

WTO Negotiations Intensifying

The probability of reaching an agreement at the WTO Agriculture negotiations in 2007 is increasing and the forecast does not look good for Canada's supply management sectors.

Recently, Canada's dairy, poultry and egg farmers rejected the draft modalities paper issued by Crawford Falconer, Chair of the agriculture negotiations at the World Trade Organization. Once again, they are calling on Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl and International Trade Minister David Emerson to immediately inform Mr. Falconer and WTO Director General Pascal Lamy that the modalities paper is unacceptable to Canada.

If the current modalities are accepted, there will be devastating consequences for Canada's dairy, egg and poultry industries and it goes completely against the grain of society's wishes to eat home-grown food.

In a 2006 national poll, 98 percent of those surveyed said it is important to have access to a stable supply of safe, made-in-Canada food. If the modalities go through as written, this supply may well be in jeopardy.

For example, under the new modalities, over quota tariffs will have to be reduced between 22% to 49%, resulting

in a significant level of increased imports, making them increasingly difficult to control.

Further, our minimum access commitments would increase by an additional four to six percent of our consumption.

For example, sectors that now must import five percent of their domestic consumption at zero tariff would have to import between nine and 11 percent of their domestic consumption at zero tariff.

The modalities paper provides several provisions to protect specific countries and yet, none of these are available to Canada. Canada must not waste any more time and must immediately find ways to negotiate flexible provisions for Canada's dairy, eggs and poultry.

The Canadian government has repeatedly voiced its support for Canada to achieve results in the negotiations that would maintain not only the viability of our unique Canadian supply management programs but also ensure that no negative economic impacts will be experienced by Canadian dairy, poultry and egg sectors.

The Government of Canada is responsible for the negotiations and the results. On many occasions, the government has voiced its support for supply management, yet the current draft modalities would be very detrimental to it. When

negotiations resume in September, Canada must ensure that the draft modalities are modified to allow for the maintenance of supply management. Canada must negotiate modalities that would meet the objectives it has set.

Where We Stand

Canada's dairy, poultry and egg farmers have rejected the draft modalities paper issued by Crawford Falconer, Chair of the Agriculture negotiations at the World Trade Organization. They are calling on Agriculture Minister Chuck Strahl and International Trade Minister David Emerson to immediately inform Mr. Falconer and WTO Director General Pascal Lamy that the modalities paper is unacceptable to Canada.

The draft modalities paper would have devastating consequences for Canada's dairy, egg and poultry industries and it goes completely against the grain of society's wishes to eat home-grown food.

A successful outcome remains possible. But Canada must take advantage of every opportunity to negotiate modalities that will achieve the objective of no economic losses to supply management.

What Farmers Should Tell Their MPs.

The three pillars of supply management (production discipline, producer pricing and import controls) are absolutely imperative for maintaining dairy, poultry and egg industries.

The Government has long expressed its support for supply management and its three pillars. Government must immediately inform the WTO membership that the current modalities paper is unacceptable to Canada.

At the conclusion of these WTO agriculture negotiations, the ongoing viability of our sectors must be preserved with no negative economic impact.

Supply management leadership is still committed to working with the Minister and the Government to ensure a positive final outcome.



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For more information, visit:

www.farmsandfood.ca

2006 Census of Agriculture

The ability to understand where we are now — and indeed where we have come from — allows us better informed approaches to face tomorrow's challenges. Participation by producers in the 2006 Census of Agriculture allows them to give a local as well as national voice to their present situation, informing Canadians of the crucial role the diverse agricultural sector plays in shaping our national picture.

The Census of Agriculture identifies trends and reflects issues, opportunities and challenges within the agricultural community. Questions cover topics such as land use, crops, livestock, agricultural labour, machinery and equipment, farm finances and land management practices. The depth of census coverage allows it to be the definitive source of information on the agricultural sector, giving voice to farmers' situations.

