



FEBRUARY 2018

MuckerNews

Monthly Articles & Updates For HMGA Members

2018 HMGA BOARD

Please see the list below of your 2018 board directors and their positions.
Please feel free to contact anyone of them if you have any questions or concerns.

Quinton Woods – *Chair*

Dom Riga – *Vice Chair*

Tim Horlings – *Treasurer*

Doug Van Luyk – *Coop Liaison – King Liaison*

John Hambly – *Greenbelt Liaison – CHC Liaison – FVGO Liaison*

Joe Chapman – *EG Liaison*

Ian Smith – *Minor Use Liaison – Sustainable Farmer Liaison*

Dan Sopuch – *LSG Water Liaison – Drainage Board Liaison*

Mike Ferragina – *Greater Golden Horseshoe Liaison*

Jason Verkaik – *OFVGA Liaison – FVGO Liaison*

Alex Makarenko – *BWG Liaison*

Jody Mott – *Executive Director*

NEW EDIBLE HORTICULTURE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Edible Horticulture Support Program helps Ontario producers adjust to new and challenging cost pressures in the small business environment by providing payments based on net sales of edible horticulture.

SDRM participants are automatically enrolled. Anyone not enrolled can call Agricorp to apply by March 23.

If you are not enrolled you will not be included in this program for funding.

Visit agricorp.com/EHSP for more details.

Or Contact

Arlie McFaul

Sr. Industry Specialist

Program Development

Agricorp

Direct line: 519-826-3710

HOLLAND MARSH SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The Holland Marsh Growers Association, in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is looking for feedback from growers to inform a sustainability strategy for the Holland Marsh. **In follow-up to the sustainability event on February 6th, please take a few minutes of your time to complete the following survey (this link will be open until February 23rd).** Your input is important to us and we want to ensure that this strategy includes issues relevant to you and the Holland Marsh community.

Survey link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C5Y62Y2>



NORSECO

If you are an HMGA member and want to receive these updates by email? Send a message to HMGAEXEC@gmail.com to be added to the list.



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SAFE FOOD FOR CANADIANS ACT (SFCA)

Please take the time to read the information below on SFCA from the DRC. As we get more information we will pass it on to you. On November 22, 2012, the proposed Safe Food for Canadians Act (SFCA) received Royal Assent. On January 21, 2017, the Safe Food for Canadians Regulations (SFCR) were published in Canada Gazette, Part I and are expected to come into force in mid-2018.

The proposed regulations would require that buyers and sellers of fresh fruits and vegetables be members of the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation (DRC) unless exempt. The proposed regulations will result in the requirement for a mandatory membership in the DRC for some buyers and sellers of fresh fruits and vegetables who were not previously subject to the requirement for a CFIA Produce Licence.

The requirement applies to the following fresh fruit and vegetable segments, unless exempt:

- Agent, Grower's Agent, Broker
- Farm Markets & Direct to Consumers
 - Grower, Shipper, Packer
- Retail, Foodservice & Restaurants
 - Wholesalers & Distributors

The proposed Regulations (Division 2 – Trade of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables) prohibit a person to:

- (a) sell or negotiate the sale on another person's behalf of any fresh fruit or vegetable that is to be exported or to be sent or conveyed from one province to another;
- (b) purchase or negotiate the purchase on another person's behalf of any fresh fruit or vegetable that is to be imported or to be sent or conveyed from one province to another;
- (c) receive or receive on another person's behalf any fresh fruit or vegetable that has been imported or sent or conveyed to from one province to another; or
- (d) send or convey from one province to another or import or export any fresh fruit or vegetables.

There are exemptions to the regulation:

- (a) a person who is a member in good standing of the Fruit and Vegetable Dispute Resolution Corporation, a corporation incorporated under Part 2 of the Canada not-for-profit Corporations Act, as described in its bylaws;
- (b) a person who only sells fresh fruits or vegetables directly to consumers if that person paid less than \$100,000 for the fresh fruits and vegetables that they sold to consumers within the previous 12 months;
- (c) a person who only purchases, sells or negotiates the purchase or sale on another person's behalf, sends or conveys from one province to another or imports or exports less than one metric ton (2 205 lb) of fresh fruits or vegetables per day;
- (d) a person who only sells fresh fruits and vegetables that they have grown themselves; or
- (e) an organization that is a registered charity as defined in subsection 248(1) of the Income Tax Act or a club, society or association described in paragraph 149(1)(1) of that Act.

The bottom line: Once the SFCR comes into force, unless you are exempt, a membership in the DRC will be a regulatory requirement to buy, sell, import or export fresh fruit and vegetables. This replaces the current regulatory requirement to hold a CFIA Produce Licence or a DRC membership. With the new regulation, there will only be one option: a DRC membership.

Need more information? Visit the DRC website: <http://fvdrc.com/sfcr/>

