

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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## This Week in Canadian Agriculture - Issue 14

### **Report Categories:**

Agriculture in the News

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### **Report Highlights:**

Agriculture Canada Predicts Bumper Crop for Western Canadian Grain and Oilseed Farmers \* Tri-National Agriculture Accord \* U.S. Food and Drug Administration Holds Outreach Session on FSMA

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.

#### **Agriculture Canada Predicts Bumper Crop for Western Canadian Grain and Oilseed Farmers:**

Agriculture Canada released its supply and demand estimates for the crop year ending on July 31, 2013. Despite the later than average seeding in the spring, good seed technology combined with good growing conditions have resulted in a bumper crop for Canada's Western grain and oilseed farmers. Due to a combination of greater area planted and high yields, Agriculture Canada estimates wheat production to increase 13% above the previous year's levels to reach 30.7 million metric tons (MMT). Barley, due to exceptionally high yields (18% increase over the previous year), is expected to reach nearly 9.0 MMT, which represents a 12% increase over the previous year's production level. Oats and corn production levels are also predicted to rise above the previous year's levels to 3.0 MMT and 13.2 MMT, respectively, due to a combination of greater area planted and strong yields. This would represent an increase of 6% and 1% respectively, as well as a new record for corn production in Canada. Canola production is predicted to reach 14.8 MMT, a 7% increase over 2012/2013 production levels, with many farmers reporting personal best yields. While a successful crop year is something to celebrate, analysts are cautioning that this may not translate into higher than average earnings for producers. World prices are falling because of high yields all over the world. In addition there are transportation and storage concerns that will need to be addressed with such a large crop.

**Tri-National Agriculture Accord:** Agriculture delegates from provincial and state governments from across the United States, Canada and Mexico attended the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan September 22-25, 2013. The accords brought together the three NAFTA partners to discuss how the countries will engage on regulatory co-operation, GM labeling laws, agricultural awareness, and protocols for low level presence of GMOs. More information on the Tri-National Agricultural Accord can be found at the following URL addresses:

<http://www.nasda.org/9381/Accord/12735/19526.aspx> and <http://tri-nationalaccord2013.ca/>

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration Holds Outreach Session on FSMA:** Representatives from the United States Food and Drug Administration, which included Deputy Commissioner for Foods and

Veterinary Medicine Michael R Taylor, held an outreach session with Canadian food industry stakeholders on September 18, 2013 to answer questions regarding four proposed rules under the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), as well as seek feedback from industry. The four proposed rules were: (1) Current Good Manufacturing Practice and Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventive Controls for Human Food, (2) Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption, (3) Foreign Supplier Verification Programs for Importers of Food for Humans and Animals, and (4) Accreditation of Third-Party Auditors/Certification Bodies to Conduct Food Safety Audits and to Issue Certifications. Due to their impact on the proof that food imported into the United States will require, the Foreign Supplier Verification Programs (FSVP) rule and the Accreditation of Third Party Audits rule were the topics that generated the most questions from Canadian industry. Four main themes emerged from the sessions: (1) concerns over what was needed to ensure compliance, (2) impact that the rules may have on delays at the border, (3) what are the exemptions and why, and (4) the importance and desire for regulatory alignment.

The U.S. FDA representatives ended the outreach session by reminding Canadian industry participants how to make comments on the FSMA and the importance of submitting comments in writing. It was explained that comments must be registered in writing in order for the agency to be able to legally make changes to the rules. Canadian Industry expressed appreciation that the U.S. FDA held this outreach session. Comment periods on preventative controls and produce end on November 15, 2013, and comment periods for the FSVP and third party accreditation on November 26, 2013. Information on FSMA, including the text of the proposed rules, is available at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/default.htm>

#### **Exchange Rate:**

Noon rate, September 30, 2013 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C \$ 1.0285

#### **Most Recent Reports from FAS/Ottawa:**

<b>Report #</b>	<b>Name of Report</b>	<b>Date Submitted</b>
CA13047	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 14	09/16/2013
CA13046	2013 Livestock Annual	09/06/2013
CA13045	CFIA Releases Food Safety Forum Consultation Report	08/21/2013
CA13044	This Week in Canadian Agriculture – Issue 12	08/01/2013
CA13042	Wine and Spirits	07/26/2013
CA13041	Grain and Feed Annual	07/26/2013
CA13040	Poultry Annual	07/24/2013