



**February 9, 2010**

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 Fed-Prov meeting took place in Toronto on Feb. 5 with a focus on BRM programming. The CFA met with officials to go over CFA members' ask for changes to current programs. CFA President Laurent Pellerin and Brigid Rivoire met with Minister Ritz before the meeting to discuss the National Food Strategy and immediate changes required to AgriStability and AgriFlexibility in advance of FPT meeting. [Click here to read our news release.](#)
- The Speech from the Throne, which will open the Third Session of the 40th Parliament, is scheduled to take place on March 3, 2010. The CFA will be issuing a release prior to March 3, outlining what we hope to see within the Speech from the Throne in support of agriculture. On March 4th, the budget will be tabled in Parliament.

#### **Issues**

- CFA's Brigid Rivoire has been in touch with member GMs to ascertain the top three issues facing the agriculture sector to address ongoing question from government officials and MPs. The crisis facing livestock sector and trade issues are top of list. Draft messaging will be shared with CFA members in the near future.

#### **What is Food Freedom Day?**

- Food Freedom Day is the calendar date representing when the average Canadian has earned enough income to pay his or her individual grocery bill for the entire year. This year, Food Freedom Day will occur on February 12, 2010. In observing Food Freedom Day, farmers across the country will celebrate their role in providing consumers with one of the safest and most affordable food supplies in the world. [Click here to visit the Food Freedom Day portion of the website.](#)

#### **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 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Early Bird registration is now closed. [Visit our website](#) to download



your registration and information package.

### **Rail Costing Review - The Time to Act is Now**

- The CFA is working closely with CWB on developing a new lobby strategy for the ongoing Rail Costing Review lobby. CFA hopes to involve the Canadian Transportation Agency in the discussion at the Grains and Oilseeds Committee meeting at the upcoming CFA AGM at the end of the month.
- The CFA encourages members to [send an email postcard](#) to the Minister of Transportation John Baird to convey the importance of having the government conduct a full costing review of the railway revenue cap as soon as possible so farmers reliant on the railway will no longer be overcharged. This issue has a huge impact on the competitiveness of Canadian farmers. In addition, Transport Canada has requested that queries from members on this issue be directed to Helena Borges, the Association Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy for Transportation Canada, at 613-997-2689 or by email at [Helena.borges@tc.gc.ca](mailto:Helena.borges@tc.gc.ca). For more information, please [click here](#). To see the coalition's advertisement in the Feb. 8 issue of the Hill Times, [please click here](#).

### **Canadian Agricultural Safety Week**

"Plan • Farm • Safety" is the theme of this three-year Canadian Agricultural Safety campaign. Each aspect of the theme will be promoted over the next three years. This year the campaign will promote "Plan" with safety walkabouts and planning for safety. In the second year, the focus will be on "Farm" including implementation, documentation and training. In the third year, emphasis will be on "Safety" including assessment, improvement and further development of safety systems. The year-long "Plan" campaign will be launched with Canadian Agricultural Safety Week (CASW), from March 14 to 20. [Click here to view the 2010 home page](#).

### **CFA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update**

For our 75<sup>th</sup> year, there are several events that will occur. A photo contest and best producer award will be launched in February at our AGM. At our October Board meeting, a retrospective video will be shown at an Anniversary and Awards banquet. Also, CFA members are encouraged to post the attached logo on their respective websites. Text to accompany the logo is also attached. For more information, please contact Debbie Silva at [communications@cfafca.ca](mailto:communications@cfafca.ca)



Proud member of the CFA  
Fier membre de la FCA

### **Issues, Past Events & Meetings**

#### **National Food Strategy**

The NFS group met on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> to further develop timelines and communication strategies to bring back to membership for discussion at the Strategic Growth meeting at the AGM.

#### **Trade News**

- CFA participated in a CETA Consultation Group conference call on Feb. 4. Led by Canadian Chief Negotiator Steve Verheul, an update was given on the recent round of negotiations held in Brussels on the week of January 18th, 2010. Both sides exchanged a text in December of 2009 and this was the basis of their discussions throughout the week. Negotiators went into the week hoping to bridge any minor differences in the text leaving only substantial issues for discussion. From there, negotiators sought areas of

flexibility within what have long been historical hardened positions on several substantial issues such as Agriculture. At this time the Agriculture component of the text is modest at best and CFA will continue to monitor the negotiations pushing the government to both protect Canadian interests while seeking greater market access into what is a very lucrative market for many Canadian agriculture exports. The next round of negotiations is scheduled for the week of April 19, 2010 in Ottawa.

