

Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers

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NEWSLETTER

Nº 6 - 2002

May 8, 2002

PINNACLE REGISTERED FOR USE ON TOMATOES

We have just recently received word that an URMULE has been granted by PMRA adding tomatoes to the Pinnacle label. Pinnacle can be applied once per season as a post-emergent application, three weeks after planting. This registration caps several years of work on this product. Our thanks to Peter Sikkema (Ridgetown College), Al Hamill (AAFC - Harrow) and Darren Robinson (Ridgetown College) for their efforts in obtaining this registration.

TOMATO GRADING CHANGES

The Ontario Processing Tomato Advisory Committee recently adopted the following changes to tomato grading procedures effective for the 2002 crop:

- The “insects and/or excrement” category has been eliminated and will be scored under other defects.
- A “regrade” may be requested only if the load is rejectable or when the M.O.T. category exceeds 2%.
- “Appeal grades” have been eliminated. Any questions regarding the graders interpretation of the quality standards and/or procedures should now be referred to the Advisory Committee through the respective grower or processor representatives.

The Committee has also decided that in an effort to streamline and standardize the grading process YUBA City Samplers will be mandatory at all processor locations commencing with the 2004 grading season.

CROP INSURANCE - PEPPERS

AgriCorp’s Crop Insurance Committee has approved the OPVG request to add sunscald as an insured peril for the Salvage Benefit under the Crop Insurance Plan for Peppers for 2002.

This Salvage Benefit will now assist growers whose pepper crop has been damaged by hail or sunscald by compensating them for wages and related labour costs associated with removing damaged fruit and allowing the plant to recover and set new fruit. Growers will be compensated to a maximum of \$250 per acre.

Customers will be required to report damage to the Customer Action Centre at 1-888-247-4777 prior to commencing salvage operations. An adjuster will inspect the damage to confirm cause of loss and authorize payment of the Salvage Benefit.

The benefit provides a maximum payment to growers of \$250 per acre. If the cost to remove damaged peppers is less than this the reimbursement will reflect actual cost. Growers may be required to provide details of the costs incurred for review by the adjuster.

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2002 NEGOTIATIONS

CAULIFLOWER

Agreement was reached on tied cauliflower with Omstead Foods Ltd. and Strathroy Foods Ltd. prior to the arbitration deadline. The price for the 2002 crop year is as follows:

		<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Tied	Grade No. 1	\$408.50/Ton	\$415.65/Ton
	Grade No. 2	\$194.70/Ton	\$198.11/Ton
Untied	Grade No. 1	\$339.30/Ton	\$345.24/Ton
	Grade No. 2	\$149.00/Ton	\$151.61/Ton

GREEN AND WAX BEANS

Prior to the scheduled arbitration, agreement was reached on green and wax beans with Family Tradition Foods Ltd. and Strathroy Foods Ltd. as follows:

		<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Whole Beans	the first 2.0 tons/acre	\$210.00	\$210.00
	all tons between 2.0 & 3.0 tons/acre	\$170.00	\$171.00
	each ton over 3.0 tons/acre	\$110.00	\$111.00
Cut Beans	the first 2.5 tons/acre	\$153.45	\$155.00
	all tons between 2.5 & 4.0 tons/acre	\$113.85	\$115.00
	each ton over 4.0 tons/acre	\$89.10	\$90.00

PUMPKIN

Agreement was reached on pumpkin with Harvest-Pac Products. The price per ton remaining the same as 2001 at \$90.67 and seed price at \$45/lb.

DRIP IRRIGATION TOUR

As part of the grant received under the Healthy Futures Program we are in the process of finalizing arrangements for a Drip Irrigation tour to take place June 20th. The tour will cover drip irrigation research being conducted at Harrow as well as visits to area tomato farms currently in the process of implementing drip irrigation technology. A detailed agenda and registration form will be forwarded to all processing tomato growers shortly. Growers of other processing crops who are interested in attending are asked to contact the board office for a registration form.

ONTARIO PROCESSING VEGETABLE INDUSTRY - SCHOLARSHIP

The Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG) and the Ontario Food Processors Association (OFPA) are continuing with a bursary fund to support and encourage individuals pursuing a career in any aspect of the processing vegetable industry. These organizations are working together to ensure that there are new individuals who will have the interest, skills and abilities to further develop and grow this sector of Ontario's agri-food economy.

Ontario's processing vegetable industry is competitive and vibrant. There are a variety of options for those seeking career opportunities; everything from on-farm production to sales and marketing to managing a processing facility.

Through generous sponsor donations we were successful in raising just over \$13,000 at this year's auction. This allows the OPVG and the OFPA to offer six-\$2,000 bursaries this fall to students who plan to pursue a career in any aspect of the processing vegetable industry, are enrolled in Ontario college or university programs and can demonstrate a financial need. Successful applicants will also be selected on the basis of their community and/or school involvement.

For further information regarding the bursaries, please contact:

John Mumford, Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers, 519-681-1875

Jane Graham, Ontario Food Processors Association, 519-826-3590

The Bursary Application Form is available on the OPVG Website (www.opvg.org) or on request from either the OPVG or OFPA offices.

2002 USDA CONTRACT INTENTIONS

CROP	Acres		2002 CONTRACT AS A % OF 2001
	2001 TOTAL CONTRACT	2002 CONTRACT INTENTIONS	
Snap Beans	210,780	198,500	93%
Sweet Corn	457,650	435,100	95%
Cucumbers for Pickles	109,710	93,000	85%
Green Peas	217,440	224,100	103%
Tomatoes	279,830	310,400	110%

Source: Agricultural Statistics Board, NASS, USDA

2002 LICENCE FEES

COMMODITY	ADMIN.	ACREAGE MEASURE	GRADING	OTHER	TOTAL	GST	TOTAL DEDUCTION PER NET TON
TOMATOES	\$0.94	\$0.06	\$0.40	TOMCAST \$0.08	\$1.48	\$0.10	\$1.58
SWEET CORN	\$0.80	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.80	\$0.06	\$0.86
GREEN PEAS	\$3.11	\$0.00	\$0.15	\$0.00	\$3.26	\$0.23	\$3.49
CUCUMBERS	\$2.42	\$0.00	\$0.08	\$0.00	\$2.50	\$0.18	\$2.68
GREEN & WAX BEANS	\$2.01	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.01	\$0.14	\$2.15
CARROTS	\$0.74	\$0.00	\$0.12	\$0.00	\$0.86	\$0.06	\$0.92
PEPPERS	\$2.49	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2.49	\$0.17	\$2.66
BEETS	\$0.84	\$0.00	\$1.16	\$0.00	\$2.00	\$0.14	\$2.14
LIMA BEANS	\$5.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.20	\$0.36	\$5.56
SQUASH	\$0.76	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.76	\$0.05	\$0.81
CABBAGE	\$0.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.61	\$0.04	\$0.65
CAULIFLOWER	\$2.77	\$0.00	\$0.97	\$0.00	\$3.74	\$0.26	\$4.00
PUMPKIN	\$0.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.73	\$0.05	\$0.78