

2017 AGM of Canadian Horticultural Council

March 13 - 15, 2018 in Ottawa

Please note all committee chair reports plus President's and Vice President's reports are available on line at www.hortcouncil.ca. All the proceedings from the 2017 AGM are available on line. The reports from the various sectors are under; [resources/publications/Annual Reports](#)

March 13, 2018

Provincial Caucus Meeting

Went over the proposed budget for CHC and noted a two percent increase in membership fees for next year.

The current budget has the organization projecting a positive balance at the end of the year. Currently the budget has increased due to the hiring of a new Crop Protection Specialist

March 14, 2018

President's Report

See Hort Council Web Page.

Executive Director's Report

See Hort Council Web Page. **Also of Note Saskatchewan is the only province that CHC senior staff have not visited. They would dearly like to come here and see what we are doing from the Hort side.**

Labour Committee

Report from Chair – see the Hort Council Web page.

- Farm tours were arranged for three Ministries to get acquainted with farm operations. This occurred in August 2017. The respective Ministries wanted to see 17 farms and wanted to talk to workers without the Employer present as well as have access to bunk houses for inspection by their people.
- Unfortunately the outcome of the tours resulted in three farmers getting risked based Integrity Audit.
- Lots of challenges currently. Farmers are assumed guilty when prosecuted with audit.
- Need to ensure new Video production for promoting SAWP is out asap
- Minister McAuley is very supportive and realizes that there are issues with ESDC targeting farms.

Primary Agriculture Review – Portia McDonald CAHRC

- Role of Canadian Agriculture Human Resource Council is to supply support for employers and employees in the ag industry. Conduct Ag Research for Human Resources
- Horticulture is poised for growth and the Federal Government is aware it will drive GDP
- Need workers to achieve this growth:
 - 10 years ago 30,000 workers Short
 - 2016 60,000 workers Short
 - 2025 114,000 workers short
- Agricultural vacancy rate really high average 7% overall typical vacancy rate is 1%
- If no SAWP then horticultural would not exist in Canada
- CARHC to act as liaison with ESDC, Ag Canada and Immigration Canada

Primary Agriculture Review – Janet Krayden CAHRC

- Survey being sent to 540 producers with farms, all are family businesses.
- Looming crisis on farms due to labour shortages, problems.
- One seasonal SAWP job creates two full time positions.
- If no SAWP then potential of 100,000 full time jobs being lost.

LMIA's and Audits

- 29% under audit, 11% of LMIA's being held up due to potential audit.
- Major effects to businesses. Potential losses and suicide tendencies
- CAHRC giving support for CHC in Labour portfolio
- Looking at worker protection, research on worker profiles and also a report on What is Agriculture and how it affects people.
- As a side note California labour wages in Ag are anywhere from \$15 - \$22 / hour. Canadian dollars quoted.

International Farm Worker Awareness Campaign – Michael Hicks – Hyperactive(Social Marketing Agency)

- Public awareness project sponsored by CHC
- Lot of negative stories regarding workers and employers. The film “Migrant Dreams” 2016 inaccurate.
- There will be an 8-10 minute documentary, additionally there will be 30 second and 90 second segments. All these will be available on U Tube as well as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Need to harness social media to get the correct message across and also use Twitter extensively to target the Governments
- The direction of the documentary is to tell the story from the workers' point of view where the workers are talking themselves.
- It will show how employers treat and care for their employees.
- It will show the differences if they were not here working.
- It will show the benefits the workers have from working here, and how it applies to their standard of living in their own country.
- Production has already started and will be ready by September 2018.

Business Risk Management Committee

Report form Chair – see the Hort Council Web page.

Business Risk Management Review – Scott Ross Canadian Federation of Agriculture

- Need for review of BRM programs as they are over Ten years old. Reasons for this is as follows:
 - Change in farm scale dynamics
 - Farm debt and cost structures
 - Increasing complexity and diversity
 - Balance of market and production risks
 - Low trust and credibility in BRM programs
- Partnership between industry and Government is essential to fully understand
 - the range of risks
 - gaps and difficulties and strength of the programs
 - look beyond existing program suite
 - status quo not acceptable
 - CFA supports a research process coordinated with the AgGrowth Coalition
 - One size fits all doesn't necessarily fit all
 - Question whether AgriStability continues as is, consultation in July 2018

Plenary Session

2018 Economic Outlook for Horticulture – J.P. Gervais FCC

- Labour market still strong
- Unemployment rate very low
- Business Investment – strong
- Consumer debt is 171% per household – too high
- Possibility of interest rate increase once this year. Rates can vary despite Bank of Canada. U.S. Rates will dictate rates
- Likely Canadian dollar will be below 0.80 U.S.
- Oil price steady or lower
- Last year lower than 2016 potential for upside for 2018
- Farmland values increased by 7.9% in 2016, annual percentage increase going down
- Outlook remains positive despite interest rate increasing

Dispute Resolution Corporation – Membership Requirements in Safe Foods for Canadians– Fred Webber, President, DRC

- DRC is a business to business dispute resolution company.
- CFIA requires a Food Safety license as well as membership to DRC for shipping produce across provincial or international borders
- Grade standards will changing – final standard not finalized at this point

Trade and Marketing Committee

Report form Chair – see the Hort Council Web page.

