

Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers

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NEWSLETTER

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PROCESSING VEGETABLE INDUSTRY EDUCATION BURSARY WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Four young people from southwestern Ontario have been awarded education bursaries from the Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry. The winners are:

- Jason Fuller from Watford is studying Agriculture at Ridgetown College and has experience in processing vegetable production and processing.
- Warren Peacock of Simcoe, a University of Guelph student, majoring in Agriculture Business with several summers experience in vegetable processing.
- Joe Thomas of Maidstone is a University of Windsor biology student with 7 years experience in the vegetable canning business.
- Kelly VanRoboys from Chatham-Kent, a 3rd year student in the agriculture/horticulture program at Ridgetown with more than 3 years of processing vegetable production experience.

Each of the winners will receive a \$2,000 grant toward their educational pursuits and will be invited to attend the annual Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference, January 29-31, 2002 in London, Ontario.

The bursary fund was established by the Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers (OPVG) and the Ontario Food Processors Association (OFPA) to support and encourage individuals pursuing a career in any aspect of the processing vegetable industry. These organizations are working together to ensure 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.

FOOD SAFETY HANDBOOK

The Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers has recently updated the Processing Vegetable On Farm Food Safety Handbook. As was the case in 1999, when the first edition of the Handbook was prepared, the board engaged the expertise of Dr. Doug Powell, University of Guelph in preparing the updated version.

All growers should have already received their copies. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the board office.

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

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

DISTRICT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
DISTRICT 1 (Essex, Kent)	Thursday, December 13 th	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)	Friday, December 14 th	12 Noon (Lunch will be provided)	Four Points Sheraton 1150 Wellington Road South London, ON
DISTRICT 3 (Brant, Elgin and the Regional Municipalities of Haldimand-Norfolk and Niagara)	Wednesday, December 12 th	6:00 pm (Supper will be provided)	Simcoe Research Stn. Simcoe, ON

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PESTICIDE REGULATION

While some progress towards harmonizing the Canadian and U.S. pesticide registration systems has been achieved, this progress has come slowly and much more needs to be done. Since the U.S. Food Quality Protection Act was put in place, the 'technology gap' between what products Canadian farmers have access to for pest control and what their U.S. counterparts have, is widening rapidly. Why? Because the U.S. EPA has committed to deregister older, potentially more hazardous products only if a suitable alternative pest control product or practice is available. Here in Canada, the PMRA follows the U.S. lead in deregistering products, but has made no similar commitment to ensure a suitable alternative is available for Canadian producers. Since many of these deregistrations occur on products for horticultural and small acreage crops, there is little incentive for companies to expend the effort and cost of seeking a registration for a Canadian minor use.

The PMRA seems to have little understanding of business realities faced by either growers (who need equitable access to tools available to our competitors just across the border), or pesticide companies (who must expect a profitable market if they are to pursue registration of a pest control product). Obviously food safety or environmental hazard is not the issue, as U.S. food products produced with these newer, more target-specific and safer products share (and compete for) shelf space in Canadian grocery stores. The issue with PMRA appears to be, unfortunately, more about workload management and job security, than it is about protecting health, safety and the environment for Canadians.

Indeed, many companies are already not utilizing the current option open to them for joint PMRA/EPA review of a new product, for fear that the joint process will delay their U.S. registration, and thus delay access to the huge U.S. marketplace.

The OPVG, along with other Ontario commodity organizations, the Ontario Food Processors Association, and OMAFRA are all working to try to find a solution to this dilemma - a solution that is a win/win/win for all involved - equitable access to newer, safer crop protection technologies; an abundance of high quality, affordable food produced domestically using environmentally responsible practices; efficient, responsive and accountable government and regulatory operations; and a suitable business climate for companies and technology developers.

If Ontario is to continue to be a competitive, long term source of supply for processing vegetables, it is absolutely essential that the pesticide regulatory structure in Canada mirror the efficiency and attitude of that of our major trading partner.

51st ANNUAL COUNTY ASSOCIATED GROWERS BOUNTY OF THE COUNTY TRADE SHOW

NOVEMBER 20TH - 21ST, 2001 - KINSMEN RECREATION COMPLEX
SHERK STREET, LEAMINGTON, ONTARIO

Tuesday 9:00 am - 8:00 pm AND Wednesday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

TUESDAY MORNING

FRUIT PROGRAM

- "Cultivar Management Strategies"
- "Alternate Tree Fruit Crops for Apple Growers"
- "Innovative Approaches to Insect Pest Management"

WEDNESDAY MORNING

VEGETABLE PROGRAM

- "Weed Control in Potatoes"
 - "Tomato Diseases"
 - "Drip Irrigation on Vegetables"
- BOUNTY OF THE COUNTY - "Getting Your Products to Market:
Distribution Channels"

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- "Issues Concerning Agriculture"
- "Nutrient Management Plan for Fruit & Vegetable Growers"

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

GREENHOUSE PROGRAM

- "Nutrient Management"
 - "Water Issues"
 - "Boiler, Pressure Vessels & Fuel Storage Issues"
 - "Pest Disease Problems"
 - "Trade Issues"
- BOUNTY OF THE COUNTY - "Changing Consumer Trends"

TUESDAY EVENING

OPEN

TOMATOES - UNHARVESTED ACREAGE - CROP INSURANCE

Just a reminder to growers that, for the purpose of your future AFY calculations, AgriCorp must be notified of all undamaged, processable acres disced as a result of processor closure. Notification should be done prior to discing. **You can reach AgriCorp - Crop Insurance at 1-888-247-4999.**