



Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board

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Items in this newsletter:

- ✓ Weather & Crops
- ✓ Orchard & Vineyard Transition Program
- ✓ Research Grants & Tax Credits
- ✓ Advance Payment Applications Available
- ✓ Annual Meeting Schedule

WEATHER

Very low temperatures were experienced across Niagara and Norfolk on two occasions – January 16-17 (-17 C to -25 C) and again on January 23-24 (-18 C to -24 C). Ken Slingerland has cut peach buds in several areas in Niagara and has found peach bud damage on the lower limbs of some tender varieties (Vivid and Allstar) but overall, things look in pretty good shape. One peach orchard in Simcoe experienced -25C but the grower was uncertain of damage at this point.

ORCHARD & VINEYARD TRANSITION PROGRAM

With very few accounts yet to be finalized, the OVTP program has paid out \$18 million to tree fruit and grape growers to remove 11,124 acres of unwanted varieties. Of this amount, \$6 million, representing 3,720 acres, was paid to tender fruit growers. A crop by crop breakdown is as follows:

<u>Crop</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Peaches	1,876 (1,000 Clings – Balance Fresh)
Pears	721 (500 Bartlett, 150 Bosc – Balance Other)
Plums	153
Nectarines	151
Sweet Cherries	178
Sour Cherries	633
Apricots	8

Quick Synopsis: The Bartletts and Clingstone peaches were removed mainly due to the closing of the CanGro Fruit Canning Plant in 2008 and the downturn in the pricing of clings for the freezers. Approximately half of the clings were removed from farms outside of Niagara and only a small percentage have gone back into tree fruit. The clings that were removed in Niagara have for the most part been replanted with fresh market varieties and nectarines. Most of the sour cherries that were removed were older trees in the Norfolk area and the majority have been replanted.

RESEARCH GRANTS & TAX CREDITS

OMAFRA Business Development Branch, Economic Development Division has provided the Board with several fact sheets on programs that may provide benefits to growers and other industry members. See notes below:

“The following is a link to the listing of funding programs and resources on OMAFRA’s website. They have been categorized into sections including workforce development, research & development, infrastructure development and business development. I thought this might be easier to distribute via email to your members as opposed to the individual fact sheets: <http://omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/industry/funding-program-index.htm>.

In addition, here is the link to the Canada Summer Jobs website which will officially be launched on February 1, 2011:

<http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/epb/yi/yep/programs/scpp.shtml>.

Canadian not-for-profit organizations, public-sector employers and small businesses with 50 or fewer employees can apply for funding through Canada Summer Jobs.

Locally defined priorities for hiring will be available as of February 1, 2011. For example, local priorities could be:

- Special events (sport, cultural or other events on a local, provincial/territorial, national or international scale);
- Locations (such as rural or remote areas or areas of high unemployment); or
- Sectors (such as not-for-profit, tourism or agriculture).

The application period for Canada Summer Jobs 2011 will be from February 1 to February 28, 2011.

Another summer student hiring option is the Ontario Rural Summer Jobs Service Program: http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/rsj/rjs_index.htm. Potential benefits include a \$2.00/hour wage subsidy to hire students for jobs up to 16 weeks sometime during the six month period from April to September 2011. The maximum hiring incentive available is \$1,120 per position. Additional detail, including the on-line application form will be posted on the website provided above.”

As part of the Annual Meeting in Niagara, the Board has arranged for an Information Session on tax credits available for Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED).

Advance Payment Applications Available Two Months Earlier Than Normal

2011 applications for grain & oilseed, horticultural crops, and fresh market vegetables are now available from ACC Farmers' Financial. Up to \$400,000 is available with the first \$100,000 interest-free, and up to \$300,000 at bank prime rate. Details and application forms are available by calling 1-888-278-8807 or at: <http://www.accfarmersfinancial.ca>

Annual Meeting Schedule

Mark these dates on your calendars:

District 3 & 4 (Essex, Kent Lambton) – Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, Kingsville, Ontario

March 28, 2011

3:00 p.m. Ontario Fruit Testing Association
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:00 p.m. Tender Fruit Annual Meeting

District 5 (Haldimand-Norfolk) – Little River Inn (Best Western), Simcoe, Ontario

March 29, 2011

11:00 a.m. Tender Fruit Annual Meeting
12:00 p.m. Lunch

District 1 & 2 – Niagara – Herder Estate Winery, St. Catharines, Ontario

March 30, 2011

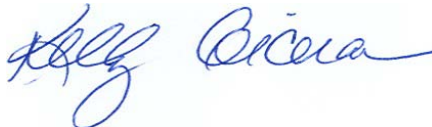
3:30 p.m. Workshop – Tax Credits for Scientific Research & Experimental
Development
5:30 p.m. Dinner
6:45 p.m. Grower Registration
7:00 p.m. Annual Meeting:
1. Neil Currie, OFA – National Food Strategy
2. Award of Merit Presentation
3. Business Session

An official Notice of Meeting will follow in early March.

Yours truly,



Adrian Huisman
Manager



Kelly Ciceran
Assistant



Sarah Marshall
Project Coordinator