient PMRA, a promise that's been made many times before.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR***Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference*****January 27th - 29th, 2004****Hilton Hotel, London, Ontario**

The Conference Committee is quite enthusiastic about the excellent line-up of speakers for the next industry conference. Please mark your calendar and watch for further details in upcoming newsletters.

**53rd ANNUAL ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATED GROWERS'
BOUNTY OF THE COUNTY TRADE SHOW**

NOVEMBER 18th and 19th, 2003
KINSMEN RECREATION COMPLEX
249 Sherk Street, Leamington, On

<i>TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 18TH</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 19TH</i>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VEGETABLE PROGRAM</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Understanding Herbicide Carryover</p> <p>10:20 a.m. Season Recap</p> <p>10:45 a.m. Know your Micronutrients</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Lunch</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>FRUIT PROGRAM</u></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Strategies for Managing Apple Diseases</p> <p>10:30 a.m. O.F.M. & O.B.L.R. Management Strategies for Apples</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Apple Orchard Management Highlights</p> <p>11:30 a.m. Lunch</p>
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<i>TUESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 18TH</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, NOVEMBER 19TH</i>
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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GRAPE PROGRAM</u></p> <p>2:00 p.m. Viticultural Round Table Meeting & Information Session about Commercial Grape Growing</p> <p>4:30 - 5:30 p.m. E.C.A.G Annual Award Winner Reception</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WATER: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW</u></p> <p>2:00 p.m. The Presence, Use, and Protection of Essex County's Ground Water Resources</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Water Use Efficiency, Advantages/ Disadvantages/ Costs of Various Irrigation Systems</p>
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***TUESDAY EVENING,
NOVEMBER 18TH***

GREENHOUSE PROGRAM

7:00 p.m.	Industry Update
7:20 p.m.	Agricultural Policy Framework: Program to Replace NISA
7:40 p.m.	New Additives for Poly-Films
8:00 p.m.	Union Water System: Update
8:15 p.m.	Harrow Research Update: Production
8:30 p.m.	Disinfection Panel