



December 16, 2009

CFA's Activity Report is a brief e-newsletter dedicated to bringing you the latest news on how CFA is working for farmers. We want to share with you our progress on an array of policy fronts. Please circulate it to your members. A printable version is attached, should you wish to mail it out or distribute copies at local or regional meetings.

Issues & Upcoming Meetings

Ottawa Watch

- The House adjourned on December 10 and won't resume until January 25, 2010. Before wrapping up, MPs passed a number of items, including: *Bill C-56, Fairness for the Self-Employed Act*, which was read a third time on December 10, and *Bill C-51, Economic Recovery Act (stimulus)*.
- The Senate will be sitting on Monday, December 14, the same day the Standing Senate Committee on National Finance is set to deal with *Bill C-62, An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act*, which was introduced and read a first time on December 8. It was read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Finance on December 11.

Agriculture and Agri-food Committee News

- On December 8, the Agriculture and Agri-food Committee proceeded to the consideration of matters related to Committee business agreed on the following motion: "That the Committee recommend to the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and the Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities that the Government of Canada take such steps, commence such inquiries and/or amend such Canadian legislations or regulations as may be required to forthwith prevent the delisting and subsequent closure, for which notice was given by Canadian National, of 53 designated producer car loading sites in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta and the removal of the shunt lines providing service to such sites, for such period of time that the Government of Canada, in its opinion and in consultation with all stakeholders, determines advisable and in the best interest of all concerned."
- It was also agreed that the \$ 15 350 would be budgeted for a study on genetically modified organisms.
- André Bellavance put forth a motion which the Committee is considering, it states: That the Committee recommend to the government that it immediately implement an assistance program for the cattle industry to help it cover the \$31.70 cost per head, which represents the competitiveness gap between Canada and the US caused by Canada's Specified Risk Materials (SRM) standards; and that the Committee report to the House of Commons.

FINA - Pre-Budget Consultations 2009 Report

The report of the Finance committee, released on December 9, 2009, indicated that two out of CFA's three Pre-Budget requests—The Cooperative Development Initiative and the ability for young farmers to utilize their RRSP's for a one-time injection to their farm—have been recommended by the committee for inclusion into Budget 2010. The Committee recommends that:

“The federal government continue to ensure increased broadband availability in rural and remote regions of Canada.

Moreover, the government should examine measures that could be taken in order to encourage young Canadians to enter the agricultural sector, enhance the Growing Forward Framework, and increase income support for agricultural producers.

As well, the government should implement a co-operative investment plan that would include the creation of a tax credit for members or employees of agricultural and employee-owned co-operative businesses that invest in their co-operatives. The government should also establish a \$70-million repayable co-operative loan fund.”

Click here to read the report:

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/CommitteeBusiness/ReportsResponses.aspx?Cmte=FINA&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=40&Ses=2>

15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15)

On December 7, the 15th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) opened with diplomats from 192 nations. The culmination of two years of negotiations, the conference convened amid signs of breakthroughs with new commitments from the United States, China and India to control greenhouse gas emissions.

Farmers are being well represented by Don McCabe, a corn and soybean farmer in Ontario and also CFA's environment and science co-chair, President of the Soil Conservation Council and Vice-President of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Also in attendance from December 10-16, 2009 will be the CFA's Greg Northey. The CFA is working closely with IFAP members as well as government negotiators and attending meetings coinciding with the United Nations Climate Negotiations focused on providing agricultural solutions in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change.

The CFA's delegation has also received a new updated version of the AWG-LCA 8, Item 3 Draft text. This is the main text that spells out how the agriculture sector will be dealt with moving forward. It is entitled "Cooperative sectoral approaches and sector specific actions in agriculture." Several countries, including Canada, have formed a contact group where they are developing the direction in which the Kyoto protocol will deal with agriculture. The most important thing the contact group is working on is the development of an agriculture work plan which they will submit to all the parties on how to deal with agriculture and climate change. The agriculture work program is now in square brackets where before the parties appeared to have accepted it before. The work plan will begin in June 2010 and countries are now deciding on how it should be developed and what the priorities will be. If the text is approved this week, countries will submit their ideas by March and IFAP is hoping that they will be able to have as much input into it as possible. For more information, please [see our advisory](#). For daily updates, subscribe to our twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/CFAFCA> To view the live webcast, click here: http://www3.cop15.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/cop15/templ/ovw.php?id_kongressmain=1&theme=unfccc

IFAP News Release: No Agriculture, No Deal: Agriculture Must be a Part of Any Climate Change Agreement

Copenhagen, December 15, 2009 – To achieve long-term sustainable solutions to climate change, farmers, through the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), urge government negotiators to provide strong political support for linking food security with climate

