



## Ontario Tender Fruit Producers' Marketing Board

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### Items in this newsletter:

- ✓ Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI)
- ✓ OnTrace – Premise Identification Number (PID) and FSTI
- ✓ Business Risk Management Program (BRMP) Proposed
- ✓ Agri-Flexibility Program
- ✓ OFVGA – Container Toll Rebate to Member Organizations
- ✓ Orchard & Vineyard Transition Program Update
- ✓ NPFVGA News
- ✓ For Sale – Farm Equipment
- ✓ Coming Events

### **Food Safety and Traceability Initiative (FSTI) 2010**

OMAFRA reports that FSTI was reviewed in 2009 to extend program reach and ensure alignment with government priorities. They state that there will be some changes to the program parameters but the basic structure of the program will remain unchanged. The 2010 program is set to be launched on January . A few details are as follows:

1. Applications for the next round of the FSTI Program will be accepted as of 9:00 a.m., March 1, 2010.
2. The FSTI website ( [.ontario.ca/](http://.ontario.ca/) ) was updated on January 15, 2010.
3. Information sessions will start February 2, 2010 (2 will be available to participate via Webex).
4. Program details of what's new, guidelines and applications will be posted on their web and be available January 28, 2010.

### Advice:

1. If you are required to attend a workshop – DO SO AND ATTEND THE FIRST ONE YOU CAN!
2. The 2009 program funding ran out very quickly – DON'T WAIT, APPLY ASAP!
3. See note on OnTrace PID linkage below.

### **OnTrace – Premise Identification Number (PID) and FSTI**

Just guessing but it is likely that those (growers, shippers, processors) who wish to participate in the next round of the FSTI program will be required to have a current On-Trace PID number. Information on how to obtain your number is included in the attached information sheets from OnTrace. Obtaining your PID number is free of charge.

### **Risk Management Program Proposed**

There has been considerable press recently about a proposal being put forward by the OFA Coalition for a Business Risk Management Program for all of Canadian agriculture. Growers have called and asked what the program would look like and what the chances are of success.

First, the program would look a great deal like the RMP pilot program that was offered to the Grain & Oilseed sector which provided Cost of Production Insurance. This would then provide producers with a complete suite of programs which would include:

1. AgriInvest – covering the top 15% of producers' reference margin
2. AgriStability – covering the remaining 85% of the reference margin
3. AgriInsurance – production insurance to cover weather related crop losses
4. Business Risk Management Program (BRMP) – insurance to cover the cost of production during those times that market prices fall below the COP.

Secondly, when would BRMP come into effect (if it ever does)? I think this will be a long tough process. Thankfully, Minister Dombrowsky has agreed to provide assistance to the coalition to help develop the program. She has also agreed to Champion the program with the Ontario government and her federal counterparts. She will be looking to Ontario's agricultural leaders to sell the program to producers in the other provinces as well as the federal government. With at least three years left under the current Agricultural Framework (Growing Forward), I think the earliest any new programs could be addressed can be the successor framework agreement.

### **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 latest we have heard is that they expect to provide a response to us by January . Again, the good news is that they have not rejected our proposal. We will continue to do all we can to successfully resolve this issue.

### **OFVGA – Container Toll Rebate to Member Organizations**

The OFVGA has rebated \$26,455.50 to the Tender Fruit Board. This is our Board's share of an overall \$250,000 rebate that was provided to all their member organizations. The rebate was allocated based on the percentage of fees paid to the OFVGA by its members in 2008. The OFVGA had enough reserves to cover 12 to 18 months of operation and felt that they were in a position to make these rebates without adversely affected their overall operations. We congratulate the OFVGA for this very responsible decision. The Tender Fruit Board will take this funding into consideration when establishing their licence fees for 2010.

### **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 January 5, 2010, Agricorp has received and verified (measured) applications for 11,163 acres for a total of almost \$18 million in funding.”

### **NPF&VGA News**

1. The Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association has selected Ross Parker as the recipient of their 2009 Award of Merit in recognition of his many years of volunteer service as chair of the Ontario Fruit & Vegetable Convention Trade Show. Please join us in honouring

Ross on Thursday, February 18, 2010. Time: 7:00 pm. Place: Keefer Mansion Inn, 14 St. David's St. W., Thorold. For tickets and information, please call Glenna Cairnie – 905.945.5363

2. The Annual General Meeting and Elections of the Niagara Peninsula Fruit & Vegetable Growers' Association will be held at the Tender Fruit Board offices on Tuesday, March 2, 2010. All are welcome to attend. Anyone interested in serving as a director may contact Glenna Cairnie at 905.945.5363

**For Sale – Farm Equipment**

See attached list of farm supplies and equipment for sale.

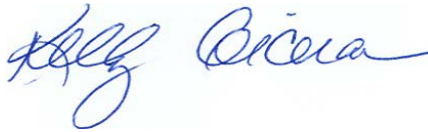
**Coming Events**

- Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention – February 24 & 25, 2010, Brock University, St. Catharines.
- Ontario Tender Fruit Grower Annual Meetings:
  - Ruthven, Monday, March 29, 2010
  - Simcoe, Tuesday, March 30, 2010
  - Niagara, Wednesday, March 31, 2010

Yours truly,



Adrian Huisman  
Manager



Kelly Ciceran  
Assistant



Sarah Marshall  
New Project Coordinator

Enclosures