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GAIN Report

Global Agricultural Information Network

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Report Highlights:

CFIA Removed the Requirement for Pre-Market Registration of Labels and Recipes for Meat Products and Processed Fruits and Vegetables * CDC Announces New Milk Class for Mozzarella for Fresh Pizza * Conference Board of Canada Report Approach to Performance Metrics * Major Grocers to Source Pork from Stall-Free Operations by 2022

This Week in Canadian Agriculture is a review of Canadian agricultural industry developments of interest to the U.S. agricultural community. The issues summarized in this report cover a wide range of subject matter obtained from Canadian press reports, government press releases, and host country agricultural officials and representatives.

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CFIA Removed the Requirement for Pre-Market Registration of Labels and Recipes for Meat Products and Processed Fruits and Vegetables

On May 1, 2013 Canada eliminated the mandatory pre-market registration of labels for meat products and processed fruits and vegetables. The government press release says these changes do not impact food safety. The changes are aimed at reducing red tape and the administrative burden on industry, and are effective immediately. The release also says this initiative creates a level playing field since pre-market registration is not required for other sectors of the food industry.

There are no changes to labeling acts and regulations related to food safety and consumer protection. Industry remains responsible for ensuring that their labels are compliant with current laws and regulations. The CFIA indicated it will continue to verify that labels meet Canadian regulatory requirements. Labeling rules and requirements are not changing and when CFIA becomes aware of issues of non-compliance, it will continue to follow up and determine the appropriate course of action. These regulatory changes will be published in [Canada Gazette, Part II](#) on May 8, 2013.

For Additional Information please make sure to check the following Questions and Answers section on CFIA's website:

[Repeal of Requirements for Pre-Market Registration of Labels and Recipe for Certain Meat and Processed Products](#)

CDC Announces New Milk Class for Mozzarella for Fresh Pizza

The Canadian Dairy Commission (CDC) has announced the creation of a new milk class for mozzarella cheese to be used on fresh pizzas. The new 3(d) class was approved by the Canadian Milk Supply Management Committee (CMSMC) and will take effect June 1, 2013. It is estimated that this new class will lower costs for restaurants that prepare and cook pizzas on site and help grow the market segment for mozzarella cheese in Canada.

Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz said the "announcement is good news for Canadian dairy farmers, processors and our restaurant industry" - "This is a good example of how greater collaboration between the whole value chain can help grow markets for our farmers while keeping Canada's restaurant industry competitive."

This new class covers standardized mozzarella cheeses to be used strictly on fresh pizzas by establishments registered with the CDC under terms and conditions approved by the CMSMC. "This new restaurant mozzarella cheese class responds to longstanding concerns raised by CRFA on behalf of our members and fresh pizza makers across the country," said Garth Whyte, president and CEO of the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association. "We congratulate the dairy industry for making this important announcement."

Conference Board of Canada Report Approach to Performance Metrics: A new report by The Centre for Food in Canada (CFIC), a body created by the Conference Board of Canada, examines performance metrics, data, and knowledge gaps in Canada's food system. The report is one of several to be issued by the CFIC as it works towards the development of a Canadian Food Strategy. The Strategy's goals will be to ensure, foster, and provide for a healthy, secure, sustainable, safe, and prosperous food system.

The report is available for free with subscription at the following URL: www.conferenceboard.ca/

Major Grocers to Source Pork from Stall-Free Operations by 2022

Grocer members of the Retail Council of Canada (RCC) recently [announced](#) they will "work towards sourcing fresh pork products from sows raised in alternative housing practices as defined in the [upcoming revisions to the national code of practice for pig care] by the end of 2022." The RCC's grocer members in Canada include Safeway, Costco, Federated Co-operatives, Co-op Atlantic, Loblaw Companies, Metro, Sobeys and Wal-Mart. The council members said they "further agree to dialogue with other stakeholders in the pork supply chain, including the Canadian Pork Council (CPC), and through our membership and committee participation with the National Farm Animal Care Council," which is drafting the new code of practice to release for public comment beginning in June. Each member company "will implement this commitment in accordance with their own specific business requirements and in consultation with their vendor partners," the RCC said.

In a [response](#), the Canadian Pork Council said the RCC's announcement "recognizes that the conversion of sow housing is a significant investment which will require support from other stakeholder groups." Not only will "substantial capital investments" be required to convert hog farrowing barns out of gestation stalls, but also "considerable human resource efforts" will be needed to choose the right system and train stockpeople to a new way of handling animals, the CPC said. The Pork Council also said it "looks forward to meeting with RCC to hear its proposals on how changes to sow housing can be managed and how the value chain and others can share in the investment."

Exchange Rate:

Noon rate, May 3, 2013 (Bank of Canada): U.S. Dollar = C \$ 1.0079

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