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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Date: 8/14/2012

GAIN Report Number: CA12033

Canada

Post: Ottawa

This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 17

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

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Report Highlights:

Food Inspection Modernization – Consultations on Proposed Draft*Modernizing Livestock Feed Regulations – Consultations Opened*CWB Completes Agreements with all Western Canadian Grain Handlers*Glencore Sells Viterra Assets*Damage Reports in Ontario*Passage of Bill C-311*Beefing up Biosecurity*Harper Announces Pardons of Convicted Farmers

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.

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.

Food Inspection Modernization – Consultations on Proposed Draft: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) has released a document describing the proposed details of the improved food inspection model. While this model was developed for food, representatives from the agency's plant and animal health programs provided input with the intent that common components may be adapted. The model remains under development and will be revised following an intensive process of review and consultation with all internal and external stakeholders.

Parties have been encouraged to **provide comments and suggestions** on the draft improved food inspection model by **October 31, 2012**. Details can be found following these links:

[Draft Improved Food Inspection Model](#)

[Key Components](#)

[Question and answers](#)

The draft document can be also accessed as PDF file at this link:

[PDF \(2.15 MB\)](#)

Please submit your comments via the online comment form that can be accessed at this link:

[Submit comments on this document.](#)

Comments may also be provided by email, fax or mail. Correspondence should clearly indicate "CFIA inspection modernization - draft model" in the subject line. Submissions can be sent to:

Cameron Prince
Vice President, Inspection Modernization
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Ottawa, ON K1A 0Y9
E-mail: modele-inspection-model@inspection.gc.ca
Fax: 613-773-7569

A report summarizing the input received during this consultation will be made available on the CFIA website in late 2012. CFIA also indicates that there will be another opportunity for input on the improved food inspection model, once a revised draft will be made available in early 2013.

Modernizing Livestock Feed Regulations – Consultations Opened: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has initiated a multi-year review of its regulatory framework for food safety, plant health and animal health. The livestock feed regulations are under review as part of this process, and CFIA has requested **feedback** on modernizing Canada’s *Feeds Regulations* **by October 5, 2012**.

CFIA has stated that the objective of the current review is to develop risk- and outcome-based feed regulations guided by the principle that safe feed contributes to safe food. Modernized regulations would continue to protect Canadians and the resources they rely on, reduce any unnecessary regulatory burden on stakeholders, reflect changes in science and technology and support innovation.

For more information about this initiative, please read the [discussion paper](#).

For additional background, please review the [Codex Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding PDF \(169 kb\)](#). This international standard is an important part of the CFIA’s proposed approach to feed regulatory modernization.

There are several ways to provide input during the consultation:

- Complete the [online survey](#)
- [Send an email](#) or fax indicating “**CFIA feed regulatory renewal**” in the subject line
- Send your comments by regular mail

If you have any questions or would like to comment by email, fax or regular mail, please contact:

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CWB Completes Agreements with all Western Canadian Grain Handlers: The Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) announced that it completed agreements with all Prairie grain handlers and that farmers can now deliver CWB wheat to any elevator in the West. Among the companies who signed agreements with the CWB are three of the largest grain handlers in the country: Richardson International Ltd, Viterra Inc, and Cargill Ltd. The CWB’s agreements also extend to farmer-owned independent grain terminals.

Glencore Sells Viterra Assets: Glencore International Plc agreed to sell some of its Viterra Inc assets, as part of its C\$6.1 billion acquisition of the company. It will sell C\$2.6 billion in assets to Agrium Inc, a Canadian company with a U.S. subsidiary, and Richardson International Ltd, a privately-owned Canadian company. The sale won the approval of Canada’s Competition Bureau.

American fertilizer giant CF Industries Holdings, Inc has entered an agreement with Glencore to buy a minority 34% interest in a nitrogen facility in Medicine Hat, Alberta, for C\$911 million. CF Industries was nominated by Agrium as the buyer of the facility under the support and purchase agreement between Glencore and Agrium. CF Industries is the second largest nitrogen fertilizer producer in the world.

Richardson's news release regarding its agreement to acquire Viterra assets is available at the following URL: <http://www.richardson.ca/news/releases/read.article/45/richardson-announces-agreement-to-purchase-viterra-assets>. Agrium's news release is available at the following URL address: <http://www.agrium.com/news/2019.jsp>. Glencore's news release regarding the sale to CF Industries Holdings Inc is available at the following URL address: http://www.glencore.com/documents/Sale_Medicine_facility_Industries.pdf

Damage Reports in Ontario: In Ontario, hay, corn and soybean crops have been adversely affected by dry weather conditions, particularly in Eastern Ontario. Crop producers throughout the province submitted more than 5,000 damage reports this year, according to AgriCorp, the provincial government agency that handles insurance programs. The response from the federal government on whether it will use its ad-hoc disaster relief program, AgriRecovery, is still unknown. A federal assessment regarding the potential use of AgriRecovery for an event usually takes 45 days to complete. The excessively dry weather has forced livestock farmers to use hay reserves -- usually not used until November -- to supplement pasture for grazing. According to the National Climate Data and Information Archive, Ottawa, Ontario received only 13mm of rain this July.

Passage of Bill C-311: Press reports indicate that the recent passage of federal bill C-311 has struck down legislation dating back to prohibition that made it illegal for anyone to cross into a province with wine purchased in another province. The amendment does not affect existing provincial laws related to the importation of wine, nor does it change existing laws for importing alcohol into the Territories which are governed by separate federal statutes. Taking beer or spirits across a border is still banned, as is ordering B.C. wine from outside the province, except from Alberta and Manitoba. The government news release highlights the advancement that the bill makes towards reducing barriers to inter-provincial trade.

A Canadian Revenue Agency news release is available at the following URL address: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/nwsrm/rlss/2012/m06/nr120628b-eng.html>

Beefing up Biosecurity: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Canadian Cattlemen's Association (CCA) are releasing a national biosecurity standard to strengthen Canada's beef sector. The standard outlines on-farm practices designed to minimize the introduction and control the spread of endemic, emerging, and foreign infectious diseases in the Canadian herd. Many of the practices outlined in the standard are already in use on beef cattle operations throughout Canada.

The standard is a tool that producers can use to measure their biosecurity practices on farm. It was developed over two years, in consultation with producers, industry associations, academia, and provincial governments through funding provided by the Growing Forward policy initiative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. It was designed specifically for the Canadian beef cattle industry, and is applicable to farm-level operations of all types and sizes.

To request a copy of the Canadian Beef Cattle On-Farm Biosecurity Standard please follow this URL address: http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/biosec/bovin_sume.shtml. More information about animal biosecurity in Canada can be found at the following URL address: www.inspection.gc.ca/biosecurity

Harper Announces Pardons of Convicted Farmers: Prime Minister Stephen Harper made the announcement that pardons will be granted for 13 farmers convicted in the 1990s and early 2000s of transporting wheat and barley across the border to sell in the U.S. Harper and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz made the announcement on what the government is calling “marketing freedom day.” Of the convicted farmers, Harper stated, “These people were not criminals. They were our fellow citizens – citizens who protested injustice by submitting themselves peacefully to the consequences of challenging that injustice.” As of August 1, farmers may sell their grain directly to whomever they chose and the mandatory requirement to go through the Canadian Wheat Board, now known as the CWB, was removed.

The statement given by the prime minister in Kindersley, Saskatchewan can be found at the following URL: <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/media.asp?id=4929>

Exchange Rate: Noon rate, August 14, 2012 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C\$0.9914

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