Canada and the world

The 2006 Census of Agriculture is the most recent measure of Canada's overall agricultural performance and its wealth of data provides a valuable snapshot of the sector. But how does Canada perform in a global framework? Comparing Canada to seven other countries that have also taken an agricultural census in the last 10 years provides a valuable perspective for viewing the latest census data. Canada — despite its size — has by far the smallest proportion of total land that is agricultural at only 7.3%, mainly because of soil quality and the nature of the Canadian climate and terrain. Of the eight, the United Kingdom has the largest, with 68.6% of its land under agricultural use.

Number of farms and area for selected countries and years						
		Farms				
Country	Census year	Number	Area on farms (acres)	Average size (acres)	Total land area ('000 acres)	Area of farms as a percentage of total land area %
Canada	2001	246,923	166,802,197	676	2,278,502	7.3
Canada	2006	229,373	167,010,491	728	2,278,502	7.3
Argentina	2002	295,485	425,273,427	1,439	676,236	62.9
Australia	2001	140,516	1,126,091,533	8,014	1,898,296	59.3
Brazil	1996	4,859,865	873,773,389	180	2,089,604	41.8
China	1997	193,445,894	321,326,863	2	2,304,806	13.9
France	2000	663,810	73,877,143	111	135,930	54.3
United Kingdom	2000	233,250	4,839,774	175	59,521	68.6
United States	2002	2,128,982	938,268,725	441	2,263,179	41.5

Source: FAO and Statistics Canada Census of Agriculture, 2001 and 2006

In 2006, Canada had 229,373 farms, averaging 728 acres in size. Australia has far fewer operations than Canada, but much more area and an average farm size that is 11 times Canada's average. Following the rural economic reforms in China in the 1980s, land was distributed based on the number of people in a household, creating millions of small household farms.

Canada is still field crop country

While their proportion has dropped slightly since 2001, Canada is still a field-crop growing country, with 39.8% of all Canadian farms

typed as field crop farms. The next most common is beef farms, with 26.6% of all farms. Two farm types have had increases in proportion as well as number: "all other animal" farms and "fruit and vegetable" farms.

Canadian farms by farm type, 2006 and 2001				
	2006		2001	
Farm Type	Number of farms	Percentage of total farms	Number of farms	Percentage of total farms
Dairy	14,641	6.4%	18,321	7.4%
Beef	60,947	26.6%	67,838	27.5%
Hog and pig	6,040	2.6%	7,388	3.0%
Poultry and egg	4,578	2.0%	4,937	2.0%
All other animal production	30,594	13.3%	26,846	10.9%
Field crops	91,277	39.8%	101,041	40.9%
Fruit and vegetables	12,532	5.5%	11,663	4.7%
Greenhouse, nursery and floriculture	8,754	3.8%	8,889	3.6%
All farms	229,373	100.0%	246,923	100.0%

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture, 2001 and 2006

Canadian farms in the technology world

The Census of Agriculture has been collecting data on farms using computers for the farm business since 1986, but it is only since 2001 that data has been collected on the applications used. In 2006, 106,409 farms reported using a computer for the farm business. The proportion of farms using a computer to help manage the farm had nearly doubled every five years from 1986 to 2001. In 2006, the number of farms reporting computer use stood at 46.4%, compared to 39.4% in 2001.

With data from a second census on applications used now in hand, it's plain that Canadian farms, like businesses around the world, are using the Internet more: Three-quarters of Canadian farms (75.3%) that reported using computers used the Internet in 2006 compared to 70.4% in 2001.

With improvements in technology and increased availability of high-speed in rural communities, farmers can use the Internet to collect information for making decisions related to their farm business. In 2001, bookkeeping had been the most common application reported by 77.6% of Canadian farms that reported using computers, but fell to 71.5% in 2006, making it second after Internet use. This decline may be due in part to the addition of a category for online banking in 2006.

Canadian farms seem to have partly replaced the trip to the bank with a click of the mouse. About 47.8% of farms using a computer did so for banking. This represents 22.2% of all farms.

Organic products a growing market

Sustainability of agriculture, environmental concerns and food safety issues have all contributed to the growth of organic farming in Canada. Census results show 15,511 or 6.8% of all Canadian farms reported growing organic products for sale in 2006. Farms producing organic, but not certified commodities outnumber both certified organic farms and farms that are in transition to becoming certified.

