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**Date:** 10/25/2013

**GAIN Report Number:** CA13059

## Canada

**Post:** Ottawa

### Consultation Deadline Crop Variety Registration Options Approaching

**Report Categories:**

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations

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**Report Highlights:**

This GAIN report is a reminder to the U.S. grain industry that the November 30th, 2013 deadline to provide input into the options paper for *Crop Variety Registration in Canada* is fast approaching. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC), have collaborated on an options paper that describe the current crop variety registration system in Canada and outlines four potential options being considered to modernize and streamline the system. They are encouraging all members of the grain industry to submit comments on the initiatives presented.

### **Deadline for Feedback of the Crop Variety Registration Options Paper Fast Approaching**

This GAIN report is a reminder to the U.S. grain industry that the November 30th, 2013 deadline to provide input into the options paper for Crop Variety Registration (CVR) in Canada is fast approaching. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), and the Canadian Grain Commission (CGC), have collaborated on an options paper that describe the current crop variety registration system in Canada and outlines four potential options being considered to modernize and streamline the system. They are encouraging all members of the grain industry to submit comments on the initiatives presented.

The four options being considered are:

1. Allow the flexibility inherent in the current variety registration system to emerge (status quo). **Note from Post:** This may not be the option that allows the U.S. grain industry the most flexibility.
2. Streamline the regulatory process by requiring all crops to meet minimum registration requirement with the option for some crops to have merit assessment through independent assessment process.
3. Streamline regulatory process by maintaining a minimum level of federal government oversight (similar to current Part III), and eliminate any merit assessment or performance data under the varietal registration system.
4. Withdrawal of federal government oversight role in variety registration, allowing industry or third parties to assume these functions. **Note from Post:** This may be the option that provides U.S. grain the most flexibility. The removal of federal involvement in varietal registration process will not remove all barriers to U.S. grain exports to Canada (such as the requirement under the Canada Grain Act that the grain be grown in Canada AND be registered to receive an official grading), but it will bring the Canadian system closer to the way the grain handling system functions in the United States.

The options paper is available at the following URL address: <http://www.agr.gc.ca/eng/about-us/public-opinion-and-consultations/crop-variety-registration-engagement/crop-variety-registration-in-canada-issues-and-options/?id=1374783569676>.

Feedback on these options can be done through the ***Crop Variety Registration in Canada Questionnaire*** which is available at the following URL address: <http://agr.sondages-surveys.ca/surveys/AAFC/crop-variety-registration-engagement/?l=en>