

Ontario Processing Vegetable Growers

435 Consortium Court, London, Ontario N6E 2S8 Tel.: (519) 681-1875 Fax: (519) 685-5719
Web Site: www.opvg.org E-mail: opvg@opvg.org

NEWSLETTER

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BOARD LAYS CHARGES AGAINST FORMER GREENSHIPPER

Charges under the Farm Products Marketing Act have been laid by the board against Vic Hamm and associated companies for operating as a greenshipper without a licence. As reported previously, Mr. Hamm was denied a licence by the board earlier this year after a series of meetings during which the board sought to obtain certain financial assurances from Mr. Hamm. When these were not provided, the board declined to issue a licence. In spite of this, Mr. Hamm has operated this year out of a facility in Tillsonburg on Bell Mill Road. The penalty for operating without a license is a fine up to a maximum of \$2000 per day.

TOWN LINE PROCESSING LTD.

The OPVG has been advised by the Farm Products Marketing Commission that licence #2 has been issued to Town Line Processing Ltd. It is their intention to process carrots for the upcoming season.

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

The dates of this year's district annual meetings are as follows:

DISTRICT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
DISTRICT 1 (Essex, Kent)	<u>Mon., December 6th</u>	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)	<u>Tues., November 30th</u>	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)	<u>Mon., November 29th</u>	6:00 pm Supper 7:00 pm Meeting	Simcoe Research Stn. Simcoe, ON

JOINT REGISTRATION PROCESS REQUESTED BY CANADA/U.S. - GRAINS & OILSEEDS GROWERS

Recently a letter was sent by a coalition of U.S. and Canadian grains and oilseed groups and CropLife Canada and CropLife America to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the U.S. and PMRA in Canada. The letter calls for development of a "seamless joint registration process for crop protection products in the U.S. and Canada". This would "alleviate the concerns of producers on both sides of the border who want equitable availability to crop protection products and would simplify the registration process for manufacturers". The request calls for the "development of incentives to encourage the marketing of common products under a common NAFTA label", in effect, harmonization. We're encouraged by the approach taken by these groups and will be following this issue closely.

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CAIS UPDATE (as supplied by OMAF)

The Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) program is providing Ontario farmers with the income stabilization benefits envisioned when it was designed. To date, over 2,500 Ontario farmers who experienced income reductions in 2003 have received payments totaling nearly \$30 million.

The introduction of a new business risk management program like CAIS involves the efforts of many. We are pleased with the response of Ontario farmers and wish to thank those who have enrolled and all who promoted and assisted producers in enrolling. Following is an explanation of correspondence farmers can expect to receive from CAIS administration in the near future.

Canadian Agricultural Income Stabilization (CAIS) Program Update -- Producer Enrollment

In a three-day period around the CAIS deadline of June 30, 2004, the program received over 17,000 application forms. In total, the program has received information from nearly 38,000 Ontario farmers. Payments are being processed with over 1,500 participants being processed weekly.

Approximately 22,000 Ontario farmers submitted all the required information to secure CAIS program coverage. These participants will receive a letter from the program over the next few weeks confirming that they have secured coverage for 2003 and 2004.

Many producers, however, submitted some but not all of the required information to secure coverage for both years. Given that the CAIS program is in its first year, the federal and provincial governments want to make sure as many of these producers as possible can access the program. As such, the Ontario CAIS administration will be sending a letter to any producer who submitted at least one of the required pieces of information to the program. Anyone who at least opened a CAIS account, submitted a T1163 or submitted a 2003-2004 Joint Application Form and Inventory Schedules will receive a letter over the next few weeks. This letter will explain what information has been received and what is required to secure coverage for 2003 and/or 2004.

All processing vegetable growers are encouraged to take advantage of this program.

WORLD PROCESSING TOMATO CONGRESS

The World Processing Tomato Congress takes place in Melbourne, Australia from November 15th to the 18th, 2004. For a schedule of events and registration information, go to:

www.worldtomatocongress.com.au

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Ontario Processing Vegetable Industry Conference

January 25th – 27th, 2005

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.