 Please see Census p. 3

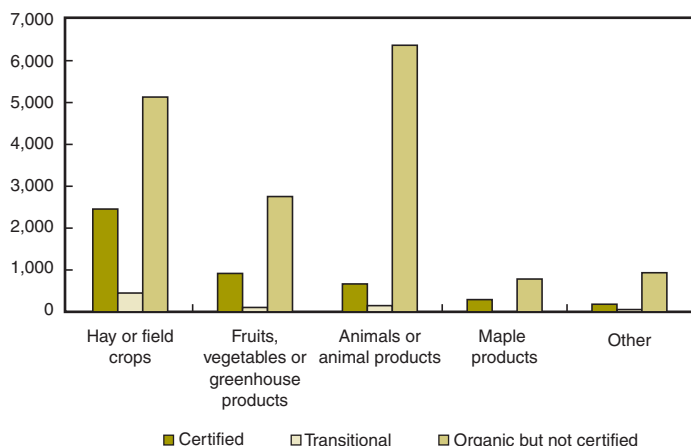
Continued from p. 2, Census . . .

Farms producing organic products, by certification status, Canada 2006		
Certification status	Number of farms reporting	Percentage of all farms in Canada
Organic but not certified	11,937	5.2%
Certified organic	3,555	1.5%
Transitional	640	0.3%

These farms differ in the type of commodities produced. Farms that are reporting organic but not certified products are more likely to report animal production — 6,380 farms did so. British Columbia reported the most (1,720), closely followed by Ontario, with 1,545 farms.

Organic status and organic products, Canada, 2006

farms reporting



Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Agriculture

Field crops are the predominant certified organic commodity, with 2,462 operations reporting. Half of these farms are in Saskatchewan, followed by Ontario as a distant second at 18.9%. Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan are the only provinces to report more certified field crop farms than non-certified farms.

The Census of Agriculture serves as a benchmark for many regular surveys on crop areas, livestock inventories and economic data published by the Agriculture Division. Statistics Canada would like to thank the Canadian farming community for their participation and assistance in the 2006 Census of Agriculture. 🐔

Safety Reminder

Recent history has shown that this is the time of year that the activist community can become more active and prone to trespassing, etc. Without a full understanding of how agriculture works, such behaviour can lead to misinformation and myths.

Last year, incidents were reported across Canada and we now know that this type of activity has become widespread.

Farmers should ensure that they take all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of their businesses, farms and animals.

Security reminders:

- Treat all unannounced visits by strangers with scrutiny.
- All requests for tours, employment, information or photographs should be verified with the highest standards for safety.

Chicken Recipe Contest Winners

Congratulations! Leonie Vander Meer from Wellandport, Ontario is the winner of the Chicken Farmers of Canada Canada Day Farmer Recipe Contest.

In April, CFC asked farmers to dig out their favourite chicken recipe. It could have been something as simple as a sandwich or a salad, or something elaborate like a fully-dressed whole bird.

Leonie's recipe (below) was selected as the best of all the entries. As a prize, she, her husband, daughter and son-in-law won an all-expenses paid trip to Ottawa for Canada Day. They attended all of the big events of the day and stayed at the Westin Hotel Ottawa. They also stopped by Chicken Farmers of Canada's *Great Canadian Chicken Barbecue* and helped celebrate our 15th anniversary as Canada Day sponsors!

A big thank you to all who participated!

Maple Glazed Chicken

4	boneless and skinless chicken breasts	4
½ cup	pure maple syrup	125 mL
⅓ cup	chilli sauce	75 mL
1	small onion, chopped	1
2 Tbsp	cider vinegar	25 mL
1 Tbsp	mustard	15 mL
1 tsp	Worcestershire sauce	5 mL

Combine the maple syrup, chilli sauce, onion, cider vinegar, mustard and Worcestershire sauce in a shallow dish. Marinate the chicken breasts for a minimum of 4 hours in the refrigerator, covered and turning occasionally. Grill or broil the chicken breasts until thoroughly cooked, basting occasionally. Serves 4.

Serve with a crisp Ontario salad and a fresh whole wheat roll and you have a delicious and easy summer meal.

