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Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

Prince Edward Island Lays Out Plans for *Growing Forward 2* Funds * Manitoba Unveils *Growing Forward 2* Programs * Government Announces Additional Capacity for Export of Canola to China * Nova Scotia Boosts Buy-Local-Food Program * Cattlemen Seek Restart on Approval Process for Irradiation * LCBO Staff Set May 17 as Date for Possible Strike

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.

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Prince Edward Island Lays Out Plans for *Growing Forward 2* Funds

Prince Edward Island (P.E.I.) is the fifth province to sign up for its share of the federal/provincial funds on the table in the sequel of the *Growing Forward* (GF) agriculture policy framework – Canada's new farm bill. The province gets a budget of C\$37 million in combined federal and provincial funds, out of \$2 billion pledged by Ottawa and all participating provinces and territories, for GF2 programs apart from its business risk management (BRM) suite. The provincial government said the focus will be placed on three key areas: innovation, competitiveness/market development and adaptability/industry capacity.

"Innovation" programs, the governments said, will include an Agriculture Research and Innovation Program backing short-term applied research; the Environmental Farm Program; and Alternative Land Use Services. "Competitiveness and Market Development," covers the Strategic Industry Growth Initiative, Product and Market Development Program, Assurance Systems Program (an industry program to support food safety, biosecurity, traceability, animal welfare and emergency management projects), Organic Industry Development Program (to back adoption of certified organic production and processing) and Agriculture Livestock Enhancement Program (supporting genetic enhancement, herd health improvement and feed efficiency). "Adaptability/Industry Capacity" features the Business Development Program (skills training, business practice assessment, business planning assistance), the Future Farmer Program (to attract new farmers to the industry and provide coaching, skills training and business planning), and support for the province's 4-H program.

Manitoba Unveils *Growing Forward 2* Programs

Manitoba became the sixth province to unlock its share of the federal/provincial money available for programs under the sequel to the *Growing Forward* (GF) agriculture policy framework. Manitoba will have a five-year budget of C\$176 million out of the \$2 billion committed by the federal government and all participating provinces and territories to "GF2" programming.

One of the new programs to be offered in Manitoba is called "Growing Assurance-Environment." This program includes the previous framework's support for development and renewal of on-farm Environmental Farm Plans (EFPs). It also provides 65 percent cost-shared funding toward specific on-farm beneficial management practices (BMPs) that support the province's strategy to reduce the risk of nutrient loss to water. Other programs in the "Growing Assurance" segment to be announced later are expected to support food safety, animal welfare, plant and animal health, biosecurity and traceability systems as well as "activities that support national initiatives."

The Manitoba government said its GF2 priorities between now and the framework's expiry at the end of March 2018 will focus on three areas: competitiveness and market development, innovation, and adaptability and industry capacity. Details are still to come for other program segments, including: Growing Innovation, supporting research work by "state-of-the-art organizations, agencies and farms" to conduct "innovation-driven" projects; Growing Value, putting up "strategic investments" for farmers and processors to carry out "transformational activities that promote value-added product development, commercialization and bringing innovation to market;" Growing Actions, providing targeted funding to ag organizations for strategic development related to "market-based opportunities and challenges;" Growing Visions, backing agricultural and rural organizations to "help develop and implement strategic plans that position the organization to lead the sector forward;" Growing Adaptation, to help create "sustainable systems to secure adequate, quality water supplies for agricultural, agri-food and agri-business purposes in rural areas;" and Growing Competitiveness, offering financial support for skill and knowledge development, and group training and individual training for young farmers and for "young agri-food and agri-product processors."

Government Announces Additional Capacity for Export of Canola to China

In a [press release](#), the federal government announced that the Canadian canola producers and exporters will have expanded access to the Chinese market, as China approved an additional oilseed crushing facility to begin accepting exports of Canadian canola seed. This new expansion will increase opportunities for sales in a market that bought over C\$1.9 billion of Canadian canola seed in 2012. Since 2009, exports of Canadian canola seed to China have been impacted by import restrictions related to blackleg. Canada and the Canadian canola industry have been working with China to better understand the science and the efficacy of new risk mitigation measures that could be implemented to manage blackleg risks and in turn reduce impacts on trade. As a result of this cooperation, China has agreed to grant Canadian canola producers and exporters additional access to an oilseed crushing facility in Nantong, in the Jiangsu Province. This additional 600,000 metric tons per year access was granted on a trial-basis, while governments and industry continue to work toward finding long-term solutions. In December 2012, the total number of eligible crushing facilities for Canadian canola in China was ten with an annual crushing capacity of 5 million metric tons.