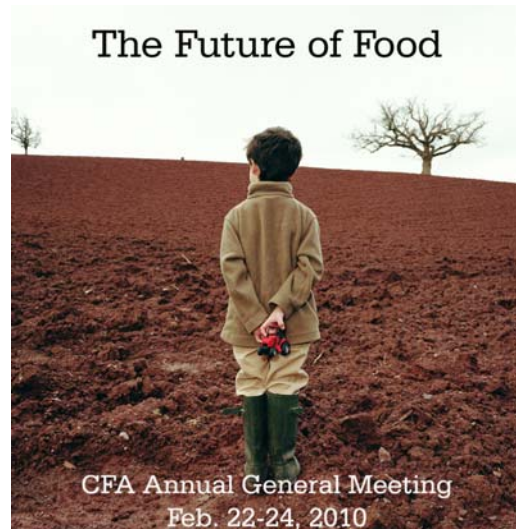
change adaptation and mitigation in the shared vision of the Copenhagen final outcome document. [Click here](#) to read the release. To view the IFAP Climate Change channel, see here: <http://vimeo.com/channels/74177>

National Food Strategy

A working group has been established comprised of: Garnet Etsell, Neil Currie, Yvonne Rideout, Gerald Third, Mike Nabuurs, Rosemary MacLellan, Ghylaine Gosselin, Glen Snoek and Brigid Rivoire. Further discussions on the NFS were held last week by Laurent Pellerin, CFA President, with Ralph Goodale, Andre Bellavance, Wayne Easter and Alex Atamanenko.

CFA's Annual General Meeting

CFA's Annual General Meeting will take place on February 22-24, 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Ottawa. The theme of our 2010 meeting is "The Future of Food". The meeting will also kick off CFA's 75th anniversary. Early Bird registration is now open. [Visit our website](#) to download your registration and information package.



CFA's 75th Anniversary Update

The CFA has received its communications plan from the group of Public Relations students at Carleton University. The report outlined several areas where the CFA can improve upon its communications plan and the CFA staff looks forward to implementing their suggestions in the near future. For our 75th year, there are several deliverables that will be launched. A photo contest and best producer award will be launched in February at our AGM. At our October Board meeting, retrospective video will be shown at the banquet. If you would like to assist in anniversary planning or have ideas, please contact Debbie Silva at debbie@cfafca.ca

Issues, Past Events & Meetings

Trade News

- CFA's Robert Godfrey attended the non-partisan Conference on International Trade which was hosted by the Hon. Scott Brison on Parliament Hill on December 7th. The conference featured panels on Canada-US Relations, Canada-China, Canada-India, and the ongoing Canada-EU Free Trade Negotiations. Speakers included: Colin Robertson from the Norman Patterson School of International Affairs, Peter Harder from the Canada-China Business Council and former Deputy Minister of DFAIT, Hon. Roy MacLaren, Chair Canada-India Business Council and former Minister of International Trade, Joe Clark, former Prime Minister of Canada, and James Patterson former Minister of International Trade among others. It brought together much of the trade community within Ottawa in both public and the private sector with a focus was on trade opportunities Canada has in these specific markets.
- The general consensus CFA and its members have been hearing is that a conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) in 2010 will be a difficult task and that there is a fear this may drag into 2013 before a deal is reached. CFA continues to monitor the negotiations.

- CFA participated in an ATNCG Conference call, where Senior Negotiators continue to meet in Geneva. CFA will monitor the upcoming meetings in Davos this January for any further developments. The call also spoke about the ongoing CETA negotiations with Europe. A second round of talks will be taking place in Brussels on January 18th where both parties will be exchanging an “ambitious” list of areas they can see potential movement in regards to current tariffs. CFA will be briefed again in January and continues to monitor the situation.
- CFA's Robert Godfrey and Glen Snoek met with Government officials from the Embassy of France in Canada and the United States to discuss both BRM and Trade issues. In terms of trade, they were curious about CFA's policy in regards to the ongoing DDA negotiations. They reported that France is not in favor of the current set of modalities at the WTO. In terms of CETA negotiations, they recognize that Europe is a lucrative market for Canadian farmers and that the negotiations will be a challenge for both sides.
- Godfrey participated in the Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture's Trade Committee meeting via conference call. Godfrey provided the committee with an update on the DDA and the 7th Ministerial Conference held in Geneva. Godfrey also participated at length in a discussion with NS provincial officials about the revisions to Chapter Nine of the Agreement on Internal Trade. It appears that Nova Scotia is prepared to sign the agreement as is and is not open to any further revisions to the text. For more information, contact Robert Godfrey at robert.godfrey@cfafca.ca

Transportation

- Canadian National Railway's 1,700 locomotive engineers represented by the Teamsters Canada Rail Conference officially went on strike on November 28, 2009 until November 30. The CFA had written a letter regarding this issue to Minister of Labor Rona Ambrose urging the government to aid the two parties to come to a voluntary agreement or binding arbitration. For more information, contact Robert Godfrey at robert.godfrey@cfafca.ca