- Trade Ministers, who met in Davos, Switzerland on January 30, discussed the Doha Round of Negotiations at the WTO but made few decisions and set no deadlines on the round leaving a great deal of uncertainty of how talks will proceed through 2010. According to Inside US Trade, several sources are saying WTO Director General Pascal Lamy appears to be considering a summer meeting with Ministers to reach an agreement on how to move Doha forward and this would likely take place in advance of the G20 meetings here in Canada. CFA will continue to monitor the situation for further developments. For more information, contact Robert Godfrey at [trade@cfafca.ca](mailto:trade@cfafca.ca)

### **Environment and Science News**

- CFA attended a seminar organized by QSYS, a company that creates software for the management of carbon aggregation projects. They specialize in spatial project management for agriculture applications. CFA will be engaging QSYS in further talks regarding the CFA carbon aggregation project.
- A US consultancy firm has predicted that the global carbon market will increase 33% to a total \$170 billion. This will largely be a result of higher prices in Europe (18 euro/tonne from 13 euro/tonne) and growth in the American market, particularly the United States Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative a cap-and-trade system for the power sector covering 10 Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. These states, which include New York, Maryland and Massachusetts, aim to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions from the power sector 10 per cent by 2018.
- CFA met with the Canadian Model Forest Network to discuss the Agri-Flexibility proposal on the creation of markets for EG&S. The proposal would utilize the Local Management Organizations set up throughout the country to develop a system to evaluate, verify, aggregate and market EG&S produced by landowners. CFA will continue to work with CMFO on this project with the hopes of submitting the proposal by the end of February.
- CFA held a meeting with the Canadian Farm Business Management Council (CFBMC) to discuss the integration of IrEF within their renewable energy website and future renewable energy project collaboration. CFBMC will generate a project proposal and it will be presented at the AGM.
- NRCan held a webinar to explore environmental sustainability in agriculture. Although NRCan is primarily focused on biofuel there were several interesting presentations on sustainability programs and the future of green labeling and EG&S.
- The federal and PEI governments announced a \$9.9 million investment in renewable energy on the farm, \$5.9 million will come from Agri-Flexibility funding and the PEI government will supply the rest. The program will fund two projects:
- \$4.2 million for the Renewable Energy Initiative, that will audit and promote the use of agriculture-based renewable energy sources and equipment;
- \$1.7 million for the BioEconomy Crop Initiative, that will evaluate the economic and environmental benefits of crops such as fall rye, perennial grasses and hybrid willows to plant and harvest for energy generation;

- Environment Canada announced that their greenhouse gas emission reduction target will be 17 per cent from 2005 levels by 2020. This announcement was made to fulfill the requirement in the recently signed Copenhagen Accord for all countries to announce their reduction and base year by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010. The Canadian target is similar to the US target.
- A new GROU product sponsored by CFA was approved for the GROU program. B-Nine is an ornamental Growth Regulator that can be sprayed on ornamental plants grown in containers in nurseries, greenhouses, shade houses and production areas not under cover. The GROU equivalency certificate number is 023 and the Canadian PCP is 17465 and the US equivalent product EPA number is 400-478.
- The United States Agriculture Department released their first full census of organic farming last week. The results show that similar to conventional agriculture, 'big' farms dominate organic production with 1,077 farms with more than \$500000 in sales in 2008 accounting for more than two thirds of the industry's total sales of \$3.2 billion. In California, farms with sales over \$500000 accounted for \$1 billion of the state's total sales of \$1.2 billion. There are a total of 14540 organic farms in the United States. For more information, please contact Greg Northey at [envsci@cfafca.ca](mailto:envsci@cfafca.ca)

### **Business Risk Management**

- Brigid Rivoire and Glen Snoek met with AAFC officials to bring forward short-term and immediate changes to AgriStability and continued push for inclusion of BRM programs in AgriFlexibility.
- The first conference call of the Producer Payment Security Mechanisms project steering committee was held on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. The current work plan was reviewed and suggestions recorded by Bob Hyde of Scott Wolfe Consultants. The anticipated project end date is March 31<sup>st</sup>. For more information, please contact Glen Snoek at [brm@cfafca.ca](mailto:brm@cfafca.ca)

### **Strategic Growth**

- CFA attended the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters conference at the Chateau Laurier on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the request of FCPC. This conference had a number of presenters discussing current and future trends in the export market, as well as economic conditions nationally and globally. For more information, please contact Glen Snoek at [brm@cfafca.ca](mailto:brm@cfafca.ca)

### **Food Safety**

- The CFA met with Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition in preparation for upcoming AGM on Feb. 12 and key issues and priorities facing industry on food safety.

### **Stakeholder Relations**

- The CFA met with Lynne Markel, Canadian Coop Association regarding the final push for the Coop Investment Plan. She has requested that a template letter be sent to CFA members asking to send to a few key MPs asking for their support for inclusion of the CIP in the budget.

## Communications

### CFA is now on twitter!

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

### Advertisement

[Click here](#) to see the Feb. 8 Railway Costing Review Advertisement in The Hill Times

### Commentary

*January 2010*

[Proudly working for farmers since 1935](#)

### News Release

*February 8, 2010*

[CFA calls on Federal-Provincial Ministers to adopt immediate short-term changes as part of the BRM Strategic Review](#)

## Coming events

**February 10, 2010** Canadian Sugar Beet Producers' Association AGM

**Feb. 12, 2010** [Food Freedom Day](#)

**Feb. 22 - 24, 2010** [CFA Annual Meeting](#) • Crowne Plaza Hotel, Ottawa, Ontario

**April 27-28, 2010** CFA Board Meeting • Ottawa

**May 15-20, 2010** IFAP World Congress • Algeria

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

**October 20-21, 2010** CFA Board Meeting • Ottawa

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