



April 14, 2010

CFA's Activity Report is a brief e-newsletter dedicated to bringing you the latest news on how CFA is working for farmers. We want to share with you our progress on an array of policy fronts. Please circulate it to your members. A printable version is attached, should you wish to mail it out or distribute copies at local or regional meetings.

Issues & Upcoming Meetings

Ottawa Watch

- The House adjourned until Monday, April 12 and the Senate adjourned until Tuesday, April 13 in observance of Easter holidays.
- Bill C-8, *Canada-Jordan Free Trade Act*, was debated at second reading on March 29.
- Bill C-2, *Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act*, continued to be debated at second reading on March 30. The government has announced its intention to limit either the number of hours or the number of days that Bill C-2 can be debated. The Bill has already received more than 20 hours of debate at second reading during the previous session.
- Bill C-474: *An Act to amend the seeds bill to take into account potential market harm as a result of GM crops*, had another hour of debate on April 1st. The speaker asked for a verbal vote on the motion that "the bill be referred to committee" but the motion failed. The bill was discussed again April 14th, 2010, and passed and will now be referred to committee.
- On April 2, the Government of Canada announced a \$850,000 investment to aid Food Banks Canada in developing training materials and workshops and better equipping regional trainers to work with food banks in their communities to ensure that volunteers follow strong food safety practices. The Growing Forward investment is being funded under the Government of Canada's Canadian Integrated Food Safety Initiative, which supports the development of national government-recognized food safety systems.
- On April 8, the Government of Canada announced that Pulse Canada will receive \$8.3 million, which will be allocated towards research, innovation and market development to build a profitable and competitive pulse industry. Also, the Government of Canada announced that \$1 million would be invested in the Canadian Cervid Alliance to help the cervid industry capture new market opportunities and respond to the growing consumer demand for full traceability in livestock and poultry.
- On April 7, Member of Parliament David Anderson (Cypress Hills-Grasslands), announced on behalf of Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz, that Mustard Capital Inc. will receive \$655,000 in repayable funding to create a new milling facility to boost production through new and innovative technology that is unique to Canada. The company acquires mustard from Saskatchewan farmers. MCI then provides high-quality yellow, oriental and

brown mustard ingredients to customers in 35 countries.

CFA's 75th Anniversary Update

- CFA's Photo Contest and Best Producer Awards were launched at the AGM. Application forms are attached as well as available on our [75th anniversary page](#). Members are encouraged to spread the word about our contests to their members. Deadline for contest submission is September 10, 2010. The awards will be presented at a special Awards Banquet on October 20, 2010.
- CFA members are encouraged to post the attached logo on their respective websites. Text to accompany the logo is also attached. Stickers for stationery are also available. Please contact Debbie Silva at communications@cfafca.ca to order your stickers and help us celebrate our 75th anniversary.
- At our October Board meeting, a retrospective video will be shown at an Anniversary and Awards banquet.
- [Click here to view the Past-President's messages.](#)



**Proud member of the CFA
Fier membre de la FCA**

Circle the Date: CFA Tripartite Roundtable

The CFA is once again organizing an industry-federal/provincial/territorial roundtable in conjunction with the Ministers' annual meeting in July 7-8th. The roundtable will take place at the Delta Bessborough, in Saskatoon, on July 6th from 4:30 – 6:45pm – immediately preceding the Ministers' reception. The CFA has asked its provincial General Farm Organizations to send a joint-letter with CFA to their respective Minister inviting them to attend this event and of course to ensure one representative from each CFA member be at the table. (The draft letter template sent last week is attached) Members are asked to send the letter on their respective letterhead to and provide the CFA office with a copy. .

Rail Service Review

- The CFA is monitoring the progress of the ongoing Service Review. The last of the six reports has been completed and phase I of the process has come to a close. With this, Transport Canada is calling for stakeholder submissions before April 30th, 2010. The CFA is in the process of drafting a submission for the panel and encourages all members who are making their own submission to contact Robert Godfrey at CFA to coordinate messaging in their respective documents. Following the April 30th deadline, the Service Review Panel will review the reports and the submissions and it is hoped that the panel will be able to release its full findings this coming Fall. Please contact Robert Godfrey for more information at trade@cfafca.ca

Rail Costing Review - The Time to Act is Now

- The CFA is working closely with CWB on developing a new lobby strategy for the ongoing Rail Costing Review lobby. CFA analyst Robert Godfrey presented a documented with suggested changes for the lobby to the Grains and Oilseeds

Committee meeting at the CFA AGM this past month and is currently exploring how these may be carried out.

