

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 03

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Report Highlights: Update on the Elimination of Container Size Restrictions * CFIA to Provide More Information When Food Shipments Refused Entry into Canada * Reducing the Sodium Intake of Canadians * Canadian and U.S.-Based Health and Safety Organizations Merge * Biosecurity for Canadian Dairy Farms National Standard Released

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.

Update on the Elimination of Container Size Restrictions: In a recent communication posted on CFIA's website, the Agency indicated the intention to launch a formal consultation early in 2013 in order to validate the feedback received from stakeholders during the months following the announcement made last summer to repeal provisions from various food regulations related to container size restrictions. The proposed changes, which will include a flexible implementation time frame of up to five years, as well as a detailed assessment of potential impacts, will be posted in Canada Gazette as soon as March 2013, according to a CFIA official. Following publication, a 75-day public consultation period will start.

CFIA's communicate can be found at this URL:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/food/processed-products/labelling-and-packaging/container-sizes/eng/1353621089533/1353621169021>

CFIA to Provide More Information When Food Shipments Refused Entry into Canada: As part of the CFIA's Enforcement Transparency Initiative to improve service delivery as an open, transparent, visibly accountable regulatory agency, the CFIA has added additional reasons to the current Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Refusal/Reject table. This information will clearly and accurately identify the specific Act(s) and/or Regulation(s) applied by the CFIA when rendering an electronic recommendation. This additional information was effective February 4, 2013 and allows importers/brokers to receive even more useful information and feedback on CFIA import requirements and affirm visible accountability for CFIA's programs and services.

More information regarding the CFIA's Enforcement Transparency Initiative at the following URL:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/accountability/compliance-and-enforcement/refused-entry/eng/1324305448701/1324305531127>

Reducing the Sodium Intake of Canadians: In June 2012, Health Canada published its long-awaited Guidance for Food Industry on Reducing Sodium in Processed Foods. The Guidance document includes

benchmark sodium levels for most types of processed food, with the aim of achieving the 2016 average sodium intake goal set by the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Health Minister of 2,300 mg per day by 2016. The original recommendation of the Sodium Working Group was to establish regulations to reduce sodium levels in commercially prepared foods. The approach is now likely to remain voluntary. The Ottawa Citizen newspaper recently reported that, “Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq said the government will oppose legislation that would require her to implement recommendations of her own expert panel aimed at getting Canadians to use less salt.” The article is available at the following URL: <http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/diet-fitness/Salt+wound+Government+support+legislation+reduce/7907392/story.html>

The Health Canada Guidance for Food Industry on Reducing Sodium in Processed Food is available at the following URL address: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fn-an/alt_formats/pdf/legislation/guide-ld/2012-sodium-reduction-indust-eng.pdf

Canadian and U.S.-Based Health and Safety Organizations Merge: The Guelph Food Technology Centre (GFTC), a Canadian leader in food safety certification, training, quality and technical solutions, has merged with NSF International, a global public health and safety organization with a similar legacy in food safety and training.

More information is available at the following URL:

http://www.nsf.org/business/newsroom/press_releases/press_release.asp?p_id=27809

Biosecurity for Canadian Dairy Farms National Standard Released: On February 6, 2013, a new biosecurity standard was introduced that aims to help dairy producers protect the health of their herds. The Standard is divided into four key control areas: Animal health management; animal additions and movement, premises' management and sanitation, personnel, visitors, vehicles, and equipment.

More information is available at the following URL: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/newsroom/news-releases/2013-02-05/eng/1359998355376/1359998395312>

Exchange Rate:

Noon rate, February 7, 2013 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C \$ 0.9992

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CA13004	Grain and Feed Update	1/28/2013
CA13002	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue 02	1/24/2013
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CA12050	FAIRS Export Certificate Report	12/21/2012
CA12049	Export Guide: A Practical Guide	12/21/2012
CA12045	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue, Issue 21	11/26/2012
CA12044	This Week in Canadian Agriculture, Issue 20	11/13/2012
CA12046	The New Legislative Framework for Animal Traceability	12/03/2012
CA12042	Grain and Feed Annual	10/30/2012
CA12041	Fresh Deciduous Fruit Annual	11/02/2012