

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

CFIA Opened Consultations on the Revised Draft Improved Food Inspection Model * *Growing Forward 2*, Canada's New Farm Bill, Came into Force April 1, 2013 * Support Program for Ontario Corn Fed Beef * Local Food Bill Back in the Ontario Legislative Assembly * New Biosecurity Standards Launched for Sheep and Goat Farms

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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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 Opened Consultations on the Revised Draft Improved Food Inspection Model

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has recently submitted for public consultation a new document revising the older proposal for Inspection Modernization. This revised Draft Model, together with information on how to submit comments, can be accessed at this website:

<http://inspection.sondages-surveys.ca/surveys/CFIA-ACIA/copy-draft-improved-food-inspection-model-consul-1/?l=en>

The deadline is **May 21, 2013**. U.S. companies are strongly encouraged to get involved in these consultations and let CFIA know their opinions on the various Inspection Modernization proposals. For instance, the Revised Draft Model explains in more detail CFIA's views on import licensing. One of the proposed requirements to obtain a food import license is Canadian residency. This requirement would negatively impact all U.S. companies that currently fall in the category of "non-resident importers." FAS/Ottawa will provide additional details on CFIA's Inspection Modernization Model, as well as on CFIA's upcoming food safety regulatory initiatives in a separate GAIN report. Stay tuned!

Growing Forward 2, Canada's New Farm Bill, Came into Force April 1, 2013

This is no joke: April 1 marks the official launch of the *Growing Forward 2 (GF2)* policy framework for Canada's agricultural and agri-food sector. *GF2* is a C\$3 billion dollar investment by federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) governments and the foundation for government agricultural programs and services over the next five years. According to a government press release, the Canadian agriculture and agri-food system accounts for 8.0% of total GDP (or \$101.1 billion) and employs 2.1 million people.

GF2 programs will focus on innovation, competitiveness and market development. *GF2* includes C\$2 billion cost-shared on a 60:40 basis for programs delivered by provinces and territories, and \$1 billion

for federally delivered strategic initiatives. Under *GF2*, FPT cost-shared investments will increase by 50% and provincial and territorial governments will have greater flexibility to tailor programs to local needs. In addition, *GF2* includes a suite of Business Risk Management (BRM) programs to help farmers manage risk due to severe market volatility and disaster situations. Governments will also assist the industry in its efforts to research, develop and implement new agricultural risk management tools.

The government recently announced details of its three *GF2* federal programs: AgriInnovation, AgriMarketing and AgriCompetitiveness. Together, these programs aim to accelerate the pace of innovation, improve competitiveness in domestic and international markets, and help the sector adapt to emerging global and domestic opportunities, as well as enhance business and entrepreneurial capacity. For more information on federal programs or links to provincial and territorial government websites, please visit the [Growing Forward 2 page \(www.agr.gc.ca/growingforward2\)](http://www.agr.gc.ca/growingforward2).

According to various news articles, to date only two provinces have formally signed on the *GF2*: Alberta, to receive C\$406 million of the C\$3 billion, and Ontario, to receive C\$417 million. Details on how provinces will spend this money can be found on the provincial government websites (using the link provided above), or by following the Canadian media reporting on this issues, like these two news articles on [Ontario](#) and [Alberta](#).

Support Program for Ontario Corn Fed Beef

The Ontario government recently announced in a [press release](#) a C\$10 million support program for the Ontario corn fed beef sector. The province is providing the Ontario Cattle Feeders' Association with this one-time investment to create an industry-led risk management fund. The fund will be administered by the association and will help stabilize pricing for participating producers, encouraging further growth in the sector. It will also support the province's local food strategy. According to the press release, "promoting local food is part of the new Ontario government's plan to strengthen the agri-food industry, build stronger communities and create jobs that will grow the economy."

Local Food Bill Back in the Ontario Legislative Assembly

The Ontario government has re-introduced legislation that, if passed, would help make more local food available in markets, schools, cafeterias, grocery stores and restaurants throughout the province. The official [press release](#) details on the proposed legislation which is part of a broader local food strategy that encourages the growth and development of markets for foods grown and made in Ontario, and provides funding for innovative and collaborative local food projects.

The *Local Food Act* was first introduced in the provincial legislature in October 2012, when the Ontario government [claimed](#) the creation of 10,000 new jobs if the bill were to be implemented. Now, the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, the province's farm umbrella organization, [commented](#) that "with nearly 1,500 public institutions in Ontario serving three meals a day, a shift in public sector food purchases to 25 percent local food will create a C\$200 million benefit for the local food economy."

New Biosecurity Standards Launched for Sheep and Goat Farms

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) launched two [new national standards](#) for goat and sheep farms respectively, laying out specific practices each sector can follow to set up or improve existing farm-level biosecurity and prevent or cut the risk of on-farm disease transmission.

The Sheep Standard is divided into four principles: 1) animal health management practices, 2) record keeping, 3) farm, facilities and equipment, and 4) people. The Goat Standard focuses on six key areas: 1) sourcing and introducing animals, 2) animal health, 3) facility management, 4) movement of people, vehicles and equipment, 5) monitoring and record keeping, and 6) communications and training. Recently, CFIA has also been working on a similar Standard for the bee industry -- including bumblebees, leafcutters and honey bees. The Standard was expected to be released in 2012, but the timeline has now extended into 2013.

Exchange Rate:

Noon rate, April 3, 2013 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C \$ 1.0134

Most Recent Reports from FAS/Ottawa:

Report #	Name of Report	Date Submitted
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