



## Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board

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Items in this newsletter:

- ✓ Agri-Flexibility Program
- ✓ OVTP – Tree Removal Program
- ✓ Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI)
- ✓ PPV Eradication Program
- ✓ Wayne Roberts, IPM Specialist
- ✓ Coming Events

### **Agri-Flexibility Program**

The Board has still not received a reply from AAFC regarding their application to the Agri-Flexibility Program. Despite our numerous attempts and expressions of concern regarding timing and the need for growers to start their projects in order to have them completed in time for the 2010 season, AAFC has still not made a decision. The last thing we heard is that a response should be expected before the Christmas break. The good news is that they have not rejected our proposal. We will continue to do all we can to successfully resolve this issue. Some growers, out of frustration, have decided to apply directly. We have no idea whether anyone has been successful.

### **OVTP – Tree Removal Program**

Agricorp continues to advise that growers who wish to participate in the tree removal program can still apply. See note below:

“Interested growers should continue to submit applications this fall to stay in the queue for funding. If your application is accepted after November 30, 2009, you must complete your removal and contact Agricorp before November 30, 2010. Agricorp will then arrange to obtain your Statement of Final Removal before issuing your payment.

As of November 16, 2009, Agricorp has received more than 1,200 applications to the program and verified 10,177 acres for a total of almost \$16.5 million in funding.”

### **Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI)**

Just a reminder - Growers who were not accepted in the current round of funding are advised to reapply next year (starting April 1, 2010). Also, your current application will not be acceptable for the next round. Growers will be required to reapply under the new criteria (whatever that will be). This makes little sense but you are advised to do what they say if you want to participate in the next round.

### **PPV Eradication Program**

The International Expert Panel will meet with representatives of the Board and Governments on January 26 – 29, 2010. The IEP will review progress to date and develop recommendations on how to proceed from here understanding that 2010 is scheduled to be the final year of testing under the current program.

## Wayne Roberts, IPM Specialist – Retires (Sort of)

Wayne Roberts who has served as the industry IPM Specialist for thirteen years has retired effective December 31, 2009. The good news is that Wayne has agreed to a contract position with the Tender Fruit Board for 2010 and will continue to handle issues such as the Plum Pox Eradication Program, Research and Crop Protection.

## Coming Events

- Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association AGM – January to , Crowne Plaza, Niagara Falls.
- Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention – February 24 & 25, 2010, Brock University, St. Catharines. The registration form is attached to this newsletter.
- OnTrace Traceability Workshops for Producers – see schedule attached.
- CHC AGM – March to , Quebec City.
- Ontario Tender Fruit Grower Annual Meetings:
  - Ruthven, Monday, March 29, 2010
  - Simcoe, Tuesday, March 30, 2010
  - Niagara, Wednesday, March 31, 2010



*We wish you a very Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!!*

Yours truly,

Adrian Huisman  
Manager

Kelly Ciceran  
Assistant

Sarah Marshall  
New Project Coordinator

Larissa Osborne  
Office Manager/Treasurer

Sylvana Lagrotteria  
Accounting Assistant

Enclosures