- Review all security and visitor protocols.
- Call the board office, and the police, to report any suspicious people who come on to private property, as well as any incidents, with as many details and photographs as possible.
- These incidents often take place during the day, with visitors to farm properties wandering the grounds. They will sometimes acknowledge farmers who question them, saying that they are lost, or that they know the property from a long time ago, etc. Other times, they will run away without a word.

This is a reminder of the importance of security, biosecurity and privacy on our farms.

Our job is to stay informed and to maintain the highest level of biosecurity possible on our farms.

Be Vigilant!

Food Safety: What You Need To Know

Chicken Farmers of Canada is a founding member of the Canadian Partnership for Consumer Food Safety Education. The Partnership's mission is to reduce the incidence of foodborne illness in Canada by increasing consumer awareness of safe food handling practices.

The Partnership develops and coordinates food safety education programs focused on the consumer.

Here is some information that producers have found useful in answering questions from consumers about food safety.

Foodborne Illness: Definition

Foodborne illness, often called "food poisoning", is illness caused by eating food contaminated with bacteria, parasites or viruses, also known as microbes or pathogens.

The Cost to Canadians

Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada estimate that there are 11 -13 million cases of foodborne illness every year in Canada.

Health Canada estimates that foodborne illness costs Canadian health services, industry and society, as a whole, between 12 - 15 billion dollars annually.

People who are most susceptible to serious consequences from

foodborne illness are infants and young children, expecting mothers, the elderly and people with weakened immune systems.

Bacteria in the Environment

Although bacteria are an integral part of our environment and play many beneficial



roles, some forms of bacteria are harmful.

Bacteria are present on all raw agricultural products. Although aggressive controls during food processing destroy many harmful pathogens, some bacteria may survive or foods may become contaminated during preparation, cooking and storage.

Bacteria may be transferred from food to people, from people to food or from one food to another.

Harmful foodborne bacteria are more of a risk today than 20 years ago because of: changing population demographics; changing patterns of food production and consumption; and new, re-emerging or drug-resistant disease agents.

Canada's food supply is among the safest in the world, but under the right conditions, bacteria may be present on food. 🍴

Four Simple Steps

CLEAN

Always wash your hands, utensils and cooking surfaces with soap and hot water before you handle food, repeatedly while you prepare it, and again when you've finished. Sanitize countertops, cutting boards and utensils with a mild bleach and water solution. All produce should be washed under cool running water prior to eating or cooking.

SEPARATE

Keep certain foods, like meats and their juices, separated from others during storage and preparation. Keep separate cutting boards for raw meats and vegetables. Always keep foods covered.

COOK

Prepare foods quickly, cook them thoroughly, and serve them immediately. Don't let foods linger at temperatures where bacteria can grow. The danger zone is between 4°C (40°F) and 60°C (140°F).

CHILL

Refrigerate or freeze perishables and prepared food and leftovers within two hours. Make sure the refrigerator is set at a temperature of 4°C (40°F) or colder, and keep the freezer set at - 18°C (0°F).

For more information, please visit www.canfightbac.org

Biosecurity is Key

Recent food and farm safety issues have driven home the need for all partners in agriculture to support each other in times of crisis. It also serves as a good time to remind farmers of the importance of biosecurity within their own operations.

- Restrict access to your barns. Allow only essential people into the barns and ensure that they sign a visitor's logbook.
- Change into barn-specific footwear and clothing (including hats) before entering the Restricted Area.
- Clean and disinfect your barns after each flock.
- Thoroughly and routinely clean all equipment before it is brought into the barn.

- Keep wild birds away from your barns (patch all gaps under the eaves) and enforce your rodent control program (rodents can be a disease vector).
- Insist that all vehicles and personnel follow your biosecurity rules; have all service personnel contact you before accessing your barns.
- Establish a barrier between the Controlled Access Zone and the Restricted Area to prevent cross-contamination.
- Disinfect the water supply with chlorine.
- Post signs at the farm to indicate that access to the barn area is restricted.
- Respect all biosecurity protocols (these apply to everyone entering the barn) and limit any possible vector for contamination of your birds. 🍴

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