- The CFA encourages members to send [an email postcard](#) to the Minister of Transportation John Baird to convey the importance of having the government conduct a full costing review of the railway revenue cap as soon as possible so farmers reliant on the railway will no longer be overcharged. This issue has a huge impact on the competitiveness of Canadian farmers. In addition, Transport Canada has requested that queries from members on this issue be directed to Helena Borges, the Association Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy for Transportation Canada, at 613-997-2689 or by email at Helena.borges@tc.gc.ca. For more information, please [click here](#). To see the coalition's advertisement in the Feb. 8 issue of the Hill Times, [please click here](#).

Nuffield Farming Scholarship

- The Canadian Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust is accepting applications for their 2011 program. Scholarships are awarded to enthusiastic individuals, between the ages of 25 and 45, who wish to explore topics of their choice in agriculture, land management, horticulture or the food chain. Three scholarships of \$15,000 each are available for 2011. Applications are due by April 30, 2010 and forms can be downloaded from the Nuffield Canada website at <http://www.nuffield.ca>.

Launch of the 2010 Real Food campaign

- The CFA has been notified that Hellmann's will be continuing its Real Food campaign in 2010. This year, it will change the ingredients used to make Hellmann's ½ the Fat mayonnaise to include 100% Canadian-sourced free run eggs, as well as a number of initiatives designed to help connect Canadians to real food at the national and local level. For more information, visit: www.realfoodmovement.ca

World Farmers' Congress (WFC)

- The 39th World Farmers' Congress (WFC) is the biennial flagship event of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP), where leaders from the world's farmers' organizations come together to discuss and take action on key policy issues. The event will take place in Algiers, Algeria, from May 15-21, 2009. This year's theme is 'How to feed the planet's nine billion inhabitants by 2050.' Click [here](#) to read more.

Issues, Past Events & Meetings

National Food Strategy

Given the feedback from members, the CFA has been mandated to embark on a campaign to motivate the development of a National Food Strategy. The strategy is being led by the CFA and its members in collaboration with other farm organizations, government, consumers, food processors and distributors. Following the Annual Meeting – members were sent the draft Mission and Vision statements for comment and edits. A revised document will be presented to the CFA Board the end of this month. Other materials are currently in the works that will provide context to both external and internal stakeholders interested in this initiative and will be shared electronically with members as soon as they are available.

Trade News

- The Canada Mexico Partnership meeting is scheduled to take place April 19th-21st in Niagara on the Lake. This joint meeting of industry and government from both Canada and Mexico happens once a year. CFA co-chairs the AgriBusiness Working Group with the Assistant Deputy Minister for AAFC Steve Tierny, the Mexican Undersecretary of Agriculture, and the Consejo Nacional Agropecuario, which is the largest general farm group located in Mexico. First Vice President Ron Bonnett and Director of Trade and International Relations Robert Godfrey will be in attendance for CFA.
- The Cairns Group Farm Leaders meeting will be taking place April 19th-20th in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The CFA is currently in the process of sending suggested edits to a draft communiqué that has been put forward by the Australian National Farmers Federation. President Laurent Pellerin will be attending this meeting representing the CFA's balanced trade position.
- CFA continues to monitor the slow progress of the Doha Development Agenda (DDA). Recently, US President Barack Obama was successful in appointing a Chief US Agriculture Trade Negotiator. Islam A. Siddiqui's appointment had been held up in the Senate for a number of months and he had been unable to undertake his job responsibilities. Many WTO members see this as a positive step forward in having the US re-engage in the Agriculture negotiations within the DDA. Please contact Robert Godfrey for more information at trade@cfafca.ca

