



Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board

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Items in this newsletter:

- ✓ Property Tax Assessment – Housing for Seasonal Workers
- ✓ California Tree Fruit Growers Reject Marketing Board

Property Tax Assessment – Housing for Seasonal Workers

On December 13th, the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, announced that farm bunkhouses will be taxed at the farm property class tax rate. This means that farmers will be paying 75% less on their property taxes for these dwellings. This is definitely good news, especially for fresh horticultural crops producers who are the main users of seasonal labour. There is no word in the announcement regarding retroactivity but it does state that this change goes into effect on January 1, 2011. It is our understanding that growers do not have to apply for this change but we recommend that you check your 2011 assessment closely to make sure MPAC has implemented the change. A copy of the announcement is attached.

The Board has expressed their thanks for those who made this happen including the Honourable Dwight Duncan, Minister of Finance, The Honourable Carol Mitchell, Minister of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, and MPPS James Bradley, Kim Craitor and Dave Levac. The Board also acknowledges the efforts of the Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association, OFA and the Ontario Agricultural Commodity Council.

California Tree Fruit Growers Reject Marketing Board

The December 4th issue of The Packer reported that California's tree fruit growers voted against the marketing board which was originally established five years earlier. The California Tree Fruit Agreement (CTFA), a separate organization established to promote tree fruit will continue to operate. Gary Van Sickle, President of the CTFA, speculated that the negative vote was likely tied to the dismal market prices growers received in 2010 especially for fresh peaches. He went on to note that the depressed prices experienced this year had a lot more to do with the timing of the California crop which overlapped with the bumper crops in the rest of the U.S. As Ontario growers are aware, what happens in the U.S. market always reflects on their results in Canada.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Board members and staff wish all growers and friends a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Productive New Year.

Yours truly,

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Manager

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