



ONTARIO SOYBEAN GROWERS' UPDATE

Phone: 519-767-1744

Fax: 519-767-2466

Editor: mwiley@soybean.ca

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GRAIN FARMERS OF ONTARIO – TRANSITION IN PROGRESS

It's been almost five years since the leaders of the three organizations representing Ontario corn, soybean and wheat producers signed a Memorandum of Understanding to explore the idea of forming one association. At that time the Ontario Soybean Growers (OSG), Ontario Corn Producer's Association (OCPA), and Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board (OWPMB) had "no predetermination" of how the result might look.

Nearly five years later the results of last September's producer vote have sent a clear message to the Minister of Agriculture, who announced in December 2008 a decision to form "Grain Farmers of Ontario."

Now, the real work begins.

Staff, directors, and government will spend the coming months working out the logistics for GFO to become a reality. An oversight committee has been appointed to monitor the transition both from a government and regulatory perspective, as well as implementation. Both teams are aiming to complete their work by the target date of June 2009.

From a legislative side, the provincial government needs to follow a process that would make GFO responsible for a number of the authorities currently held by one or all three of the existing boards, such as the authority to market wheat, or negotiating authority that is held by the soybean board.

Implementing a new structure for staff and directors is a more detailed process, and the leadership of the three organizations is determined to get it right. The Boards have hired the expertise of a "change management" firm to engage staff during the transition while a staff structure incorporating the three teams is put into place.

Another significant change to come is the adjustment from a total of 41 directors to 15, and a shift toward 150 delegates that will have more involvement in board committees.

Despite the changes that are to come, all three boards are operating on a "business as usual" basis to ensure a smooth transition to the official launch of GFO. That means directors and committee members elected at January district meetings will continue to serve their particular boards, and staff will maintain the status quo on programs and projects until GFO is in place.

For updates and information about Grain Farmers of Ontario visit www.grainfarmersontario.ca.

GROWERS' RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES – ONTARIO GRAIN FINANCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Ontario Grain Financial Protection Fund exists to help protect Ontario growers of soybeans, corn, wheat and canola who sell their crop to licensed dealers, as well as owners of grain and oilseeds stored with licensed elevator operators. Under the Ontario Grain Financial Protection Act, the protection fund for soybean growers is generated from grower check-off fees remitted to OSG, at a rate of two cents per tonne.

At the 2009 soybean growers' district annual meetings around the province, growers were reminded of their rights and responsibilities under the Ontario Grain Financial Protection Act. It was emphasized that it is always the grower's responsibility to check to see if a dealer or elevator is currently licensed.

Agricorp delivers the Grain Financial Protection Program on behalf of OMAFRA. Under this program, they license 325 grain dealers and 245 elevator companies in 356 locations across the province. The value of annual grain sales covered by the program is in excess of \$1.1 billion dollars.

Agricorp states that if you are a grower dealing with a licensed grain dealer or elevator operator, you should:

- Receive weigh tickets or grain receiving vouchers for each load delivered
- Receive your cheque within 10 trading days, for a cash or contract sale
- Receive your cheque the next trading day, if the sale is out of storage
- Receive 75 percent of the market price within the above timeframe when selling on a basis contract
- Not agree to extend the time on which payment becomes due
- Cash your cheque within 5 banking days of receipt
- Receive your grain storage receipt within 45 days of delivery or within 5 days, if requested
- Ensure the expiration date, charges, or other agreements are filled in on your grain storage receipt and signed by the elevator operator.

John Johnston of Elgin County is an OSG Director, and one of two soybean representatives on the Ontario Grain Financial Protection Board. "OSG continues to work with both OMAFRA and Agricorp to ensure that growers are effectively protected by the Act", stated Johnston.

For more information about the Ontario Grain Financial Protection program, go to: <http://www.agricorp.com/en-ca/programs/gfpp.asp>, or contact Agricorp by phone at 1-888-247-4999, or e-mail: contact@agricorp.com.



JAPAN, SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA TARGET MARKETS FOR CSC OUTGOING PROGRAM

Canadian soybean industry stakeholders traveling to Japan, Malaysia and Singapore from February 17 to 28, 2009 will gain a better understanding of the needs of soyfoods manufacturers in key export markets. The delegation, representing all aspects of Canadian soybean production and processing, will take part in a program coordinated by the Canadian International Grains Institute (CIGI). This outgoing program is designed to update current and potential buyers about what's happening here in Canada.

Information seminars in Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore will be hosted by the Canadian Soybean Council

(CSC) (www.soybeancouncil.ca). Canadian soybean exporters will also be in attendance to network with participating soyfood manufacturers.

Industry visits allowing for one-on-one exchange of information between current or potential customers and Canadian soybean industry representatives will be coordinated in each market by the Embassy of Canada or the Canadian High Commission. These meetings will occur with soyfood companies and industry associations.

2009 outgoing Delegation Members include: Jim Gowland, CSC Chair; John Johnston, IP Soybean Grower Representative, Ontario Soybean Growers; Dr. Elroy Cober, Soybean Breeder, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Dr. Linda Malcolmson, Director of Special Crops, Oilseeds and Pulses, CIGI; and Michelle McMullen, Manager, CSC.