Environment and Science News

- The National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) held a meeting in Ottawa on March 30 to discuss current animal care issues and policy directions.
- The International Institute for Sustainable Development held a Policy Dialogue with Civil Society on the Way Forward on Climate Change Internationally. The meeting brought together current and past Canadian climate change negotiators who expressed their views on what will happen over the next years. There was much discussion concerning the UN as an inappropriate venue for climate change negotiations and that the G20 should work amongst themselves to reduce carbon emissions, particularly as most of them worked together to craft the Copenhagen Accord. In total, 35 countries have set targets for emission reductions under this accord. It was also felt that the Copenhagen Accord has been damaging to carbon markets as there was no clear signal on how they will be dealt with in the future.
- CFA met with Dr. Marc Fortin and other AAFC staff regarding the direction of science and innovation policy in the next growing forward agreement. A series of discussion forums on future science policy will be taking place over the next months. The first was held in Vancouver in March, with Newfoundland on April 12th and Guelph on May 6th. Dr. Fortin stated that research policy is seen as a significant policy instrument and that its development should include the entire value chain.
- With regards to Growing Forward, AAFC staff expects the final \$100 million earmarked for Science clusters and the Developing Innovative Agri-Products (DIAP) to be announced in the next two weeks. They also expect an Auditor General's report on their department to be released on April 20th.
- CFA participated on a call with Canadian Cattleman's Association and officials from Environment Canada to discuss the organization of an agriculture-focused workshop on the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the proposed Risk Management Framework. The workshop will bring together a broad range of agriculture groups to discuss the idea of permitting (for incidental take of birds) and whether it can work in agriculture.

- For more information, please contact Greg Northey at envsci@cfafca.ca

Business Risk Management

The BRM Committee held a meeting last week in Ottawa at the offices of the Canadian Pork Council. The day-long meeting discussed a number of alternative BRM proposals, as well as fundamental goals for the next generation BRM suite. A summary of this meeting and a copy of the document that was discussed will be made available to members shortly. For more information, please contact Glen Snoek at brm@cfafca.ca.

Past Meetings

- CFA's Greg Northey attended a grower meeting in Sonoma California on March 19th. The meeting was hosted by Makhteshim Agan of North America (MANA) a producer of generic pesticide products. The meeting was attended by several grower groups from across North America and gave MANA the opportunity to outline the issue generic pesticide producers face when trying to enter the market and have their product available on retail shelves. They stated that one of the biggest obstacles for them is convincing retailers to displace non-generic products with generic products on their shelves and the practice of bundling products together and provision of rebates, which gives an advantage to the large non-generic companies.
- On March 25, the CFA attended the final meeting of the Producer Payment Security Mechanisms project, with the objective of analyzing the draft report from Scott Wolfe Consulting. The comments from this meeting will be incorporated into the final report and will be made available as soon as possible.
- On March 31, Laurent Pellerin attended the NFLD & Labrador AGM in Gander, NFLD on behalf of the CFA.

Communications

CFA is now on twitter!

Click on the link to follow our updates: <http://twitter.com/CFAFCA>

Advertisements

Click here to see our ad in Ottawa Life Magazine

- [Page 1](#)
- [Page 2](#)

News Release

March 17, 2010

[The CFA welcomes further discussion on Bill C-474](#)

March 5, 2010

[Not much new for Canadian Agriculture in Federal Budget](#)

February 26, 2010

[CFA encourages government to recognize the importance of the agri-food sector in the upcoming speech from the throne](#)

February 25, 2010

[Development of National Food Strategy launched at the CFA Annual General Meeting](#)

Coming events

April 19-21, 2010 Cairns Group Farm Leaders Meeting • Punta del Este, Uruguay • Laurent Pellerin will be attending on behalf of the CFA

April 21-22, 2010 Canada-Mexico Partnership Meeting • Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

April 22, 2010 OFA/QFA Hill Lobby Day • Ottawa, Ontario

April 22 & 23, 2010 Atlantic Agriculture Forum • Holiday Inn and the NSAC Campus, Truro, NS

April 27-28, 2010 CFA Board Meeting • Ottawa

May 15-21, 2010 IFAP World Congress • Algiers, Algeria

July 6, 2010 Federal-Provincial-Territorial Agriculture Meeting – CFA Roundtable • Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

July 27- 29, 2010 CFA Semi-Annual 2010 Meeting • Halifax, Nova Scotia

October 20-21, 2010 CFA Board Meeting • Ottawa

October 20 CFA 75th Anniversary Gala Banquet • Ottawa

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