Nova Scotia Boosts Buy-Local-Food Program

According to a [news article](#), Nova Scotia's government plans a "more robust" push to promote locally-produced foods by doubling its annual funding for the province's buy-local marketing initiative. The province said it will increase its support for Select Nova Scotia to C\$500,000, up from C\$250,000, starting in 2013. The added cash is expected to "allow for a more robust marketing campaign," which began on television and online in late March. Select Nova Scotia's logo has also been redesigned to

better display the provincial flag, "making it even easier to identify local products." The provincial government said that since the initiative was launched in 2007, awareness of buying local has increased 33 percent among Nova Scotians, more farmers' markets have been "popping up across the province" and Nova Scotians are buying more local food. Select Nova Scotia includes public relations and marketing campaigns, retail promotions, direct marketing events, food service promotions, trade events, a [website](#) and business development support. Over 400 businesses take part in the initiative, which also backs "signature" events such as the Incredible Picnics in August and the Incredible Community Suppers in February.

Cattlemen Seek Restart on Approval Process for Irradiation

According to a [newspaper article](#) a long-dormant petition to allow ionizing irradiation as a way to control bacteria and other pathogens in Canadian beef may soon be back on the front burner. The Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) said it expects "in the coming week" to submit paperwork -- at the request of Health Canada -- that would "reactivate the process" to seek approval for beef irradiation. The CCA, which first filed its petition for that approval in 1998, said it has made "ongoing efforts" in the following 15 years toward the regulatory amendments needed to allow beef irradiation. Health Canada completed its scientific review of the process in 2003 and made a "positive recommendation" on the proposal, but the "final steps" of publishing the proposed new regulation have not yet been completed.

Reportedly, a regulatory proposal made it to the *Canada Gazette* in November 2002 and a Canadian code of practice for food irradiation was developed. Health Canada, in a statement last year, said that "because of significant public concerns related to irradiation," the federal government didn't move forward with regulations at that time and had no plans to do so in the near future. Today Canada allows irradiation in a few food products: potatoes and onions, to inhibit sprouting during storage; wheat, flour and whole wheat flour for insect control in stored food; and whole or ground spices and dehydrated seasonings, to reduce microbial load. Apart from beef, Health Canada has also completed its reviews of proposals for irradiation's use on poultry, shrimp, prawns and mangoes. Other newspaper articles on this topic can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

LCBO Staff Set May 17 as Date for Possible Strike

A recent [news article](#) informs that some 7,000 workers at the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) are set to walk off the job on May 17, 2013 unless a contract deal can be reached. Earlier this month, the workers at the largest wine and spirits buyer in the world voted 95 percent in favor of strike action. LCBO workers filed an application with the Ontario Ministry of Labor indicating their intention to trigger job action unless a tentative contract can be reached. The workers' four-year contract with the LCBO expired March 31. The union says the outstanding issues include wages and benefits, job security and improvements to health and safety standards. About 60 percent of the LCBO workers are part-time and earn an average of C\$26,000 a year.

Exchange Rate:

Noon rate, April 26, 2013 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C \$ 1.0170

Report #	Name of Report	Date Submitted
CA13020	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 07	04/17/2013
CA13018	06CFIA Consults on Inspection Modernization and Sets the Stage for Future Food Regulations	04/03/2013
CA13017	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue	04/03/2013
CA13016	Grain and Feed Annual	04/02/2013
CA13015	Oilseeds and Products Annual	03/22/2013
CA13014	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 05	03/22/2013
CA13013	Overview of BTB and RCC Roundtable on Food and Consumer Products	03/11/2013
CA13013	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 04	03/01/2013
CA13012	Livestock – Semi-annual	03/01/2013
CA13008	Survey Voluntary – Canadian Consumer Insights	02/08/2013
CA13007	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 03	02/07/2013
CA13004	Grain and Feed Update	01/28/2013
CA13002	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 02	01/24/2013
CA13001	Retail Food Sector Report	01/22/2013
CA12052	Food Processing Ingredients Update	12/28/2012
CA12051	Food Service – Hotel Restaurant Institutional 2012	12/27/2012
CA12050	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	12/21/2012
CA12049	Export Guide: A Practical Guide	12/21/2012