

Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers

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NEWSLETTER

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2006 NEGOTIATION UPDATE

Green Peas:

Green Pea Negotiations with CanGro (formerly Kraft), Carriere Foods and Omstead has resulted in agreement on all issues with the exception of price. Arbitration positions are as follows:

OPVG: no change in price
Processors: - 3% on all price categories

Cucumbers:

Cucumber negotiations have also resulted in arbitration. The grower position is +1.5% for both machine and hand harvest on all price categories. The processors (Smuckers and Strub) position is -2%.

A new clause, included at the request of Strubs, and agreed to by the negotiating committee, would allow the processor, once they have received 70% of contract tonnage to, upon 48 hours notice, switch to a flat payment of \$285/ton for all 1's, 2's and 3's delivered. This provision is an attempt to address pack balancing issues that typically arise towards the end of the season. The success of this provision will be monitored and assessed at the end of the 2006 crop year.

Lastly, cucumber seed prices are unchanged.

Sweet Corn:

Sweet corn negotiations have concluded with agreement on all issues except price. Arbitration positions are as follows:

	Price/Ton
OPVG:	\$68.75 (N/C)
Processors:	\$65.25 (-5.1%)

The grower final offer also contains an Export Credit of \$4.50/ton. The processor final offer with respect to the Export Credit is \$4.25/ton. Lastly, a new clause inserted into the Agreement states that where the processor chooses to supply seed treated with Cruiser, the processor may bill the grower \$2.50/acre for doing so.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT

As you are likely aware, agricultural operations will come under the Occupational Health and Safety Act as of June 30, 2006. OMAFRA has planned a number of information sessions on the Occupational Health and Safety Act, over February and March.

The dates and locations are listed below, and are posted on the OMAFRA website at:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/facts/ohsainfosessions.htm>.

Additional background information and fact sheets on OH&SA can be found on the OMAFRA website at:
<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/busdev/farmlabour.html>.

Location	Date	Time
Brighton, Masonic Lodge	Monday, February 27, 2006	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Kemptville, Kemptville College	Tuesday, February 28, 2006	9:30 am - 12 noon
Simcoe, Simcoe Research Station	Tuesday, March 7, 2006	7:00 pm - 9:30 pm
Vineland, Vineland OMAFRA Office	Wednesday, March 8, 2006	1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

For more information, or to register for one of the sessions, please call the Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.

GREAT LAKES REGION VEGETABLE IPM SURVEY FIRST OF ITS KIND

U.S. GRANT DOLLARS TO BENEFIT ONTARIO GROWERS

For the past six months, vegetable research and extension personnel in the Great Lakes region, along with industry stakeholders, have been working together to develop a set of Vegetable IPM Adoption Surveys. This is the first major initiative of the Great Lakes Vegetable Working Group (GLVWG), formed in 2004. The mission of the working group is to foster communication and collaboration between vegetable specialists in the Great Lakes region, including Ontario, and to address priorities in vegetable production through research and extension programs. Through this group, joint projects are being developed that cross state and national borders, working together to accomplish more with existing resources. For more information about this working group and our mission, visit our website at <http://glvwg.ag.ohio-state.edu/>.

Not another survey! It seems like Ontario growers are buried under surveys this winter. However, surveys are a great way to get input from many growers in a short time. To make the most of existing research and extension dollars, the working group needs to focus its joint projects to areas of greatest need, as identified by growers and the vegetable industry. In Ontario, these surveys will focus on pumpkins and tomatoes. The intent is to determine the IPM practices currently in use and the greatest challenges to IPM in each crop and province or state. The results of these surveys will have a major influence in future research and extension efforts. By completing a survey, you will provide guidance directly to research and extension staff in the Great Lakes region. Ontario growers may be surprised to learn that funding for this project is coming from a US source, the North Central IPM Center in Lansing, Michigan. This is the first of many joint projects with US specialists, which will be developed through the working group.

These surveys are designed to be taken over the Internet and take only 10-15 minutes to complete. Most questions require only a click to select the proper response(s); very little typing is involved (and you don't have to dig out your production records to answer the questions). Your responses will be kept confidential. Sections of each survey will evaluate general pest management practices, training, and research needs from a preplant through post harvest time frame. As a thank you for completing the survey, you may enter a draw (if you choose) for a University of Guelph or Ridgetown College sweatshirt and a copy of the new 2006 OMAFRA Vegetable Production Recommendations.

The crops selected for the IPM survey in Ontario are pumpkin and tomato. **The surveys can be found at <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/vegsurvey> or can be completed over the phone by calling OMAFRA's Agricultural Information Contact Centre at 1-877-424-1300.**

The surveys will remain on line until March 20, 2006. Results of these surveys will be made available through reports and newsletters.

Please take a few minutes to participate.