Growing Trade and Expanding Markets – Fred Gorrell – Assistant Deputy Minister AAFC

- 8.4 billion in cash receipts for 2016 for horticulture
- Fruit and veg growing faster than population growth
- 2.5 billion in exports for vegetables
- 727 million in exports for fruit
- greenhouse is 51 % of vegetable export
- 1.6 billion in potato exports (french fries, processed included) this number is part of the overall veg export number
- U.S. Is top country we export too
- Asia – CPTPP – Japanese market looks good for cherries, blueberries
 - South Korea – cherries and blueberries
 - Vietnam – cherries and blueberries but frozen only
- Protectionism is on the rise and affects trade negatively
- Lots of things going on in the world that could affect trade negatively
- 7.5 billion is goal set for exports of fruit and veg by 2025

Industry Standards and Food Safety

Report form Chair – see the Hort Council Web page.

Canadian Organic Standards Review – Nicole Boudreau – Coordinator – Organic Federation of Canada

- Must comply to written standards

- Standards reviewed every five years and compare to trading partner standards too
- Review process takes two years
- Any grower, stakeholder or consumer can suggest changes
- Supplemental nutrition is allowed for organically grown crops for greenhouses

Tools to Support Grower Education and Food Safety Program Implementation CanadaGAP – Heather Gale – Executive Director CanadaAgPlus

- Review of safety courses and how to manage risk
- CanadaGAP developed materials for a two day introductory course, CanadaGAP auditors also have to take this course
- CanadaGAP website has been totally revamped – much more user friendly, better search function and frequently asked questions section

Crop, Plant Protection and Environment Committee

Report form Chair – see the Hort Council Web page.

Highlights of Chair's Report

- Revaluation of lots of pest controls with the potential to lose up to 66% of products.
- Thirty one reviews underway, possibility of losing controls of hundreds of applications in applications of insecticides and fungicides
- Worker exposure is biggest issue
- PMRA is seen years behind in revaluation program – need more resources
- Lack of data on lot of chemicals, hence bias towards banning of chemical
- PMRA does not mandate use of safety equipment either reduce rate or lengthen Return into Field – non compliance is a potential issue

Innovation in Crop Protection – Maria Trainer M.D. Croplife

- Pesticides are most heavily regulated
- Changes in revaluation are impacting pesticide choices
- Major products are being removed
- PMRA's primary roles are 1) pre market regulatory assessments 2) promote and verify PCPA regulations
- Over 360 revaluations are required in the next ten years
- Changes in EU will trigger special reviews of chemicals in Canada
- Issues with process
 - Limited Stakeholder engagement
 - No opportunity to have input until decision is made
 - No collaboration with other Review Organizations except EPA

Plant and Animal Health Strategy – Pierre Bilodeau CFIA

- Mandate - Govern economic growth and protection of human health and environment
- System is founded on prevention
- Networking with other ministries
- Multifaceted body including CHC representing all facets

Plant Health Science Networking

- Lots of diversity so need to have common data base from all facets of the network
- New Sydney centre for plant health – has \$80 million funding for state of the art centre – will bring stakeholders together to collaborate together

Agriculture and Agri Food Canada – Science to support Plant Protection for the Horticulture Sector – Dr. Della Johnson

- AAFC is largest employer of research scientists, 447 scientists, 268 scientific professionals
- Have the most number of scientists in the horticultural sector
- Twenty research stations, eleven dedicated to horticulture
- AAFC support of horticultural crops has funding through CAP, cluster funding as well as individual projects funded privately
- Productivity is primary focus within projects
- Focusing on Bio control agents to address pests
- Focus on greenhouse crops – health and environment at Harrow Ontario
- Focus on reducing chemical controls for bugs and disease. More Bio related products being developed and tested

Vegetable Committee

Report from Chair – see the Hort Council Web page.

Highlights of Chair's Report

- Exports are up but at a cheaper price.
- Innovation fund being funded by taking 1/10 of 1% of AgriInvest. Starting in Quebec then the plan is to expand it to the rest of the country within the next two years.
- Issues with reevaluation of chemicals for pest control especially with the likelihood of some being taken off the market.

Grades Matter – Importance of Grade Standards – Luc Mougoet DRC

- Important to have due to inspection services and handling disputes
- DRC has taken over grade standards
- Review of current standards
 - Industry to be consulted, when change happens then need to update inspection manuals
 - Timeline to have new standards by 2020
 - Need volunteers to represent commodities for new standards

Study on Export Potential for Fruits Vegetables to the US – Eric Lassard – Marcon

Report was petitioned by the Quebec Caucus

- Potential to double exports to the United States – 75 individuals from seventy one organizations 50% from the United States participated in the survey
- North East of US has highest consumption per capita for fruit and vegetables
- Ethnic groups, Asian and Hispanic will spend more on fruit and vegetables
- Consumption will **increase** at a rate of 0.7% per year due to population growth
- Fruit and Vegetable production is **decreasing** at a rate of 0.4% per year
- Demand for organic products is outstripping supply
- In California 300 types of crops are grown year round with 80% of water going to crops and livestock
- Fruits and vegetables are the most profitable use of available water resources
- Salinity could become a problem due to the massive extraction from ground sources during drought years
- Producers tend to supply direct to store in the US
- US retail structure is less concentrated than in Canada
- US open to purchasing from Quebec
- Organic crop demand is growing 10- 15 % per year
- US import growth at 4.75% per year – relates to 1.8 billion pounds of product per year

Novasource – Update on Linaron

- **Final decision by PMRA in 2019**
- **EU deregistered Linaron last year**
- **Work done so far, pr-emergent- ok, post emergent – not allowed**
- **EPA looking at reregistering Linaron**

Committee of the Whole:

Twenty four Resolutions were passed and appointments of committee heads completed.
Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

Bob Purton
President
Saskatchewan Vegetable Growers Association