Environment and Science News

- CFA attended the GrowCanada Conference in Calgary from Dec 1-3rd. The conference brought together a variety of speakers, from pollsters, marketers focused on agriculture and sustainability to retired politicians and generals. There were several side events in which CFA took an active role:
 - OFA's Neil Currie took part in the GrowCanada roundtable on behalf of CFA and presented the National Food Strategy which seemed quite popular and was subsequently referenced extensively by Preston Manning the next day in his address.
 - PMRA held a briefing session on their new PPIP regulations. Both innovators and generic companies had questions regarding the transition policy that will guide the process for moving older applications through the regulations quickly. PMRA intended the policy to allow previous days of negotiation between the generic and innovator to be counted against the 120 day negotiation period stipulated within the regulation. This would speed up the process for old products that have been sitting in the queue for years. It is unclear how the PMRA will decide on what indicates “official” negotiation and how they will enforce this and generic companies were asking for direction on this and what they could do to show the process had reached official negotiation stage. It seemed clear that the innovator companies were not satisfied with this policy. PMRA indicated at the briefing that the transition policy as written will not achieve

their intended goal and was unworkable. They have indicated that they would like submissions given to them on how they could better create a fair and functional transition policy. For more information, please contact Greg Northey at greg@cfafca.ca

Business Risk Management

- A conference call was held for the Reference Margin Working Group to discuss potential options for addressing the issue of long-term declines in reference margins. This working group will inform the larger BRM Committee on three options for addressing declines in AgriStability reference margins:
 - Buffering the three highest-cost input—fertilizer, fuel, and labour—from impacting reference margins immediately and instead offset that impact over a number of years
 - Indexing reference margins to a statistical index like the Farm Input Price Index (or that index's replacement)
 - Creating reference margin deficiency semi-repayable loans, whereby a decline in an individual producers reference margin would permit that producer to access a set of repayable loans to bump up the amount of accessible capital
- A BRM Committee conference call will be held on December 17 to evaluate the actions each individual province and commodity group is currently undertaking to prepare for the upcoming BRM Review and consultation currently anticipated from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, as well as to solicit information from members on their communications with provincial governments in regards to this subject. A second agenda item will be a brief update to review the results of the first meeting of the Reference Margin Working Group in order to keep the broader BRM committee apprised of their progress.
- Related to the issue of SRM, the CFA was made aware of the fact that the feeding of poultry litter to beef cattle in the USA is still permitted, although it's unclear what the extent of the practice may be. Clarification for this point has been requested from CCA, but no response as of yet. Certainly the CFIA has strict guidelines preventing Canadian farmers from feeding poultry manure to cattle.
- On December 15, CFA's Glen Snoek visited the BRM group of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada for an informal briefing and discussion on the results of the last NPAC meeting. For more information, please contact Glen Snoek at glen@cfafca.ca.

Strategic Growth

- The CFA was recently contacted by Public Works Canada to provide input on their new "Food and Beverage National Strategy". This strategy will dictate to PWC how their \$100 million budget for purchasing food within their offices and does not necessarily detail a broader purchasing strategy for all government institutions. However, this may be an opportunity to gain an increased understanding of what procedures government uses for internal procurement purposes. For more information, please contact Glen Snoek at glen@cfafca.ca.

Communications

CFA is now on twitter!

Click on the link to follow our updates: <http://twitter.com/CFAFCA>

Media Advisory

December 8, 2009

[CFA attends UN climate conference in Copenhagen](#)

Commentary

December 2009

[The CFA advocates on behalf of farmers for increased marketplace power](#)

News Release

October 16, 2009

[CFA dismayed that farmers were ignored in revisions to the Agreement on Internal Trade](#)

Testing, Testing by Atul Gawande

At the start of the twentieth century, another indispensable but unmanageably costly sector was strangling the country: agriculture. In 1900, more than forty per cent of a family's income went to paying for food. At the same time, farming was hugely labor-intensive, tying up almost half the American workforce. We were, partly as a result, still a poor nation. Only by improving the productivity of farming could we raise our standard of living and emerge as an industrial power. We had to reduce food costs, so that families could spend money on other goods, and resources could flow to other economic sectors. And we had to make farming less labor-dependent, so that more of the population could enter non-farming occupations and support economic growth and development. Click here to read the rest of the article:

http://www.newyorker.com/reporting/2009/12/14/091214fa_fact_gawande?printable=true#ixzz0Zgr0EIKj

Coming events

Feb. 5, 2010 Federal Provincial Territorial Meeting • Toronto, Ontario

Feb. 22 - 24, 2010 CFA Annual Meeting • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

April 20-22, 2010 CFA Board Meeting • Ottawa

July 27- 29, 2010 CFA Semi-Annual 2010 Meeting • Halifax, Nova Scotia

October 19-21, 2010 CFA Board Meeting • Ottawa

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