

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

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Global Agricultural Information Network

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This Week in Canadian Agriculture - Issue 2

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Report Highlights:

CFIA Launches Multi-Year Regulatory Modernization Plan and Consultations. Feed Regulatory
Renewal Identified as Short-term Priority * Consultations on a Possible FTA with TPP Countries *
Ontario Goat Producers Seek Marketing Board Status * Ontario Hog Farmers Fight PRRS with
Government Support

This Week in Canadian Agriculture is a review of Canadian agricultural industry developments of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The issues summarized in this report cover a wide range of subject matter obtained from Canadian press reports, government press releases, and host country agricultural officials and representatives.

Disclaimer: Any press article summaries in this report are included to bring U.S. readership closer to the pulse of Canadian developments in agriculture. In no way do the views and opinions of these sources reflect USDA's, the U.S. Embassy's, or any other U.S. Government agency's point of view or official policy.

CFIA Launches Multi-Year Regulatory Modernization Plan and Consultations. Feed Regulatory Renewal Identified as Short-term Priority

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has begun a systematic review of its regulatory framework to improve consistency and reduce complexity in regulation. As part of this process, the CFIA will be consulting with stakeholders for a 60-day period which began on December 22, 2011.

Interested stakeholders who have questions about this initiative can speak with [their regional or Area office](#) or can also [contact CFIA by email](#).

According to the announcement, through a structured and comprehensive review, the CFIA will strengthen its regulatory framework to reduce overlap and redundancy, address gaps, weaknesses and inconsistencies while providing clarity and flexibility to assist regulated parties in fulfilling their obligations. Based on their assessment, regulatory renewal initiatives for each of the CFIA's business lines (Food, Animal and Plant) are being proposed in the short, medium and long term as follows:

- **Short term:** Meat Inspection Renewal; Feed Regulatory Renewal; Agriculture Inputs Renewal (Fertilizers and Seeds); Food Regulations following Legislation adjustments; Animal Traceability Regulations
- **Medium term:** Plant Breeders' Rights Renewal; Agrifood Regulatory Renewal; Plant Protection Regulatory Renewal
- **Long term:** Fish Inspection Regulations Renewal; Health of Animals Regulations Renewal; Seed Regulatory Renewal

While this proposed consultation will include a discussion of the above priorities, the CFIA has already been engaged with some industry sectors regarding the need for modernization. As a result of these discussions, the CFIA has already initiated work on Feed and Fertilizer regulatory review. This early work will be informed by the continued development of the comprehensive regulatory review plan and the feedback from stakeholder views in response to this consultation process. The Animal Feed Division of the CFIA will begin its own consultative process early in 2012. For more information about the general CFIA regulatory modernization plan please follow this link:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/reg/consultation/frame.shtml>

Consultations on a Possible FTA with TPP Countries

The federal government is seeking the views of Canadians on the scope of possible free trade agreement (FTA) negotiations between Canada and Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) members, which include Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States and Vietnam. Additional countries that have also expressed their interest in consultations on joining the discussions are Japan and Mexico. This notice is part of the domestic consultation process with business, citizen-based organizations and individual Canadians, as well as with provincial and territorial governments, to obtain advice and views on priorities, objectives and concerns to help outline the parameters of this initiative. Canada has FTAs in place with Chile and Peru, and together with the United States and Mexico, is part of NAFTA. Canada is also engaged in FTA negotiations with Singapore, however no progress has been registered since 2007. Contributions on the possible TPP negotiations can be sent by email to consultations@international.gc.ca, by fax to 613-944-3489, or by mail to Trade Negotiations Consultations (TPP), Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, Trade Policy and Negotiations Division II (TPW), Lester B. Pearson Building, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2. More information can be found at the following link: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2011/2011-12-31/html/notice-avis-eng.html#1>

Ontario Goat Producers Seek Marketing Board Status

A proposal seeking marketing board status was submitted in late December 2011 to the Ontario farm products marketing commission (OFPMC) for review and possible recommendation to the provincial agriculture minister's office. The proposal includes a petition of support from active farmers reporting goat income, with 109 signatures out of a possible 418. Once the OFPMC completes its review, and if it feels there will be sufficient support, it would make a recommendation to Agriculture Minister Ted McMeekin to call a producer vote on the proposal.

Ontario Goat said it expects a vote will be held sometime this spring or summer. The provincial goat organization's board members collected signatures and feedback from producers during meetings in the summer and fall of 2011. With a marketing board status Ontario Goat will be able to:

- Collect a check-off on fluid goat milk at 0.75 cents per liter, for an annual estimated total of C\$225,000;
- Collect a check-off on goat meat at C\$2.50 per head, for an annual estimated total of C\$100,000;
- Lobby the provincial and federal governments for funding various goat projects or risk management programs
- Be "at the table" in industry and government meetings
- Engage in and fund research and industry developments projects
- Engage in and fund marketing and promotion activities for goat milk, cheese and meat

Ontario Hog Farmers Fight PRRS with Government Support

The federal government plans to provide funding for a series of small-scale projects examining ways for hog farmers to control and eradicate the porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS). The collaborative two-year initiative, to be coordinated by the Ontario Pork Industry Council's Swine Health Advisory Board (OSHAB), is expected to involve producers, veterinarians and industry and to pilot a strategy for advanced bio-security and control of PRRS. The small-scale projects will receive a total of C\$294,500 in federal funds from the Agricultural Adaptation Program. Over the long term, the program is expected to improve strategies used by producers and service providers to reduce transmission of PRRS. The program is also expected to serve as a model for other provinces, and its results are to be shared with industry and the Canadian Swine Health Board. PRRS, which causes reproductive failure in breeding stock and respiratory tract illness in young pigs, is estimated to cost Canadian hog farmers

C\$130 million per year.

Exchange Rate: Noon rate, January 11, 2012 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C\$1.0192

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CA11072	Dairy Annual	12/23/2011
CA11071	FAIRS Export Certificate Report-Update	12/22/2011
CA11070	Updated HRI Report	12/22/2011
CA11068	Food Processing Ingredients Report	12/21/2011
CA11067	Marketing Freedoms for Grain Farmers Act Becomes Law	12/19/2011
CA11065	Exporter Guide	12/06/2011
CA11062	Grain and Feed Quarterly	11/11/2011
CA11061	Fruit Annual	11/04/2011
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